

Thursday 11 November 2021

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For Immediate Release

Gonzo Moose Presents Grimm and Grimmer at Theatre Royal Plymouth this December

The fairy tale adventure bursting with comedy, clowning, music and magic

It was dark. It was almost certainly snowing...

Theatre Royal Plymouth are proud to announce Gonzo Moose Theatre Company's Christmas performances of their most recent hit show, *Grimm And Grimmer*, from 13 – 24 December.

Having previously thrilled audiences with hit shows *The Thing That Came From Over There* and *What The Dickens*, Gonzo Moose are back at TRP with a comedy fairy tale adventure bursting with physical comedy, absurd jokes and magical illusion with a healthy dose of silliness and mayhem; this show is a fast-packed rollicking ride, mixing paranoia, suspense and hilariously gruesome peril.

In *Grimm And Grimmer*... Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm are set to publish the final volume of what will become the greatest ever collection of fairy tales. But on the eve of their greatest triumph, a shadowy figure from their past returns to collect an old debt. Now their sister, Lotte must go on a deadly mission deep into the Fairy Tale Kingdom in order to save her beloved older brothers.

Three fearless and daring actors switch wildly between roles in this gripping and fast paced comedy featuring Mexican elves, a biscuit eating badger and the world's worst marriage guidance counsellor.

Inspired by the 80's epic fantasy movies like *The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth* and of course by the books of the Brothers Grimm.

Join three daring actors as they switch wildly between myriad roles, all packed into 90 minutes, creating a frenetic performance full of shocks, spine tingling stillness, and blood curdling terror as they take audiences on a journey to discover the malevolence



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which lurks within the woods. With comedy and thrills galore, audiences can expect visual delights, a supremely silly script, magical illusion, and live music.

Tickets are on sale now on the Theatre Royal Plymouth website.

ENDS

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatroyal.com / 01752 230439

About Gonzo Moose Theatre. Since exploding onto the scene in 2000, Gonzo Moose has become renowned for its accessible brand of stage comedy which combines improvisa2on, music, physical theatre and clowning. The company, founded by ArDsDc Director Mark Dawson and Paschale Straiton, has always had a focus on creaDng innova2ve and visually exci2ng stage comedy. Inspired by the slapsDck greats, Gonzo Moose always bring the house down with audiences of all ages and the team delight in spoofing genres, mashing up tradiDonal tales and generally being silly. Gonzo Moose use a range of techniques to keep its work at the cuOng-edge of physical comedy and improvisa2onal performance with previous shows including 2008's Edinburgh Fringe hit and Total Theatre Award nominated, "You Don't Need to Know That".

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It

collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

ABIGAIL ANDERSON – (Director and Co-Writer) Abigail has directed over 85 productions nationwide, six of them being with Gonzo Moose - the most companies she's worked with anybody, other than the three years she spent as Associate Director at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds. Most recently she's directed *Jack and the Beanstalk* for the Mercury Theatre, Colchester and a double bill of *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for Merely Theatre. She particularly likes staging novels and stories (as well as pantomime and Shakespeare!) In the last few years she directed a two-handed version of *Pride and Prejudice* that has so far toured the UK three times and has just had a production in Seoul, South Korea; the world premiere stage adaptation of Malcolm Pryce's cult novel, *Aberystwyth Mon Amour*, and a rollicking new adaptation of *The Canterbury Tales* for Guildford Shakespeare Company. She has directed for three summer seasons at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick: *Colder than Here*, *See How They Run* and a new staging of the West End hit *The 39 Steps*.

SALLY HODGKISS – (Additional material and performer) Sally is an actor, writer and comedian. She has recently starred in a sell-out run of *Whose Line is it Anyway?* with Clive Anderson, Greg Proops, Mike McShane and Tony Slattery and performs and teaches improvised comedy around the UK. As a writer she was selected for a prestigious Royal Court Writers Group and is currently developing her first play. Stage credits include performances at the Manchester Royal Exchange, Sheffield Crucible, HOME, Octagon Bolton, the Arcola, The Roundhouse, the Old Red Lion, Northern Stage, Wilton's Music Hall and Unity Liverpool amongst others.

MARK DAWSON – (Co-writer and Performer) Mark trained at Circomedia, Centre for Physical Theatre and Circus in Bristol. He is co-founder and artistic director of Gonzo Moose and has appeared in all six of their shows. Theatre includes Ken Campbell's *Table-top Tragedies* (*Barbican*) and *Dick Wymington* (Corn Exchange, Newbury), *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* and *Back To The Future* (Secret Cinema). Mark is also an experienced improviser and has appeared in the Liverpool and Bristol Improvathons. Other work includes: appearing in a ballet version of the Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol* and being a stunt man in the film short, *The Deal*.

MATT JOPLING – (Additional material and Performer) Matt's theatrical credits include; *The Falcon's Malteser* (Vaults), *Wilde Creatures* and *The Canterville Ghost* (Tall Stories), *Beauty and the Beast* (New Wolsey Theatre), *Stoat Hall* (Eastern Angles), *What the Ladybird Heard* (Kenny Wax) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in New Orleans (Arts Theatre), *Pure and Canary Girls* (Mikron Theatre), *Teeth 'N' Smiles* (Stockwell Playhouse), and *JusDn and the Argonauts* (Common Ground Theatre). Screen work includes music videos for *The Wombats*, *Purity Ring* and *Malpas* and he

has recently featured as a major guest lead in BBC's Doctors.

