



# THE RED SHOES

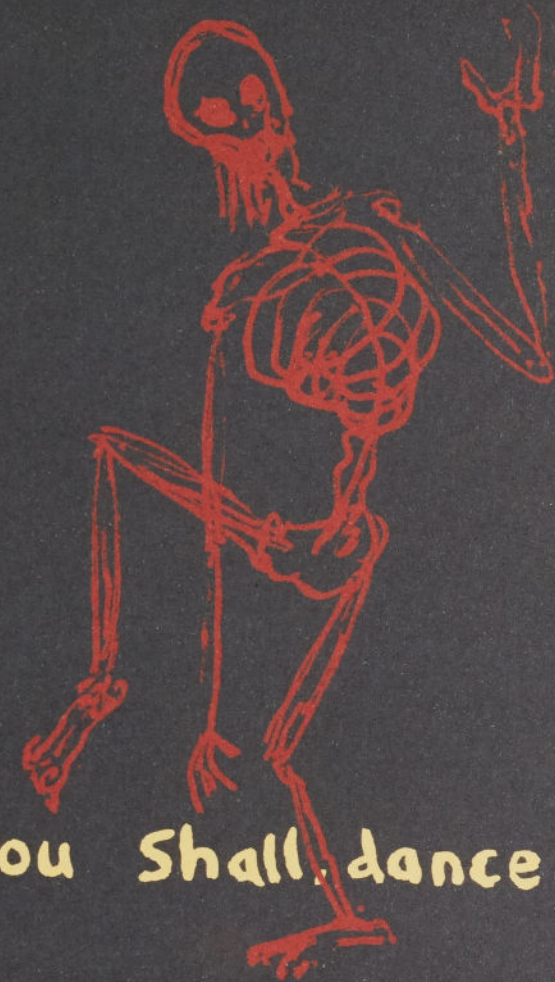


Winner of  
Best Director  
2002  
Barclays  
TMA Award

Kneehigh  
ON TOUR

“Exquisitely dark, sexy  
and mischievous”

The Times\*\*\*\*\*



Dance you shall, dance you must !





# 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.

**The Red Shoes, 1990** - "Soon after our tour of my Kneehigh directorial debut *The Itch* (1999) had finished, I approached the company once again 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 and dancing. I even envied her plight. What is life if you can't dance its dance, spin uncontrollably through its 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 its layers to discover its meanings. The dance is a trap. It's 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"

**The Red Shoes, 2010** - I got a shock when I looked back at these programme notes for *The Red Shoes*. 10 years on, almost every word is still relevant. I don't want or need to add or subtract anything from what I wrote. My words seemed to float in time. I'm not quite sure how I feel about this. Am I stuck, forever ricocheting from compulsion to guilt, obsession to addiction? Or perhaps this remarkable story just shoots straight to the heart of our human existence. Life will always be about the conflict between the need for freedom and the need for peace. The Red Shoes dance provocatively before and behind me reminding me that there is always a choice, always a price and always hope. I am a decade older this time round, but not a decade wiser. One day soon perhaps... one day soon... But look down! Take a deep breath. Those shoes still look pretty, don't they?

Emma Rice, Director



## CAST

**The Girl**  
**Lady Lydia**  
**The Old Lady / The Preacher's Wife**  
**The Soldier / The Shoemaker**  
**The Preacher / The Angel / The Butcher**  
**Musicians**

Patrycja Kujawska  
Giles King  
Dave Mynne  
Róbert LučKay  
Mike Shepherd  
Stu Barker / Ian Ross

## PRODUCTION

**Director**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Poems**  
**Design**  
**Music**  
**Film**  
**Lighting Design**  
**Sound Design**  
**Additional Text**  
**Production/Stage Manager**  
**Design Associate**  
**Sound Operator**  
**Lighting Operator**  
**Producer**

Emma Rice  
Simon Harvey  
Anna Maria Murphy  
Bill Mitchell  
Stu Barker  
Mark Jenkin  
Malcolm Rippeth  
Simon Baker  
Mike Shepherd  
Steph Curtis  
Sarah Wright  
Andy Graham  
Ben Nichols  
Paul Crewes

## BIOGRAPHIES

### SIMON BAKER

#### Sound Designer

Simon graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1992. Since then (and even before then) he has worked almost every corner of the theatre sound industry. From Street Theatre in the pouring rain to fringe plays in dusty pubs; Upstairs at The Royal Court to large scale musicals on Broadway. He has served time in the sound departments of both the RSC and the National where he held the post of sound supervisor. In 1999 he joined British sound design and rental company Autograph. In 2010 he left to pursue a freelance career.

