

The Red Shoes

KNEEHIGH

The Red Shoes

Cast

Lady Lydia	Giles King
The Girl	Bec Applebee
The Old Lady/The Preachers Wife	John Surman
The Soldier/The Shoemaker	Luis Santiago
The Preacher/The Angel/The Butcher	Mike Shepherd

All other characters and chorus played by members of the company.

Production

Director	Emma Rice
Designer	Bill Mitchell
Music/Music Compilation	Stu Barker
Poems	Anna Murphy
Additional Text	by the company
Dance Training	Karen Brown (Clog dance), Graham Puckett & Anne Peskett (Lindyhop)
Technician	Lucy Gaskell
Costume Makers	Vineeto Gilmore, Karen Brown, Maria Dunaway
Set Construction	Sean Stanford & Northern Creative Metal Work
Prop Makers	Dave Mynne, Sue Hill, Jerry Goodrum
Production Manager	Alex Wardle
Design Assistants	Zoe White, Neil Stiles, Sara Ross
Photography	Steve Tanner
Graphic Design	Richard Elwell
General Manager	Julie Seyler
Marketing	Jane Sutherland
Finance	Ali Firth
Administrator	Frances Guy

Production Credits

Thank you to Wales and West Railways, Truronian, Truro Fabrics, Mallets, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Scrapstore, Falmouth College of Arts and La Belle, Redruth, Ted Savage, Trudi Stallard, John Voogd, Emma Rothwell, Stan Grose, Chris Rice, Dan Jamieson.

Thank you to



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'2's Every Girl Should Learn' 1902

2 Sew, 2 Cook, 2 Mend, 2 Be gentle, 2 Value time,
2 Dress neatly, 2 Keep a secret, 2 Be self-reliant,
2 Respect old age, 2 Avoid idleness, 2 Darn stockings,
2 Make good bread, 2 Keep a house tidy, 2 Make
home happy, 2 Be above gossiping, 2 Control her
temper, 2 Take care of the sick, 2 Sweep down
cobwebs, 2 Take care of the baby, 2 Humour a cross
old man, 2 Marry a man for his worth, 2 Read the
very best of books, 2 Keep clear of trashy literature,
2 Take plenty of active exercise, 2 Be a helpmate
to your husband, 2 Be light hearted and fleet-
footed, 2 Wear shoes that won't cramp the feet,
2 Be a womanly woman under all circumstances.

(five years later the movement for Women's
Suffrage became active in Britain.)

**“Deeper meaning resides in
the fairy tales told to me in
my childhood than in the
truth that is taught by life.”**

Schiller

WHAT GIRLS NEED

Shoes as red as wounds
That's what I want
Not an orange hue
Or vermilion pink
But Red Red Red
Kicking under my bed.

Sensible footwear
Is just too hard to bear.
Shoes as Red as desire
That's what I crave

No glass slippers for me
That turn to skin at the midnight hour
Shoes that bleed
That's what I need.

Forbidden fruit
Has no taste
Pandora's Box
Just a waste!
Shoes that blush
Heels as sharp as thorns
Soles that with
The Devil have Danced
That's what Girls need.

Anna Maria Murphy

The Red Shoes

The story is set in a world both strange and familiar. I have drawn references from both world wars, the suffragettes, Lillie Langtry and the music halls to name but a few. This is a folk tale.

It resonates with all times, places and people. Our telling is seen through the eyes of the story-tellers; haunted, grubby, covered only with their underwear. They have a history. They have seen things they shouldn't have seen. They need to tell the story.

My thanks to the writings and theories of Bruno Bettelheim who recognises the power and necessity of folk tales. They can guide, calm and comfort us as we tip-toe through the minefield of human experience.

A year ago, soon after the tour of *The Itch* had finished, I approached Kneehigh and asked to direct another show. I wanted to get straight back in the saddle and try again before it got too scary. 'Fine', they replied, 'Which show?'. This far ahead I hadn't thought. Not wishing to appear unprepared, I opened my mouth and said 'The Red Shoes'.

