



EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

LEARN AND EXPLORE

ABOUT NEW ADVENTURES

New Adventures is an iconic and ground-breaking dance-theatre company. Since 1987, we have been known for creating works that have altered the public perception of what is possible when it comes to telling stories without words. The company is led by celebrated choreographer and director, Sir Matthew Bourne.

AN INTRODUCTION TO EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

Matthew is renowned for shattering stereotypes and exploring and pushing new boundaries in dance. Key to his approach is the creation of new work from familiar titles that are accessible to audiences unfamiliar with dance. However, Matthew's aim is not to simply re-tell a well-known story but instead put his own spin on the narrative that provokes the audience to think, feel and consider the story in a new light.

New Adventures' adaptation of the classic Tim Burton movie, *Edward Scissorhands*, is no exception as it unfolds a tale overflowing with magic and enchantment, set in 1950s America. The witty, bittersweet story follows a boy created by an eccentric inventor, who struggles to see past his curious appearance and find his place in the strange new world of a suburban family. Since its premiere in 2005, *Edward Scissorhands* has carved a place in the hearts of audiences world-wide.



KEY THEMES

Edward Scissorhands is the ultimate outsider story, a tale of how we treat people who we perceive as 'different'. Whilst having an important message to convey, *Edward Scissorhands* also offers its audience a touching love story, a hauntingly beautiful musical score and a wonderful amount of fun! Here is a list of some of the key themes in the production:

- Accepting differences
- Individuality
- Innocence
- Young love
- Being an outsider



THE PRODUCTION

To put on a show like *Edward Scissorhands*, we rely on the skills of lots of talented people. Before and during the rehearsal period, a creative team works closely together to determine what the show will look, feel and sound like, including:

- **Director & Choreographer** – Sir Matthew Bourne OBE
- **Composers** – Danny Elfman (original picture score) and Terry Davies (arrangements)
- **Screenwriter & Adaptation** – Caroline Thompson
- **Designer (Set & Costume)** – Lez Brotherston OBE
- **Lighting Designer** – Howard Harrison
- **Sound Designer** – Paul Groothuis
- **Projection Designer** – Duncan McLean
- **Associate Artistic Director** – Etta Murfitt OBE
- **Resident Director** – Neil Westmoreland

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A modern-day fairy tale which tells the story of Edward, a boy created by an inventor, who dies before finishing him and leaves Edward with scissors where he should have hands. Frightened by a group of teenagers in Halloween costumes, Edward escapes the mansion where he was brought up and runs into the night. Peg Boggs discovers him and compassionately takes Edward home to stay with her family. As an outsider, he must adapt to the new life, society and environment of the town, Hope Springs. Soon he shows a talent in cutting hair and hedges, winning peoples' hearts, and the town buzzes with excitement over their new neighbour. But not everybody is as accepting of his differences.

Jealous of Edward's admiration for Peg's daughter Kim, Jim, her boyfriend, and his friends frame Edward at the Christmas Ball and the town turns on him. Edward runs away and Jim rallies the town to follow. Kim follows to find Edward and we find out that she has secret feelings for him, which she admits with a kiss. However, Jim sees this, and a terrible fight ensues. In the confusion, Edward somehow vanishes into thin air and all that is left are his scissors.



CREATIVE TASK – DANCE CRAZE ACTIVITY

In Act 1, the Boggs host a BBQ to introduce the community of Hope Springs to their new resident Edward. Some of the movement in the scene is inspired by dance crazes. As Edward gets more confident, he creates a scissor dance craze and the whole town goes wild!

Discussion & Research Task

- Discuss in your class – What is a dance craze? Do you know any dance crazes now?
- Research dance crazes. Look back over the years and see where these came from and how they have changed.
- *Edward Scissorhands* is set in the late 1950's. Research and learn some dance crazes from this era.

Physical Task

- Inspired by your research – create your own dance craze move. It could be inspired by an everyday activity for example: The Pancake Flip, or The Hoover!
- Give your dance move a name
- Share your dance craze
- Can you learn each other's and create a dance craze party?

FIND OUT MORE

- To meet the dancers [click here](#)
- To learn more about the characters [click here](#)
- To watch the trailer [click here](#)
- To learn more about New Adventures visit our [website](#)

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