

MASQUE
THEATRE

A Grimm Tale

Devised & directed by Meryl Couper

by Liz Vokes

Tue 23 - Sat 27 April 2024

WWW.MASQUETHEATRE.CO.UK

Notes from the director

Well I can't believe we are finally here with an audience member reading the programme! This project originally started back in 2022 as a Royal & Derngate Actor's Company devising project. I brought the idea of exploring some of the Brothers Grimm short stories to my group, of which Liz (writer) was part of. We created a 10 minute piece exploring some of the characters you will see in tonight's show. Thanks must go to my original cast of Mo, Jo, Lou and Ian for helping us to first discover them.

The Brothers Grimm – Jacob and Wilhelm were born in the late 18th Century. They first collected folk songs but later went on to publish a collection of tales called 'Kinder und Hausmärchen' (Children and Household Fairy Tales) implying that the stories were for adults and children alike. Collected in this book were some 200 tales including many we know today – 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'Sleeping Beauty', 'Rumpelstiltskin'. Many of these stories weren't written down but collected from oral sources. The skill of Wilhelm Grimm was to take these stories and write them down in a readable form without changing the original characters. Liz has managed to do the same, working with taking the essence of the chosen stories and characters but reproducing them into a comic, fun retelling.

I am so grateful to Masque Theatre for giving us this wonderful opportunity to realise this piece into a full a show and supporting new writing. This project has been tremendous fun right from when we first worked on it at R&D, to now working with a cast of 11 and the marvellous Antony Newby as Musical Director. Both Liz and I love to work collaboratively, workshopping ideas with the cast and developing ideas brought into the room. I have to say the cast and Antony have done us proud with their enthusiasm and commitment to playing, devising and finding the joy in this piece. We all hope you have as much enjoyment watching it!

Meryl Couper
Director

Cast



Kimberley Thornhill - Ensemble & Jemima

Kimberley is an actress, burlesque dancer and voice over artist and has been involved in the R&D's Actors Company for many years. Kimberley is delighted to be in a Masque show again, previous credits include, 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' (2007) 'Arabian Nights' (2012) and 'Clear Heels' (2013).



Hari Turner- Ensemble & Golder

Hari has been in several Masque shows over the past year. Previous roles include Ichabod Crane in 'Sleepy Hollow', Cobweb in A 'Midsummer Nights Dream' and Tobias in 'Sweeney Todd'. They are very excited to be a part of 'A Grimm Tale'.



Liz Vokes - Ensemble & Egg

This is Liz's first production with Masque Theatre. A member of the Royal & Derngate Actor's Company, she most recently appeared as Cardinal Richelieu in the 'Three Musketeers'. She is very egg-cited about taking on this cracking new role in 'A Grimm Tale'.



Jude Wilton - Ensemble, General, Surgeon, Apprentice

Jude is excited to be working with Masque for the first time and thoroughly enjoying having fun with this lovely bunch of people! She has performed and directed for White Cobra, appeared in several Made in Northampton productions at the Royal - as well as performing in national and international tours.



A Grimm Tale

Cast

All cast play ensemble
 Devil & Cat Mia Ballard
 Innkeeper Billy Brown
 Griselda Toni Clarke
 Cpt, Surgeon & Apprentice Rik E Dean
 Ermintrude Maggie Holland
 Wizard & Judge Rob Kendall
 Ensemble Antony Newby
 Ensign, Surgeon & Apprentice David Pardoe
 Jemima Kimberley Thornhill
 Solider Hari Turner
 Egg Liz Vokes
 General, Surgeon & Apprentice Jude Wilton



There is one interval of 20 minutes.
 Refreshments available.

