

LEMPEN PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY

THE AMAZING THING



*“As I was walking down the beach, one bright and sunny day,
I saw a great big wooden box, a-floating in the bay.
I pulled it in and opened it up, and there to my surprise,
I discovered a ...?..?..?... right before my eyes!”*

What’s in the box? A strange and weird thing? Something terrible, or a thing of beauty?

Storyteller, Peter Grimm opens the box to find the ‘Thing’ that takes him on an unusual journey that weaves it’s way through a medley of well known Brother’s Grimm tales, to finally unlock his imagination and free his stories.

A truly original story told with puppets, acting and live music.
Fun, inspiration and delight for all the family.

Suitability: 5+ and family / Duration: 50 minutes

For more details visit our website: [The Amazing Thing](#)

Peter Grimm is a descendent of the famous Brothers Grimm. He has inherited the tradition of his ancestors and tells the their stories as they were written down 200 years ago. But, with his inheritance also comes a ghost. The brothers locked something away in a box when they wrote down and fixed the stories. They threw the box into the sea, and now that something, that rogue and wild element of story, has returned with the tide. Peter opens the box and sets free the “amazing thing” to add it’s influence in the sea of stories.

The show is about the unlocking of imagination in relation to stories, hung on some well known Grimm classics. It can be useful to start somewhere familiar and then take a detour into the unknown. A rogue or surprise element can wake up the imagination and give a new slant to a predictable tale.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

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QUOTES

“Its excellence lies squarely on the shoulders of its only performer, Daniel Lempen, whose skill and delicacy at navigating the plot of the production, as well as playing instruments, singing and manipulating the puppets is truly impressive.”

Lee Callaway, Bristol Evening Post (Bristol Festival of Puppetry)

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“A really, really good show – the writing was excellent. The performance was incredibly skilful and energetic. Charismatic and engaging.”

Audience: Beverley Puppet Festival

~

“Lempen Puppet Theatre Co. - EXCELLENT in every way!”

Hockwold Village Hall, Norfolk Rural Touring

Story: Liz and Daniel Lempen
Puppets: Liz Lempen
Direction: Caroline Astell-Burt
Music: Daniel Lempen

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Performing area required: 5m wide x 4.5m deep x 2.5m high

Blackout: Yes, if possible

Power: 2 x 13amp sockets

Get in time: 2.5 hours

Get out time: 1 hour

Number of performers: 1

View of set up:



Sound / Lighting: LEMPEN PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY, is fully self contained and will bring all their own lighting board (Z88 12 channel desk), dimmers, stands, cables, lanterns, MD player and PA system. (all fully PAT tested). We do not use smoke or strobe lighting.

Public Liability: £ 10.000.000 as a member of Equity

Disclosures: Everyone working with LEMPEN PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY has a valid DBS Certificate and carries photo ID.



Theatre Review

The Amazing Thing at Little Angel Theatre, London

Review: Timothy Ramsden 17 July 2015.



Finely-told tales that tell their own story.

In the two shows they have briefly brought to Islington's Little Angel Theatre, Lempen Puppet Theatre show different ways of making familiar stories new. In *Little Frankenstein* it's the combination of medieval Romance with the sci-fi fantasy of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. In *The Amazing Thing* (properly, spelled-out as above to give the sense of something *really* impressive) it's the idea of traditional folk-tales having a life of their own.

Peter Grimm, modern descendent of the brothers who famously collected traditional stories, finds a box washed-up, and in it an Amazing Thing - a mermaid-like figure from their time. A fairytale character herself, she's caught by her hair in the wooden box and asks to be freed.

Back in his ancestors' day, it seems she was a bit of a nuisance, wanting to tell tales her own way. The discovery leads to re-angled accounts of Red Riding Hood, the Princess and the Frog plus – using that long hair trapped in the woodwork - Rapunzel.

A happy humour's caught from the moment Peter enters playing the harmonica – and there's dexterity with the puppets, as with the wooden box which transforms into sections of a tower. The piece never loses its simple story interest (even at an 'all ages' performance, when the usual lower age limit of 5 was abandoned, attention levels remained high).

Then there's the fun of an argument, the 'Amazing Thing' in the box being a quietly disruptive element – the child who asks why, or wants the story different, contrasting the adult storyteller who 'knows' he knows best but only knows what he knows.

It brings to life the contrast between the adult, for whom the story is fixed, remembered from childhood, and the young person for whom it's a living experience, to be shaped, questioned and reconsidered.

If the Amazing Thing was marooned for such responses, her re-appearance indicates that stories are dynamic things that can bring new life to the familiar. Skilfully-performed, happy and welcoming in manner, this piece is rare in examining the malleability of stories, which can't be laid to rest in boxes or in books.



"LEMPEN PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY always makes things magic - a very special quality!"

Rachel Feldberg, Ilkley Literature Festival

Company background

Lempen Puppet Theatre Company tour their own unique brand of original stories told with puppets. Imaginative, spellbinding, surprising and sometimes bonkers, Lempen focus on puppetry, storytelling, light, music and a journey that takes the audience there and back again.

To make our theatre we are inspired by Myth and Folklore, by intriguing and unconventional characters, by our sense of humour and by matters that we care about. We aim to produce quality productions for family audiences that connect the real world to the world of imagination.

Based in North Yorkshire, but touring nationally and internationally Liz and Daniel Lempen are also the Artistic Directors for Skipton International Puppet Festival.

For more on the Lempen Puppet Theatre Company visit www.lempen.co.uk



Productions

Since its foundation in 1987, the company have produced the following productions.

Theatre shows:

Cardboard Carnival (2016), - Little Frankenstein (2014), - The Fisherman and The Pearl (2012), - Ugly Beauty (2010), - Journey of Turtle (2007), - The Amazing Thing (2006), - The Shapechanger (2003), - Puppets in the Wild (2002), - The Rainbow Forest (2000), - Lizzie's Moon (1998), - The Last of the Trolls (1997), - The Melting Princess (1995), - The Third Key (1995), - When I met Skark (1994), - The Fairy Flute (1993), - The Magic Berry (1992), - The Coloured Land (1991), - The Deamer (1990), - Ds Farbeland (1988), - Princess Klischandra (1987)

Street shows:

Darwin's Workshop (2017), Belly Bug (2010), Dr Frankenstein (2010), Riverbed Dive (2005), Dan's Baby (2005)

Other work:

In addition to performing, the company responds to requests for workshops, training sessions, commissions and collaborations and amongst others have worked with The Marine Conservation Society, Cusan Theatre, Leeds City Variety Theatre, Dynamic New Animation and have as directors for Thingumajig Theatre and German company Theater Lakupaka. Lempen also ran residencies for "Theatre for One" performers.

The Touring Company

National touring:

As a touring company we have travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles, quite literally, from Shetland to the Isles of Scilly frequently reaching the most remote of communities. We also reach into the very heart of the inner city schools and enjoy the contrast of experience and of audiences we meet.

Our UK tours are a combination of schools, arts centres and theatres, rural touring circuits, festivals and sometimes the odd museum.

International touring:

We have performed at festivals and theatres in Austria, Belgium, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Romania, Switzerland, Turks and Caicos (Caribbean) and Taiwan.



"The solo performer, in a remarkable tour-de-force, sings and plays harmonica and banjo, provides all the puppet voices, manipulates a variety of glove and rod puppets and moves around the boxes that operate as his playboards."

Buxton Puppet Festival, by Matthew Isaac Cohen

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