

PROGRESS
THE **▲** TRE

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@progresstheatre



Babe

The Sheep-Pig

By Dick King-Smith. Adapted by David Wood.

Directed by Beckie Moir

8 - 11 December 2021

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

Welcome to Progress!

Founded in 1946,
we're the oldest producing
theatre in Reading.

A self-governing, self-funding theatre group, run entirely by volunteers. We are members of the Little Theatre Guild and the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, and are a registered charity in England (no. 1182798). Our patron is Sir Kenneth Branagh.



noda
Be inspired by amateur theatre

2021/22 Management Committee

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11 Shows per year

We put together a varied and challenging programme of shows every season, including our traditional Open Air Shakespeare production at Reading Abbey Ruins each Summer.



An Intimate Venue

Our intimate 96 seat venue has a fully licensed bar. There is wheelchair access and a hearing loop, and we are committed to making further improvements in the coming years to make our building more accessible.



Youth Theatre

We have a vibrant and happy Youth Theatre, split into 4 groups by age. Regular workshops involve theatre games, improvisations and skills development. Youth Theatre shows are often challenging and always performed to a high standard. Many past members maintain an interest in theatre and numerous aspects of performance art as adults, some of them professionally!



Award Winners

In June 2020, we were very honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

This award is equivalent to an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), and is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK, to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.



A very warm welcome to Progress Theatre!

Our progress family welcomes your family!

Thank you for supporting our Christmas family show. This is also our adult/youth show, which is a regular production in our annual programme.

I have been delighted to work with this dedicated and diverse group. They really have become the ensemble cast of my vision. The energy the youth bring coupled with the experience the adults contribute is a recipe for a harmonious and happy show. There are no small parts here - everyone is a star, and I truly meant it when I said I'd keep everyone in the cast busy!

Christmas time is a traditional time of year to introduce our youngsters to the glory and fun of the theatre. Growing up, I was in pantomime every year.

I gradually progressed from 'girl one', to 'genie of the ring' to 'Prince Charming'.

It was a family affair: Dad as the Dame, Mum doing costumes and often a small role, and my brother Mike, working on the technical side. Theatre was an important way we spent time together, and, as a theatre professional now, I am incredibly thankful for those early opportunities and the joy they brought.

I am beyond pleased to welcome Mike back to the theatre, after many years' break, helping with the lighting. My parents will be doing their bit as audience members!

While 'Babe' is not written as a pantomime, it has many elements of the ancient tradition: audience participation, danger, drama, goodies and baddies, animal characters and slapstick. I think it goes without saying that I am a huge pantomime fan!

If you have a youngster who would like to get up on stage, Progress offer youth group lessons for ages 7 to 18, right here in our theatre. Please see the advert in here or ask a steward for a flyer with more details. The first lesson is free! We offer a free taster session, in all ages groups, so you can experience one of our classes before booking for the term.

I'm sure you appreciate the life skills of confidence and cooperation our younger cast members have shown today. These are just a couple of the skills taught in our safe and friendly youth classes by our professional tutors.

We have set up an area for photo opportunities at the front of the theatre. Babe and Fly plus at least one other character will be around after each show. Do feel free to take as many photos with them as you like. If you would like to share these images with us you can put them on **#ThatIDoPig @ProgressTheatre**

A lot of people worked very hard to bring this production to the stage and I would like to thank Kate Shaw for producing the programme, Dan Clarke for his support in all aspects of the production, as well as Adrian and Juliet Moir for their loving support and encouragement.

Finally, I and my incredible Assistant Director, Meg, and the entire cast and crew of *Babe*, hope that you enjoy the show!

Beckie Moir – Director



FUN ON THE FARM!

