

Press Release

Norwich Puppet Theatre

May Half-term 2013

Another holiday is fast approaching, and we have a vast range of performances and workshops to keep everyone entertained this half-term. We start the holiday with an ever popular children's puppet making workshop on 25 May, followed by a special celebratory day at the Theatre on the 26th - *Picnic at the Puppet Theatre*. Our own Director Joy Haynes performs *Cinderella* on 30 & 31 May, then the beautiful, award-winning *The Man Who Planted Trees* returns to the Theatre for a one-off performance on 1 June. Our Early Years season continues with La Baracca Testoni Ragazzi's *Spot* on 2 June, and we also have our first Little Tots workshop, *Towers*, on 30 May. For aspiring puppeteers there is *Shadow Worlds* on 28 & 29 May, a two-day workshop for children aged 8+.

Picnic at the Puppet Theatre

26 May, 11am–1pm / 2pm–4pm, Age 3+

Come and spend a morning or an afternoon with us at our mini-festival, *Picnic at the Puppet Theatre*. We have three super puppetry companies who will be performing throughout the day as well as an ever popular drop-in puppet making workshop. There will be food, drinks and general merriment. Join us for a magical May day.

We have three performance areas at the picnic, Mark Whitaker brings *Festival!*, Clive Chandler will be performing *Punch and Judy* and Sokobauno and the Little Fawn Caravan will be performing a selection of puppet shows.

- Mark Whitaker presents *Festival!* A Chinese circus in miniature! This 10 minute show features acrobats, martial arts, wild animals and a Festival Lion Dance. Performed using traditional Chinese hand puppets.

"An official puppet clever thing!" *Animations Online*

- Clive Chandler presents *Punch and Judy*. 'Professor' Clive Chandler is one of England's leading performers of *Punch and Judy*. He presents the age-old drama in the context of the modern day and demonstrates the strength of a living tradition that stretches back more than 300 years. He is also very funny.

- Sokobauno presents Little Fawn Caravan. A 1960s Cheltenham Fawn Caravan magically transformed into a travelling puppet theatre. An intimate setting with just 15 people in the tiny auditorium. Sokobauno perform wonderful puppetry for all the family.

Weasel In Love: Mauro the weasel has to face up to some hard truths in this bittersweet tale of love lost and found and lost again. With music from a French toy orchestra.

Sleep Crawling: All is not what it seems as a child's musical toy takes on a mind of its own. A world where objects tease and taunt as an innocent baby mannequin interacts and plays along regardless.



Norwich Puppet Theatre

St James, Whitefriars

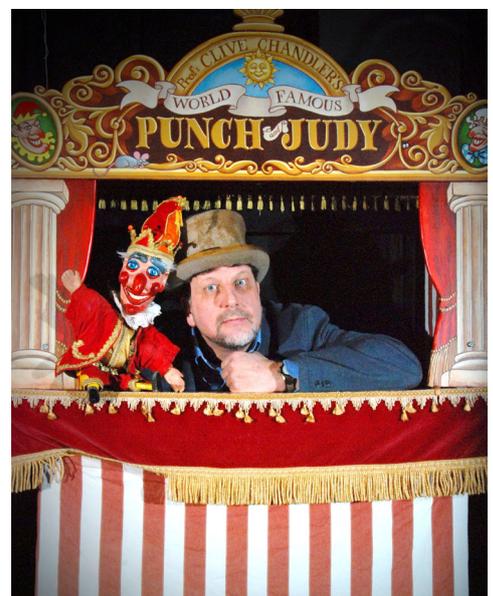
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Joy Haynes and Norwich Puppet Theatre present:

Cinderella

30 & 31 May, 11am & 2.30pm

Age 3+, 50 minutes

"She had no bed to lie down on, but was made to lie by the hearth among the ashes; and then, as she was of course always dusty and dirty, they called her Ashputtel." The Brothers Grimm.

A one-woman show using puppets and objects, Banyan's stylish and playful reworking of the Cinderella story explores its fascinating power in a fresh and imaginative adaptation.

