



# Skellig

**COMPOSER:** TOD MACHOVER  
**LIBRETTIST:** DAVID ALMOND

**24th, 25th, 27th, 28th,  
29th November 2008:**  
**The Sage Gateshead**

**AN ENCHANTING CONTEMPORARY OPERA OF  
DAVID ALMOND'S AWARD-WINNING NOVEL.**

Skellig is both magical and thrilling, dark and sinister as it leads audiences of all ages into the coarse world of an ambiguous angel and transcends all preconceptions of traditional opera.

# Skellig



**Skellig:** Omar Ebrahim  
**Michael:** Matthew Long  
**Mina:** Merrin Lazyan  
**Dad:** Paul Keohone  
**Mum:** Sophie Daneman  
**Leakey:** Adam Welsh  
**Coot:** Kyle McPhail

**Composer:** Tod Machover  
**Librettist:** David Almond  
**Director:** Braham Murray  
**Conductor/Music Director:** Garry Walker  
**Choreographer:** Mark Bruce  
**Designer:** Rae Smith  
**Lighting Designer:** Chris Davey  
**Sound Consultant:** Chris Full

Northern Sinfonia  
Skellig Youth Chorus

**Michael is desperately worried about his premature baby sister: between anxiety about her and the move to a new house, Michael's parents don't have much time for him. Exploring the condemned garage at the end of the new garden, Michael finds a half-dead, spiteful tramp.**

Skellig is a filthy, smelly, ungrateful old man, who feeds off dead bluebottles, Chinese takeaway, Newcastle Brown Ale and the dead mice that the owls bring him. However, Michael and his new friend Mina look after him, wondering about the bumps where his shoulder blades are and why he has such an affinity with owls...

The music by innovative American composer Tod Machover (who has created music as well as new technologies for artists from Yo-Yo Ma to Prince) turns the sounds of the world into beautiful melodies and surprising textures. The libretto is by David Almond himself, and Skellig is directed by Braham Murray (Founding Artistic Director of the Royal Exchange Theatre Company) and designed by Rae Smith ('War Horse' at the National Theatre) with choreography by Mark Bruce.

It is performed by a stellar cast including Omar Ebrahim ('The Second Mrs Kong' for Glyndebourne Festival Opera and productions for Almeida Opera and the Royal Opera House), Paul Keohone (Scottish Opera's Five: 15 project, 'Eight Songs for a Mad King' with Northern Sinfonia) and Sophie Daneman, with Northern Sinfonia conducted by Garry Walker.

**Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, Thursday 27th,  
Friday 28th, Saturday 29th November 2008.**

Hall One, 7pm

**Tickets:** A/B/C/D: £19.50 (under 19s £5)  
and E: £7. Other concessions available.

Tickets can be booked in person at The Sage  
Gateshead, by phone on **0191 443 4661** or  
online at [www.thesagegateshead.org/skellig](http://www.thesagegateshead.org/skellig).

Visit [www.thesagegateshead.org/skellig](http://www.thesagegateshead.org/skellig)  
for artists' biographies, Tod's blog and more.

Free public discussion following the  
performance on Thursday 27th November.

**Co-commissioned by The Sage Gateshead  
and culture<sup>10</sup> as part of Juice**

Juice – NewcastleGateshead's new festival  
for children and young people. The fun and  
interactive programme is all about doing, not just  
viewing and features a jam-packed programme  
of events, activities and workshops. For the latest  
information visit [www.juicefestival.co.uk](http://www.juicefestival.co.uk).

### **Winged Tales of the North**

Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books,  
is touring an exciting new exhibition – arriving  
at The Sage Gateshead on 5th November – to  
showcase author David Almond's award-winning  
writing for children and young people. The  
exhibition invites visitors to explore and to  
develop their own creative potential, to scribble  
and play with words, to discover their own  
stories, and to contribute to a never-ending story.  
[www.sevenstories.org.uk](http://www.sevenstories.org.uk)

# juice

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england