Wordsearch

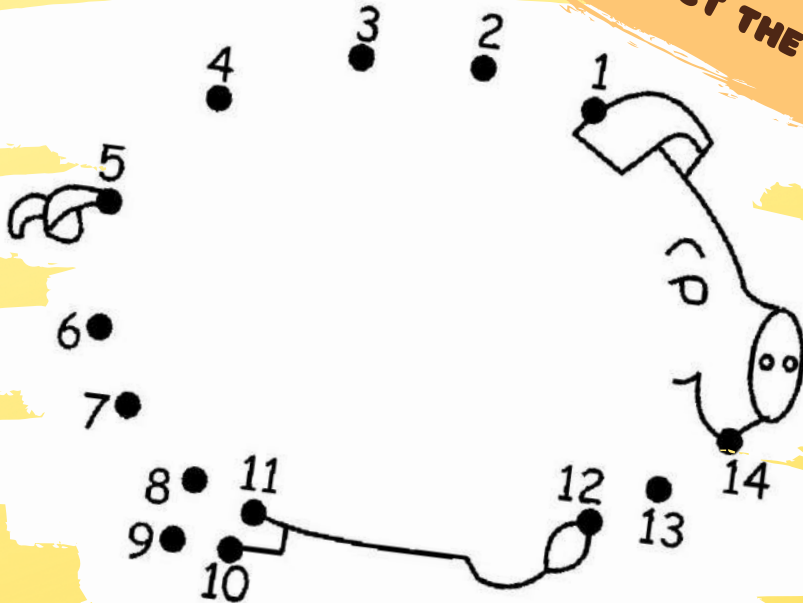
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U T E R Z Z F P S A T E K C N
C R I P M X H U I H B C L L H
K I F E B E X R F V E D V Z E
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C L J S C O C K E R E L P T D
F A U C H A M P I O N S H I P
L V T I C U H O G G E T F W J
Y A C U H P I G T U R K E Y X

Oh no! Some of Farmer Hogget's flock have escaped and are hidden around this programme. He found this one and brought it home. Can you help Babe and Fly to round up the other 10?



Babe, Cat, Championship, Cockerel, Duck, Farmer, Fly, Herd, Hogget, Pig, Puppy, Sheep, Trial, Turkey

CONNECT THE DOTS



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are eight differences between these two pictures. Can you find them all?



Solutions on page 17

Creating Creature Heads

I had some very fixed and furry ideas for my animals in this production. I am not known for doing things by halves! If it needs to be done, it should be done well. To that end I began making the animal heads 2 long years ago.

Most of the materials used for these are upcycled from donated items, other costumes and bits I found in my own craft room! That they cost very little in terms of money is a happy bonus to the satisfaction of creation somehow!

The main structure of the heads is sculpted from mattress foam (1). These pieces are held together with spray glue until the next layer is applied. The fur is the next layer applied (2), and as this is upcycled from other costumes, they are a bit of a patchwork! Once the panels of fur have been glued the complete ears – foam based again – are attached with glue, then sewn on (3).

All of the pieces of patchwork are then sewn together as the glue alone will not hold firmly enough. All costumes need to be hard wearing, and these heads are no exception.

Eyes – be they green gel plastic, buttons, or red lights – are inserted as the final feature (4).

The headband of an old baseball cap is then glued and fitted into the crown of the base of the head as a strong structure to then attach the elastic that goes under the chin. Appropriate fabric is then glued to the underside of the head to cover any scrappy bits that we don't want to see!

Beckie Moir – Director





Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4





Cast

Babe	Milly Allen	Adult Ensemble	Davi Lourenco, Heather Eley, Jordan Emmett, Rowena Sterry, Susan Brown
Fly	Amelia Sammons		
Farmer Hogget	Guy Nichols		
Mrs Hogget	Michelle Appleby		
Ma the Sheep	Heather Eley	Voiceover	Paul Gallantry
Puppies / Sheep	Baani Nayyar, Hillary, Iyla Shar, Twisha Malhotra		

Production Team

Director	Beckie Moir	Programme Design	Kate Shaw
Assistant Director	Meg Royall	Costume Design	Hester Casey
Producer	Ali Carroll	Costumes	Liz Carroll, Niall Costello, Susannah Davy, Frances Lewis, Beckie Moir, Rowena Sterry, Jane Waddell, Helen Wernham
Stage Manager	Poppy Price	Child Protection	Fiona McNeil
ASM	Eli Taryn, Flora Paulo	Chaperones	Avril Bird, Polly Goodman, Laura Mills, Meg Royall, Helen Wernham
Lighting	Trevor Dale, Mike Lewis		
Sound	Lawrence Bird		
Props and set	Tony Powell, Eli Taryn		
Photographs	Richard Brown		



WE THANK YOU TO:

- not smoke
- keep the aisles of the auditorium clear at all times
- not take photos or recordings of the performance
- turn off your mobile devices during the performance

Help Fly and Babe Remember the Password!

