

The ELVES and the Shoemaker

Stuff ^{and}
NonSense
Theatre Company

Suitable for ages 3+
50 minutes with no interval.

Touring 2012 - minimum 2 day bookings, full and split weeks.

For Sale – extraordinary handmade shoes! They're magical, they're mysterious, buy them today before they disappear in a puff of smoke!!!

Sat in his kitchen workshop, Sam Lacey makes terrible shoes and tries to sell them online. They are so bad that no-one really wants them, not even his neighbour (who thinks he should give up and get a real job!). Then one night, two tiny visitors climb in through the window and start cutting and stitching and gluing... and Sam's life is never quite the same again!

Following their sell-out shows, **The Enormous Turnip**, **Little Red Hen** and **3 Little Pigs**, the inescapably eccentric Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company return with an up-to-date, size 13 ½ re-telling of everyone's favourite story about Elves and Shoes. There are stunning puppets, music and surprises aplenty in a show for everyone aged 3 and above.

A **Lighthouse** and **The Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre** co-commission with additional support from **Salisbury Playhouse**. The Elves & The Shoemaker has so far enjoyed full and split weeks at: Lighthouse, Warwick Arts Centre, Salisbury Playhouse, The Brewhouse and the egg and a seven week run at The Drum - Plymouth Theatre Royal over Christmas 2011 (over 9500 tickets sold!)

"They've done it again - delivering a simple tale, enchantingly told... the production bowls along at a sufficiently cracking pace to keep the audience enthralled throughout this accessible and hugely entertaining show." The Stage, Dec 2011.

"Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company have done wonders here to give this traditional tale a fresh twist, without losing any of its original magic or heart-warming sentiment." Bournemouth Echo, Dec 2010.

Credits

Performers **Toby Gascoigne** and **Tessa Bide** / **Niki McCretton** (Original cast Toby Gascoigne and Martina Moss-Clarke)

Director of puppetry **Marc Parrett**

Director and producer **Niki McCretton**

Designers **Tomasin Cuthbert**

Sound design **Gwen Scott**

Composer **Sarah Moody**

Songwriter **Spike Golding**



The Company

Since 2001 **Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company** have been creating fun-filled, thought provoking, mischievous, inventive and dynamic theatre productions for young children and their parents. **The Elves and The Shoemaker** follows in the footsteps of the company's other sell out productions: *The Little Red Hen*, *The Enormous Turnip*, *3 Little Pigs*, *Dragon's Teeth and Other Tales*, *Across the Deep Blue Sea* and *The Breathtaking Story of Dusty the Vacuum Cleaner Boy*.

The Elves and the Shoemaker is a co-commission from Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts and The Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre, with additional support from Salisbury Playhouse. The show features puppetry from co-Artistic Director and internationally respected children's theatre maker Marc Parrett and has been directed and produced by co-Artistic Director Niki McCretton.



Photos by Dominic Huxley

Marketing Tools

- Flyers and posters - A5 flyers, A3 and A4 posters tbc.
- Full marketing support pack for venues (containing copy, press releases & PR ideas, box office information and biographical notes).
- Dedicated marketing point of contact.
- Company website and facebook fan page.
- Colour images supplied as jpegs.
- Post-show Q&A with the company on request.
- Interviews with The Company on request.

Outline technical requirements

- We require a minimum 5 hour get in plus pre-rig before our arrival; without pre-rig we require an additional 4 hours in the space with your team.
- We will require the assistance of at least 1 member of staff proficient in LX and Sound for the performance(s) in case of any problems.
- 2 members of staff will be required for the get-in (unless otherwise agreed).
- If there are a number of performances over consecutive days then we may ask the in house technician to learn and operate the show.
- For a full specification and plan please contact Adam Hooper hooperadam@hotmail.com

For further information, availability and bookings contact:

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

Feedback and Reviews on THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER:

"They've done it again - delivering a simple tale, enchantingly told.

This 21st-century update of an age-old story sees cobbler Sam struggling to make ends meet in a cluttered high-rise flat. Befriended by neighbour Belinda, he endeavours to create wonderful shoes and sell them online, but fails abysmally. This charmingly dotty duo then have their lives turned upside-down with the arrival of puppet elves Wimble and Norris.

The secret night shift brings shrieks of delight from the young audience as the elves appear and disappear through drawers and cupboards employing classic Stuff and Nonsense stagecraft. But while we are in on the magic, Sam and Belinda are initially bewildered by the arrival of amazing shoes.

Toby Gascoigne is a delightful rubber-faced cobbler, whose single-minded devotion to his craft gives plenty of opportunity for an air of affable eccentricity. Tessa Bide is captivating as the dotting Belinda, who brings her secretarial skills to help the disorganised Sam.

Much hilarity follows, trying on the elves' dancing shoes with Belinda high-kicking about the flat until Sam comes to the rescue. Director Niki McCretton ensures the production bowls along at a sufficiently cracking pace to keep the audience enthralled throughout this accessible and hugely entertaining show."

