

KNEEHIGH AND
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PLYMOUTH
THEATRE ROYAL

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S

THE TINDER-BOX



ADAPTED BY CHARLES CAUSLEY
WITH MUSIC BY STEPHEN MCNEFF

"Since childhood, this story has to me been unforgettable. Who is the wandering soldier and where does he come from? Why is the witch so meanly rewarded for her generosity? And why do the three terrifyingly magic dogs stare so impassively throughout the action of this strange history: see-sawing as it does so relentlessly between poverty and riches?" **Charles Causley.**

PROGRAMME



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S THE TINDER-BOX

Much of Hans Christian Andersen's inspiration was the oral tradition of Danish folk tales; however, he was a creative writer, not just a collector of these tales. The sources for *The Tinder-Box* appear to have been, the Danish folk tale *The Spirit of the Candle* which is based on the story of Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp in the *Arabian Nights* and Adam Oehlenschläger's Romantic play *Aladdin* (1805). The dogs it seems are Andersen's invention, as in the folk tale an 'iron man' appears every time the hero lights the candle and the treasures in the cave are guarded by a sleeping troll. Most innovative and notable is Andersen's purposefully simple and straight-forward narrative style:



'Down the country-road a soldier came marching. Left, right! Left, right! He had his knapsack on his back and a sword at his side, for he had been at the war, and now he was on his way home. But he met an old witch on the road. Oh! she was ugly - her lower lip hung right down on her chest. "Good evening, soldier," she said. "What a nice sword you've got, and what a big knapsack! You're a proper soldier! Now I'll show you how to get as much money as you want." - "Thank you very much, old witch!" said the soldier.'

A special talent of Andersen's was to give abstract ideas a tangible reality. The soldier lifted the third dog on to the floor to reveal a chest burgeoning with gold coins:

'There was enough for him to buy the whole of Copenhagen, all the sugar-pigs that the cake women sell, and all the tin soldiers and whips and rocking horses in the world.'



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The Tinder-box is a co-production between Kneehigh Theatre and The Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

Kneehigh Theatre is now celebrating its tenth year. Based in Cornwall, Kneehigh was originally formed to provide exciting live theatre for children and their families (hence the name). Whilst retaining this original aim, the Company now provides a wide programme of work: theatre for children, innovative visual theatre with a commitment to new writing and touring nationally and internationally, theatre-in education, community events, design & technology, special building projects and in-service training for teachers based on National Curriculum requirements.

This work is undertaken by a pool of practitioners all living in Cornwall. Kneehigh has a small core of performers, a director and administrator, and draws on the larger pool of performers, musicians, technicians, directors, teachers, artists and builders for different projects. This means that the Company can offer a wide range of professional skills and resources. Individual members of this pool also work for many other companies including Bedlam and undertake projects in different parts of the globe from China to Skegness.

The current company for *The Tinderbox* are:

The Soldier	Michael Shepherd
The Witch, Queen, Millstones	Maggie Hutton
Sally, Princess, Teacups	Nicola Rosewarne
King, Apprentice, Belltower	Giles King
Sam, Major-Domo, Jailor, Hangman ...	Tristan Sturrock
Adaptation	Charles Causley
Music	Stephen McNeff
Director	Bill Mitchell
Designer	Susan Hill
Stage Manager	Debbie Tipping
Assistant Stage Manager	Allan Drake
Lighting Designer	Lizz Poulter
Specialised Prop Maker	Alice King
Administration	Amanda Harris

The Company would like to thank all the departments at The Theatre Royal which have helped in the mounting of this production.

Props Senior Proscemaker: Ian Petrie. Workshop Technician: Helena Williams. Asst. Workshop Technician: Lloyd James. Asst. Asst. Workshop Technician: Gerard Strong. Dogs: Kate, Bass & Bonny.

Construction Workshop Manager: John Lee. Deputy Master Carpenter: Malcolm Clancy. Senior Carpenter: Ian Evans. Technician: John Shanahan. Asst. Workshop Technician: Paul Hennessy, Chris Driscoll.

Wardrobe Head of Wardrobe: Bill Butler. Head Cutter: Alec Lozynski. 2nd Cutter: Valerie Davies-Webb. Drum Wardrobe Supervisor: Jane Briars. Wardrobe Assistants: Delia Lancaster, Lisa Watson, Barbara Hill, Sarah Gelder. Wardrobe Maintenance: Betty Johnson.