For Autograph Simon was Associate/FX Sound Designer on The Witches of Eastwick, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (West End and Broadway), Mary Poppins and numerous productions of Cats and Spamalot London (for ACME).

Simon has created sound designs for over 70 plays and musicals. His most recent Sound Design credits include Boeing Boeing (London and Broadway – 2007 Tony Nomination for Best Sound), The Lord Of The Rings (Toronto and London – 2007/08 Olivier

Nomination for Best Sound), I Am Shakespeare (UK Tour & Chichester) God of Carnage, Our House (UK Tour), Brief Encounter (Cinema Haymarket/ Kneehigh Theatre/UK Tour/US Tour – 2008/09 Olivier Nomination for Best Sound), The Norman Conquests (Old Vic and Broadway) Complicit (Old Vic), Don John (Kneehigh Theatre/RSC/World Tour), Arcadia (Duke Of Yorks Theatre), The Birds (Gate Theatre – Dublin), As You Like and The Tempest (BAM/Old Vic/Bridge Project 2010) The Real Thing (Old Vic), Late Middle Classes (Donmar), La Bete (Comedy).

### STU BARKER

#### Performer/Composer

Stu has worked extensively for Kneehigh over the last fourteen years as a Performer, Composer and Musical Director. Credits include: Don John (UK and international tour); Brief Encounter (West End/UK/USA Tour); A Matter of Life and Death (National Theatre) Tristan & Yseult (National Theatre, UK Tour); Cymbeline (RSC, UK Tour and South America); Nights at the Circus (UK Tour); Rapunzel (BAC, UK Tour, New York); The Bacchae (UK Tour), The Wooden Frock (UK Tour); Pandora's Box (Northern Stage); The Red Shoes (UK Tour); The Itch and Roger Salmon (SW Tour). Other Composing and Performance includes:



The Winter's Tale, Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare's Globe); The Odyssey and Philip Pullman's Aladdin (Bristol Old Vic); Absurdia (Donmar); Clown, Cloudland, The Stones (Travelling Light); and productions for Welfare State International, Horse and Bamboo Theatre and Contact Theatre.

### **PAUL CREWES**

#### **Producer**

Paul has a long relationship of working with Kneehigh initially as Producer at West Yorkshire playhouse, and now as the company's own Producer. Kneehigh shows he has produced include The Bacchae (UK tour), The Wooden Frock (UK tour), Tristan and Yseult (Australia and the USA), Cymbeline (Royal Shakespeare Company, UK tour, South America), Rapunzel (Battersea Arts Centre, U.K. tour, New York), and Don John (UK tour, Spoleto Festival USA). Other producing credits include working for Metal with Jude Kelly on projects including the Olympic bid for 2012. Paul was also Producer (until July 2004) at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, where he set up more than 40 productions. He has co-produced commercial tours and West End transfers and has his own company, which produced Doorman (2005 UK tour). From 2007-

2009, he was Associate Producer for The Lowry, producing King Cotton by Jimmy McGovern in 2007, Fireflies and Beyond the Frontline in 2009. Paul continues to work on Kneehigh projects including the Kneehigh Asylum project. Paul is on the Advisory Board for Scottish Dance Theatre and a member of the Board for Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse.

### **SIMON HARVEY**

#### **Assistant Director**

As well as a performer, Simon is Kneehigh's Assistant Director working on recent Kneehigh shows including Cymbeline, Rapunzel, Brief Encounter and Hansel & Gretel. He has also performed in Wagstaffe the Wind-Up Boy, Journey to the Centre of the Earth, and Tristan & Yseult. In 2002 he formed Truro based theatre/film production company o-region with a number of other collaborators for which he takes on role of Artistic Director. Recent work includes directing the touring show Laughing Gas (by Carl Grose/Nick Darke) and producing and performing in Superstition Mountain (by Carl Grose). He has also produced the feature films The Midnight Drives by Mark Jenkin and Weekend Retreat by Brett Harvey.

### **MARK JENKIN**

#### **Film Maker**

Mark grew up in North Cornwall where he started making films from the age of 15. His first job was in London working as a production assistant in the himation department for the groundbreaking TV series Walking with Dinosaurs. At the same time he wrote his first screenplay Golden Burn (Selected for The Celtic Film and Television Festival in 2002, awarded First Time Director award). In March 2002 he returned to Cornwall and his subsequent credits include The Midnight Drives (described as "a moving film about parentage" by The Evening Standard), Auroras Kiss (Awarded the Jury Prize at the Cornwall International Film Festival) and My Name is Zac (Best Regional Single By The Royal Television Society in 2007). He is a member of the Newlyn society of Artists and lectures Film at University College Falmouth. Mark is the great, great, great grandson of primitive St Ives artist Alfred Wallis.