I may be ewe, I may be ram,
I may be mutton, may be lamb.
But on the hoof, or on the hook,
I 'baint so stupid as I look.



The artwork on display in the foyer was created by local artist, Susannah Bury.

"Having shared a love of both nature and art with my father, who passed in 2018, I decided to study and develop my skills as a way to celebrate his memory and the wonder of nature. In sharing my art, I hope to highlight the beauty all around us and inspire the same determination I have to protect it in others. I use reclaimed frames and packaging wherever possible to reduce my carbon impact."

susannah@soozanimals.co.uk | [@soozanimals](https://www.soozanimals.co.uk) | [soozanimals.co.uk](https://www.soozanimals.co.uk)

Biographies



Milly Allen

Babe

This is Milly's first production with Progress Theatre. With Wokingham Theatre, she has appeared in *Goodnight Mr Tom* and *Alice In Wonderland* and was part of the cast that took the original play *I Am David* to Henley Drama Festival, coming away with the Judges Choice and Best Original Play awards. She and a castmate were also awarded Magical Moment for puppeteering. Milly has twice taken part in Tring Park's Summer Acting Course, attends acting classes at Redroofs Theatre School and is part of the Repertory Theatre Project Company 2022.

Lawrence Bird

Sound

Lawrence has been an active member of Progress Theatre for over 4 years. Involved with theatre and television from an early age, he has appeared in shows such as *Heartbeat* and *The Royal*. He has also worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company as a youth actor and ambassador. Since then, Lawrence has taken a more technical role in theatre and has worked with a number of companies as a Technical Director and lighting designer.

Michelle Appleby

Mrs Hogget

Michelle joined Progress Theatre at the beginning of 2018 after a rather long offstage period of 17 yrs since her last performance on stage as an angel singing in Latin in the York Mystery Plays (directed by John Doyle). Her first debut on the Progress stage was a very angry Sergeant in *Mother Courage and Her Children* and then on to diverse roles such as a menacing movement shadow in the Mary Shelley play *Blood and Ice* and then on to Anne-Marie the nanny/housekeeper in *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. She is particularly thrilled to be Mrs Hogget in *Babe, the Sheep-Pig* as she loves this character who brings contrast and comedy to the show.

Susan Brown

Ensemble

Sue joined Progress Theatre in June 2019 playing Mrs Kidd in *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill and then performed in *F***ing Feminists* by Rose Lewenstein, as part of Progress' 1st digital performance - *Women Centre Stage*. Sue has also performed numerous shows with Warfield Players and Berkshire Gangshow.





Ali Carroll

Producer

Ali has been a member of Progress Theatre for over 20 years: acting, directing, as youth leader, writer, producer, and on the management committee as Inclusion Officer. She most recently directed *Women Centre Stage* (Oct 2020) and *Left in Scratch Reading* (April 2021) and acted as Shauna in a recorded piece *A Love of Sorts* (Oct 2021) and Clytaemnestra from *Electra* in *Lessons In Life* (May 2021) for Digital Progress. Ali was previously Producer for *Lessons in Life* in May 2021 for Digital Progress. She is very excited to be part of the production team for *Babe, the Sheep-Pig*, working with such a creative team and being involved in a show which draws together the talents of both seasoned and experienced adult members and energetic and enthusiastic youth members.

Jordan Emmett

Ensemble

Jordan is no stranger to taking on multi-roles, having previously played a variety of different characters in *His Dark Materials* and *Wyrd Sisters* at Progress Theatre. He is very happy to FINALLY be back at Progress Theatre, juggling all these funny and interesting characters in *Babe, the Sheep-Pig*.

