



**Written and performed by Ciaran Clarke and Daniel Richards**

**Directed by Simon Harvey**

**[www.nearattheatre.co.uk](http://www.nearattheatre.co.uk)**

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## The Show

Bringing bucketloads of Christmas spirit and festive cheer is Near-ta Theatre's yuletide comedy, *Christmas. Time.!*

Set in a small prison cell, Charlie and Toby are feeling low, and why wouldn't they? It's Christmas Day and they're serving time at Her Majesty's pleasure. But why shouldn't they be having a Merry Christmas in spite of their incarceration? What's stopping them from creating Christmas around them? Absolutely nothing! A Christmas cabaret ensues, and they set off on their festival of carols, Claus, Christ and custody!

Join them on a fantastical adventure through Dickens, pantomime, musical, Christmas dinner and Christmas films! See as they build a wonderfully Merry Christmas around them with songs, snowmen and lots of laughs in this truly festive show that puts the 'cell' firmly back in 'celebration'!

Written and performed by Daniel Richards and Ciaran Clarke, and directed by Simon Harvey (o-region, Kneehigh) *Christmas. Time.* is a musical comedy for all the family and a fun, festive and fantastically funny Christmas offering from Near-ta Theatre!

## History

Near-ta Theatre have been producing innovative comedy since 2004, delighting audiences across Cornwall with their inventive and original work. *Christmas. Time.* was their twelfth show, originally commissioned by The Poly, Falmouth, in 2009. It has been performed every year since, seeing national tours of the work, and delighting audiences across the country. This December marks its tenth year of touring.

The show sees two prisoners, Charlie and Toby, trying to create Christmas in their cell. Far from being bleak, the show is brilliantly funny, festive and filled with songs. It focuses on essentially Christmassy customs and rituals, seeing the characters stage *A Christmas Carol*, their own pantomime, perform a two-minute *It's A Wonderful Life*, a full twenty-minute musical Nativity and much more. Audiences have been delighted by these familiar elements of the festive season, hilariously brought to life on stage. While the show has been enjoyed by people of all ages (and children as young as 6) we would recommend the show for 10+.



## Reviews

# Better than many big pantomimes

Christmas. Time.  
The Acorn, Penzance  
Review by **Frank Ruhmund**

TAKE two banged-up burglars played by the multi-talented, singing and dancing duo, musicians, puppeteers and actors Lewis Howard and Daniel Richards, place them in a cell where the audience can see their efforts, against all the odds, to provide a Merry Christmas for themselves, and you have the scenario for Falmouth-based Near-ta Theatre company's yuletide musical comedy Christmas. Time. Written by Richards and Ciaran Clarke and directed by Simon Harvey, from the moment the inmates of cell 24, Toby (Howard) and Charlie (Richards), get out of bed on Christmas morning and begin to realise the significance of the day this is a rollercoaster of a jingle-belled sleigh ride. With guest appearances by everyone from the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come to Charlie's girlfriend Nancy, from The Queen to the Godfather, from Christmas (w)rapping to the Christmas No 1, from charades with a dash of audience participation, to a potted version of

almost everyone's favourite Christmas film It's A Wonderful Life with James Stewart – something of a show-stopping solo by Daniel Richards – this is a production which fully justifies its claim of putting the "cell" firmly back in celebration. Indeed, from carols to custody, family times to flying fantasies, its songs to its snowman, like the best of Christmas stockings it is stuffed with so many good things it is impossible to mention them all. But, having said that, I can't leave it without a special word for its final act, the Nativity. Taking the road to Bethlehem with these wise men Toby and Charlie is a two-handed Christmas treat. Better than many full-scale pantomimes I have seen, this alone is worth the price of a ticket. See it if you possibly can, you'll be sorry if you miss it. Near-ta Theatre's Christmas. Time. is at Treviglas Community College, Newquay, this Thursday; The Poly, Falmouth, on Wednesday, December 18; Landulph Memorial Hall on Thursday, December 19; Polbathic Village Hall on Saturday, December 21 and Launceston Town Hall, on Monday, December 23.



## West Briton



**Lee Trehwela**  
@LeeTrehwela



Following

Finally got to see @NearataTheatre  
Christmas.Time. @PolyFalmouth. Comedy  
genius that needs to be performed every year  
til the Apocalypse.



**Lee Trehwela – Western Morning News, West Briton**

## Feedback

“The ultimate festive show for grown-ups. Timeless and completely current, packed with original comic songs as well as all the classics. It’s guaranteed to have you laughing your socks off and fill you with the Christmas spirit.” – Annie Ukleja, Miracle Theatre

“This was the sixth show I'd promoted in Wadebridge - including Kneehigh - and the first time the audience had reacted with a standing ovation.” – Wadebridge Town Hall

“Excellent. Original, inventive, funny, the best show we've had from Carn to Cove!” – Carn to Cove Promoter

“I had tears of laughter streaming down my face!” – Audience feedback

“Absolute blast of a show” – Audience feedback

“My only regret is that I have missed previous shows.” – Audience feedback

“To know what affect you had on three of the more senior members of the audience, we could all be seen mimicking your Snowman sketch in Asda the following day when ‘Walking in the Air’ was playing! All we needed was a duvet!” – Audience feedback

## Technical Details

Show length:	90 minutes. Two acts, both 45 minutes.
Interval length:	20 minutes.
Minimum stage size:	W – 4m x D – 4m x H – 2.5m
Get-in time:	2 hours.
Get-out time:	1 hour.
Electrics:	We require four 13A plug sockets.
Van size:	We tour in a Mercedes Vario van (L – 5.6m, W – 1.4m, H – 2.6m)
Accommodation:	We require hospitality for three people, but can arrange at our own expense if this is not possible.

We tour with our own technical equipment (lights and PA), but will make use of in-house venue equipment where possible.

## Links

You can find a recording of the full show (filmed December 2016) here:

<https://vimeo.com/200678231>

Password – near-ta