SEAMUS ALLEN – (Co-Writer and magic consultant) He trained in his hometown, Dublin at the Conservatory of Music and Drama. After graduating he toured nationally with some of Ireland's premier children's theatre companies, as well as developing and performing clown performances for Barrabbas, and magic shows for Cahoots N.I. Since moving to the UK Seamus has appeared in *Is That A Bolt In Your Neck?* (Gonzo Moose) *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* and *Robin Hood* (CreaDon Theatre Company), *Quest* (Folklore Presents) *The Disappearance* (The SDcking Place), and *Where's My Desi Soulmate?* (Rifco Arts). Tv work includes *Bear Behaving Badly* (Thames Valley). Seamus is also a skilled improviser, working with Ken Campbell's School of Night and appearing in the annual London 50-hour Improvathons. Seamus now teaches drama at Read College in Reading.

LAUREN SILVER – (Co-Writer) Lauren is a performer and musician originally from Liverpool. She has trained in clown with Philippe Gaulier and Spymonkey's Aitor Basauri. Recent work includes *The Games* (Spike Theatre) which she co-devised, performed in and wrote music for. Other theatre credits include *Aladdin* (The Brindley), *Walking Through Windows* (Liverpool Everyman/Playhouse) and *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh). Other projects include her solo musical comedy act *Pure Joy*, and is also one half of double act *Ladyface* hosting their infotainment comedy show 'Come on Girls' which showcases new talent and local creative businesses. Lauren is also an experienced Improviser and has performed in Improv Marathons in Liverpool and London. Screen credits include: *Eastenders* (BBC), *Superhyperliteral* with James Veitch (Online) *It could Happen to You* (Film), *Just One More Pint* (BBC Three) amongst others.

HELEN STEWART – (Set Design) Helen is delighted to be working with Gonzo Moose again having previously designed *Is that a Bolt in Your Neck?* Previous designs include the Olivier Award nominated *PoNed Panto* (Vaudeville, London) *Alice in Wonderland*, *Rome and Rime of the Ancient Mariner* for The Nuffield, Southampton, *Wolves of Willoughby Chase* (Forest Forge/Nuffield,) *Holocaust Memorial Day* at Guildhall London, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Dukes*, Lancaster, *Monteverde's Flying Circus & Too Hot to Handel* (Armonico Consort), *The Fair Maid of the West* (Third Party productions directed by John Wright), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Opera East productions), and 'Til death do us Part (The Brewery, Kendal), *The Tempest* (Chalkfoot Theatre), *Midsummer Nights Dream/Taming of the Shrew* (Bridsh Shakespeare Company); and as an art director for the Channel 4 short film *One Man Walking*.

LISA AITKEN – (Costume Designer) This is Lisa's first time working for Gonzo Moose. Lisa trained at Edinburgh College of Art graduating in 2002 and has been working in London ever since. Recent work includes *Wardrobe Supervisor* "The Black Diamond" for Punchdrunk Theatre Company. *Assistant Costume Supervising* "A Dog's Heart" and "Simon Boccanegra" for English National Opera. *Costume Supervisor* "Barabas" for Hall For Cornwall. *Costume Supervisor* "A Soldier's Fortune" *The Young Vic*. *Costume*

Supervisor “JusDfying War:Scenes from the HuNon Inquiry” Tricycle Theatre.
Assistant Costume Supervisor “Cinderella” The Old Vic. Assistant Costume Supervisor
“Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat” Westend. T.V. Credits include
“Cartoonito Storytelling series” Cartoon network, “A Number” BBC/HBO, “Torn” ITV.
Lisa also works regularly with Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and The Royal Opera
House and has previously worked at The Donmar Warehouse from 2005 to 2008. Lisa
has also toured America with “Love’s Labours Lost” for Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre
and toured “Cruel and Tender” around Europe with The Young Vic.

MARTIN STANSBURY – (Sound Designer) Freelance since 2004, MarDn has worked
with such theatre companies as Gonzo Moose, CDDG, Moving Hands and the DTs in
various technical and producDon roles, all the while developing a healthy career as a
live sound engineer and studio producer. Based in Penzance, Cornwall, MarDn
currently spends the majority of his Dme touring with singer/songwriter Sarah McQuaid
as her manager and sound engineer. On the rare occasion that MarDn finds himself
back in Cornwall (or indeed the UK), he can be found operaDng sound at various
fesDvals and music venues, working at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro or undertaking
studio recording and producDon projects. As you read this, MarDn will be in the midst
of a US tour with the wonderful Sarah McQuaid.

TOM RICHMOND – (LighDng Design) Tom graduated from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre
School in 2004. Since then he has designed for numerous companies including Pickled
Image, The Wonder Club, Bellowhead, The Stand and Stare collecDve, The Caravan
Stage and TaurusVoice. He has also enjoyed periods of employment in London’s West
End and at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre. As well as lighDng design, Tom also works in
producDon and technical management. This is his fourth show for Gonzo Moose, in a
relaDonship which spans eight years.