Welcome this introduction to ***The Pea and the Princess*** for ages 3-7, written by Rachel Barnett-Jones, Directed by **Jemma Last.**

The audio described performance at Polka Theatre is on Saturday the 15th of March. There’s a touch tour at 1pm, the introductory notes will begin at 1:50 and the performance begins at 2pm. The performance lasts for approximately 1 hour without interval and will be audio described by Kate Taylor Davis.

Polka Theatres’ website tells us – *‘****It’s time to tell the REAL story of The PEA and the Princess, one which no one has ever heard before. Leap into a high velocity adventure, into the world of a Ninja Princess on a mega-mission, a practical Prince concocting the best inventions, a Queen with a slightly worrying crown obsession, and a very green baddy indeed.***

***Featuring super catchy songs, some familiar fairytale faces and a brand-new twist-in-the-tale, this a story that you definitely wouldn’t want to sleep on! ’***

There are three actors, two female and one male who each play one of the main roles in the story but also help with narrating and playing smaller parts as events unfold. The main parts they play are a Queen, a Prince and a Princess and before they become these parts they all arrive in the auditorium to say hello. Two white rabbit puppets also pop up every now and then when help is needed.

The actor who plays the **Queen** has pale skin and brown hair worn up, she has loose purple trousers and a matching waistcoat with shiny silver buttons and a silver brooch, under her waistcoat she wears an elegant cream blouse that ties in a bow at the neck and matching her buttons are a pair of silver trainers. As the Queen she adds a silver tiara and later at nightime she adds a shiny purple dressing gown and matching nightcap – still with her tiara in place.

The **Prince** is played by stocky black man with neat short afro hair. He wears light brown trousers and a deep blue shirt with a green wool waistcoat with pockets near the waist and chest. The pockets on his waistcoat reflect his favourite place in the castle, the library, each pocket with a design of a colourful row of books. When off to bed he adds a velvet dressing gown in the same blue as his shirt and matching nightcap.

Next we meet our dynamic and adventurous **Princess**. She has light brown skin and curly afro hair worn up in a high ponytail. She wears fancy black leggings that fasten up the side of the leg with red laces and gold buttons. Her black vest top has a bright red centre section, and she has shiny red lace up boots. Over her top she wears a pale pink cropped cardigan, and over her leggings, a bright yellow tutu style skirt. Though when we first meet her, her outfit is shielded from the rain by a big yellow rain poncho.

When we arrive in the auditorium the stage is open to us and home to what appears to be 2 giant books each is about 3 metres tall and a couple metres wide. The one on the left is red and positioned upright with the title The Princess and the Pea beneath the image of a fairytale castle. Just to the side of it is a small set of wooden steps. The second book, to the right is dark blue and rests on its side with the title Sleeping Beauty beneath the image of a huge, magnificent dragon. There are also several stacks of smaller books dotted about, sometimes used as a stool to sit on or a table to perch a plate on.

The huge books though are more than they seem and open up to become different part of the palace that the Princess visits. The front of the red book opens like a huge door, the back of which is lined by shelves with a notice board in the centre and cupboards below. On the notice board is a map of the castle grounds. A blind is pulled down over the right side, and on it is the image of library shelves stuffed with hundred of story books. When the blind is lifted it becomes a bedroom in the castle with a narrow bed, initially with a single mattress and pillow, the wall behind the bed it has six portraits of different queens, each one holding a football sized green pea.

When the book to the right is opened up one side lowers to the ground to become a green carpet – the other has a green tv size screen in the centre surrounded by more shelves full of colourful books. This is Pea a special story telling computer.

**Cast and Production Credits.**

The Princess **Elise Zavou**

The Prince **Mohamed Manso Bangura**The Queen **Emily Jane Kerr**

**Creative Team**

The Pea and the Princess is written by **Rachel Barnett Jones**

With Direction by **Jemma Last**

Set and Costume Design is by **TK Hay**

Lighting Design is by **Sherry Coenen**

The Sound Designer is **Yvonne Gilbert**

The Composer and Lyrics are by **Holly Mallet**

The Musical Director and Vocal Coach is **Lauren Dyer**

Puppet Designer and Maker is **Maia Kirkman Richards**

Animator is **Conor McMullin**

Voiceover Artist is **John Last**

This is the end of the introduction to ***The Pea and the Princess*** at Polka Theatre. If you have any questions or need further assistance please call the box office on [020 8543 4888](tel://020%208543%204888)