Trevor Dale

Lighting

Trevor has been involved with Progress since 2007 in a wide variety of roles. Most recently he designed the lighting for Progress' award winning production of *The Haunting of Hill House*. He's looking forward to helping bring the adventures of everyone's favourite pig to the Progress stage.

Heather Eley

Ma and Ensemble

Heather has been a member of Progress Theatre since 2017. She has played a variety of parts, from Oatcake in *Much Ado About Nothing* to Nijo in *Top Girls*. Off stage, she has also been assistant stage manager and stage manager on several productions. Heather has thoroughly enjoyed playing Ma in *Babe, the Sheep-Pig*, having been a fan of the book as a child, and working with the amazing cast of this production. It has been great to get back on stage after the long break.



Hillary

Puppy/Sheep

Hillary is 11 years old. One of her acting experiences is playing Captain Hook's pirates in *Peter Pan* and performing in the Hexagon when she was 10. She has many passions, of course including acting. During *Peter Pan* she danced and sang but sadly had no lines. She also participated in an acting club, Shine Performing Arts, with the famous Nicole Davis, where she first found her true love for performing. She has also been included in several school plays where she has carried out many roles that don't have many lines to gratify her, though she had recently been cast in a year 6 leavers assembly 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' as a main character.

Davi Lourenco

Ensemble

Davi joined Progress Theatre in September 2021 to take part in the play *Babe, the Sheep-Pig* after auditioning. Before that, Davi did musicals in Brazil such as *School of Rock*, *Mary Poppins* and *Heathers*. He is currently studying GCSE for Drama and is part of the *High School Musical* production at the British Theatre Academy in London which will open in February 2022.

Mike Lewis

Lighting

Mike is a new Progress Theatre member. He is pleased to be working on *Babe* as he has had a long break from theatre. His most memorable role on stage was as one half of a comic duo in pantomime with Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society. Mike is looking forward to becoming more involved with Progress Theatre in the future.

Twisha Malhotra

Puppy/Sheep

Twisha Malhotra auditioned for a principle role in a production by Progress Theatre in 2019, and was casted in one. Although this is her first production with Progress Theatre, she has done many others in the past alongside other forms of the performing arts. She has a strong passion for them and hopes to have a big future in the industry.





Beckie Moir

Director

Beckie has been active in creating theatre for many years, as a teacher, performer, stage manager and director. She's been an acting teacher for 22 years and worked with hundreds of young people. Beckie has enjoyed all her projects at Progress Theatre, which include stage managing youth productions as well as acting in WriteFest 2017 and *Mother Courage and Her Children* as Mother Courage. More recently, she enjoyed playing the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* in the Abbey Ruins this summer. In June 2019 Beckie directed *Top Girls* and, more recently, entered into the online world of Progress Digital, both performing and directing. She is delighted to be directing *Babe, the Sheep-Pig* and hopes you thoroughly enjoy the show!

Guy Nichols

Farmer Hogget

Guy joined Progress in 2019, directing *Cat in a Box* by John R. Goodman for that year's WriteFest. He then went on to have a turn as several different characters in *Wyrd Sisters*. This production marks his first return to the stage post-pandemic.

Baani Nayar

Puppy/Sheep

Baani lives in Reading with her family and attends Redlands Primary School and this is her first experience in a professional drama show. She has always enjoyed performing arts and is currently in year 4. Baani has taken part in many school Christmas plays and has also performed on stage in front of a large audience for Dancercise which was a combination of theatre and dance. Baani's love for acting grew through lockdown where she showcased her dance and acting skills on Instagram through a parent led account which has attracted over 2000 followers and is ever growing.

Flora Paulo

ASM

Flora has been a member of Progress Youth Theatre for 12 years and has appeared in a number of Progress youth and adult productions, including: *Daisy Pulls It Off*, *His Dark Materials*, *One Million Tiny Plays About Reading*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Wyrd Sisters*. Flora is excited to be assistant stage managing for the second time after taking on the ASM role for *When They Go Low*.