### **GILES KING**

#### **Performer**

Giles joined Kneehigh in the late 1980s. Between then and now he has done over 33 local, national

and international tours including The Red Shoes, The King of Prussia, The Bacchae, Tristan and Yseult and most recently, Hansel & Gretel. Other work includes: Steering Europe's first theatre ship The Fitzcarraldo; hosting Caterpillar forklift truck events in Amsterdam and the South of France; forming the theatre band Bagattack. During the last three years he's trained as a draftsman, had Lola Rose, designed and built his own house. In 2009 he played in WildWorks' The Beautiful Journey.

### **PATRYCJA KUJAWSKA**

#### **Performer**

Patrycja studied at the Academy of Music in Gdansk, graduating in violin. She was a guest performer at the City Theatre in Gdynia and sang in the Non-Cabaret of Maciej Nowak in the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre. She has performed with Dada von Bzdulow Theatre since 1994 and composed the music to Dada's performance The Doom of the People or My Liver Has No Sense. In 2000 she was awarded a Gdansk Theatre Scholarship from the City of Gdansk to create a recital of The Ninth Lover of Katarzyna Foster. She danced in Papugaj, choreographed by Tatiana Baganowa and in Avi Kaiser's Endstation - ZASPA. She played as a guest violinist with experimental



psychedelic rock band Chlupot Mozgu and appeared on Magic Carpatian's album "Water Dreams". For Vincent Dance Theatre Patrycja has made and toured internationally Drop Dead Gorgeous (2001), Let The Mountains Lead You To Love (2003), Punch Drunk (2004), Broken Chords (2005), Fairy Tale (2006), Test Run (2006) and If We Go On (2009). She was awarded a grant from Arts Council England to compose music inspired by French sculptor Sabrina Gruss (2007). The Red Shoes is her second collaboration with Kneehigh following her debut as Zerlina in Don John.

**RÓBERT LUČKAY**  
**Performer**

Robert is a Hungarian actor born in Slovakia. He trained at the University of Arts in Bratislava. He has won an award for best actor at the international festival in Brno. He was company member of the Jokai Theatre in Komarno (Slovakia) and later in Barka Theatre in Budapest (Hungary). His first appearance for Kneehigh was in The Bacchae where he played Dionysus in 2004. Since then he has worked at The Globe theatre in London, played Pericles in Pericles in 2005, Kneehigh's a Matter Of Life And Death, 2006 (National Theatre), played Iachimo in Kneehigh's Cymbeline and Jupiter in 2006 as part of

Shakespeare's Complete Works Festival at the RSC. At Theatre Royal, Bath in The Nutcracker Robert played Uncle Drosselmeier. Robert is also a member of the ensemble for Theatre Rites as well as Gecko Theatre.

**BILL MITCHELL**  
**Designer**

Bill was part of the Kneehigh team from 1987–2005, as Artistic Director from 1997–2005. He directed many shows including Tregeagle, Carmen and Ghost Nets and he designed The King of Prussia, Tristan and Yseult, A Matter of Life and Death, The Bacchae and Nights at the Circus. He first designed The Red Shoes 10 years ago. In 2005 he created his own landscape theatre company WildWorks making A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings, then Souterrain in 2006/7 and The Beautiful Journey in 2009. His company is enjoying a 2-year residency in Kensington Palace with the much-acclaimed Enchanted Palace. Bill is an Honorary Fellow of University College Falmouth.

**ANNA MARIA MURPHY**  
**Writer/Poet**

Anna is a long term member of Kneehigh, latterly as a writer for the company penning adaptations of stories

including Tristan and Yseult (with Carl Grose), The Red Shoes and Don John. She has also written for BBC Radio 4, Cornish Dance Company CScape, Rogue Theatre and many more. Most recently she has wrote "Oh Mary", for Bec Applebee's one woman show, at the same time she completed and broadcasted her third afternoon play for Radio 4 titled "Scummow".

**DAVE MYNNE**  
**Performer**

Dave is a founder member of the company and has worked on many Kneehigh shows, as a maker and actor, from the very beginning up until about eight years ago. He retired from performing and took up his original trade as a graphic designer and now produces Kneehigh's print. He was invited to perform again (in Don John) and leapt at the chance of playing on the stage once again. Since then he has got his bus pass and hopes this will save him money on The Red Shoes tour!