The Stage, December 2011

I attended the above performance with my husband and two young boys, 7 and 4, today and wanted to let you know how absolutely fantastic it was. I think it is incredibly important to introduce children to the magic of theatre from a young age and this was by far the best performance to start a passion! I would even go as far to say that it was one of the best performances I have seen in many years.

I recently took my youngest son to a music and dance production and he was less than impressed! The immortal words - "Is it finished yet" and "When can I go home" don't really make for a special day out. As a result he was not overly enthralled with the thought of attending another one. The moment he entered the Studio and it was dark, he was a little nervous to say the least but as soon as it started, well...

Sitting at the very front felt like we were actually in the living room workshop with Belinda Balloon and Sam Lacey. To say both my children (and husband!) got totally engrossed is an understatement. My youngest went from sitting on my lap to sitting alone shouting, laughing and clapping. The production was beautifully put together and its simplicity showed off the fantastic acting and creative work of a very small cast. It was a perfect example of how you don't need a massive cast, expensive special effects or a massive budget. The Elves and the Shoemaker managed to create a wonderfully intimate experience. Just amazing!

And to sum up how your performance affected us all, on leaving my husband asked me, quite seriously, "Can we go again?". I shall certainly be on the lookout for your future productions at The Lighthouse and will be first in the queue to get my tickets - even if the kids can't come!!!!

Tanya Taylor-Habgood (Audience Member)

PS - I want the red dancing shoes!

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed seeing the Elves and the Shoemaker at the Lighthouse yesterday.

I thought it was an incredibly well thought out production with engaging characters, excellent story development and pacing and of course great puppetry. There were two school groups in that day and

the children were totally absorbed and almost shouted the house down whenever the elves popped up during the 'hunt' scene.

It's great that work of such quality is being developed right here in Bridport. Thanks for the tickets and I hope the rest of the tours go well.

Polly Gifford
Director, Bridport Arts Centre

*You have done it again! A fantastic new production of *Elves and the Shoemaker*. I am delighted that Lighthouse was able to commission the show and am very proud that it will now be toured. The actors were really lovely and brought your gentle and funny creation to life. And as always with Marc's making, the sets and puppets are really wonderful. I want a new pair of sparkly shoes...*

Thank you both and I hope you have enjoyed the process as well as the outcome. We have achieved 90% attendance – well more in reality as we had to increase the capacity on a few shows to accommodate everyone!

Elsbeth McBain, Chief Executive
Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts

For an example of our promotional print please see the next page:

Set in an old kitchen workshop, Sam, Lacey makes terrible shoes and tries to sell them on-the. They are so bad that nobody wants them, not even his neighbour who thinks he should give up and get a real job! Then one night two tiny visitors climb in through the window and start cutting and stitching and gluing and Sam's life is never the same again.

Following their sell-out shows The Dazzles Turpin and 3 Little Eggs the hysterically amusing Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company return with an up-tyke, size 13 re-telling of everyone's favourite story about Elves and shows there are shaming puppets, music and surprises aplenty in a show for everyone aged 3 and above.

You might just laugh your socks off! (and then put them back on again!)

Directed by Nikki McCrort
 Puppetry by Marc Perrett
 Music by Sarah Moody
 Songs by Spike Galding
 Sound Design by Ian Scott
 scenic Artise: Tomasin Cuthbert

Lighthouse
 www.lighthousepoole.co.uk
 Tickets & information 0844 406 8666

warwick arts centre
 www.warwickartscentre.co.uk
 Box Office 024 7652 4524

Salisbury Playhouse
 www.salisburyplayhouse.com
 Box Office 01722 3 20 333

THEATRE ROYAL BATH
 www.theatreroyal.org.uk/the-egg
 Box Office 01223 823940

the brewhouse
 www.thebrewhouse.net
 Box Office 01223 283244

www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.com

Sat 27 Nov	11am, 1pm & 3pm
Sun 28 Nov	11am, 3pm
Wed 1 Dec	10.30am
Thur 2 Dec	10.30am
Fri 3 Dec	10.30am, 4.30pm
Sat 4 Dec	11am, 1pm, 3pm
Sun 5 Dec	11am, 3pm
Wed 8 Dec	10.30am
Thur 9 Dec	10.30am
Fri 10 Dec	10.30am, 4.30pm
Sat 11 Dec	11am, 1pm & 3pm
Sat 29 Jan	11am and 2pm
Thur 3 Feb	1pm
Fri 4 Feb	10.30am, 1pm
Sat 5 Feb	11am, 2pm
Fri 11 Feb	10.30am, 1.30pm
Sat 12 Feb	11.30am, 3pm
Wed 23 Feb	1.30pm, 3.30pm
Thur 24 Feb	10.30am, 1.30pm
Fri 25 Feb	10.30am, 1.30pm
Sat 26 Feb	10.30am

Commissioned by Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts and The Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre
 With additional support from Salisbury Playhouse

Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company Presents

The ELVES and the Shoemaker

Definitely not a load of old cobblers!

A truly enchanting hour for children and their parents
 The Stage (on The Little Red Hen by Stuff & Nonsense)