

Kneehigh & Bristol Old Vic present

# The flying Lovers of Vitebsk

WRITTEN BY DANIEL JAMIESON

DIRECTED BY EMMA RICE



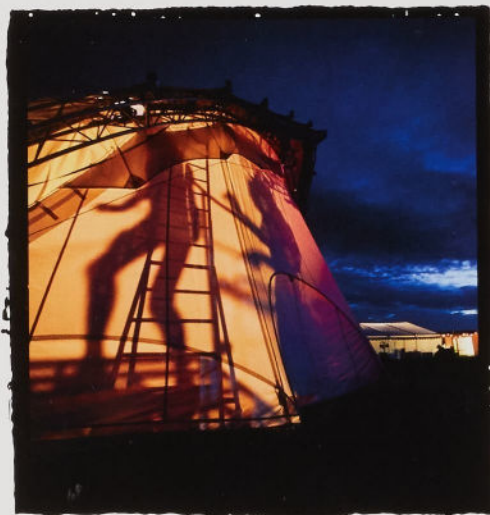
**Kneehigh**  
ON TOUR

**Bristol Old Vic**

**kneehigh.co.uk**  
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# Kneehigh



For over 35 years Kneehigh have created vigorous, popular and challenging theatre, with a joyful anarchy. We have performed everywhere from village halls to castles, disused quarries to conventional stages all over the world.

From our breath-taking barns in Cornwall we create theatre of humanity on an epic and tiny scale. Led by Mike Shepherd, we work with an ever-changing bunch of talented and like-minded performers, artists, makers and musicians and are passionate about the creative process. Alongside major productions and tours we also run the Kneehigh Rambles - fun adventures and magical events with communities in Cornwall and beyond.

[kneehigh.co.uk](http://kneehigh.co.uk)



# Bristol Old Vic



Bristol Old Vic is the oldest continuously-working theatre in the United Kingdom. Our mission is to create pioneering twenty-first century theatre in partnership with the people of Bristol; inspired by the history and magical design of the most beautiful playhouse in the country.

In 2016, Bristol Old Vic marked its 250th birthday, celebrating with a season of work from the theatre's history as well as its future. Work also began on the final phase of the building's capital development, which will deliver a new foyer and studio theatre in 2018 designed by Stirling Prize winning architects Haworth Tompkins.

[bristololdvic.org.uk](http://bristololdvic.org.uk) | 0117 987 7877

Photo: Joni Craig

# Cast + Creative team

## Cast

Marc Chagall	<b>Marc Antolin</b>
Bella Chagall	<b>Audrey Brisson</b>
Musician	<b>James Gow</b>
Musician	<b>Ian Ross</b>

## Creative Team

Writer	<b>Daniel Jamieson</b>
Director & Co-Choreographer	<b>Emma Rice</b>
Composer & Music Director	<b>Ian Ross</b>
Designer	<b>Sophia Clist</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Malcolm Rippeth</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Simon Baker</b>
Choreographers	<b>Etta Murfitt, Emma Rice</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Matt Harrison</b>
Casting	<b>Georgia Simpson CDG, Lucy Taylor</b>

## Production Team

Production Manager	<b>Aled William Thomas</b>
Company Stage Manager	<b>Helen Comerford</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Gemma Gale</b>
Sound Operator	<b>Charlie Simpson</b>
Costume Supervisor	<b>Ed Parry</b>
Associate Costume Supervisor	<b>Bryony Clayden</b>
Costume Makers	<b>Mandy Haslam, Clare Ramsell, Will Skeet</b>
Production Electricians	<b>Chris Swain, Laurence Russell</b>
Prop Makers	<b>Liz Vass, Lulu Butcher, Sophia Clist, Chris Pirie, Tim Sykes</b>
Set Builders	<b>Wild Creations</b>



