



KNEEHIGH  
T · H · E · A · T · R · E

## The Cast

The Fool	Trystan Sturrock
The Judge	Michael Shepherd
The Wife	Sue Hill
The Husband	Dave Mynne
Loveless	Nicola Rosewarne
Beauty	Bec Applebee
The Donkey	Allan Drake
Director	Bill Mitchell
Designer & Prop Maker	Alice King
Set Construction & Prop Makers	Adam Hebb, Anna Murphy
Costume	Sean Donohue, Maggie Hutton
Musical Director	Jim Carey
Technician	Allan Drake
Administration	Amanda Harris, Claire Shepherd

The music in *Ship of Fools* has been composed by the company and the recorded music by Jim Carey and Tim Smit.

*Ship of Fools* has been devised by the whole company with the much valued assistance of Nick Darke, John Lee, Inner Sense Percussion and Richard Ternouth. Nick Darke is currently working with Kneehigh under the Arts Council 'Working with a Writer' scheme.

## Dedication

*Ship of Fools* and Kneehigh's Summer of 1992 are dedicated to Peter Frankham whose work, enthusiasm and zest for life have been an inspiration.



## Running Order

### A Skelly Carnival

A Fool and His Money are Soon Parted

Be Upstanding for the Judge

Welcome Ever Smiles at the Ship Inn

Vice Rules when Gold Reigns

Justice Pleases Few in Their Own House

### Interval

A Dark Shadow Falls

Life Never Ending

The Return of an Old Friend

Truth Will Out

Fire and Fiesta



## Ship of Fools

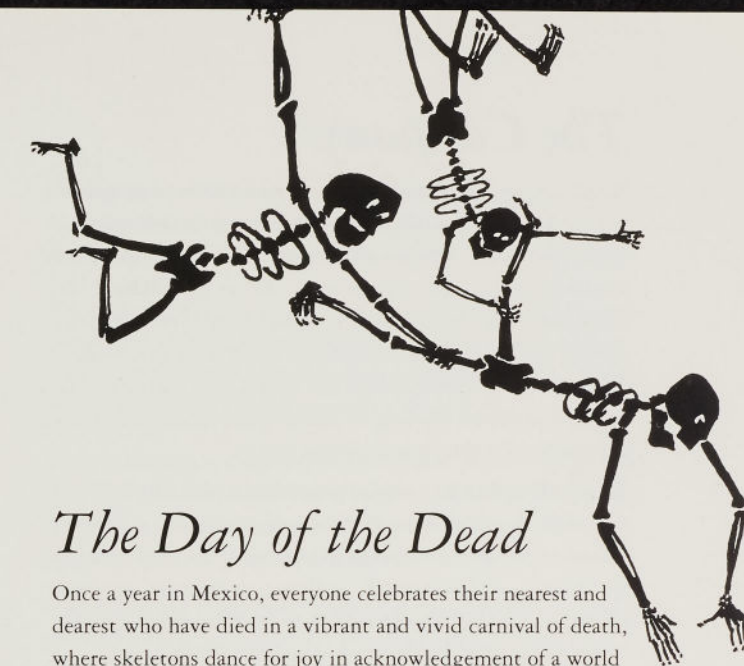
"Once a year, they (Flemings and Germans of the Hanseatic league) got hold of some hulk of a ship that was no longer in service and packed on board all demented, witless or odd individuals – in other words, any unbalanced person who could not contrive to act in perfect harmony with the rules and regulations of society ... The ship provided with neither pilot nor rudder, was towed out and left to drift on the currents of the North Sea. The hulk inevitably finished up among the ice floes ... and that was that." **Dario Fo.**

## World Tales

"...fairies, as such, are thin on the ground, for the term 'fairy tale' is a figure of speech and we use it loosely, to describe the great mass of infinitely various narrative that was, once upon a time and still is, sometimes, passed on and disseminated through the world by word of mouth – stories without known originators that can be remade again and again by every person who tells them, the perennially refreshed entertainment of the poor ... fairy tales, folk tales, stories from the oral tradition, are all of them the most vital connection we have with the imaginations of the ordinary men and women whose labour created our world." **Angela Carter.**

"...there is a certain basic fund of human fictions which recur, again and again, and never seem to lose their compelling attraction. Many traditional tales have a surface meaning (perhaps just a socially uplifting one) and a secondary, inner significance, which is rarely glimpsed consciously, but nevertheless acts powerfully upon our minds." **Idries Shah.**

*Ship of Fools* has been inspired by the extraordinary coincidence of stories told in all times and in all places. Tales that begin 'Once upon a time' and 'There were once two sisters' or 'Many years ago'. Where tricksters scheme and are outwitted by fools, where death and gold are interlinked and marriages, once cunningly formed, last happily ever after ...



