

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 3 to 7 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.*



"It's amazing, inspiring, on so many levels - it's just brilliant!!!"

Liz Gardner, Burton-upon-Trent Library, Shropshire

Duration: Total 50 min (Performance 35 min + post show activity: 15-20 min).
Story/Concept: Philippe Saumont (Theatre des Tarabates, France)
Puppeteers: Liz and Daniel Lempen
Direction: Lempen/Saumont

HOW THE SHOW WORKS

We begin with playing calm music and sensory sounds. We use the 'Hang drum', which is played with the hand. When the children are ready, we start the performance.

The play begins and lasts approximately 30 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 lasting a further 15 to 20 minutes, depending on audience size and space. Note: The post show activity is optional.

The whole production including performance and post show sensory activities will take no more than 60 minutes.

The maximum capacity is 25 children with accompanying adult friends and carers. The total audience capacity should be a maximum of approximately 50 people, depending on venue. 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 also bring some low stools and benches to help create the audience seating.

"What an amazing and heart-warming experience. The children were fully engaged and loved every minute. Full of laughter and provocations, children were left talking about, reflecting on and questioning the importance of friendship. The presenters were gentle and calm, bringing the best out of every child. Thank you so much for a unique and sensory experience, thoroughly enjoyed by our 3 and 4 year old children".

Amanda Hubball, Alfreton Nursery School, Derbyshire

TECHNICAL INFORMATION



Sound / Lighting:

We are fully self contained and will bring our own lighting board, dimmers, stands, cables, lanterns and PA system. (all fully PAT tested). We do not use smoke or strobe lighting.

We only need someone to operate house lights and a cup of tea is always much appreciated.

Blackout:	preferable
Power:	2 x 13amp sockets
Get in time:	2 hours
Get out time:	1 hour

Number on tour: 1 performer + 1 technician

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: 4m wide x 3m deep x 2m high



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 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:

2025 - The Squabble	2003 - The Shapechanger	1993 - The Fairy Flute
2021 - Flotsam & Jetsam	2002 - Puppets in the Wild	1992 - The Magic Berry
2016 - Cardboard Carnival	2000 - The Rainbow Forest	1991 - The Coloured Land
2014 - Little Frankenstein	1998 - Lizzie's Moon	1990 - The Deamer
2012 - The Fisherman & The Pearl	1997 - The Last of the Trolls	1988 - Ds Farbeland
2010 - Ugly Beauty	1995 - The Third Key	1987 - Princess Klischandra
2007 - Journey of Turtle	1995 - The Melting Princess	
2006 - The Amazing Thing	1994 - When I met Skark	



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.

LEMPEN PUPPET THEATRE COMPANY

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