

stuff and
nonsense
theatre company



Teachers' Resource Pack

Information to help teachers and school groups make the most of this joyful theatre show that explores communication and individuality.

1 Synopsis

The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin is a seasonal show, but is not linked to Christmas. The main character is an enthusiastic, energetic and curious man who spends the majority of his time tinkering in his shed inventing solutions to perceived problems. He is widely misunderstood, but is joyfully oblivious to others' disdain and mockery, blindly dedicated to his own endeavours.

The man is a pioneer fascinated by penguins, and plans to meet them when he travels to the Antarctic. He learns to speak penguin language, and so do the audience, so that they can communicate with the penguins. When he arrives he joins a community that works differently to the one he knows at home, and that accepts him.



The play explores individuality, being different, learning to communicate, and fitting in. Overall it is humorous, joyful, full of energy, exploratory and works for people of all ages. It is authentic and sometimes challenging, it is not just a cute story about fluffy penguins! The first half of the show is set in the man's garden, and the second half in the Antarctic.



The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin

features puppets, acting, movement, song and audience participation. It is full of humour, quirky songs and sound effects, interesting characters, relevant stories and infectious energy.

The show lasts one hour, with no interval, and is best suited to ages 3+.

If you'd like further information about what to expect, you could visit to our website to watch the trailer here, look at some photos from the show here or read audience reactions:
<https://aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk/stuff-we-made/productions/the-man-who-wanted-to-be-a-penguin/about/>

2 Characters

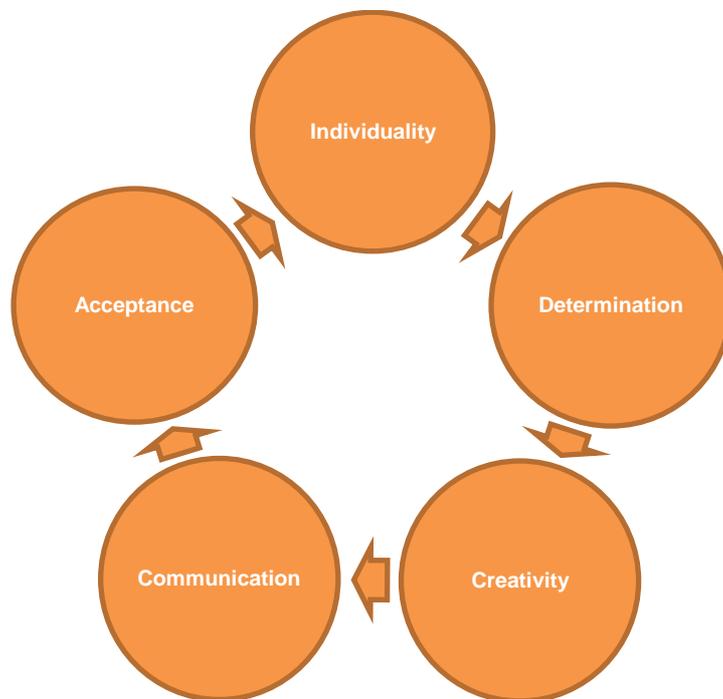


You will meet:
The Man,
his neighbours,
the postie and plenty of
penguins!



There is a cast of two actors: Jonny Hoskins, who primarily plays The Man, and Jenny Harrold, who primarily plays the other characters and operates the puppets. Audience members are usually shocked to discover that there are only two actors delivering Stuff and Nonsense plays. The actors are incredibly versatile and active, appearing in different parts of the set and often operating multiple puppets at once, they seem to make the impossible possible!

3 Themes



4 Pre-show activities

Orientation

Look at where the Antarctic is on a map or globe, search the internet or books for photos of what the environment is like and what animals live there.



Discuss how you might get there, what it would look like and what it would feel like to be there; how long you might like to stay and what you would like/dislike about being there.

Communication

Learn some words of the Penguin language that you'll be able to use during the show!