Creative & Production Credits

Writer, Music & Lyrics Liz Vokes
 Director Meryl Couper
 Musical Director, Antony Newby
 Additional Music & Sound
 Stage Manager Angela Warren
 Lighting Operation Robert Vaughan
 Props Meryl Couper, Angela Warren,
 Liz Vokes, Toni Clarke &
 Rob Kendall
 Poster Design Meryl Couper
 Programme Meryl Couper
 Booking Manager Liz Allan
 Box Office Sue Howes
 Hospitality Manager Maggie Holland
 FOH / Refreshments Masque Members



Photography credit - Rebecca Cockcroft
 & Mia Ballard

Thanks to Darren Abel of Royal &
 Derngate, Pam Mann, Mark Mortimer,
 Weekes Baptiste, Ian Allan and Felix
 Isherwood.

Thanks also to the Church of the Holy
 Sepulchre for their continued support.



Cast



Maggie Holland - Ensemble & Grintrade

Maggie has acted in community theatre all her adult life. A member of Masque since 2005, she has been involved with at least one production most years, most recently last December in 'A Christmas Spirit' where she played along side Toni as squabbling sisters (getting typecast?)



Rob Kendall - Ensemble, Wizard & Judge

Rob has 'officially' been with Masque since 1995. He is an Associate of the Drama Board and trained with tutors from the Royal Central School. His claims to fame include shifting scenery in the 1961 production of Westside Story at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, and as an extra in BBC's Dr Who!



Antony Newby - Musical Director & Ensemble

Antony has previously been MD on 'Treasure Island', 'Hunting of the Snark' and 'Sleepy Hollow'. Antony can also be found entertaining the local pubs and clubs of the area as part of Soul'd. His previous speaking role was in 'Jekyll & Hyde' at The Playhouse Theatre.



David Pardoe - Ensemble, Ensign, Surgeon, Apprentice

David can usually be found performing Improvisational Comedy across the Midlands with Canny Funny. However for Masque David's work can usually be seen costuming Hippolyta, Titania, 3 Queens, Bianca, Lady Macbeth (twice), the Flying Hernandezes, and many more.

Cast



Mia Ballard - Ensemble, The Devil & Cat

Mia is very excited to be working with Masque Theatre for the very first time! She is often found working on and off stage at The Playhouse Theatre, where she directed 'Witness for the Prosecution' and 'Drink' in 2023.



Billy Brown - Ensemble & Inn Keeper

Billy is excited to be part of this production and his first Masque Theatre show. Billy has performed with Meryl Couper and Liz Vokes before, but is delighted to work with them as writer and director.



Toni Clarke - Ensemble & Griselda

Since appearing as Pat in 'Who Needs Stephen King' (Twisted Tales) 2019, Toni has appeared in several productions, last seen in 'The Spirit of Christmas'. Toni is thrilled to be involved in this entertaining retelling of some of the lesser known of the Brothers Grimm's (often) delightfully gruesome stories!



Rik E Dean - Ensemble, Captain, Surgeon & Apprentice

Rik is thrilled to be involved with another fun and explosive production at Masque. Shaking the dust and cobwebs off the buffoonery hat. Getting stuck into a creative and collaborative project is the only environment he wishes to live in.

Forthcoming Shows

Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott Directed by John Myhill

In 1868 Louisa May Alcott published *Little Women*, a coming of age tale about four sisters leaving childhood behind and searching for the adults they would become.

Despite her initial doubts it was an instant success and swiftly followed by a second volume, known in the UK as *Good Wives*. We still persist in treating them as separate books while in the US these two books are generally considered as one.

The story of Jo March and her sisters Meg, Beth and Amy still holds our interest today as they each seek their fortunes, their paths in life, and their loves.

This new adaptation will focus on just the first volume but with reference to later events, performed in the round at the Church of The Holy Sepulchre as a recreation of the memories of the grown up girls.

Tuesday 28 May - Saturday 1 June 2024, 7.30pm

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street, Northampton

The Winter's Tale

by William Shakespeare Directed by Clare Brittain

A sad tale best for winter, Shakespeare's classic play of love betrayal and redemption.

Thursday 25 July - Saturday 3 August 2024, 7.30pm

Abington Park Museum