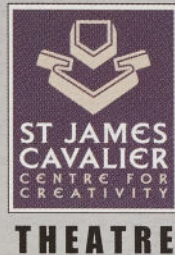


**KNEEHIGH INTERNATIONAL THEATRE OF CORNWALL**



# Island of dreams Gżira tal-ħolm

**SPONSORED BY**



**Birgu Local Council**

**St James Cavalier, the Birgu Local Council and the British Council**

*present*

**The Kneehigh International Theatre Company of Cornwall**

*in*

## **Island of dreams**

The Kneehigh Theatre Company of Cornwall was asked by the Birgu City Council, St James Cavalier and the British Council to make a piece of spectacular theatre with the people of the city of Birgu. Island of Dreams is the result of a lot of people's hard work. We hope you enjoy it.

### **The Narrator at the Square**

Once there was a city. Not this city, but a city very much like this, where narrow alleys ended in a harbour and streets had names like Infinity, and street corners were named after the winds. A city surrounded by water, and in the water, warships grey as thunder, liners tall as clouds, cargo boats bleeding storms of rust into the purple sea and, dancing amongst them, flocks of daghsas, fast and colourful, like sea-swallows.

The city itself was anchored by memory. Memory clung to the city, like barnacles. Memory was the mortar that held the stones, and the people, together.

The people were fond of telling stories. The stories reminded them of who they were. They liked to celebrate their heroes. They erected statues out of stone, for stone is the very matter out of which memory is shaped. Each year, at the appointed time, they would meet in the City Square to remember, and celebrate their past.

Listen, listen carefully, for you may learn much out of these stories. Stories of heroism big and small, of friendship and belonging. Listen carefully, for it is the stories that form the bonds that hold us together, and we need these bonds now more than ever, as the winds of change are blowing through the city. Not this city, but a city very much like this.

### **Thanks**

With many thanks to Polidano Brothers Ltd and JB Stores, Silvar Constructions and all the people of Birgu and elsewhere in Malta, abseilers, people who helped with music, acting, hospitality, boats, materials, photographs, The Animal Refuge for loan of balcony, memories, laughter and making this project possible. Thanks to Chris Gatt and Mario Schiavone from St James Cavalier. There are too many names to list here, but you know who you are. We will not forget you. Special thanks to Mayor John Boxall and Deputy Mayor Emmanuele Attard for keeping the faith and making us feel at home. Very special thanks to Paul and Liliana.

**Il-Kavallier San Ġakbu, Il-Kunsill Lokali tal-Birgu u l-British Council**

*jipprezentaw*

**In-Kneehigh International Theatre Company of Cornwall**

*f' produzzjoni*

## **Gżira tal-ħolm**

In-Kneehigh Theatre Company ta' Cornwall ġew mistiedna Malta mill-Fondazzjoni Ċentru għall-Kreattività b'assoċjazzjoni mal-Kunsill Lokali tal-Birgu u l-British Council biex johlqu spetaklu li jinvolvi l-komunità. 'Island of Dreams' huwa frott ta' xhur shaħ ta' xogħol intensiv bejn setturi differenti tal-Komunità. Nittamaw li l-ispettaklu joghġobkom.

### **Ir-Rakkontatur fil-Pjazza**

Darba kien hemm belt. Mhux din il-belt imma wahda li tixbagħha hafna, fejn sqaqien doġoq jispicċaw fil-port u t-toroq kellhom ismijiet bħal 'Bla Tmiem' u l-kantunieri kienu msemmija għall-irjeh. Belt imdawwra bl-ilma u fl-ilma kien hemm bastimenti tal-gwerra skuri daqs is-sema mifqugh bix-xita, vapuri tat-turisti jilhqu s-shab, vapuri tal-ġarr inixxu dmija tas-sadid f'baħar vjola, u jżfnu f'nofshom qtajja ta' dagħajjes, hfief u kkuluriti bħal huttafa fuq il-baħar. Il-belt innifisha kienet ankrate bit-tifkriet. It-tifkriet iggranfaw ma dil-belt bħall-koċċli. It-tifkriet kienu t-tajn li żamm il-ġebel u n-nies flimkien.

In-nies kienu jhobbu jirakkuntaw l-istejjer. L-istejjer kienu jfakkruhom f' min kienu. Kienu joghxew ifakkru l-eroj. Bnewlhom statwi mill-ġebel għax mill-ġebel kienu wkoll imsawwra t-tifkriet tagħhom. Kull sena, fil-hin miftiehem, kienu jiltaqghu fil-pjazza biex jiftakru u jiċcelebraw l-imghoddi.