That's how it started. My affair with *The Red Shoes*, although I fear they had been lurking, just below the surface for some time, just waiting for me to open my mouth and whisper them into existence. I quickly ran to the library and took out every version of the story I could find. It was a stranger, darker tale than I remembered, rich with colour, taste and temptation. The story wooed me gently, hooked me in like a polka and landed me like a tragic tango. I was in love, or something close to it. I was certainly obsessed. I saw myself in the girl, dancing, dancing. I even envied her plight. What is life if you can't dance it's dance, spin uncontrollably through it's delights and disappointments? The story spoke to me of passions sated and fruits devoured, chances taken and reason ignored.

But, The Red Shoes is a dangerous lover, tempting and all-consuming. I have greedily peeled off it's layers to discover it's meanings. The dance is a trap. It is intoxicating and wild, seductive and strong, but it is not all that the girl is. Robbed of her instincts and raw with loss, she throws herself into her red shoes, searching for things she has lost. Searching for what she is.

The girl in the story is punished in all the versions I have read. I cannot inflict that fate on my heroine or on myself. Haunted by my own red shoes, I offer myself, and you, another way. A way rich with possibilities and hope, heady with dance and calm with stillness.

Emma Rice *Director*



Name: **John Surman**
Age: 55

Enduring Folk Tale Memory:
The Beast becoming the Prince in Beauty and the Beast.

For Kneehigh: *The Itch, The Riot.*

Other Work: Orchard Theatre Company, Manchester Library Theatre, Theatre Clywd, Octagon Theatre, Bolton, Leeds Playhouse, Television, Film and Radio.

Name: **Luis Santiago**
Age: 37

Enduring Folk Tale Memory:
Hansel and Gretel find the house of sweets.

For Kneehigh: *The Itch*

Other Work (in Portugal): Teatro Do Naroeste, Teatro Ao largo, Teatro Do Mar, GICC Teatro Das Beiras.

Name: **Giles Kin**
Age: 34

Enduring Folk Tale Memory:
wheel pricking Sleep

For Kneehigh: *Double Cargo, King of Prussia, Ashmaid* and many

Other Work: Europe
the Plank, Bagattac





Name: **Bec Applebee**
Age: 34

Enduring Folk Tale Memory: "...Oh! What big teeth you have..." "All the better to eat you with." from Red Riding Hood.

For Kneehigh: *The Riot, Ghost Nets 1&2, Strange Cargo, King of Prussia, Telling Tales, Windfall, Ravenheart* and many more.

Other Work: *Desperate Men, Golowan, BBC, Radio 4.*

Name: **Mike Shepherd**
Age: 47

Enduring Folk Tale Memory: The huntsman bringing back the heart of a deer in place of Snow White's.

For Kneehigh: Most shows since the beginning...recently *The Riot, The Itch, Strange Cargo* and *Tregeagle*.

Other Work: *Bristol Old Vic, Royal National Theatre and BBC Radio.*

Name: **Emma Rice**
Age: 32

Enduring Folk Tale Memory: Delicious abandon in the Red Shoes.

For Kneehigh: *The Riot, The Itch, Strange Cargo, Ashmaid, Carmen Ravenheart.*

Other Work: *Gardzienice Theatre Association, Theatre Alibi, RSC, Northern Stage, Welsh National Opera.*

Name: **Bill Mitchell**
Age: 48

Enduring Folk Tale Memory: The sisters having to cut their toes off to fit Cinderella's shoe.

For Kneehigh: Designed and directed all Kneehigh shows since *Tregeagle* in 1989.

Other Work: *Theatre Centre, Young Vic, Nottingham Playhouse and Birmingham Rep* amongst others.