## For Kneehigh

Artistic Director	<b>Mike Shepherd</b>
Executive Producer	<b>Ali Robertson</b>
General Manager	
Director of Rambles	<b>Charlotte Bond</b>
Producer	<b>Liz King</b>
Associate Director	<b>Keziah Serreau</b>
Company Manager	<b>Steph Curtis</b>
Finance Officer	<b>Fiona Buxton</b>
Development Manager	<b>Bethany Lyne</b>
Marketing & Communications Manager	<b>Teri Laing</b>
Communications Assistant	<b>Dann Carroll</b>
Production Assistants	<b>Millie Jones, Sammy Broomfield</b>
Administrator	<b>Taryn Harris</b>
Rambles Lead Artist	<b>Anna Maria Murphy</b>
Press & PR	<b>Clíona Roberts</b>
Photographer	<b>Steve Tanner</b>
Film Maker	<b>Brett Harvey</b>
Illustrator	<b>Daryl Waller</b>
Graphic Design	<b>Stem Design</b>

## Notes

The original version of *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* was performed as *Birthday* by Theatre Alibi in 1992. Writer: Daniel Jamieson, Director: Nikki Sved Designer: Dominic Hooper, Lighting Designer: Paul Tyler, Original Cast: Daniel Jamieson and Emma Rice.

Permission to perform the English translation of Rachel Korn's poem *No One Knows It* granted by the rights holder and originally appeared in *Generations: Selected Poems* (Mosaic Press, 1982. Thanks to: Ciaran Clarke and Russell Clarke; Sasha Tyuftey and David Schneider from the London Yiddish Group; Peter and Irina Scorer; White Light Utopium Stage Sound Services; Southern Van Lines Ltd; David Miller; Nick Ferguson and Lin Potter at Wrightsure.





**Marc Antolin**  
**Marc Chagall**

Theatre: *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Peter Pan* (National Theatre); *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* (Kneehigh); *The Trial* (Young Vic); *Taken at Midnight* (Theatre Royal Haymarket/Chichester Minerva); *Amadeus*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Music Man* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *From Here to Eternity* (Shaftesbury Theatre); *Matilda* (RSC Courtyard Theatre/Cambridge Theatre); *Into the Woods*, *Hello, Dolly!* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre); *Billy Liar* (UK Tour) and *Imagine This* (New London Theatre).

Film Includes: *London Road*, *Coconut Shy* and *Love Actually*.  
 Television includes: *More Than Love*.



**Audrey Brisson**  
**Bella Chagall**

Audrey trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama and studied Classical Singing at Cegep St-Laurent, Canada. As a child and teenager, Audrey worked extensively with the Cirque Du Soleil as a vocalist and acrobat including their international tours of *Reinvente* and *Quidam* and the Cirque Du Soleil 30th Anniversary Concert.

Theatre includes: *Midnight's Pumpkin*; *The Wild Bride* (Kneehigh); *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (Kensington Gardens); *The Elephantom* (National Theatre); *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)* (Kneehigh); *Juliet in Romeo and Juliet* (Rose Theatre, Kingston); Bella Chagall in *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* (Kneehigh); Dea in *The Grinning Man* (Bristol Old Vic); Gelsomina in *La Strada* (UK Tour & The Other Palace) and later this year will play Jiminy Cricket in *Pinocchio* (National Theatre).

Film includes: *Hereafter* directed by Clint Eastwood and *W.E.* directed by Madonna. Television includes: *Money* and *Outlander II*.



**James Gow**  
**Musician**

James is a multi-instrumentalist and composer with a BA in Music from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Outside of the theatre he can occasionally be seen in several bands including genre-hopping jazz-fusion group Lunch Money, Cocos Lovers and others from the Smugglers Records' music scene. Ian Ross' quartet Eleven Magpies, and alongside the multi-instrumental folk trio Three Cane Whale.

James has also appeared in *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, *Tristan & Yseult* and *Brief Encounter* for Kneehigh.



**Ian Ross**  
**Composer, Music Director & Musician**

Ian is a Bristol based multi-instrumentalist. He leads the band Eleven Magpies.

As composer for theatre: *Hansel and Gretel*; *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* (Kneehigh); *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (Kneehigh and Little Angel Theatre); *Frankenspine*; *Mayday*; *Orpheus and the Furies*; *The Table of Delights* (Damfino); *When the Shops Shut* (Cscape) and *Unverserama* (Squashbox).

