

WILD JAM



by

Kneehigh Theatre

Only the fool or the poet
Cuts down the flashing tree
To burn its belly with fire
And take to the jealous sea.

Charles Causley



“The first time I saw Kneehigh they put me in mind of Lorca’s travelling players, and they have stayed true to that spirit of taking theatre to the community”

Charles Causley



In the 1920s and ‘30s the Spanish poet, Federico Garcia Lorca created a company. They would arrive within a community, tumble into a space from a horse-drawn cart, and, on a good night, weave a kind of anarchic magic. They played with the audience’s expectations, twisting plots to undermine the predictability of folk stories. They combined the traditional, the modern and the personal. Poetry, laughter and tears were their ingredients.

I’ve no idea how close our performances might be to those of Lorca but I feel a strong connection to his fundamental principles.

In ‘Wild Jam’ I have combined and explored two of our previous shows ‘Wolf’ and ‘Fish Boy’. ‘Wolf’ was based on an ancient oral telling of Red Riding Hood, and, like many folk stories which have latterly been “made safe” for telling to children, this earlier version is ruder, funnier and more extreme. ‘Fish Boy’ was based on a wonderful poem by Charles Causley, ‘Francesco de la Vega’. This poem has haunted me since I first read it. The writer D.M. Thomas once said of Causley – “Many poets are simple while appearing to be profound; Causley is the opposite”.

And so, as our carts tumble into more wild and wonderful communities, I dedicate ‘Wild Jam’ to Lorca and Causley – two inspirational poets.

Mike Shepherd

The Wolves are at the Door

The wolves are at our doors,
We know that we must leave.
 They huff
 They puff
They blow our houses down.

 The only thing
 I carry
Are the secrets
 In my heart.

We hide in woods
And cover our tracks.
 We sleep by day
And watch our backs.

I dance at borders,
I am fish out of water,
 I am cat,
 I am mole,
 I cry
 At sky.

I have promises to keep.
I have no time to weep.
 The only thing I carry
Are the secrets in my heart.

Anna Maria Murphy



Phooey! ... A slut is she
who eats the flesh and drinks
the blood of her granny.



What big teeth you have!
All the better to eat you with.
The girl burst out laughing;
she knew she was nobody's meat.

'The Company of Wolves'.
Angela Carter

EAT OUT WITH KNEEHIGH

We are delighted to be able to offer pre-show meals this year. The three venues taking part are The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Trelissick Garden and The Eden Project. Audience members can buy food tickets in advance and choose from a range of freshly prepared Cornish food. We would like to thank the following for their help in making this happen:

Cornwall Arts Marketing
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Lenterns quality butchers
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Cornish King
Cornwall Organic Partnership
Ray Mills
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Silly Song

Mama,
I wish I were silver.

Son,
You'd be very cold.

Mama,
I wish I were water.

Son,
You'd be very cold.

Mama,
Embroider me on your pillow.

That, yes!
Right away!

Federico Garcia Lorca



CAST AND CREDITS

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Emma Rice | Mother, Wolf and others |
| Giles King | Father, Red Riding Hood and others |
| Craig Johnson | Everyone else |
| Pete Hill | Animator and Technician |
| Ian Wellens | Musician and Musical Direction |
| Directed by | Mike Shepherd |
| Designed by | Bill Mitchell |

Carts, construction, props and general making by John Voogd and Dave Mynne

Costume by Karen Webber

Production Management and Lighting Design by Alex Wardle

Additional writing and lyrics by Anna Maria Murphy

Puppet by Tim and Paul Spooner

Choreography by Emma Rice

Additional music and tunes by Craig Johnson

With thanks for creative input to: -

Charlie Barnecut, Dominic Bilkey, Lucy Gaskell, Jerry Goodrun, Carl Grose, Steve Jacobs, Ami Mendes-Houlston, Steve Tanner, Vineeto Wansleben, Mary Woodvine.

Also thanks to: -

The Lost Gardens of Heligan; The Cycle Centre, Penzance; Beverley Warne,
Pirate FM; Carol Williams, Phil Williams Vans

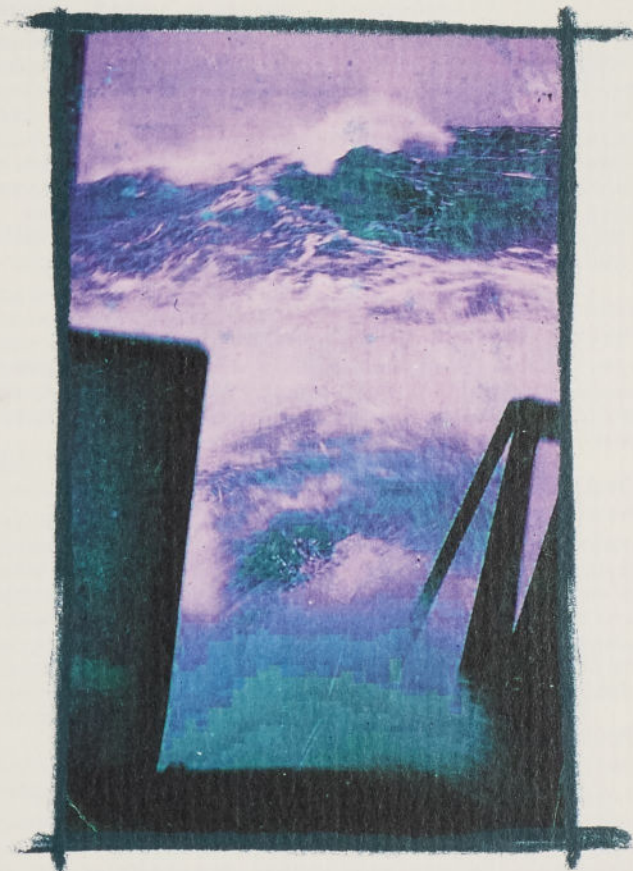
OFFICE TEAM

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| General Manager | Victoria Moore |
| Administrative Coordinator | John Macneill |
| Finance | Ali Firth |
| Admin Support | Sarah Leigh |
| Sponsorship | Jane Val Baker |

On the border

By the window-drizzling leaves,
Underneath the rain's shadow,
'What is that land,' you said, 'beyond
Where the river bends the meadow?

