

**Review: The Man Who Wanted To Be A Penguin**

**By Dulcie Harrison**

***The Man Who Wanted To Be A Penguin* at Theatre Royal  
Plymouth**

Question- have you ever watched a wildlife show and thought, I wonder what they say when they squawk or squeak?

Have you ever thought about actually communicating with a certain animal... in their own language?? have you ever longed to be transported to a whole new magical wonderland?

Well you now you can get involved as another supersonic "Antarctic blast" of a show hits the Drum Theatre!

*The Man Who Wanted To Be A Penguin* is magical, enchanting and charming show brought to life by the Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company.

With a mix of puppetry and one statement shapeshifting set, this show starts with an astronaut trying to find a good story to tell, and who soon comes across the story we come to watch... it centres around a rather eccentric inventor, who spends a lot of his time in his potting shed planning his latest and possibly his greatest mission of all!

When one day, with the help of a postman and after being alone at his birthday party, he decides he wants to become... A penguin!

The show then trips happily from a small, unique shed in Plymouth, to a winter wonderland with the most endearing puppets- honestly I'm not going to spoil it for you but the puppets truly are super!

My young niece absolutely adored the puppets and seeing her little face light up with joy and admiration at their interactions was so heart-warming.

There is music and sound effects to bring some musical light moments and these helps push the story along its way and allows the actors to show their skills in acrobatics and multi-rolling fun!

The scenery is superb for the Drum Theatre, and the actors really use it to its maximum capacity- often leaving gasps of amazement from the audience!

The audience is encouraged to interact, so this is an ideal show with the younger audiences or as a way to introduce children to the magic of theatre.

If you ever did want to learn how to speak penguin, now is your opportunity with a part in the show where we are actively taught it! The youngsters in the audience found this absolutely hilarious and the whole theatre was one big penguin chorus of delight.

The seating is priced so affordably... they would make excellent Christmas presents too!

It is an ideal way to get into the festive mood to enchant its way into your children's hearts and the youngster inside all of us!