## The Day of the Dead

Once a year in Mexico, everyone celebrates their nearest and dearest who have died in a vibrant and vivid carnival of death, where skeletons dance for joy in acknowledgement of a world hereafter. Death is commonly give a variety of nicknames: Bold One, Shaky, Bony, Skinny, Buck-toothed, Clean and Peeled and the Equalizer.

The music in *Ship of Fools* has been created, compiled, influenced by and borrowed from a variety of world sources which reflect the universality and global themes in the show. The celebration of Death manifests itself in the form of South American Samba interwoven with an old English folk tune. The horns, accordions and fiddles of the fools are transported by the Baiao to where Cuban dances with Cajun.



## Biographies

Trystan Sturrock plays the Fool for the seventh time. He's often seen to be, or not to be, Foolish with his best friend, Giles King, who has walked the plank .... one day they will play Hamlet together.

Michael Shepherd is an actor, teacher and director with his roots firmly planted during a Cornish childhood. He founded Kneehigh in 1980 despite being told it would be better to try to fly to the moon. He has never been remotely interested in flying to the moon but still loves making theatre.

Sue Hill was recently seen scaling the peaks of Carn Brea, predicting the Cornish victory at Twickenham with chicken bones .... aboard the *Ship of Fools* she will be falling from great heights.

Dave Mynne – "Summer's here ... the sun's out ... the surf's up ... and I'm sailing on the *Ship of Fools* ..."

Nicola Rosewarne took a break from Kneehigh during *Ting Tang Mine* to direct, perform and teach in her native Plymouth. Pining for the great outdoors, she is glad to return for a Summer of heightened tomfoolery.

Bec Applebee has in her performing career been underground as a troll, underwater with Bedlam Theatre and now, after training with Fooltime Circus School, will be flying through the air with Kneehigh.

Allan Drake is a founder member, tuba player and techno man. He will not be available at seaside resorts for donkey rides after this Summer's tour – unless the rates are better than Equity's ...

Captain Bill Mitchell has recently returned from the sea borne *Walk the Plank*. He is now navigating in uncharted waters by directing Kneehigh's *Ship of Fools* for "Fools Rush In ..."

Alice Hard Hat King is the Queen of the scaffold, maker of the mad chicken and designer of this *Ship of Fools*. When not knee high in withies and bamboo, she is also a mother of two and sculptor. She has a 'wife' called John.



Jim Carey has trained the company's lips and fingers to perform acrobatics on unknown instruments. He is taking the Summer off touring to be a Scotsman on *Wild Walks!*

Anna Marie Murphy is spending the Summer making Day and Night from chicken wire (see her for details) and being Mazed. This is her sixth year with Kneehigh where she has tried a little of everything. Catch her if you can on *Wild Walks!*

Maggie Hutton is a teacher, performer and costume maker who trips the light fantastic on her sewing machine. She is at present researching into the National Curriculum and the art of juggling – she is trying not to drop any balls.

Sean Donohoe is normally a Quintessential Quilter and maker clothes for everyday people. He is now abnormally experiencing the strange lumps, bumps and inside leg measurements of Kneehigh – a task he is finding very foolfilling!

Adam Hebb says that working for Kneehigh is an interesting job. This is the biggest set yet. Man. United were robbed!

Amanda Harris is the budget-bender extraordinaire who is still laughing after four years on the Kneehigh high wire (without a safety net). She dreams of being a bottle of Tippex when the bills come in.

News of other company members who are not touring in *Ship of Fools*: Giles King is performing with the 'Walk the Plank Company' touring *The Blue* on the cargo ship the Fitzcarraldo; look out for Mary Woodvine on the Kodak ads and *Heartbeat* on TV; Charlie Barnecutt will be making hay if fine and drinking tea if wet; Will Coleman will be rejoining the *Wild Walks!* team for another season of cliffside cliffhangers ...



## The Company

Based in Cornwall, Kneehigh was formed twelve years ago to provide exciting live theatre for children and their families (hence the name). Whilst retaining this aim, the company now provides a wide programme or work; theatre for children, innovative visual theatre with a commitment to new writing, touring nationally and into Europe, theatre work in schools, community arts events, design and technology, special building projects, in-service training for teachers and residential summer schools based at our barn in Gorran Haven.

This work is done by a pool of practitioners all living in Cornwall. Kneehigh has a small core of performers, a director, administrator and community arts workers. Kneehigh draws on the larger pool of performers, musicians, technicians, teachers, artists and builders for different projects. This means that the company can offer a wide range of professional skills and resources. Individual members also work with other companies including Bedlam Theatre, Welfare State International, Orchard Theatre, Hub Theatre School and the Nottingham Playhouse.

Kneehigh Theatre is a member of the South-West Theatre Consortium. The arts are in crisis, theatres are shutting all over the country but in the South-West at least, a creative collaboration of six major theatre companies; The South-West Theatre Consortium, has successfully ensured that ever decreasing resources are used to their full potential. The Consortium is 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.



