

Sandman

by Adie Mueller and Mike Carter



A performance inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's
gothic classic **The Sandman**

Performed by Adie Mueller
Writing and Direction: Mike Carter

Developed with generous support
from The Place Theatre, Bedford

THE PLACE THEATRE

BEDFORD'S PREMIER PERFORMANCE VENUE

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THE SHOW

Sandman is a contemporary reimagining of **E.T.A. Hoffmann's** 19th century gothic story **The Sandman** for a solo performer, fusing storytelling, physical theatre and puppetry to immerse its audience in an intense and thrilling nightmare world.

THE STORY

Sandman is about Nathaniel, a student, whose childhood trauma, embodied by the creepy figure of the Sandman, continues to haunt him in his adult life. When he falls in love with a woman, who isn't all she seems, no-one can prevent his life from spiralling out of control ...

THE PROCESS

Theatre makers Adie Mueller (performer) and Mike Carter (director/playwright) were fascinated by the richness of Hoffmann's story and by the horror it evokes: the child's dread of the dark, whether what we see is real, the fear of losing one's eyes, the eerie sensations human replica (dolls, automatons, robots) evoke, the rational vs. the irrational, and the question of free will or fate. Sigmund Freud considered the story as the ultimate expression of 'the uncanny'. Adie and Mike were interested in finding ways of representing 'the uncanny' on stage. They developed *Sandman* collaboratively through an exploratory devising process, involving movement improvisation and writing.

THE PERFORMANCE

Adie's and Mike's contemporary take on the original explores current themes, such as sexuality in the digital age, surveillance and the development of sophisticated humanoid robots. Adie plays a woman narrator, who in turn transforms into seven characters and who animates dolls. Each character offers a different view on Nathaniel's past and present life. Adie maintains a close and immediate relationship with the audience, using direct address throughout. She also explores the characters' states through movement and sound.

"Mueller had entranced me ... an incredibly sinister and successful show"

★★★★ Female Arts

"Mueller puts in an outstanding performance, switching between the innocent and the grotesque with extreme ease ... As an actress, Mueller is nothing short of brilliant."

★★★ Views from the Gods

"Sandman was everything I love - and always hope! - to see: professional, engaging and original ... People seriously need to see this!"

Maud Madlyn, artistic director Etcetera Theatre, London

WHO IS IT FOR?

Aimed at ages 15+, Sandman appeals to a broad range of audiences with an interest in devised theatre, physical theatre, storytelling, puppetry, gothic literature and film, science fiction, literary adaptation, contemporary theatre and cross-arts performance.



BROCHURE COPY

SANDMAN

By Adie Mueller and Mike Carter

Remember lying in your bed at night, feeling scared of the dark when you were little? Imagine you've never been able to shake off that fear...

When Nathaniel, a student, is visited by a mysterious dread figure from the past and falls in love with a woman, who isn't all she seems, nobody can prevent his life from spiralling out of control. Haunted by terrifying childhood memories, Nathaniel is convinced that the Sandman is back to take his eyes and destroy his life...

Inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's gothic classic 'The Sandman', this solo piece of physical theatre fuses high-energy storytelling, expressive physicality and puppetry to immerse you in an emotionally intense and thrilling nightmare world.

Developed with generous support from The Place Theatre, Bedford.

Social Media: #Sandman @AdieMueller

Website: www.adiemueller.com

Running time

70 minutes with no interval

Age guidance

Some strong language and adult content. 15+

Trailer

<https://youtu.be/ofujloGs6OE>



CREATIVE TEAM

ADIE MUELLER (PERFORMER)

Adie trained in The Suzuki Actors' Training Method with the Suzuki Company of Toga (Japan) and with Frank Theatre (Australia). She also trained in Viewpoints with Anne Bogart and the SITI company (New York). Adie worked as actor, director and deviser on a number of physical, site-specific productions, notably *The Royal Fair* and *King Oedipus* with Frank Theatre (Australia) at the MKFM Festival in Pula, Croatia, and *Invisible Cities* with Teatro

Potlach at Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead. *Sandman* is Adie's first project after a career break due to family commitments. She recently created and performed *Looking for a Voice*, a commission for Mac Birmingham, part of the 'Slot Together' challenge hosted by Stan's Café.

MIKE CARTER (WRITING AND DIRECTION)

Recent writing includes: *A Peaceful Resolution* (finalist in RedFest, Old Red Lion); *North: Transits* (Sky or the Bird at Theatre 503) "Thoughtful and compassionate... moving but never pushy." The Public Reviews; *Tangent* (Waxwing, The New Diorama) "Engaging and original." The Times, "A surprising treat." British Theatre Guide, "It's good to see that London theatre can offer such quality in new work." Broadway World; *The Beast Within* (Dumbstruck/Lifebox at BedFringe) "A dark and stimulating piece of new writing... Shocking in parts, hilarious in others, disturbing in most." Fringe Review. He completed an opera libretto *The Cry of the Double Bass* commissioned by composer, Sebastiano Dessanay. Directing includes: *Tryin' to be Tom Waits* and *Peru* for Famous and Divine.

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS

Set and Costume Design: Dawn Hesketh-Joslin

Lighting Design: Charlie Mowforth/Jake Charie

Puppetry Coach: Phill Dazliel

Creative Mentor: Amanda Price



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The show is designed to be performed in a black box studio, end-on with raked seating. It can, however, be adapted to other spaces.

The show works best in an intimate setting and is suitable for audiences of up to 200.

RUNNING TIME

70 minutes with no interval.

Latecomers may be admitted.

STAGE AND SET

Stage dimensions (minimum): 4m (width), 4m (depth), 3m (height). We can adapt the performance to larger spaces.

The company will tour set consisting of clothes rail, clothes, a stool and a laptop wheeling case.

LIGHTING

A warm general wash

A cold general wash

Red-filtered light on whole stage area

Green filtered light on whole stage area

Purple filtered light on whole stage area

Resident technician required to operate lighting.

SOUND

PA system for pre-show music

CAST/CREW

1 performer

GET IN

Four hours before performance. We would only need one hour access before subsequent performance.

One resident technician for get in/performance.



FUTURE PLANS

Sandman is available for national touring in 2017 and will go to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2017.

CONTACT

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