

KNEEHIGH

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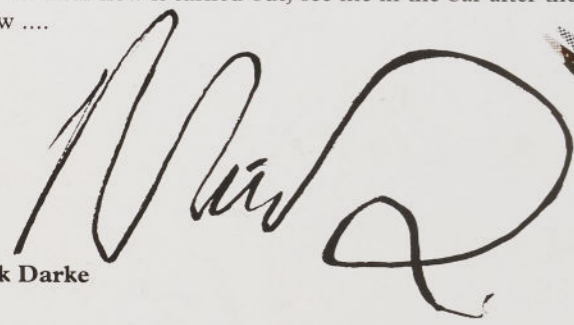
THE BOGUS



BY NICK DARKIE

The Bogus by Nick Darke

I was asked by Kneehigh to write a few words about *The Bogus*. This is an impossible task. What can I say? The play speaks for itself. You, dear audience, have paid to see it, not to read about it. Alright, they said, explain why you wrote it. Because I was asked. Write a sequel to *Ting Tang Mine*, they said, so I did, but it isn't. A companion piece, maybe, with references to the earlier play, the occasional musical reprise, the reappearance of key characters in small (but by no means minor) roles, and in one instance an important plot link between the two plays (answers on a postcard please ...). But if you didn't see *Ting Tang Mine*, or if you did and have forgotten who was in it or what it was about, rest easy, *The Bogus* stands magnificently on its own. Well, said Kneehigh, talk about the research you did. I read a few books, talked with some interesting people, travelled about, picked up this, gleaned that, wrote a speech or two, thought of the title out fishing one day, discussed it with Mike on the beach, wrote some more, discarded it, got depressed, angry (I'm always getting angry), had a brain-wave ~ you see how easy it is to write a play? The difficult bit is the programme notes! By this time the deadline was drawing near and Kneehigh were exasperated. Just write anything! they pleaded, anything at all! So I did. I wrote about my holiday or something, I forget, and handed it in. This isn't about *The Bogus*! said Kneehigh. You said write anything, I replied. Well, relations between us cooled. I could see the requests for a sequel to *The Bogus* receding fast. On the other hand, rehearsals were going well, the play was robust, theatrical, funny, sad, the actors took to it like ducks to water, and mention of the programme was tactfully avoided. But underneath it all, close to the surface, it seethed and heaved like a rolling ocean swell ... But look ~ I've run out of space ~ if you want to hear how it turned out, see me in the bar after the show



Nick Darke

Fogou, pron 'vugger': Cornish form of souterrain - underground chamber or passage.

Sabotage: n. Malicious destruction; action taken to prevent the achievement of any aim.

Cast

John Shy James Lailey
Santo Mike Shepherd
Biddick Bate, Maude May & Judge Sue Hill
Grace Briney Nicola Rosewarne
Alice May Bec Applebee
Blind Harold Briney and Cargeeg Charlie Barnecut
Citizens, clerks, second home owner's wives, dozer-drivers and joggers played by the company

Writer Nick Darke
Director Mike Shepherd
Designer Bill Mitchell
Musical Director Jim Carey
Assistant Director Lucy Davies
Set Constructor John Voogd
Prop Maker Alice King
Banner Maker Anna-Maria Murphy
Costumer Sean Donohoe
Technical Co-ordinator Allan Drake
Slide guitar / sound recording Steve Turner
Administrator Julie Smith
Photographer Steve Tanner
Fight Consultant Richard Bonehill
Training John Lee, Andrew Wade of the RSC
Catering Ali Firth, Trudi Stallard



Kneehigh Theatre

Cornwall's Kneehigh Theatre was formed in 1980 to provide exciting live theatre for children and their families. This aim still remains but the company now embarks on a wider programme: innovative visual theatre in both indoor and outdoor venues, a commitment to new writing, theatre work in schools, community arts events, design and technology and residential 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 can offer a wide range of professional 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 which has ensured that 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.