Other members of the Company include Anna Murphy, Jim Carey, Will Coleman, Beccy Applebee, Alan Kennedy, Dave Mynne.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Charles Causley was born in Launceston, where he still lives. In 1967 he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and he is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He has published many collections of poems for adults as well as books of verse for young readers, of which the last two received the prestigious Signal Poetry Award and the Kurt Maschler Award. His work for music-theatre with Stephen McNeff includes *The Ballad of Aucassin and Nicolette* and an adaptation of Dylan Thomas's *The Doctor and the Devils*. His musical morality *Jonah* (with composer William Mathias) was recently premiered here and in the United States and will receive its first TV production in the autumn. In 1986 Charles Causley was appointed CBE for his services to poetry.

Stephen McNeff trained at the Royal Academy of Music and has worked in many theatres up and down the country. He started the South West Music Theatre in 1977, where he first worked with Charles Causley. He spent six years in Canada and is now living in Devon and composing opera and musical theatre.

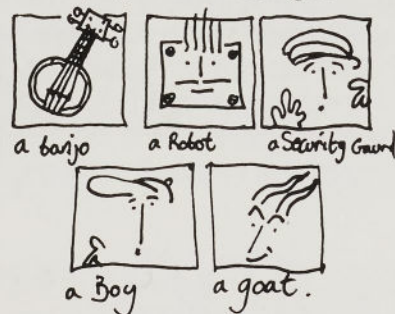
Michael Shepherd founder member, performer, director and teacher. Cornish childhood spent clambering on clifftops, crawling around caves, climbing trees, throwing stones, lighting fires and now does it professionally.

Maggie Hutton has been associated with Kneehigh for nine years as an actress, director, teacher and costume maker. Between whiles she teaches speech and drama at three schools and tries to fit in a little ironing on Sundays.

Nicky Rosewarne went to Plympton Grammar School - Netball Captain. Trained as a Dancer & Performer at Dartington College of Arts. Some people think they have seen her on catwalks in and around Plymouth but it is just someone who looks like her.

Giles King went to Dartington College of Arts and has worked for Kneehigh for three years. Since getting a welder he has invented the wheel and looks forward to creating mechanical happenings: 'Mecanismus'.

Tristan Sturrock aged 22. An assortment of things I have played in Kneehigh:



Bill Mitchell is a Londoner who now lives in Cornwall. Although a designer, he is directing the next couple of shows. He is very happy to be part of the 'Kneehigh experience'.

The illustrations in this programme are reproductions of Anderson's own silhouette paper-cuts. Credit Phaidon Press Ltd.

Susan Hill performer, designer and carnival maker. Her work has taken her to China, Canada, USSR, USA, Greece, The Netherlands, Portugal and now home, at last, to Cornwall making giant mermaids, mechanical parrots and foam rubber demon babies.