As musician for theatre: *Orpheus and the Furies*; *The Table of Delights* (Damfino); *Brief Encounter*; *Don John*; *Hansel and Gretel*; *The Red Shoes*; *The King of Prussia*; *Midnight's Pumpkin*; *The Wild Bride*; *Tristan & Yseult*; *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, *946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips* (Kneehigh); *Alaska* (Blackfish); *Peter Pan* (Bristol Old Vic) and *101 Dalmations* (Tobacco Factory). As musical director for theatre: *Brief Encounter* (Kneehigh/Australia Tour); *Tristan and Yseult* (Kneehigh/US Tour); *Rebecca* and *946* (Kneehigh).

Film includes: *Weekend Retreat*.



**Daniel Jamieson**  
**Writer**

Over the last 26 years Daniel has worked for Exeter-based Theatre Alibi as an actor, joint artistic director (1995-2000) and writer. Last year he won an ACA award for his writing for children with the company. His plays for Alibi include: *Falling*; *Hammer and Tongs*; *Goucher's War*; *Cobbo*; *Caught*; *One in a Million*; *The Freeze*; *Shelf Life*; *Little White Lies*; *The Swell*; *Sea of Faces* and *Birthday*. He has also adapted novels by Charles Dickens, Graham Greene, Michael Morpurgo and Dick King-Smith for the company.

Other theatre work includes: *A Box of Photographs*; *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* (Polka Theatre); *Where's the Bear*; *Wish Wash*; *Knitwits* and *Flathampton* (Northampton Theatres). For BBC R4 Daniel has written: *Lodsell Cod*; *Grooming*; *Jim and Tonic*; *Building Happiness* and *Charity*. In 2013, Daniel was Leverhulme artist-in-residence at the University of Exeter's Mood Disorders Centre.

He is currently writing a screenplay of *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*.



**Emma Rice**  
**Director/Co-Choreographer**

Emma Rice is Artistic Director for Shakespeare's Globe and the director of *Twelfth Night*; *The Little Matchgirl* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. For the last 20 years she has worked for Kneehigh as an actor, director and Artistic Director - her productions include: *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*; *946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*; *The Red Shoes*; *The Wooden Frock*; *The Bacchae*; *Tristan & Yseult*; *Cymbeline* (in association with RSC); *A Matter of Life and Death* (with National Theatre); *Rapunzel* (with Battersea Arts Centre); *Brief Encounter* (with David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers Production); *Don John* (with the RSC and Bristol Old Vic); *Midnight's Pumpkin*; *The Wild Bride*; *Wah! Wah! Girls* (with Sadler's Wells and Theatre Royal Stratford East for World Stages) and *Steptoe and Son*. Other work includes: West End production of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *Oedipussy* (Spymonkey); *The Empress* (RSC) and *An Audience with Meow Meow* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre). She was made an Honorary Fellow of Falmouth University earlier this year for her outstanding contribution to the dramatic arts.

## Biographies



## Sophia Clist

### Designer

From a background of sculpture Sophia creates installations, sets and objects for performers and audiences to inhabit, manipulate and transform. Much of her work is participatory and interactive, collaborating with artists in dance, theatre, music, film, and with the general public. Recent projects include: *Stretch* - Sophia Clist with Nick Burge (Exeter Cathedral, Art Week Exeter); *Parallelist* - Clay Gold & Laura Moody (Aldeburgh Festival); *Dreaming The Night Field* (Adverse Camber); *Get Happy* (Told by An Idiot, Barbican); *And The Horse You Rode In On* (Told by An Idiot, Barbican, Brighton Festival, Drum Theatre Plymouth); *16 Singers* - Katherine Morley (Dance Umbrella, The Egg); *Life Forces* (Jane Mason); *Grandmothers* (Encounters Arts); *Phenomenal People* (Fuel); *In This Place* (Pentabus Theatre). As Associate Artist of Theatre-Rites 1998-2007, Sophia designed many touring and site-specific shows and co-created the company's award-winning dance theatre production *Mischief* with Arthur Pita (Sadler's Wells).

