

LAIKA

THE SPACEDOG

A NEW OPERA

See the back page to find out how to bring *Laika the Spacedog* to your school

ENGLISH TOURING OPERA | Education

Laika the Spacedog is a brand new opera for children aged 7-11, packed with music, drama, design, lots of science, and one of the greatest stories about a real animal ever told.

LAIKA



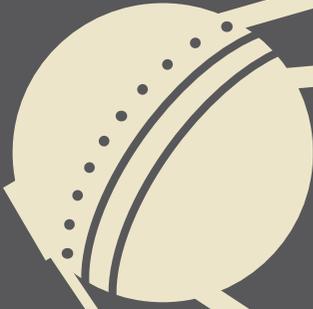
THE SPACEDOG

Laika the Spacedog tells the story of the first animal to go into orbit. It is 1957 and the space race is well underway. The satellite called Sputnik 1 has just been launched by the Russians, and the world has heard the hypnotic sound of its beeps. But the Soviet Leader wants an even greater triumph within a month, and

threatens his chief scientist Korolev with the consequences of failure. So begins the countdown to the launch of Sputnik 2, with its precious canine cargo. But which dog will be found to sit on top of the rocket, and will the systems be in place to bring the dog back alive?

With exciting music by Russell Hoplewhite, words by Tim Yealland and stunning design by Jude Munden, the opera takes us from the streets of Moscow to the Kremlin, and to the thrilling Baikonur Cosmodrome, home of the Russian space programme. We see the launch of both Sputniks and follow the race to get a dog into space.





Laika the Spacedog is performed by nine top artists, including singers, players, a percussionist and a puppeteer. The opera features filmed animation, and also a theremin, the first ever electronic instrument. The opera lasts just over an hour. Among many other curriculum links, it contains a lot of science, with

scenes about rocketry and thrust, about planets and the solar system, and about health and the body. Much of the opera is interactive, with the audience participating directly in the scientific aspects of the story. Schools are provided with a teachers' pack with learning materials and song CD in advance of ETO's visit.

"It is to your enormous credit that the children get to hear 'real opera' rather than some dumbed-down children's show. The music was superb. Brilliant!"

"Very good resources – easy to use with all year groups."

"It's something the children will always remember. Absolutely fabulous."



Laika the Spacedog has won the PRS David Bedford Music Education Award (rewarding exceptional education projects involving composers and new music). It continues English Touring Opera's long line of successful new operas for children, including *In the Belly of the Horse*, *The Feathered Ogre*, *RedBlueGreen* and *Voithia*.

2013 LAIKA TOUR SCHEDULE

BOOK NOW

Laika the Spacedog can come to your school. We can visit you as we travel the country on the dates below. To book a performance, or for more information, please contact Talia Lash on 020 7833 2555 or email talia.lash@englishtouringopera.org.uk.

JANUARY

- **London, Science Museum**
Tue 22 – Fri 25 January, 10.30am and 12.30pm. Price: £3.50 per child, one free adult with every 8 children

FEBRUARY

- **London:** Mon 25 – Thu 28 February

MARCH

- **London:** Wed 6 – Thu 7 March
- **Leicester:** Tue 12 – Wed 13 March
- **Haywards Heath:** Thu 14 March
- **Vera Fletcher Hall
Thames Ditton, Surrey**
Sat 16 March, 2.30pm
Price: £6, booking line 0845 652 8529
- **Exeter:** Wed 20 – Fri 22 March
- **Norwich:** Mon 25 – Wed 27 March

APRIL

- **Crawley:** Tue 2 – Wed 3 April
- **Poole:** Fri 5 – Sat 6 April
- **Sheffield:** Mon 8 – Tue 9 April
- **York:** Thu 11 – Sat 13 April
- **Wolverhampton:** Mon 15 – Wed 17 April
- **Snape:** Sat 20 April, Britten Studio
- **Durham:** Tue 23 – Wed 24 April
- **Buxton:** Thu 25 – Fri 26 April
- **Cheltenham:** Tue 30 April

MAY

- **Cheltenham:** Wed 1 – Fri 3 May
- **Warwick:** Wed 8 – Fri 10 May
- **Warwick Arts Centre:** Sat 11 May
- **London:** Mon 13 – Tue 14 May
- **Perth:** Thu 16 – Fri 17 May
- **Cambridge:** Mon 20 – Fri 24 May
- **Guildford:** Mon 27 – Tue 28 May
- **Truro:** Thu 30 – Fri 31 May



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