Tony Powell
Set & Props

Tony has been involved with Progress since 2009 when he appeared briefly on stage. Since then he has helped many productions source the props they need either from home or elsewhere or even making some of them.

Meg Royall
Assistant Director

Meg has been a member of progress theatre for over 14 years. She assistant runs the youth theatre on a Saturday morning. Meg has really enjoyed Assistant Directing this production of *Babe, the Sheep-Pig*.

Poppy Price
Stage Manager

Poppy joined Progress Youth Theatre over ten years ago and spent her teenage years involved in many youth and adult productions, both on and off stage. After a brief hiatus to go to university, she returned to Progress two years ago, acting in *Top Girls* and *Writefest 2019*. This is her third turn stage managing this year, after getting munched by mosquitoes for *Romeo and Juliet* and spinning bookcases for *Secret Life of Humans*.

Amelia Sammons
Fly

Amelia joined Progress Theatre this year and first performed in the virtual production *Lessons in Life* directed by Lara Collins and Beckie Moir where she played the role of Alice. This is her second production with Progress Theatre. Amelia graduated from the Guildford School of Acting in 2019 and has played roles such as Fidelity in *Widows* by Ariel Dorfman, Briggs in *Her Naked Skin* by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Mrs Rafi in *The Sea* by Edward Bond and Brian in the Quirky Bird Theatre tour of *DNA* by Dennis Kelly.





Iyla Shar
Puppy/Sheep

Iyla is nine years old and goes to Westende Junior School in Wokingham. Babe is the first production that she has been part of, and she's really enjoyed rehearsing for her parts as a puppy and sheep, and getting to know the rest of the cast. Ideally, Iyla would like to be an astronaut when she is older but she does think it could be dangerous so will pursue her dream of being a singer and dancer instead!

Rowena Sterry
Ensemble

Rowena has been a theatre member for 6 years and has enjoyed doing various small parts (the fewer words the better). This one is fun – going from the vicar to a Cockerel! Plenty of scope for characterisation!

Eli Taryn
ASM, Set & Props

Eli joined Progress Theatre earlier this year, first as an Assistant Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet* and later playing George in *Secret Life of Humans*. He has really enjoyed getting his painting kit back out to work on the props/set with such an excellent and friendly team. He very much hopes you enjoy the show!



Farmer Hogget's flock can be found on pages 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and the back cover

FUN ON THE FARM SOLUTIONS



BUILDING FOR PROGRESS



DEVELOPING AN INCLUSIVE
WELCOME FOR ALL

While the doors to our theatre were closed, we took the opportunity to undergo exciting renovation work. We've refitted our old washrooms with brand new unisex facilities, including an accessible toilet, and increased the size of our foyer to give patrons more room to socialise and enjoy a drink before our shows.

Progress Theatre strives to be inclusive and to engage with the entire local community, encouraging participation from people who may otherwise find it difficult to access theatre and the arts. These changes will not only make our venue more accessible to all, but also improve our welcoming environment and provide aesthetic benefits.

DONATE

Our Objective: £50k

Progress Theatre needs to raise funds for this and for other charitable purposes. Your donation would be crucial in helping us fund these vital accessible facilities and provide for all members of our theatre's community.



£1

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70201



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Our 75th Season

2021

11 – 16 OCTOBER

Secret Life of Humans, by David Byrne

15 – 20 NOVEMBER

Radiant Vermin, by Philip Ridley

8 – 11 DECEMBER

Babe, the Sheep-Pig, by David Wood

2022

17 – 22 JANUARY

Dark Sublime, by Michael Dennis

16 – 19 FEBRUARY

The 15th Annual Writefest

23 – 26 FEBRUARY

Progress Premieres

28 MARCH – 2 APRIL

Yous Two, by Georgia Christou

2 – 7 MAY

Catch-22, by Joseph Heller

20 JUNE - 2 JULY

Angels in America – Parts I & II, by Tony Kushner

13 - 23 JULY

Great Expectations - Open Air at the Abbey Ruins