**EMMA RICE**  
**Adaptor/Director**

Emma is the Joint Artistic Director of Kneehigh for whom she has directed The Red Shoes (2002 Theatrical Management Association [TMA] Theatre

Award for Best Director), The Wooden Frock (2004 TMA Theatre Award nomination for Best Touring Production), The Bacchae (2005 TMA Theatre Award for Best Touring Production), Tristan & Yseult (2006 TMA Theatre Award nomination for Best Touring Production), Cymbeline (in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company for The Complete Works festival), A Matter of Life and Death (Royal National Theatre production in association with Kneehigh Theatre), Rapunzel (in association with Battersea Arts Centre), Brief Encounter (tour and West End; a David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers Production in association with Kneehigh Theatre), and Don John (in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Bristol Old Vic). Emma was nominated for the 2009 Olivier Award for Best Director for Brief Encounter.

**MALCOLM RIPPETH**  
**Lighting Designer**

Malcolm has worked with Kneehigh since 2002, lighting Brief Encounter, Don John, Cymbeline, Nights at the Circus, The Bacchae, Antigone at Hell's Mouth and Pandora's Box. Other recent work includes Six Characters in Search of an Author and Calendar Girls (West End); Spur of the Moment (Royal Court); The Devil Inside Him (National Theatre Wales); His



Dark Materials (Birmingham Rep); The Winslow Boy (Bath Theatre Royal); Faustus (Headlong); Homage to Catalonia (West Yorkshire Playhouse); The Bloody Chamber (Northern Stage); Armida (Garsington Opera); Seven Deadly Sins (WNO); Carmen Jones (Royal Festival Hall); and numerous productions for ballet LORENT, most recently Designer Body and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

### IAN ROSS

#### Performer

Ian Ross is a multi instrumentalist with 12 years experience as a performer and composer, with Bristol based ska-hip-hop phenomenon Babyhead and the inimitable high tea lovelies The Zen Hussies. He has extensive performance history ranging from New York fashion week to the Jazz world stage at Glastonbury festival. Ian has been in several Kneehigh shows including Brief Encounter (musician), Don John (musician) and Hansel and Gretel (Musician and co-composer).

### MIKE SHEPHERD

#### Performer

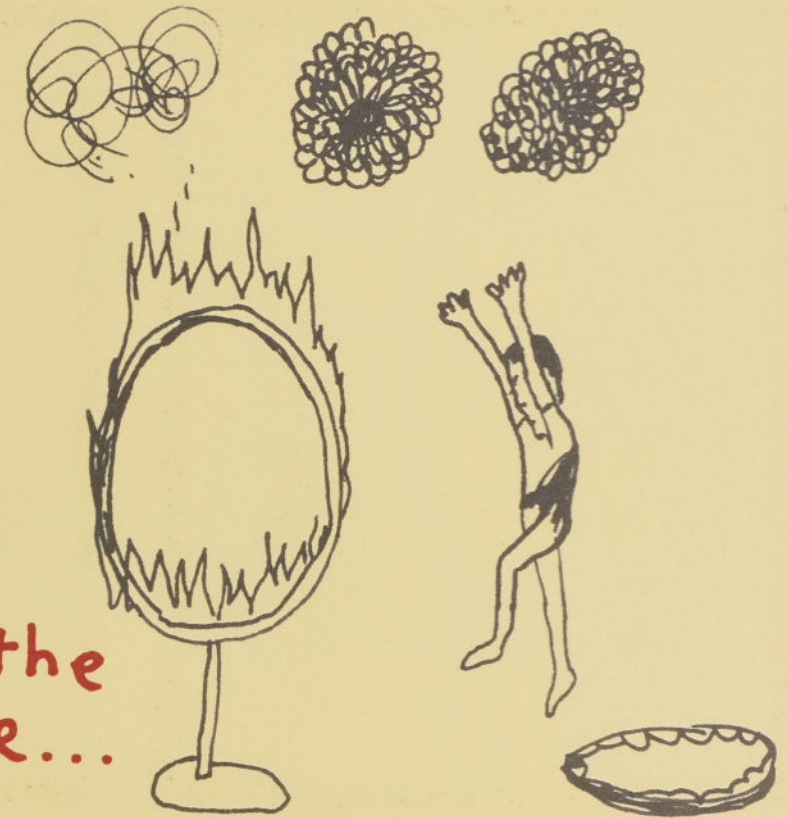
Mike started Kneehigh in 1980 and has worked almost exclusively for the company ever since.

