

Kneehigh

THE  
WILD  
BRIDE









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



Kneehigh

# THE ASYLUM

This season was dreamt up by excited idiots. Flushed with enthusiasm after our fabulous first season, we decided to make not just one new show for our Asylum, but two. Fearless fools!

**Midnight's Pumpkin** combines all the pleasures **The Asylum** was created for – event, music, dance, feast, fun and a cracking story. Originally under the working title 'The People's Ball', this re-telling of Cinderella is our gift to you – we will provide the story and the setting, but this party won't go with a bang unless you join in and make the Balls your own. So, put on your red shoes, dance the romance and swing with the silliness!

**The Wild Bride** is a rare beast: a pure, deep, strange story with a blues heart. This tale is all about bargains; the bargains we do with ourselves, and those around us. Some are good and some are bad, but this wonderful story teaches us that if we are lucky, we might just land in a place richer, more surprising and more vibrant than we ever dreamt of...

We wish you the wildest, sweetest, most moonlit of dreams at **The Asylum** this year,

Emma Rice and Mike Shepherd Joint Artistic Directors





# The Asylum Season 2011

## Midnight's Pumpkin

Created by ..... the Ensemble  
Directed by ..... Mike Shepherd & Emma Rice  
Assistant Director ..... Simon Harvey  
Associate Artist & Poet ..... Anna Maria Murphy  
Music by ..... Stu Barker, Ian Ross & Stuart McLoughlin  
Choreographer ..... Etta Murfitt  
Designer ..... Michael Vale  
Lighting Designer ..... Malcolm Rippeth  
Sound Designer ..... Simon Baker  
Associate Sound Designer ..... Andy Graham  
Producer ..... Paul Crewes

### Performers

Audrey Brisson  
Phil Brodie  
Stuart Goodwin  
Patrycja Kujawska  
Éva Magyar  
Stuart McLoughlin  
Mike Shepherd  
Stu Barker (Musician)  
Ian Ross (Musician)

## The Wild Bride

Directed & Adapted by ..... Emma Rice  
Assistant Director ..... Simon Harvey  
Words by ..... Carl Grose  
Music by ..... Stu Barker  
Choreographer ..... Etta Murfitt  
Designer ..... Bill Mitchell  
Costume Designer ..... Myriddin Wannell  
Lighting Designer ..... Malcolm Rippeth  
Sound Designer ..... Simon Baker  
Associate Sound Designer ..... Andy Graham  
Producer ..... Paul Crewes

### Performers

Audrey Brisson  
Stuart Goodwin  
Patrycja Kujawska  
Éva Magyar  
Stuart McLoughlin  
Ian Ross (Musician)

### Production team

Production Manager ..... David Harraway  
Technical Manager ..... Peran Odgers  
Company Stage Manager ..... Steph Curtis  
Stage Manager ..... Ruth Shepherd  
Associate Designer - LX ..... Mike Gunning  
Chief Electrician ..... Chris Jordan  
Programmer ..... Victoria Brennan  
Lighting Operator ..... Ben Nichols  
Sound Operator ..... Scott Carter  
Props/Puppet Maker ..... Sarah Wright  
Production Carpenter ..... Alex Crombie-Rodgers

### Thanks to

TR2, Luke Woods at Foxglove Furniture, Sue Hill, Kirsty Harris, Meier Williams, Linda Plimley, Jelka O'Donoghue, Graham Jobbins, Jen Riddick, Charlotte Lane, Driveline, Bristol Old Vic, Daniel Sparrow, Dom Fraser, David Pugh & Dafydd Rodgers.

### Asylum Crew

Alex Porter      Adam Squire  
Paul Tregunna      Martin Burr  
Adam Hebb

### Front of House (FOH) Team

FOH Manager ..... Sally Williams  
Deputy FOH Manager ..... Dan Harvey  
FOH & Audience Development Co-ordinator ..... Jennifer Porteous  
Security ..... Nina Stylianides / Stout Security  
Bar Manager ..... Chloe Rickard