Snow:	Sn-Aaa
Beak:	K-L-A-K
Egg:	Hockulagogg
Cold:	Ong-Dongana
Blizzard:	H-Ch-Aaw Sn-Aah

To assist you in your pronunciation, here is a key explaining how they sound:

- Aah: Car
- Aaw: Door
- Aaa: The noise a person makes when running away from a monster!
- Vowel sounds tend to be delivered in the direction of the sky
- Consonants, in contrast, are usually directed at the listener's feet
- Where two or more hard consonants appear side by side, separated only by dashes, the speaker should be careful to avoid adding extra vowels, as this will be likely to bewilder the average Penguin!

Interesting Facts:

- Due to the absence of lips in Penguins, Penguinese tends to limit itself to hard consonants. M's and F's and P's are necessarily scarce.
- The word for 'Beak' is an onomatopoeic word intended to mimic the sound made when the upper and lower mandibles of a Penguin's beak 'K-L-A-K' together.

- Penguins aren't very good listeners so repetition is key. Utterances must be repeated at least three or four times to stand a chance of being paid attention to by other Penguins.
- Compared with English, Penguinese is a language of few words. For this reason it often combines words to create new meanings. For instance:
Blizzard = wind ice
Moon = egg sky
Busy = grumpy waddle
Give me a fish = beak belly fish yes

5 Post-show activities

Drawing

Can you draw some of the penguins you saw in the show?

Writing

Can you write about some of the inventions you saw in the show? What did they look like? What problems did they solve? Do you think the inventions would work well in real life? Who do you think might buy them, and why would they find them useful?

Problem solving – individual task

Think about a problem or challenge that you have experienced. What inventions can you describe, write about or draw, that would help you solve the problem/challenge?

Interpersonal skills – discussion point

Discuss why you think The Man was initially misunderstood by his neighbours. Which of his characteristics or behaviours do you think they struggled to understand and get along with? What changed after he'd been to the Antarctic? Do you think you would get along with The Man, and why?

6 About us

Stuff and Nonsense is a spirited production company making inspiring theatre for bold adventurers.

Led by Artistic Director Niki McCretton we work with children, families, artists and theatres across the globe to make memorable and rewarding shows. Together we share the power of great imagination. We are passionate about children's creativity & we place it at the heart of what we do. We work with incredible artists to make outstanding theatre that excites children and enables adults to become seriously playful.

Founded in 2001, we have created nine original artist-led productions, primarily contemporary and highly marketable adaptations of well-known tales

which fill a gap in the market. Since 2010 we've delivered over 2200 performances to more than 300,000 people (43,000 alone in 2016!), across small-middle scale spaces and extended holiday performance runs.

We lead the field in adaptability of artistic product and quality delivery. Niki McCretton is a major contributor to sector development and we work vigorously to raise the quality of theatre for Children & Young People. In April 2018 Stuff & Nonsense became an @HOME artist at The Point, Eastleigh.

The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin follows in the footsteps of the company's previous successes: *The Hare & The Tortoise*, *The Little Red Hen*, *The Enormous Turnip*, *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, *3 Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the 3 Bears*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Gingerbread Man* and *Puppet Panto*.

7 Credits

Director	Niki McCretton
Assistant Director	Ed Trotter
Performers	Jenny Harrold and Jonny Hoskins
Poet / lyricist	Toby Thompson
Composer	Anthony Burbridge
Puppets & props	Holly Miller
Set Design	Holly Miller, based on original design by Anna Kelsey
Set construction	Tin Shed Scenery
Lighting design	Ali Hunter
Illustration	Sam Zuppardi
Photography	Mark Morreau
Producer	Jane McGibbon

The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin is co-commissioned by **The Albany and ARC Stockton**, supported using public funding by the **National Lottery through Arts Council England**, with additional support from **The Lyric, Bridport** and **The Point, Eastleigh**.

8 Keep in touch

www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk

Twitter: @loadofstuff

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Instagram: @stuffandnonsensetheatre

YouTube: @stuffandnonsenseuk

#PenguinStuff

We'd love to hear your feedback, please get in touch by email or social media.

marketing@aloadofstuffandnonsense.com