## Malcolm Rippeth

### Lighting Designer

Malcolm is an Associate Artist of Kneehigh, productions including *946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*; *The Red Shoes*; *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*; *Tristan & Yseult* and *Brief Encounter*.

His other work includes *Twelfth Night*; *The Little Matchgirl* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Titus Andronicus*; *The Empress* (RSC); *Decade*; *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Headlong); *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Calendar Girls* (West End/ Australia/Canada); *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (Edinburgh Lyceum); *The Dead* (Abbey Dublin); *The Birthday Party* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *Spur of the Moment* (Royal Court); *Wallflower* (Quarantine); *Pleasure* (Opera North); *Idomeneo* (Garsington Opera); *In Parenthesis* (WNO); *Le Premier Meurtre* (Opéra de Lille); *Alcina* (Santa Fe Opera).

He is the recipient of a WhatsOnStage Award and a Village Voice OBIE for his work on Kneehigh's *Brief Encounter* (West End and Broadway), and has recently been nominated for Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle and New York Drama Desk Awards.

## Simon Baker

### Sound Designer

Simon is an associate artist at the Old Vic (London), Kneehigh Theatre and part of Emma Rice's creative cabinet currently at Shakespeare's Globe. He is recipient of several awards including an Olivier for *A*.

Most recent work includes *Girl From The North Country* (Old Vic); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Groundhog Day* (London & Broadway); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Matilda* (Worldwide); *The Caretaker*, *Master Builder* and *Future Conditional* (Old Vic); *Grimming Man* (Bristol Old Vic); *Flying Lovers Of Vitebsk*; *946*; *Rebecca*; *The Wild Bride*; *The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg*; *Brief Encounter* (Olivier & Tony Nom) and *Steptoe & Son* (Kneehigh Theatre); *The Light Princes* (Olivier Nom), *Amen Corner* (National Theatre).

## Etta Murfitt

### Co-Choreographer

Etta Murfitt is an Associate Artist of Kneehigh and has choreographed *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*; *Midnight's Pumpkin*; *The Wild Bride*; *Steptoe and Son*; *946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*; *The Flying Lovers of Vibetsk* and *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)* (Kneehigh).

She is the Associate Artistic Director of Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures and Re: Bourne* (their education arm). She has created, performed in and collaborated on many productions with New Adventures including *Nutcracker!*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *The Car Man*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Red Shoes*.

Etta is currently choreographing *Oklahoma Dream* for National Youth Ballet and *The Tin Drum* for Kneehigh.

## Matt Harrison

### Assistant Director

Matt trained at East 15 Acting School and with the National Youth Theatre. He was awarded the 2015 Bryan Forbes Bursary under the mentorship of Michael Attenborough CBE.

Matt has directed and created work at venues including the New Diorama Finborough, Ambassadors and Criterion Theatre as well as the National Theatre's Temporary space. He most recently collaborated with Olivier Award nominated writer James Fritz on his production of *The Fall*.

Matt's previous work has won the 5 Minute Festival and been nominated for several off West End Awards.







## Support Us

We want to work with you to make anarchic and daring shows, and to share them with more people. We are a registered charity and you can help us continue to make exciting work by joining the Kneehigh Friends.

For just £2.50 a month you can unlock a treasure trove of Kneehigh treats and become part of our family of supporters. Join up on our website or by calling 01872 267910. For more information contact Bethany at [friends@kneehigh.co.uk](mailto:friends@kneehigh.co.uk)

We would like to thank all of our generous donors, especially our brilliant Champions and treasured members of the Kneehigh Family.

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Photos: Steve Tanner

## Up Next

We're back this autumn with a spectacular new show, inspired by Günter Grass' surreal post-war masterpiece, *The Tin Drum*. Written by Carl Grose, composed by Charles Hazlewood and directed by Mike Shepherd - the team that brought you the internationally acclaimed *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)* - *The Tin Drum* is a folktale for troubled times.

Following its run at Bristol Old Vic and Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk* will be heading to The Wallis Annenberg Center in Beverley Hills.

If you're lucky enough to be in Cornwall soon, check out our new *Walk with Me* app and hear stories collected from surfers, landladies, fisherman, tattoo artists and people we've met across the way.

