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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

SOUPSOAP THEATRE

The Pixies' Scarf

tour Pack

Touring Theatres, Arts Centres and Festivals
throughout 2017/18



About the Show

We are thrilled to present to you our 4th Arts Council funded project, a beautiful, brand new piece of visual theatre for family audiences.

The Pixies' Scarf is inspired by the powerfully evocative tale by Alison Uttely, set in the rich boggy lands of Dartmoor.

While out picking whortleberries with his Nan, Dicky Bundle finds a treasure that opens the door to a beautiful, fragile world. It is the world of *The Pixies*. But the moor hears Dicky listening, and sees Dicky watching, and so tells the Pixies, who don't want to share their precious secrets with a human boy. Soon Dicky must strike a deal with the Queen of the Pixies, or lose the magical scarf forever.

With deliciously visual story telling, Soap Soup combines beautiful puppetry, charmingly funny clown and magical music, offering audiences their most unforgettable adventure yet!

Suitable for children aged three and up, and their families.

Soap Soup Theatre

Soap Soup are proud makers of devised visual theatre, using our many years combined experience of puppetry, object manipulation, and clown to create theatre for family audiences. Our work is designed, so expect to see and hear colourful and creative design, tactile puppets, costumes and inventive object work.

This is theatre of the senses, and of the heart.

We champion the personal, drawing from the artist's own passions and experiences to create theatre that is authentic. Our aim is to be the refreshing antidote to the commercial, the soulless, and the predictable.

Over the years we have combined the talents of performers, musicians, clowns, puppeteers, puppet makers, set and costume designers, composers, sound and lighting designers, dramaturgs, story-tellers and artists. Our continued ambition is to evolve, learning more from each other and new collaborators to excel in making quality, risk-taking, unique work, with the audiences experience at the heart of what we do.



The Artists

Tomasin Cuthbert Artistic Director/Producer/Designer/Performer/Devisor

Tomasin trained in theatre design at the BOV theatre school, and alongside her design, she is a puppeteer and performer. Her work in particular explores the relationship between puppet and puppeteer, fusing expressive human performances with detailed puppetry, inspired by companies such as Faulty optic, Blind Summit and Paper Cinema. She has designed and/or made puppets and been a puppetry mentor for numerous companies including Stuff and Nonsense, Sixth Sense theatre, White Horse, the Bristol Old Vic the BOV Theatre School. Tomasin is also co-artistic director of Lady Strong's Bonfire, a company specialising in adult visual theatre.

Recent training: Fraser Hooper's Clown, Holly Stoppit's clown, Peta Lilly's clown and dark clown, Blind Summit's puppetry, New International encounter's ensemble work, Sarah Corbett's Physical Theatre, Vamos devising with Full Mask, and Didi Hopkins Commedia del Arte course.

Adam Fuller Co-Director/Devisor Adam has worked as a theatre maker with many companies, creating and touring (both nationally and internationally) shows for adults and family audiences both with and without puppetry. He has worked as a writer, devisor, director or performer with Green Ginger (Outpost), Kilter, Ramshacklicious, Soap Soup, Tessa Bide, Stuff and Nonsense, Likely Story, Full Beam Visual Theatre and for Pickled Image on numerous successful shows including the Tales With Granddad series and Santa's Little Trolls. Adam recently directed the new Wardrobe Theatre's debut production, Goldilock, Stock and Three Smoking Bears, which sold out for its entire six week run. He has been involved as a performer with acclaimed shows for Horse & Bamboo and The Egg Bath, Hocket and Hoot, Idiot Child and The Roar Ensemble as well as puppeteering for Aardman and the BBC.

Ed Rapley – Co-Director / Devisor

Ed Rapley is a fool and a clown, which is to say that he doesn't know what he's doing and that's ok. Trained by the winning combo of Holly Stoppit and Philippe Gaulier, Ed aims to find just the right mixture of truth and lies to bring to a show whether he is performing or directing.

Gwen Scott – Performer/Devisor Gwen works as a performer, director and dramaturg. Specialising in clown, theatre for young people and outdoor theatre, Gwen makes playful, honest theatre that invites audiences to be more than just watching eyes. She has trained with Philippe Gaulier, John Wright, Fraser Hooper and Aitor Basauri, amongst others and doesn't ever want to stop learning. She has performed with companies including Ramshacklicious, and Stuff and Nonsense.

Chris Menes – Composer / Sound Designer Chris Menes is a sound designer, mostly working in theatre. An emerging artist, he comes from a fine art background, and was part of Brighton based Arts collective, 'Collective Era'. Since moving to Bristol in 2014 he has designed and composed the music for Lady Strong's Bonfire's 'Mummy Monster' and 'The Bed' and Lady Strong's Bonfire's and Soap Soup's collaborative outdoor show 'The EnviRons'. He is currently designing Theatre West's 'The Orator' opening September 2016. Chris's passion is for experimental and abstract design using field recordings, electro acoustic processes, and modular synthesis.