Isimghu, isimghu sew, għandkom hafna x' titghallmu minn dawn l-istejjer. Stejjer ta' eroj kbar u zghar, ta' hbiberiji u għaqda. Isimghu sew għax huma dawn l-istejjer li jgħaqqduna flimkien, u issa għandna bżonnhom aktar minn qatt qabel għax l-irjehat tal-bidla qed jonfhu fil-belt. Mhux din il-belt, imma wahda li tixbagħha hafna.

### **Grazzi**

Nixtiequ nringrazzjaw lil Polidano Brothers Ltd u JB Stores, Silvar Constructions u lin-nies kollha tal-Birgu u postijiet ohra f' Malta, abseilers, nies li għenu bil-mużika, reċtar, ospitalità, dagħajjes, materjal ieħor, ritratti, The Animal Refuge għall-użu tal-gallerija, memorji, dahku biex għamlu dan il-proġett possibli. Grazzi lil Chris Gatt u lil Mario Schiavone mill-Kavallier San Ġakbu. Hemm wisq ismijiet biex insemmuhom kollha, imma intom tafu min intom. Mhux se ninsewkom. Nixtiequ nringrazzjaw speċjalment lis-Sindku John Boxall u lill-Viċi Sindku Emmanuele Attard talli emmnu fina u għenuna nħossuna parti minnkom. Grazzi wkoll lil Paul u Liliana.

## **The Kneehigh Team**

Bill Mitchell	<i>Project Director</i>
David Kemp	<i>Imagineer, Costume, Sculptor, Artistic Co-director</i>
Nicola Rosewarne	<i>Assistant Director, Choreographer, Actor, Musician</i>
Ian Wellens	<i>Musical Director</i>
Mercedes Kemp	<i>Writer, Researcher</i>
Lucy Fontayne	<i>Actor, Comedienne, Musician</i>
Pete Hill	<i>Maker, Production Manager, Actor, Stuntman</i>
Sue Hill	<i>Actor, Maker, Musician, Costume.</i>

## **On Secondment from the Drama Unit**

Paul Portelli	<i>Actor, Maker, Liaison, Assistant Director</i>
Victor De Bono	<i>Actor</i>
Stephanie Farrugia	<i>Actor</i>
Ray Mamo	<i>Actor</i>
Marcelle Theuma	<i>Actor</i>

## **From Theatre Anon**

Liliana Portelli	<i>Actor, Singer, Translator, Maker</i>
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## **Surveyors and Washer Women**

Antonella Axisa, Nathalie Borg, Coryse Borg, Anna Formosa, Sue Rathgeber

## **Banda ta' l-Istatwi**

Ruth Abela, Charlie Abela, David Agius, Andrew Alamango, Jesmond Azzopardi, Effie Azzopardi de Lello, Paul Borg, Carlos Borg, Adrian Brincat, Dominic Darmanin, Alan Gatt, Adrian Mamo, Joseph Muscat and the Mystery Snare Drummer.

## **Abseilers**

Kurt Caligari, Damien Abela, Felician Lanzon, Allster Bonnici, Kurt Bajada  
*From the 1st Cospicua Scout Group*

## **From the City of Birgu**

Emmanuele Attard	<i>Research, memory work, liaison, translator, our man in Birgu,</i>
John Boxall	<i>Mayor extraordinaire</i>
Victoria Butters	<i>Research, memory work, photographs, schools, chorus work.</i>
Martin Butters & Felix Busuttill	<i>Boats</i>
Norman Cilia La Corte	<i>Loan of 4 x 4</i>
Maria Farrugia, Miriam Grech, Melvin Degiorgio, Lorraine Degiorgio, Mary Barbara, Gertrude Cilia and Children from Birgu	<i>Chorus work</i>
Lawrence Avellino	<i>Supplies, chorus work</i>
Eros	<i>Canine assistance</i>
The Birgu Canary	
Joseph Sant	<i>Technical assistance</i>
Kenneth Gill	<i>Technical assistance</i>
Anton Gellel and family	<i>Accommodation and transport</i>
The Choir of St. Lawrence Church	
Jonathan and Svetlana Vella	
Cafe du Brazil, Labour Club	
St Lawrence's Band Club	
The Old City Pub	<i>Food and drink</i>
Joe Micallef - Vittoriosa Male Catholic Action	<i>Flag Pole</i>
Canon Stefan Buontempo	<i>Archpriest</i>
Mr. Andrew Vella of Silvar Construction	<i>Loan of JCB</i>
Kumitat Festi Esterni San Lawrenz	