### Bar Staff

Emily Dobson      Saffron Orrell  
Helen Tiplady      Polly Motley

### A BIG thank you to all our volunteer stewarding team.

### Connections Team

Connections Leader ..... Mike Shepherd  
Project Assistant ..... Shakera Ahad  
Safe Harbours Walks ..... Anna Maria Murphy  
Film Maker ..... Brett Harvey  
Mechanical Sculptor ..... Robert Higgs

### Workshop Leaders

Cscape: Sally Williams & Emily Dobson  
Archie Browns: Helen Swift & Daisy Wright  
Nicholas Hallett & Rebecca Tantony  
Robert Higgs & Dominick Allen  
Anna Maria Murphy & Simon Harvey  
Giles King & John Voogd



### Kneehigh Team

Chief Executive & Executive Producer.....	Paul Crewes
Joint Artistic Director & Deputy Chief Executive.....	Emma Rice
Joint Artistic Director .....	Mike Shepherd
General Manager.....	Charlotte Bond
Company Stage Manager.....	Steph Curtis
Communications Manager.....	Anna Mansell
Finance Officer .....	Sarah Comacchio
Development Officer .....	Matt Armstrong
Project Administrator .....	Liz King
Office Administrator .....	Chloe Rickard
Project Assistant .....	Shakera Ahad
Marketing & PR Intern.....	Rosita Bunce
Photography.....	Steve Tanner
Design.....	Dave Mynne
Illustration .....	Daryl Waller
Film .....	Brett Harvey

### Our Board

David Jubb (Chair)  
Peter Cox  
Victoria Vyvyan  
Sheila Healy  
Simon Williams



### Simon Baker Sound Designer

Simon graduated from the Guildhall School in 1992 and became a fellow of the school in 2010. Most recent credits include *The Lord Of The Rings* (Toronto and London – 2007 Olivier Nomination for Best Sound), *Boeing Boeing* (London and Broadway – 2007 Tony Nomination for Best Sound), *God of Carnage*, *Our House* (UK Tour), *The Norman Conquests* (London and Broadway), *Arcadia* (London), *The Birds* (Dublin), *Bridge Project 2010* (BAM/London/International Tour), *The Real Thing* (London), *Late Middle Classes* (London) and *La Bete* (London and Broadway). Brief Encounter (London/UK Tour/US Tour/St Ann's Warehouse – 2008 Olivier Nomination for Best Sound and 2011 Tony Nomination Best Sound), *Don John* (RSC/UK Tour/BAC) and the 2010 *Asylum Season*, all for Kneehigh. *Matilda - a musical* (RSC) *Me and My Girl* (Sheffield), *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (London) and *Batman Live!* (International Tour).

### Stu Barker Composer, Musician & Performer

Stu has worked extensively as composer/musical director with Kneehigh over the last fifteen years. Co-produced shows as composer/MD include: *A Matter Of Life and Death / Tristan & Yseult* (Royal National Theatre), *Brief Encounter* (Broadway/West End), *Cymbeline / Don John* (RSC), *Hansel & Gretel* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Bacchae / The Wooden Frock* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Nights at the Circus / The Red Shoes* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Rapunzel* (BAC), *Pandora's Box* (Northern Stage). Other Composer/MD work includes: *Shakespeare's Globe*, *Bristol Old Vic*, *Donmar Warehouse*, *Welfare State International*, *Contact Theatre*, *Travelling Light* and *Horse + Bamboo*.

### Audrey Brisson Performer

This is Audrey's first time working with Kneehigh. She trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, graduating in 2009. She also studied Classical Singing at Cegep St-Laurent, Canada. As a child and teenager, Audrey worked extensively with *Cirque Du Soleil* as a vocalist and performer. She performed in their international tours of *Réinventé* (1989) and *Quidam* (1996-2000). She also performed in the papal event at the Yankee Stadium (2008). Since graduation, Audrey has filmed the feature films *Hereafter* directed by Clint Eastwood and *W.E.* directed by Madonna and for television, a new drama adaptation of Martin Amis's novel *Money* (BBC).