What People Say

On The Pixies' scarf

A stunning and moving performance that really touched me. A joyful and intimate experience with our whole family, thank you.' - **Audience member**

The Scarf floating about was utterly magical, [it] moved me to tears' - **Dad aged 58**

'It was all wonderful...I didn't want it to end' - **Audience member 38 years old**

'Seeing Eva, who is only one year old transfixed! A very clever show' - **Grandparent aged 60 with grandchildren**

'It was such an escape from a mad world' - **Audience member**

'I loved the Pixies and the magic' - **Young audience member**

'Lola loved the show - and so did Mummy! Magical!' - **Audience member (with 4 year old)**

On 'The Owl and the Pussycat's Treasury of Nonsense'

'Original, colourful, zany fun that captured Lear's nonsense world
The kids loved it and so did the adults!' - **Rosemary @ Crediton Arts Centre**

'Soap Soup do the brave and bold things well. It's not easy to take a beloved and well known work of art and refresh it for a new generation, but the company have done just that. Using their wit and ingenuity, Soap Soup have forged a version that respects its origins whilst creating something innovative and exciting.' -**Chris Pirie@ Bristol Festival of Puppetry**

I really enjoyed the show and was great to see so many kids so engaged. Beautiful. - **Jesse Meadows @ The Wardrobe**

Brilliant performance, imaginative, funny and profound. - **Audience Member**

We went to see this today. It was beautifully done and brilliantly bonkers!! If you have young children try to catch it, tickets are selling out fast. - **Audience Member**

I LOVED it. You are very talented. FACT. - **Emily LeQuesene (Artistic Director of Croon Productions)**



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REVIEWS

On The Owl and The Pussycat's Treasury of Nonsense

I had been looking forward to this show from Soap Soup Theatre at the wonderful Wardrobe on Old Market, which is fast becoming my favourite venue. My children (5 and almost 2) and I are big fans of Edward Lear and nonsense in general. We were not disappointed; nonsense, there was much.

We are introduced to the pompous owl and the ditsy, fun-loving cat, who struggle to live harmoniously together, despite their shared love of sugar mice. The owl wants peace and quiet to get on with writing his serious poetic masterpiece, while the cat would rather boogie and play games. This inspired much heckling, especially the chant of "SILLY CAT!", which I couldn't help feel was a little unfair, as the owl was clearly the unreasonable one. (He reminded me vaguely of my husband but shhh!)

We hop, skip and jump around the Lear canon with this quarreling duo treating us to a veritable mash up of nonsense snippets. All the ingredients for a great show are here and there's lots to commend about it from the beautiful set and costumes to the obvious skill of the performers and the well-chosen soundtrack. Overall though a very enjoyable and well-executed piece of theatre that charmed us all. – **Becky Condron @ Weston Super Mum**

On The Snow Baby

Peeking over the edge of the set, we are introduced to Grandnonny Des with a wave; with which all the children in the front row wave back. The tiny figure made of felt has been lovingly stitched together forming a miniature replica of puppeteer Tomasin Cuthbert. Both have long auburn hair and are clad in vintage dress. The action takes place on a table tilted towards the audience, covered with a cloth, while Cuthbert's facial expressions add the emotion. Awakening from a dream, a figure is leaning over Des; her one true love, her Bear Man. One day, he is lost in a cruel storm leaving poor Des lonely, and very alone. That is, until the Snow Baby comes.

The Snow Baby features some lovely interaction, much to the delight of the younger audience. Autumnal tissue paper leaves and sparkling snow swirl over the heads of the audience, an effect so simply achieved but one which extends the story past the small stage. Sound effects and music are both very well thought out. It turns day to night, makes winds howl, and becomes cold air lashing against a window.

Another credit to this production is that it is created from things very accessible to children. The corner of a cardboard box, card, confetti, glitter and simple felt characters make it very easy for them to recreate at home. This is a show to inspire children to tell their own story with whatever comes to hand, and could wonderfully translate to a platform such as Cbeebies.

The Snow Baby is a tender and enchanting children's story, featuring a host of loveable characters and a must for parents with children of playschool age. – **Holly Spanner, The reviewers Hub**



Touring Information and What else we offer

Running time: 55mins approx

For children age 3 and up and their families

This is a small to mid scale production, and is fairly flexible, so is appropriate for different sized stages and spaces. Please get in touch to discuss how it would fit into your venue, and about costs for the show.

We are opening at The Wardrobe Theatre Easter, 2017, and so will be touring from mid April.

As part of our package, we can also offer venues a choice of workshops to support the show. These can be tailored to your requirements. These include:

Puppet making for ages 5 and up.

Puppetry and object manipulation for children, adults or families.

We also offer after show discussions and the opportunity to meet the puppets

