

THE SQUABBLE

A simple sharing story told without words for young children



Trailer Video: [The Squabble Trailer](#)

'The Squabble' is a new production that introduces a sensory theatre experience in a safe and gentle manner. It is aimed at young children aged 2 to 6 years old.

Set in a sand pit, the drama is played out sensitively and skillfully with two hands. The hands are simply and expressively hands and also become both creatures and emotional characters. The story is a universal one, of life, of meeting new friends, of sharing the space, of conflict, and eventually reconciliation, love and peace.

*Two hands meet, play, quarrel and reconcile. What could be simpler?
Life told and summarised with two hands. The puppet and the theatre in the most simple of settings.*



Duration: Total 50 min (Music Intro 10 min + Performance 25 min + Post show activity: 15 min)
Story: Philippe Saumont (Theatre des Tarabates, France)
Puppeteers: Liz and Daniel Lempen
Direction: Lempen/Saumont

HOW THE SHOW WORKS

We begin with assembling and preparing the audience, with calm music and sensory sounds. We use the 'Hang drum', which is played with the hand. When the children are ready, we enter the performing area in small groups following hand shape prints on the floor.

The play begins and lasts approximately 25 minutes. It is told without words, with pictures, movement, lighting and sound effects, small pieces of music and the sound of the sea. After the performance the children are invited to explore a number of sensory boxes and activities. Continuing the theme of the show, they must take it in turns and share these activities peacefully.

The whole production including assembling, performance and post show sensory activities will take no more than 50 minutes.

The maximum capacity is 20 children with accompanying adult friends and carers. The total audience capacity should be a maximum of approximately 30 people. This is to ensure that everyone can see well and to maintain a calm and intimate theatre experience. The show and activities will be run a minimum of 2 times per venue. A 3rd run is possible for an additional fee.

The minimum space for the performance set is 3m x 3m plus audience area. We need a space that can be darkened. A blackout is not needed, but blinds or curtains on all windows will allow our lighting effects to create the atmosphere. We do travel with some cloths for blacking out so we can help with this if necessary. We can also bring some low stools and benches to help create the audience seating.

Additionally, if possible, we need another space/area in the building to assemble and prepare the audience and also for the post show activities. This keeps the performing area a special and calm space that we enter and leave.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Sound / Lighting: LEMPEN PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY, is fully self-contained and will bring 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.

The only thing we need is someone to operate house lights and a cup of tea or coffee is always very much appreciated.

Public Liability: £ 10.000.000 (Equity)

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

Performing area: 3m wide x 3m deep x 2m high

Blackout: preferable

Power: 2 x 13amp sockets

Get in time: 2.5 hours

Get out time: 1 hour

Number on tour: 1 performer + 1 technician



Company background

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

Rachel Feldberg, Ilkley Literature Festival

Lempen Puppet Theatre Company tour their own unique brand of original stories told with puppets since 1987. 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 puppet possibilities, 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 were also the Artistic Directors for Skipton International Puppet Festival 2005 to 2023.

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:

The Squabble (2025) - Flotsam & Jetsam (2021) - 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:

Penny and The Far Thing (2023), The Fisher & his Wife (2020), 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 Cusan Theatre, Leeds City Variety Theatre, Dynamic New Animation and have as directors for Thingumajig Theatre and German company Theater Lakupaka. We 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, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Romania, Switzerland, Turks and Caicos (Caribbean) and Taiwan.

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