

Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company presents

THE ENORMOUS TURNIP!

The new middle-scale show from Stuff & Nonsense

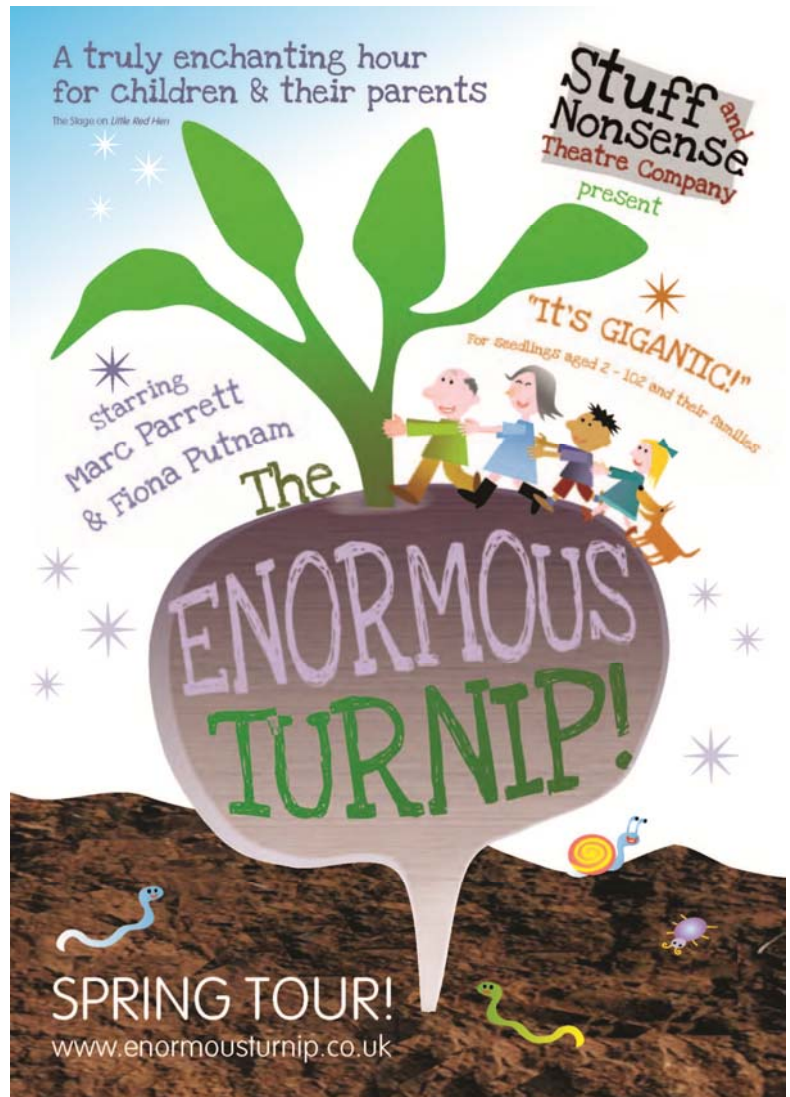
Commissioned by Lighthouse, Poole, in association with Salisbury Playhouse and support from The Merlin Theatre.

**Available from Spring 2012.
For seedlings aged 2 - 102!**

Following the continued success of **The Little Red Hen** for middle-scale stages, inescapably bonkers **Stuff and Nonsense** return with a new show perfect for bigger houses.

Living on an allotment in a tiny house the size of a shed, Mr and Mrs Chickweed show off their prizewinning vegetables for the last time before they retire.

However they can't resist planting one last seed and as the Enormous Turnip grows it threatens their house with disaster! Can anyone help them pull up the Enormous Turnip?



Stuff and Nonsense return with their unswerving energy, eccentric puppetry and live music in a re-potted version of the world-famous children's story.

Duration: 85 minutes including an interval. To see a clip of the small scale version of the show click [here](#).