Other Company News: The whole company has been in natal production with babies abounding in three households: Jim Carey and Will Coleman (now Local Work Co-ordinator) have both fathered boys; Seamus and Merryn; while Amanda Harris has mothered a girl, Connie. Amanda returns to the office in February. Tristan Sturrock and Giles King have spent a winter entertaining Portuguese eucalyptus farmers and Mary Woodvine tours with Orchard Theatre in *Sweeney Todd*.

Thanks

David Bird, Sally Kneebone, Rachel Fealey, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Orchard Theatre, Mo Imms, Perry Savage, Rachel Jasper, Mark Pearce, Amanda Harris, Dave Hunter, Don and Peter Hill, Agricultural Intervention Board, Richard Reynolds of Red C Music, St. Erth, Rod Tinsen, Gareth Clarke, Ingram's Eels, Truro Fabrics, Hilary and Nick's washing machine, Adidas, Ted Savage, Phil Clarke, Tim Smit and many thanks to all those people who met with us in March and shared their hopes and fears for Cornwall.



Biographies

Mike Shepherd: Founder member. *The Bogus* is his 42nd show with Kneehigh. Priority to explore the nature, purpose and magic of theatre. Brought to Cornwall as a post-war baby as part of a post war dream. Childhood in St. Austell ~ wistfully remembers when the circus came to what is now Asda. Lives at the top of a hill, on the coast near Dodman Point ~ the site of a recent Ministry of Defence proposal to become a Naval Gunfire Range.

James Lailey: Brought up in Somerset. Trained as a doctor and became a professional actor in 1987. Now peddles his skills as a performer and musician all over the country and lives reluctantly in London. This is his first Kneehigh show.

Sue Hill: was exiled from her native Cornwall as a journeywoman performer and designer. She has reclaimed her roots with enthusiasm. Her Mum and Dad live up Redruth, her sister down Lanner, and her brother can be found in the sea off Gwithian or on the sea off Falmouth. Off-duty she is to be found mainly in her Camborne garden tending other roots.

Charlie Barnecut: Farmer/Actor. First worked with Kneehigh in 1979. Went to Nottingham University in 1972 with a strong Cornish accent and left, speaking proper, with a degree in Geography. This has proved very useful in navigating beyond the Tamar.

Nicola Rosewarne: was born a Kentish maid, raised west of the Severn, now lives east of the Tamar. This is her 9th Kneehigh tour. During last summer's sabbatical she completed a course in holistic massage and became a mother to two cats, Nancy and Stanley.

Bec Applebee: Born 1965. Schooled in Illogan, Truro and St. Austell; trained at Liverpool and Footline in Bristol. Has been with Kneehigh for 5 years. Founder member of Bedlam Theatre of Cornwall, and has danced as a Cornish representative at the Celtic Bagpipe Festival in Lorient.

Bill Mitchell: Director/Designer from London. Has worked with the company since *Tregeagle*. Still finds time to work in London, Birmingham and Nottingham ~ but always rushes back home to Cornwall and Kneehigh.

Nick Darke: Born and bred near Padstow, has written over twenty plays including *The Body*, *The Dead Monkey*, *Landmarks* and *Ting Tang Mine*, which have been produced throughout Britain and the world. Most recent plays include *Hell's Mouth* (RSC's Antigone Project: The Acorn, Penzance and The Other Place, Stratford) and *Danger My Ally* (Kneehigh Tour '93).

Jim Carey: Began as a painter at Glasgow School of Art, and has been painting soundscapes with Kneehigh since 1982. Composing himself after his latest production ~ a son called Seamus ~ Jim is the irrepressible performer heard but not seen.

Lucy Davies: grew up amidst child abuse and lecturing (mother a social worker, father an academic) in Birmingham. She has since moved steadily westwards, gaining a First at Exeter and joining Kneehigh 16 months ago. In the Spring she will direct Kneehigh's schools show.

John Voogd: Born 1952, on Guy Fawkes Night. Grew up, got educated, messed around on a building site, and took a leaf out of his dad's book by mending things rather than throwing them away. Would like to paint pictures, but these theatrical types keep asking him to build things ~ ho hum!

