

A TWO-MAN SHOW STARRING GILES G KING AND TRISTAN STURROCK

DANGER
MY ALLY



creative collaboration of six major theatre companies in the South West ensuring decreasing resources are used to their full potential. The Consortium is also an effective working model of co-operation between diverse companies: Kneehigh Theatre, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Northcott Theatre, Orchard Theatre, Rent-a-Role and Theatre Alibi.

Kneehigh is also a member of the Cornwall Theatre Umbrella.



spaces in black, the engaging physical eloquence of silent film, the immense mental engineering and design of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the global archetypes of Commedia dell'Arte. Within the four corners of these "engineers of the imagination" Tristan and Giles create their unique world, painting invisible landscapes with risk, play and skilful complicity.

Nick Darke's contribution is to design the language and build the house around the barrage of ideas. The process is a truly collaborative meeting of theatrical storytelling crafts. Mike Shepherd, himself a comic supremo and

Arts Council's Working With A Writer scheme for the last year. Is currently under commission by the RSC. His most dangerous experience was almost severing his arm off in a Bamford-Long bailer.

Lucy Davies, born 1970 in Birmingham. Trained at Exeter University and joined Kneehigh a year ago. Her most dangerous experience was standing



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You people make me sick, with your pathetic banners. Breaking into compounds. Cutting down fences. Immobilizing bulldozers. What the hell d'you hope to achieve? My God there's a whole big world out there. Wise up!"

"It wasn't long after that he metamorphosed Into Ash. And brought the only trade he knew To bear on the task of saving The planet from extinction The explosive was easu to come bu

KNEEHIGH

T • H • E • A • T • R • E

CAST

Performers

Tristan Sturrock

Giles Gulliver King

Director

Mike Shepherd

Writer

Nick Darke

Administrator and Artistic Assistant

Lucy Davies

Lighting Designer

Bill Mitchell

Set decor, sculpture and effects

Adam Hebb

Alice King

Sue Hill

David Kemp

Steve Tanner

Tony Crosby

Robert Moule

Photography

Programme graphic design

Running around

COMPANY

Cornwall's Kneehigh Theatre was formed in 1980 to provide exciting live theatre for children and their families. This aim remains though the company now embarks on a wider programme of work: innovative visual theatre indoors and out, a commitment to new writing, theatre work in schools,

community arts events, design and technology, small satellite tours, and courses at the Barn in Gorran Haven.

This work is done by a pool of practitioners all living in Cornwall. The pool consists of a multi-talented group of performers, musicians, artists, teachers, technicians, directors and administrators which means that the company offers an extensive range of skills and resources.

Kneehigh Theatre is a member of the South West Theatre Consortium - a creative collaboration of six major theatre companies in the South West ensuring decreasing resources are used to their full potential. The Consortium is also an effective working model of co-operation between diverse companies:

PRODUCTION

Danger My Ally compounds a long performance relationship, both on and off stage: from the lager louts in *Tregeagle* and the two Johns in *The Young Man of Cury*, to extensive improvisation. A shared sense of the visually bizarre has grown out of ideas, rejected chunks of shows and Giles' making of strange surreal objects.

Unlike the traditional comic duo dynamic: Laurel and Hardy, Morcambe and Wise,

this one is a constantly shifting double act, both fools and foils, riding a seesaw of status. It is risk-taking play with no formula. The road from Kneehigh's grand tours to a two-man show is an inevitable detour into very new territory. It is a risk - dangerous theatre - in form and intent.

The stylistic influences are marked: the spaces in Beckett, the engaging physical eloquence of silent film, the immense mental engineering and design of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the global archetypes of Commedia dell'Arte. Within the four corners of these

BIOGRAPHIES

Tristan

Sturrock,

bom 1967.

Joined Kneehigh 8 years ago after National Youth Theatre.

Has also worked with Kaboodle, Orchard Theatre, Sterts Theatre Company and on radio. His most dangerous experience was watching his brother roll towards a cliff in a Renault.



Giles G. King, bom

1965 in Wooburn, Bucks.

Trained at Dartington College of Arts and joined Kneehigh 8 years ago. Has worked on Europe's first theatre ship, The Fitzcarraldo. His most dangerous

experience was lying down in the middle lane of the M4.