**Kneehigh Network** will keep you informed of everything the Company is doing – including current work, tour schedules and future productions. If you would like to join and receive newsletters free of charge, all you have to do is complete the form below and send it to the office address. 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:** A full-length video of *Tregeagle* filmed at The Minack Theatre. *Jump & Moxy!* A cassette of music from five Kneehigh shows. Both of these are available at venues and also by mail order. Please use this form to order your copies: Amount

No. of videos ..... @ £14.99 plus p & p @ £1 per video .....

No. of cassettes ..... @ £5.00 plus p & p @ 40p per cassette .....

Total .....

Name .....

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..... Postcode .....

Please make cheques payable to **Kneehigh Theatre Trust Ltd.** and send with this form to **Kneehigh Network, 11, Castle Street, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AF.** If you wish to keep this programme intact simply use a separate piece of paper. For any further information, please call the Kneehigh Office on (0872) 223159.

## Thanks

Kneehigh would like to thank the following for their help in the mounting of this production: Clive Mitchell Cycles, Deborah Grayston Scaffolding Ltd, Hancock and Lawrence, Richard Lander School, Tony and Janet Stefan, Rob and Frances Millbank, Alan Monks, Phil Jukes, Ali Firth, Trudy Stallard and Karen Ford for scrumptious catering, the National Trust, Don Hill, John Miller and Michael Truscott, Francesca Ausenda, Headland Printers, Alan Burton, Essjays Skateboards of Truro, Sally Kneebone, Mally Hill, Natasha Orto, Cable and Wireless and Diana Morris.

This programme has been sponsored by Mrs. Ann Holmes.

## The Tour

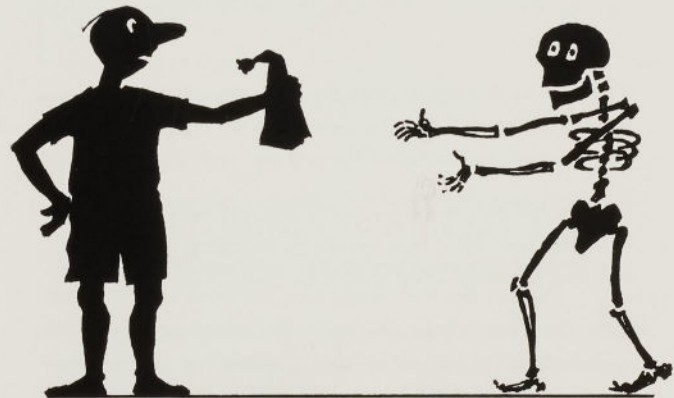
June	
1-12th	Minack Theatre, Porthcurno
16th	Octagon, Okehampton
19th & 20th	Carn Marth Quarry, Lanner
21st	Kit Hill, Callington
24th	Skewen, S. Wales
25th	Narbeth, W. Wales
26th	Lynmouth, Exmoor
27th	Penlee Park, Penzance
28th	Glastonbury Festival
29th	Swanmead School, Ilminster
July	
2nd	Perranporth School
3rd & 4th	Totnes Castle
8th & 9th	Sterts Centre, Liskeard
10th	Indian Queens Pit
11th	Treloarwarren, Helston
16th	Restormel Castle
17th	Brentor, Tavistock
18th	Ham Hill, South Petherton
19th	Cheltenham
20th-30th	Holland & Germany
August	
2nd	St. Donats Arts Centre, Wales
6th	Campus '92
8th	Frome, Somerset
10th	Dawlish
13th & 14th	Trerice Manor, Nr. Newquay
15th & 16th	Lanhydrock House, Bodmin
17th	Tapley Park, Instow, Devon
18th	The Old Vicarage, Cranford, Woolsery, Devon
20th-22nd	Trelissick Garden, Feock
25th	Maumbury Rings, Dorchester
26th	Kimmeridge Bay, Purbeck
27th	Bude Castle
28th	Tehidy Country Park, Camborne

## Other Summer Events

June 27th	Mazey Day, Penzance
August 1st	Goldsmithy Charter Fair
August 31st	Newlyn Fish Festival Wild Walks!
July 15th-17th	Treloarwarren, Helston
July 21st and 22nd	Bere Ferrers
July 23rd and 24th	Kit Hill
July 29-31st	Heligon Gardens, Mevagissey
August 5-7th	Bude
August 12-14th	Kilminorth Woods, Looe
August 19-21st	Tehidy Country Park
August 26-28th	Camel Trail

Kneehigh's next production will be *Scrooge - a Winter Ghost Story* which will be touring the South West from December to March. We have also been commissioned to do a performance piece in schools on issues relating to HIV/AIDS in the Autumn Term.

For information on these events and other aspects of our work, please contact the Kneehigh Office, 11, Castle Street, Truro, TR1 3AF. Tel. (0872) 223159.



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Programme design: A. Crosby  
Illustrations: A. Crosby, Sue Hill