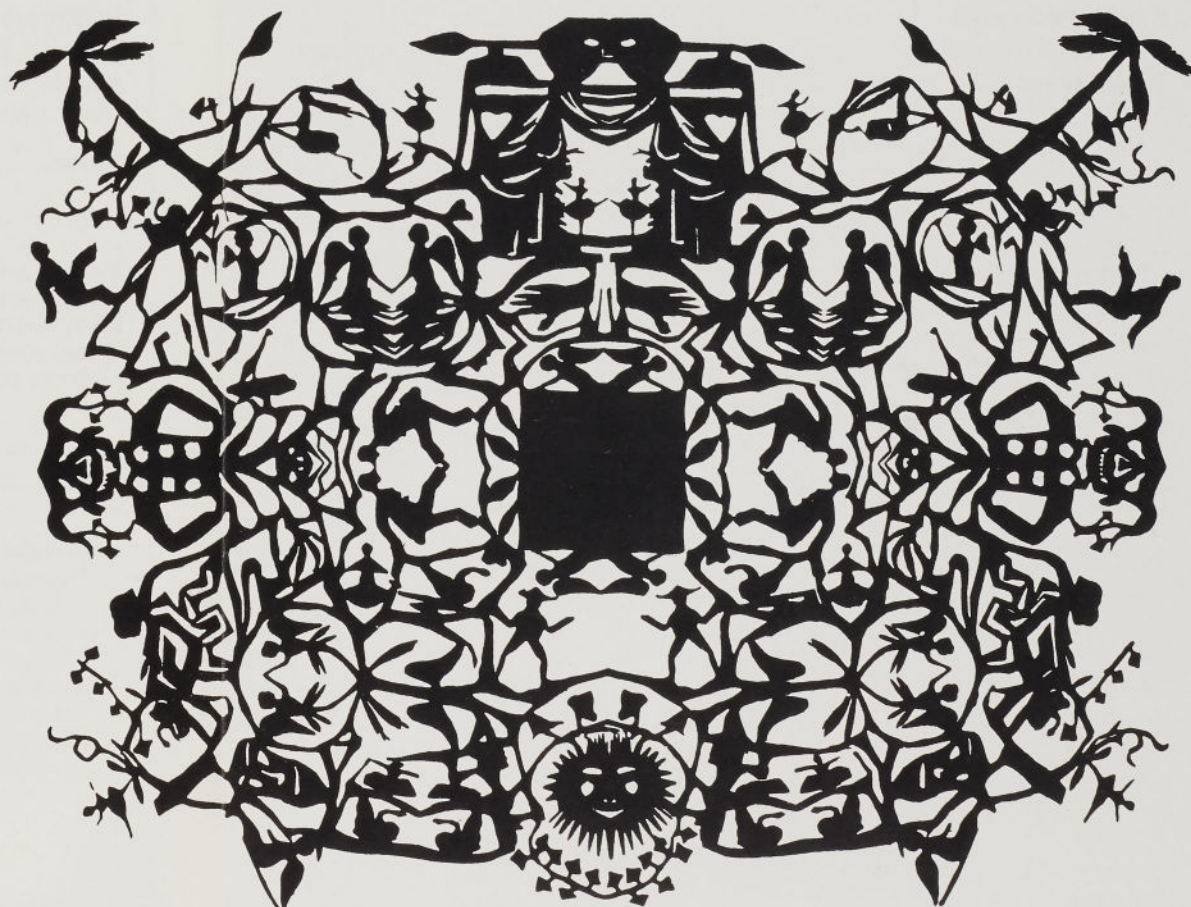
Debbie Tipping until recently has been Stage Manager at the Young Vic and is now freelance.

Allan Drake has worked on and off with Kneehigh for 10 years and has driven the company van from Penzance to Edinburgh and over to Holland. Does everything from performing to mixing sound and light while standing on his head.

Lizz Poulter has worked on many shows and has just lit the latest Monstrous Regiment show.

Alice King designer, maker, teacher, mother. Trained as a sculptor in Cornwall and London. She has turned from the life room to a life in the celebratory arts, visual theatre, spectacle and carnival, making bizarre creations; from bucking bronco bumble bees to chickens that transform into angels.

Amanda Harris has worked with Kneehigh for about eighteen months having returned to Cornwall after several years abroad. She has been rapidly initiated into the world of gobos, gaffa, get-ins and grant applications.



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· *Firing the imagination* ·



Kneehigh Theatre is a member of the South West Theatre Consortium which brings drama, theatre-related workshops and activities, Theatre-in-Education and work experience opportunities to communities large and small across the entire South West peninsula. Other members are The Northcott Theatre, Orchard Theatre company, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Rent-a-Role and Theatre Alibi.

KNEEHIGH NETWORK will keep you informed of everything the Company is up to - including current work, tour schedules and future productions. If you would like to join and receive regular newsletters free of charge all you have to do is complete the form below and send it to us at 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 maybe distribute a few handbills to your friends.

Name

Address

Telephone No.

Please send to: **Kneehigh Network, Lamledra Barn, Lamledra Hill, Gorran Haven, Nr. Mevagissey, Cornwall.**

If you wish to keep this programme intact simply send your name and address on a separate sheet of paper.

For the Theatre Royal

General Manager Andrew Welch
Artistic Director Roger Redfarn
Finance Director Stephen Morris
Production & Technical Controller Max Finbow
Theatre Manager & Licensee Helen Palmer
Catering Manager Sally Haynes
Marketing Consultant Michael Hirst
(seconded by ECC Group)



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