Other work includes directing and acting in The Riot for the National Theatre, Marat Sade (Bristol Old Vic) and Antigone at Hell's Mouth and Fastburn for The National Youth Theatre. In the past few years he has toured with Kneehigh to China, Hungary, Syria, Lebanon, Norway, Denmark and as part of major world festivals in Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Colombia and Brazil. He has recently appeared in The Red Shoes, The Wooden Frock, The Bacchae, Tristan & Yseult, A Matter of Life and Death, Cymbeline, Rapunzel and Don John. Mike had also directed Kneehigh's recent show Hansel & Gretel.

“their magic makes the  
theatre crackle with  
the heat of obsession  
...a thrilling and  
unnerving piece of  
theatre”

The Guardian \*\*\*\*\*

See you on the  
other side...







# Kneehigh People

## Our Team

Chief Executive/Joint Artistic Director....Emma Rice  
 Joint Artistic Director .....Mike Shepherd  
 Producer .....Paul Crewes  
 General Manager .....Charlotte Bond  
 Company Stage Manager .....Steph Curtis  
 Communications Manager .....Anna Mansell  
 Assistant Director .....Simon Harvey  
 Finance Officer .....Sarah Comacchio  
 Project Administrator .....Liz King  
 Development Officer .....Matt Armstrong  
 Office Administrator .....Chloe Rickard  
 Photography.....Steve Tanner  
 Design.....Dave Mynne  
 Illustration .....Swiftie

## Our Board

David Jubb (Chair)  
 Peter Cox  
 Kim Conchie  
 Victoria Vyvyan  
 Simon Williams

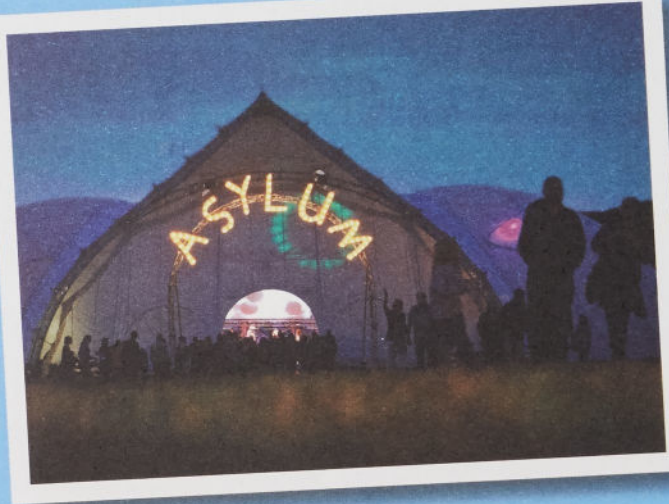
## Thanks to

TR2 (dress makers and set construction)  
 Walkley Clogs  
 Linda Plimley  
 Mariners Supply Company  
 Bec Applebee  
 Luis Santiago  
 John Surman



# THE ASYLUM

**This summer, after 30 years dreaming, 3 years fundraising and 12 months planning, we launched the Asylum.**



The Asylum is our new home, a magical, nomadic touring theatre tent. A space for sanctuary, madness and refuge. A home within which we are able to offer our audiences a night of pure, unadulterated Kneehigh entertainment. A Kneehigh knees-up if you will.

The arrival of this glorious new structure was as exciting and emotional for those new to Kneehigh as it was to those who have been around for all of our 30 years. Opening in our home county, to a warm, supportive and dedicated Kneehigh audience, we were able to offer everyone a night to remember that included theatre, dance, music, good food, drink and more. When Mike Shepherd, founder and Joint Artistic Director, was asked if 30 years ago he had envisaged all this he replied "absolutely, I just didn't think it would take us this long!"

The thing is the Asylum changes things for us. No longer are we just a theatre company visiting other people's venues, we are now a theatre company visiting other people's venues AND welcoming them to our own. We are a theatre company with a home, albeit one that can be pitched on any surface, in any location at a drop of the proverbial hat.

This presents us with challenges and opportunities in equal measure. The future of Kneehigh and our Asylum is to remain open to opportunity so that we can be the creative force upon which our reputation has been built, but we also have to secure the immediate future and plans that allow us to realise our dreams.