"The Enormous Turnip was Jacksons Lane's best-selling Christmas show in its 35 year history, and was in every respect a massive 'hit'. The combination of the inventiveness, playfulness and ingenuity of the production, combined with the classic tale for the very young, made it an irresistible draw over the festive season. The post-show surprise was almost worth the price of the ticket alone, and in the words of one parent - 'you'll go home wishing every cauliflower could talk'. Stuff and Nonsense are also an absolute joy to work with. "

Adrian Berry, Artistic Director, Jacksons Lane

"Puppetry, live music and good old-fashioned charm are sprouting up left, right and centre ... Children's theatre veterans Stuff and Nonsense have taken the classic tale...and turned it into a jolly two-hander full of wry smiles and bendy legs... as wholesome and warming as Dotty Chickweed's vegetable soup and just as yummy. "

The Stage on The Enormous Turnip

For further information, availability and bookings contact:

Claire Morton, Morton Bates Arts Services T: 020 7724 1616 E: claire@mortonbates.com www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.com

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company like to make theatre out of anything! Musical instruments, old tools, bits of shiny paper- they mix it all up with a big splodge of imagination, cook it for two months and hey presto, a brand new show!

Since 2001 **Stuff and Nonsense** has been creating fun-filled, mischievous, inventive and dynamic theatre productions for children and their parents. **The Enormous Turnip** follows in the footsteps of *The Little Red Hen*, *Across the Deep Blue Sea*, *3 Little Pigs*, *Dragon's Teeth and Other Tales* and *The Breathtaking Story of Dusty the Vacuum Cleaner Boy*.

Stuff and Nonsense is Salisbury Playhouse's Associate Company. Niki is Resident Artist at Lighthouse, Poole and Marc and Niki are artists affiliated to the Merlin Theatre.

Marc Parrett, Stuff and Nonsense's Artistic Director, is an internationally renowned puppetry director and puppet maker. He has worked with Aardman Animations, Green Ginger, The RSC, Bristol Old Vic and Travelling Light Theatre Company.

Niki McCretton, Producer/Artistic Director, is an award-winning practitioner who creates quirky and inventive work with a charm that enables them to be enjoyed by all. Niki has gained a strong reputation across the globe and is a lead researcher with *5x5x5=creativity*, studying children's creative processes. She trains educationalists and artists to work creatively with ages 2+.



TOURING HISTORY



This show was created in 2009 as a commission from Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts, and received further support from Salisbury Playhouse and The Merlin Theatre.

Over Christmas 2009, *The Enormous Turnip* sold out throughout its 38-show run at The New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich where the total tickets sales were over 4000. Over Christmas 2010 the production sold 800 tickets over 3 days at Salisbury Playhouse and a whopping 7916 tickets at The Drum, Theatre Royal Plymouth, over a six-week run. Over Christmas 2011 the show sold out 49 performances over 4 weeks at Jackson's Lane, London.

OTHER MIDDLE SCALE SHOWS

In Spring 2010 and based on the success of sell out houses and multiple lengthy runs of their work, Stuff and Nonsense launched their hit show **The Little Red Hen** for middle-scale spaces, charged with an energy to take inventive and playful work of the highest quality to bigger audiences.

Since then, **The Little Red Hen** has enjoyed much success in bigger venues, including the main houses at: *Yeovil Octagon*, *Exeter Northcott*, *Winchester Theatre Royal*, *Doncaster Civic Theatre*, *Taliesin Arts Centre*, *The Maltings - Berwick Upon Tweed*, *artsdepot - London*, *Grand Pavilion Porthcawl*, *Aberystwyth Arts Centre*, *The Riverfront - Newport*, including full/split weeks at *The Brindley*, *Nuffield Theatre Southampton* and the egg - *Theatre Royal Bath*, amongst others.

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CREDITS

Adapted and Directed by Niki McCretton
Original Cast Marc Parrett & Niki McCretton
Music Matthew Huxley
Design Edwina Bridgeman
Lighting Design Phil Mead
Sound Design Gwen Scott



WHAT AUDIENCES SAY:

"It was outstanding. Our 3 year old twin girls were delighted, enthralled, captivated, excited... It was a great production, with strong characterization - a really dynamic, high quality, jam-packed, creative interpretation of the story. It was a real demonstration of outstanding children's theatre."