Charles Causley



BIOGRAPHIES

Emma Rice

Nottingham - London - Exeter - Poland - Cornwall

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Gardzienice Theatre Association, Poland.

She has worked extensively with Kneehigh, Theatre Alibi and Katie Mitchell.

Choreography includes projects with the RSC, Welsh National Opera, Northern Stage and West Yorkshire Playhouse. Direction includes 'The Itch', 'The Red Shoes', 'Roger Salmon - Cornish Detective' and 'Pandora's Box'.

Giles King

Wooburn - Port Isaac - Plymouth - St Ives

Left Dartington College of Arts in 1984 and since then has worked almost exclusively for Kneehigh, including tours to China and South Africa. He departed to steer the theatre ship Fitzcarraldo, travel the west coast of Europe and play in the band Bagattack.

Craig Johnson

Bournemouth - Cambridge - Isle of Skye - Looe - Penzance

Graduated from Anglia University with a degree in English Literature. Craig has worked as a musician, puppeteer and performer in places as diverse as New York City, Belfast and the Shetlands, most notably with the Cornish/Cajun trio, 'Squeal like a Pig' and Penzance based company Theatre of Fruit.

For Kneehigh he has appeared in 'Mannel's Mango', 'Wolf', and 'Fish Boy'.

Pete Hill

Geevor - Vittoriosa - London - Daytona - Madrid - Gotland

A degree in Oceanography and jobs in marine conservation were followed by a change in direction to sculpture, art school, theatre and puppets.

Work for Kneehigh includes 'Ghost Nets', 'Mannel's Mango', and 'Island of Dreams' in Malta. Other work includes Walt Disney, Little Angel and Pop-up Theatre as well as creating sculpture for The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Bodmin Town Council and The Eden Project.

Ian Wellens

Paignton - Reading - South Brent - Bovey Tracey

Trained at Dartington College of Arts after a previous life as a cabinet maker. As a composer and musical director he has worked for Carlton Television, the Barbican Theatre and the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Most recent work includes 'Dreams' with Puppetcraft, 'Clockwork' with Theatre Alibi and 'Island of Dreams' with Kneehigh in Malta. His book on music and politics in the cold war is published this summer by Ashgate.

Mike Shepherd

London - Cornwall - London - Cornwall - France - London - Cornwall

Started Kneehigh in 1980 and has worked almost exclusively for the company ever since.

Other work includes directing and acting at the National Theatre and the Bristol Old Vic. Recent work includes acting in a co-production with the Northern Stage Ensemble in 'Pandora's Box' and British Council international touring to China with 'The Red Shoes'.

Bill Mitchell

Kent-London-Fenland-London-Nottingham-London-Cornwall

Trained at Wimbledon School of Art and has worked with many companies including Perspectives, Theatre Centre, The Young Vic and The National Theatre.

Joining Kneehigh in 1989, he has directed or designed most of the shows since. Recent work includes directing 'Hell's Mouth', designing 'The Red Shoes' and developing the concept of landscape theatre with sculptor David Kemp.

The latest project in the series was 'Island of Dreams', a large scale community event in Malta.

Karen Webber

Redhill - Wimbledon - Nottingham - Guildford - Colchester

Graduated from Nottingham University 6 years ago and since then has taught wardrobe at Guildford School of Acting and been deputy wardrobe supervisor at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester. Freelance work includes Snap Theatre Company, Peepolykus, The London Classic Theatre Company, Hurrican Productions, Dick Ray Productions, and costumes for many corporate shows. She also teaches wardrobe skills at Middlesex University.

Ballad of the Water of the Sea

The sea
smiles from far off.
Teeth of foam,
lips of sky.

What do you sell, oh, turbid maid,
with your breasts to the wind?

I sell, sir, the water
of the seas.

What do you carry, oh, black youth,
mixed with your blood?

I carry, sir, the water
of the seas.

These salt tears,
Mother, from where do they come?

I weep, sir, the water
of the seas.

Heart; and this grave
bitterness, where was it born?

Very bitter is the water
of the seas!

The sea
smiles from far off.
Teeth of foam,
lips of sky,

Federico Garcia Lorca



Kneehigh Theatre

Kneehigh is a team.

We make theatre with a bold spirit.

We are based in Cornwall and committed to making theatre for the world stage.

To make theatre is a privilege, not a right.

We believe in the power and possibility of theatre.

It is, by its nature, a purely human endeavour and relies on the simple human delight in communication and imagination.

Thank you for communicating and imagining with us.

Our next production is a Cornish Wild West panto, 'Quick Silver' by Carl Grose, which will tour to village halls from December 2002 to March 2003

The 'Red Shoes' continue to dance, with a tour in the autumn to the Lyric Hammersmith, Budapest, Syria...

For further information, or to join our mailing list contact:

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Thank you



God, who does not dwell on high
In the wide, unwinking sky,
And whose quiet counsels start
Simply from the human heart,

Teach us strong and teach us true
What to say and what to do,
That we love as best we can
All Thy creatures. Even man.

Charles Causley



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