So what of these plans and dreams? 2010 was clear, we needed to be in Cornwall. We wanted to launch our adventure in our home county, to an audience of friends, known and unknown. We were so proud that, with the vital help of these friends, family, local government, trusts, foundations and several very generous donors – we were able to build the Asylum. We were also very grateful to our board who approved and supported the 'risk' we wanted to take and encouraged us, despite the advice from many who said "it is a time of recession...", "why not tread water for a while and see how things turn out" or more stridently "You're fools! Don't do it!"

But do it we did. And the inaugural season was more magical, more moving and more momentous than we ever dreamt. So now we have to take stock and look to the future.

Over the next few years we want to see the Asylum project bloom and build, taking the tent to new venues nationally and internationally as well as staying firmly rooted in Cornwall. As these plans take shape, we will continue touring throughout the UK, visiting our friends in regional theatre and beyond.

Ultimately, the Asylum is a creative space; a space for us to play, present, celebrate and champion all things Cornish. It's a space for us to develop new work and new audiences, giving people a true and total Kneehigh experience. The Asylum also offers us space to collaborate with more people, to build relationships with new and exciting artists; potentially even commissioning, curating and programming seasons of work that may otherwise not be seen.

The Asylum is a compliment to our partner venues in the UK and beyond. It is another string to our bow. It is a chance for new and old audiences to join in, take risks if they want to, be part of the family. It is a chance for the Kneehigh ethos, aesthetic and personality to shine through.

We are truly excited about the future and we hope that with this small insight – you will be too.





# Kneehigh FRIENDS

Kneehigh is celebrated as a bold and big-hearted theatre company committed to creating magical, transporting, inventive and entertaining theatre for all!

We are a registered charity, so we need and want to work with you to make even braver work – and to share it with even more people. We want to be a beacon of pleasure, welcoming people from all walks of life to be listened to, excited and delighted.

## Become a Friend

Give £2.50 a month or £30 a year

Keep up-to-date with Kneehigh news by receiving regular updates and access to our website's Members Area.

## Become an Accomplice

Give £5 a month or £60 a year

*Friends benefits plus* enjoy priority booking for seasons in our magical theatre tent the Asylum.

## Become a Champion

Give £15 a month or £180 a year

*Accomplice benefits plus* a treasure ticket that entitles you to a goody bag of Kneehigh treats upon your first visit to the Asylum. We'll invite you to special events and thank you personally in our programmes and on our website.

We would love to speak to you about how you could give more and become even more involved with the company by becoming a treasured member of the Kneehigh FAMILY. For more information, please contact Matt Armstrong on +44 (0)1872 267910 [matt@kneehigh.co.uk](mailto:matt@kneehigh.co.uk)

## To Join...

### By phone

Ring our office: +44 (0)1872 267910  
09.30 – 17.00 / Monday – Friday.

### Online

You can donate by debit or credit card via our website: [www.kneehigh.co.uk](http://www.kneehigh.co.uk)

Join our revamped  
**Friends Scheme** and  
be part of the **Kneehigh**  
journey – it's even more  
fun when you climb  
aboard!





# THANK YOU

**Thank you to all the wonderful members  
of the Kneehigh FAMILY:**

Anon  
Francine M. Austin  
Angela Bissett  
Christopher Bland  
Glenn & Wendy Carter  
Tracey Carter  
Patrick & Barbara Gallagher  
John Glasswell  
Brownie Hardman  
Guy Heath  
Tom Hope  
Simon Inch  
Judy Le Marchant  
Elizabeth Lindsay  
Dave Mynne  
Emma Rice  
Gary W Ross  
Adam Rowse  
Emma Rowse  
Jane Rowse  
Vanessa Simonite  
Hayley Taylor  
Karen Townshend  
David Trenberth

**And thanks to members of the Kneehigh FRIENDS,  
especially our Champions:**

Anon	Aidan Lawrence
Leigh & Emma Bagnall	Anthony & Jane Lawton
Kevin Brice	Chris Martin
Archie Burnham	Mary Mestecky
Sally Caudle	Jeremy Metson
Jyoti Chandola	Jane Rogers
Marielaine Church	Jon & NoraLee Sedmak
Robbie Clymo	Clive Shaw
John Doble	Simon Shute
Martin & Annabel Dunn	Pat Smith
Val Dunning	Richard Lumley Smith
Ian Ellis & Charmaine Fernando	Trish Stone
Elly & Jason Flemyng	Richard Toombs
Ann Gray	Jane Turnbull
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Kneehigh



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Drawings: Swiftie / Design: Dave Myne / Photos: Steve Tanner





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