Audience member at Exeter Northcott

"Absolutely incredible, if you've got kids this is the treat for them just before Christmas! Absolute recommendation from me and I'm 19, the shows aimed at 2 - 6 year olds! Had me in fits throughout and the ending could not have been any better thought up! Complete 10/10! "

Audience member at Lighthouse, Poole

"They loved the show and sat transfixed. "

Mother of Freddie, aged two and three quarters

"Dylan, my 3 year old grandson and I went to see the Enormous Turnip on Saturday and I just wanted to say that we loved it. Dylan was sad though when it ended and Mr and Mrs Chickweed were going to Africa, I said they were coming back though and luckily he believed me!"

Ruth, Grandmother of Dylan

"We had such fun. We had a circle time when got back where they talked about what they had enjoyed most about the rehearsal. Lots of delight was expressed about the caterpillar, the dog and the mouse, the singing and Mr Chickweed's grumpiness. I thought the night scene was magical as they were 100% captured. They were singing "you don't want my love" too. I was getting some great drawings during the afternoon..."

Teacher from King's Park Primary, Dorset who brought her class

WHAT PROMOTERS SAY:

"The New Wolsey's Enormous Turnip show reports are unanimously positive. Feedback from parents was fantastic and the show captured and held the attention of the children. Ticket sales were excellent (98% over 38 performances) and the company was lovely to work with."

New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich

"The Little Red Hen was just brilliant with some audience members commenting it was the best thing they have ever seen at the egg!"

Lindsay Baker, Manager, the egg, Bath Theatre Royal

WHAT PRESS SAY:

"Energetic acting, puppetry and an inventive set from Stuff and Nonsense help to re-port the much loved tale of the enormous turnip. We most loved the cameo appearance by a slug puppet and the fantastical use the turnip is put to at the end. The story is a simple one, enlivened by charming songs. You'll leave wishing all cauliflowers could talk."

The Londonist Dec 2011

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"...what an enchanting hour we share in the company of Marc Parrett and Niki McCretton, who play Raymond and Dottie Chickweed. It's all very gentle, an enormously welcome relief from all those manic kids' shows on TV. And Edwina Bridgeman's simple set - a shed, a tree, a lantern, a kind of auricula theatre for the vegetable plot and a washing line on which hang three pairs of brightly coloured socks - provides everything necessary for our disbelief to be suspended.

There are songs, a gentle guitar strumming in the background, two very likeable performances from our nearly-retired couple and the enormous turnip proves very impressive indeed. Exeunt several dozen delighted children, their parents and one critic."

The Stage, December 2009.

"...it can be a breath of fresh air to watch something unashamedly escapist which appeals equally to children and the young at heart. This absorbing and persuasive show from Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company fits the bill splendidly."

Graham Williams, South Wales Evening Post on The Little Red Hen

MARKETING INFORMATION

Stuff and Nonsense has a range of productions suitable for different sized stages. The current repertoire contains three brilliantly inventive adaptations of well-known titles and early learning classics which are easy to sell to audiences! The work appeals to adults and children of all ages.

The Enormous Turnip is supported by:

- full marketing pack (containing copy, images, draft press releases and PR ideas, box office information and biographical notes)
- youtube promo (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olwq_of1cYw)
- A3 posters, A5 flyers
- a dedicated marketing point of contact for venues
- Company website www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk
- Dedicated production website coming soon www.enormousturnip.co.uk
- Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/aloadofstuffandnonsense> and twitter @loadofstuff

TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Get in:	Minimum 5hr get in plus pre-rig with 2 Technicians.
Crew:	Company provides one Production/Technical Manager plus 2 crew. Request two venue crew (1 senior LX and 1 sound).
Minimum performance space:	9m x 5.5m minimum, but ideally 13m x 9.5m to allow for spectacular potential ending to take place within the space! For smaller spaces this ending may take place outside or in the foyer, to be discussed with venues individually. Please see full technical pack for details.

Please contact us for further details of availability and terms.



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