"Banyan strip away the Disney-glitz to reveal a plucky heroine who is both witty and charming" *The Scotsman*



Puppet State Theatre Company presents:

The Man Who Planted Trees

1 June, 2.30pm

Age 7+, 65 minutes

This multi-sensory theatrical adaptation of Jean Giono's environmental classic tells the inspiring story of a shepherd who plants a forest, acorn by acorn, transforming a barren wasteland. As much a touching tale as it is a hilarious puppet show, *The Man Who Planted Trees* shows us the difference one man (and his dog!) can make to the world.

"The Man Who Planted Trees is a book I have always loved... each of us in our own way can and must try to leave the earth a better place than we found it—we must leave a gentle footprint behind us." Michael Morpurgo

"Jean Giono's story surely belongs among the most moving and endearing statements of our hope." Wendell Berry



La Baracca Testoni Ragazzi presents:

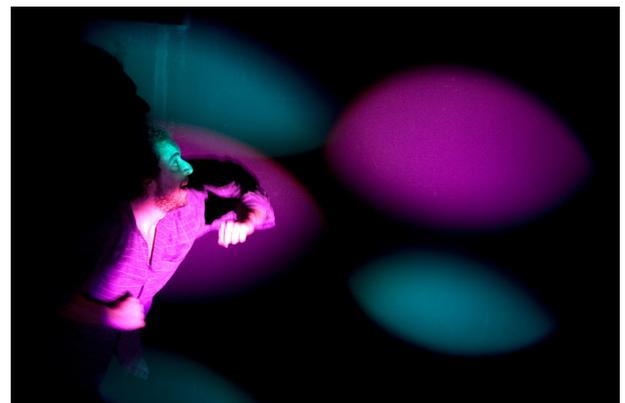
Spot

2 June, 11am & 2.30pm, Age 1-4, 40 minutes

I'm the sun in the yellow, the sea in the blue and the sky in the light-blue; I'm fire in the red... and I turn red when I get excited! I'm a bright street; I'm a feast. Oh... I'm dark! And you can't see me anymore! But you can listen to me breathe... I don't speak, but I open and close my eyes. I have no feet, no hands and no legs, but I can follow you while you walk... I am Spot and I tell stories.

Spot is a very particular stage light. Its light shines and expresses itself by drawing shapes and colours on the floor.

La Baracca Testoni Ragazzi has been creating theatre for children and young people for 35 years.



Children's Puppet Making Workshops

25 May, 1 June, 11am

Age 5+, 90 minutes

We have a packed programme of puppet making workshops aimed at ages 5+. Our workshops give children great creative scope to create a unique puppet character using a wide selection of materials.

The workshop on 25 May is Elves and Goblins, and 1 June is Monster and Fairies. Children will make puppets around these themes.

During the workshop, children will be working on their own with support from our workshop leaders. Adults may either remain in our foyer area or return to collect children at the end of the workshop session. There will be a short break in the workshops for children to have a snack which they can purchase from the Theatre or bring with them.



Shadow Worlds

28 & 29 May, 10.30am–3.30pm, Age 8+

Participants will be immersed in the wonderful world of shadow theatre. They will create shadow puppets and environments and will make their own short performance or presentation to show at the end of the course.

Little Tots: Towers

30 May, 10am

Age 0-5, 60 minutes

Part of our new Early Years season! A stimulating Little Tots session for ages 0–5 and parents/carers. Come and make giant towers. Build them up and knock them down, then work together to create an enormous masterpiece. This workshop is led by arts practitioner, Sophie Fox.



Ticket prices

Picnic at the Puppet Theatre £8.50

Cinderella / Spot Adult £8.50 Child £6.50 Concessions £7 Go4Less Child £4.50 Family ticket £24

The Man Who Planted Trees Adult £10 Child £8 Concessions £9 Go4Less Child £6.50

Workshops Child £8.50 Shadow Worlds £55 Little Tots £10 adult + child (extra child £8.50)