Name: **Stu Barker**
Age: 32

Enduring Folk Tale Memory: The river of rats following the Pied Piper over the hills and far away.

For Kneehigh: *The Itch, Strange Cargo, Tregeagle, Arabian Nights, Don Quixote.*

Other Work: *Horse and Bamboo, Club Rombus, Box Clever, Pentabus, Walk Plank, Sky TV, Bagattack, Anorakovak.* Compositions and recordings available on CD.

Name: **Lucy Gaskell**
Age: 31

For Kneehigh: *The Itch, The Riot.*

Other Work: *Wind, Wild West Films, Field of Fish, Brainstorm Films Documentaries Cape Slip and Celts for a Day.*



KNEEHIGH

Tour 2000

June

Friday 9 & Saturday 10	STERTS, Upton Cross, Liskeard 01579 362382 / 362962
Monday 12 & Tuesday 13	Trevarno Estate Gardens, Helston 01872 262466
Friday 23	Carn Marth, Lanner 01872 262466
Saturday 24	Beaford Centre Gardens 01805 624624
Sunday 25	Bodmin Theatre Festival 01208 76616
Thursday 29 - Saturday 1 July	Liverpool Everyman Theatre* 0151 709 4776

July

Wednesday 5 - Saturday 8	The Norman Castle, Canterbury 01227 787787
Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13	Maumbury Rings, Dorchester 01305 266926
Friday 14 & Saturday 15	Kimmeridge Bay, Purbeck 01305 269512
Monday 18 - Friday 21	Heligan Gardens, Pentewan 01726 68532
Monday 24 - Friday 28	The Minack Theatre, Porthcurno 01736 810181

August

Wednesday 2 - Saturday 5	Trelissick Garden, Feock 01872 262466
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All performances outdoors, except those marked *

For further information on any of these events please contact either the booking agents or Kneehigh

Tel: 01872 223159
Fax: 01872 260487
Web: www.kneehigh.co.uk
Email: office@kneehigh.co.uk

Reg. Charity No. 290218

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE KNEEHIGH STORY SO FAR, ALL THE COMPANY NEWS, FUTURE PLANS AND THE SHOP OF STORIES...

www.kneehigh.co.uk

Future Plans:

Next year's Summer show – an extraordinary, unique, outside event based on *The Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* by Gabriel Garcia Márquez.



KNEEHIGH

FIRING THE IMAGINATION

SUMMER EVENTS

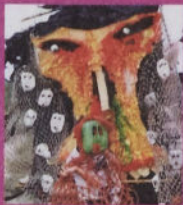
2000

Kneehigh's Landscape Theatre only happens in Cornwall – each event is specially crafted to exploit the unique potential of each site. Working with sculptors, musicians, pyrotechnicians and enthusiastic volunteers we make theatre magic in Cornwall's dramatic landscapes...



JACK AND JENNY

Carn Marth Quarry, Lanner nr Redruth
Wednesday 21 June at 9pm



Kneehigh join forces with Konteth Karrek community choir and local engineers, builders, students and pyromaniacs to create a spectacle of fire and music for Midsummer's Eve, celebrating Cornwall's global connections.

Prior booking essential Tel: 01209 821310

HELLS MOUTH

By Nick Darke - author of the Hall for Cornwall hit 'The Riot'

Tuesday 22 August - Saturday 2 Sept (nightly at 7.30pm, Tues - Sat)

'Hells Mouth' is set in the all too distant future - a world of burning cars and Samurai stunt bikes.

Your task is to restore order to this war ravaged land by breaking the iron laws of the tyrant Duke.

Kneehigh present a unique piece of landscape theatre in which familiar Kneehigh faces perform with choruses of local volunteers to make explosive entertainment.

This is a promenade event, set in stunning Hendra Pit, Nanpean, near St Austell.

Places will be limited, so prior booking is essential.
Box Office 01726 68532 or in person at Restormel Arts,
14 High Cross St, St Austell.



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