Alice King: is wed to John Voogd and mother to Tom and May. Despite this she still has time to knock up anything from a set of wings to a horse. She is also guilty of illuminating bleak mid-winter with stunning lanterns and glowing fish.

Sean Donohoe says that if only thespians were as inactive as tailor's dummies, his job would be a lot easier ~ but not as enjoyable. So he blames anything that doesn't fit well on the cast.

Julie Smith joined the Kneehigh admin' team in July and has been juggling *Bogus* bookings with sub-tropical flora at her other workplace ~ Hardy Exotics Nursery ~ ever since. Both jobs demand her passion to see saplings blossom despite harsh climes!

Courses & Schools '94

A chance to work with Kneehigh's team

Theatre Skills April 19 - 24

with Mike Shepherd and Tristan Sturrock

A five day course for Teachers, Directors, Practitioners and interested parties. Explore, invent and create theatre magic at Kneehigh's base, the Barn, situated amongst spectacular coastal scenery at Gorran Haven, near Mevagissey.

Powered by the elements of comedy and tragedy: Incorporating physicality, focus and rhythm, storytelling, presence, mask.

Back by popular demand following the success of the 1993 course.

Cost: £150 + VAT

Non-residential. A hearty lunch will be provided.

Look out for ... Environmental Building Projects, Beach Sculpture Days, Making Workshops, Community Events and Local Celebrations throughout the year.

For further information and bookings contact: Kneehigh Theatre, 11 Castle Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AF. (0872) 223159.

Book early to avoid disappointment



The Bogus Tour

JANUARY		
19-21	Newquay Treviglas School	0872 223159
22	Lostwithiel Community Centre	0726 68532
25&26	Redruth Community School	0872 223159
28&29	The Plough, Torrington	0805 22552
FEBRUARY		
1	Hindlees College Theatre, Shephed	0509 269416
	Woodbrook Vale School	0509 504511
2	Loughborough	0509 269416
	Loughborough	0509 236208
3	West End Centre, Aldershot	0252 330040
4&5	Stahl Theatre, Oundle	0832 273930
9-12	Barbican Theatre, Plymouth	0752 267131
16	The Barn, Dartington	0803 863073
17	Hereford College of Art	0432 273359
18	Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury	0684 295074
19	David Hall, South Petherton	0460 240340
23	Penrice School, St. Austell	0726 68532
24&24	Mullion School	0872 223159
26	Octagon Theatre, Okehampton	0837 52001
MARCH		
2	Glastonbury Assembly Rooms	0458 834677
3	Bridport Arts Centre	0308 427183
4	Corn Exchange, Dorchester	0305 266926
5	Croft House School, Shillingstone	0258 860784
9	Forest of Dean College Theatre	0594 833416
11&12	Princess Pavilion, Falmouth	0872 75741
15	Narbeth, West Wales	0834 860268
17	Wyeside Arts Centre, Powys	0982 553668
18	Ludlow Assembly Rooms	0584 878141
22&23	Launceston College	0566 772117
24-26	City Hall, Truro	0872 75741
APRIL		
7-9	The Acorn, Penzance	0736 65520

Coming up ...

Meat of the Tongue and other Lost Stories ~ March 1994
Kneehighs team of story pedlars and archaeologists go excavating forgotten fables and hidden histories in Cornish schools.

Theatre Skills Course ~ April 1994

Ravenheart ~ The Story of Carmen ~ June-Sept. 1994
Kneehigh collaborate with Inner Sense. Britain's foremost Samba Band, in a vastly casted epic spectacular of the irresistible tale of passion and duty on occupied soil.

Danger my Ally ~ Autumn 1994

A revival of the 1993 two-hander of ecotage and interrogation.



Services

KNEEHIGH NETWORK

We 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 are visiting your neck of the woods that you display a couple of posters in your local shop or workplace and distribute a few handbills to friends.

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Ship of Fools a cassette of Music from Kneehigh's Musicians

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Total £.

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Address

Postcode

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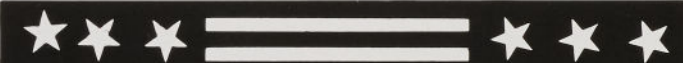
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