Mike Shepherd, bom

1953. Sidestepped

headmasterdom to found Kneehigh Theatre 13 years ago, for which he is now co-Artistic Director. Collaborations with Nick Darke include directing *Hell's Mouth* for the RSC's

Antigone project in 1992, and *The Bogus* in 1993/4. His most dangerous experience was spending a night naked in a police cell in a case of mistaken identity.



Nick Darke, bom in

Wadebridge. Has worked with Joint Stock, National Theatre, RSC, Stratford East, amongst many others. Has been working

with Kneehigh under the Arts Council's Working With A Writer scheme for the last year. Is currently under commission by the RSC. His most dangerous experience was almost severing his arm off in a Bamford-Long



TOUR

September

- 28 St Austell College
- 29 Falmouth Arts Centre
- 30 Trevenson Theatre, Cornwall College, Redruth

October

- 1 North Devon College, Bamstaple
- 2 Hope Centre, Bristol
- 5 Launceston College
- 6 Barn Theatre, Dartington
- 7 David Hall, South Petherton
- 8 Barbican Theatre, Plymouth
- 11&12 Exeter & Devon Arts Centre
- 13 South Devon College, Torquay
- 14 Sterts Centre, Nr. Liskeard
- 15 Newquay Treviglas School
- 16 The Acorn, Penzance

And then to Europe.....

Danger My Ally will be revived in '94

NEWS

This year's Winter tour is Nick Darke's commission, *The Bogus*. A sequel to the hugely successful *Ting Tang Mine*, this world premiere charts the return of an American senator to his ageing mother's home, only to be stopped by an assassin's bullet. But who is it that takes his place? Touring January to April 1994.

'Our annual programme of courses and schools begins with a Theatre Skills course from April 11th - 15th. Based at the stunning Barn in Gorran Haven, this week-long course run by Mike Shepherd is an indispensable aid for practitioners, teachers, performers and novices. Forthcoming courses include mask-work, summer school, music and more.

It's a hot summer in 1994 with an exciting collaboration between Kneehigh and Inner Sense Percussion Orchestra on that sultry sensation *Carmen*. Sure to be a spectacular event, *Carmen* will tour from June to September 1994.

Wild Walks! will return in the summer for a fourth hedge-scrambling, forest-festooning tour around beautiful Cornish locations.

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itc
Independent
theatre
council

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Nick Darke's contribution is to design the language and build the house around the barrage of ideas. The process is a truly collaborative meeting of theatrical storytelling crafts. Mike Shepherd, himself a comic supremo and renowned physical performer, completes the team as Director.

bailer.

Lucy Davies, born 1970 in Birmingham. Trained at Exeter University and joined Kneehigh a year ago. Her most dangerous experience was standing in front of a police horse charge



at the 1990 Poll Tax riots.

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MINUTES

For more information on this and any of our work, please contact the office at 11 Castle Street, Truro, TRI 3AF or call (0872) 223159

THANK YOU

Kneehigh would like to thank the following people who have made the mounting of *Danger My Ally* a little less dangerous: John Lee, Sterts Centre, Jim Carey, Amanda Harris, Ali Firth, Steve and Diane at Print Out, Terry Gillam's *Brazil*, Wants of Plymouth, all the company, friends and family

for unstinting support.

My God there's a whole big world out there. Wise up!"

"It wasn't long after that he metamorphosed Into Ash.

And brought the only trade he knew To bear on the task of saving The planet from extinction The explosive was easy to come by We are, after all, a tribe at war."

"Ever heard of feedback loop? There's 10,000 billion tonnes of methane locked in the ocean muds. The greenhouse effect is warming the oceans, releasing the methane, which causes the atmosphere to heat up, thus releasing more methane. 10,000 billion tonnes, Marvin ... the planet is farting, Marvin ... Farting itself to death".

Kneehigh Network. If you would like to be kept informed of everything the company is doing and receive newsletters free of charge, all you have to do is drop us a line in the office. All we ask in return is that when we're visiting your neck of the woods you display a couple of posters in your local shop or workplace and distribute a few handbills to your friends.

Kneehigh Memorabilia: All Kneehigh merchandise is available from venues. However you can also get cassettes by mail order. For a Jump and Moxy cassette of music from five Kneehigh shows, send £5 plus 40p p & p made out to Kneehigh Theatre Trust Ltd. to 11 Castle Street, Truro, TRI 3AF. For further information on merchandise availability and range, call (0872) 223159.