### Phil Brodie Performer

Philip studied at Dartington College of Arts which is where his passion for creating his own work started. Since leaving Phil has written and performed in a number of his own shows, from the critically acclaimed one man play *Tailor made Love*, to his sell out Edinburgh shows as one half of *The Legendary Polowski*. Last year he also sold out a run of his new show *Hunch* in the West End and he continues to write comedy. Like all actors though, he wants to do it all and he has performed in numerous TV shows, *Wire in the Blood*, *Merlin*, *Miranda*, *Pulling*, *Ideal and Broken News* to name but a few. As well as feature films like *The Last Flight to Kuwait* directed by Bafta winner Peter Nicholson and he has two films out this year *World of the Dead* and *Paladin*. He has also just finished filming *Landscape of Lies* due for release next year.



#### **Paul Crewes Producer**

Before working with Kneehigh, Paul worked as Producer at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, where he set up over 40 productions as well as collaborations with Kneehigh (The Wooden Frock & The Bacchae), Improbable Theatre, Teatre Romea, National Theatre and with commercial & West End producers. Other work includes producing the UK tour of Doorman with his own company in 2005, Associate Producer for the Lowry, producing King Cotton in 2007, Fireflies and Beyond the Frontline in 2009 and working for Metal with Jude Kelly on several projects including the Olympic bid for 2012. Paul has worked for Kneehigh since 2005 and for them has produced; Tristan & Yseult (UK, Sydney, New Zealand & US) Cymbeline (UK, Columbia & Brazil; Rapunzel (UK & US) Don John (UK & US), Hansel & Gretel, Brief Encounter (US tour), the launch of the Kneehigh Asylum (featuring The Red Shoes, Blast!, The King of Prussia) and the 2010 tour of The Red Shoes (UK, US & Australia).

#### **Stuart Goodwin Performer**

This is Stuart's first time working with Kneehigh, marking a return to theatre after several years during which time Stuart, his wife and two daughters travelled Europe working on organic farms and in eco-communities. They have now settled in West Sussex where they have a few acres of land that they are busy developing into a community smallholding and events venue. Having trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama 95-98, Stuart particularly enjoyed working on The Lieutenant of Innishmore at the RSC; State of Play (BAFTA winner) and Cashback (Oscar nominated).

#### **Carl Grose Writer**

Carl has worked extensively with Kneehigh for the past sixteen years as both a writer and an actor. His writing for Kneehigh includes Quick Silver, Tristan & Yseult, The Bacchae, Wagstaffe The Wind-Up Boy, Blast!, Cymbeline and Hansel & Gretel. Carl has also written for BBC TV and Radio, Vesturport, Told By an Idiot, o-region, the RSC and the National Theatre. His recent plays include Gargantua (National Theatre Connections) and 'Orse Piss For Blood (The Drum Theatre, Plymouth). He is currently writing Burn Me Dead (a musical inspired by The Master and Margarita) and a new commission for Kneehigh about the Cornish world boxing champion, Bob Fitzsimmons.

#### **Andy Graham Associate Sound Designer**

Andy has worked on Brief Encounter (UK & USA), The Red Shoes (UK, USA and Australia), The King Of Prussia, and Blast! whilst part of the Kneehigh team. He graduated from Mountview Theatre School in 2001 with a BA Hons in Technical Theatre, and has worked as a sound operator and engineer primarily in London's West End ever since. Shows as an operator include The King & I, The Full Monty, Contact, Jerry Springer The Opera (Olivier Award for Best Sound), Guys And Dolls (Olivier Nomination), The Lord Of The Rings (Olivier Nomination) and Our House (UK Tour). As a production engineer Andy's credits include High School Musical, Treasure Island, End Of The Rainbow, and most recently Ghost - The Musical.

#### **Simon Harvey Assistant Director**

Simon is a director, performer and producer based in Truro, Cornwall. As Kneehigh's resident Assistant Director his recent work includes The Red Shoes (National and International tour), Hansel & Gretel, Brief Encounter (UK and American Tour), Rapunzel and Cymbeline. Simon has performed in a number of Kneehigh shows including Blast! and The King of Prussia (Asylum 2010), Wagstaffe The Wind-Up Boy and Journey to the Centre of the Earth. Outside of Kneehigh, Simon is the Artistic Director of o-region, a theatre and film production company for whom he recently produced and directed One Darke Night. He is also the co-producer of the company's second feature film Weekend Retreat by Brett Harvey, which is currently in post-production.

#### **Patrycja Kujawska Performer**

Patrycja has performed with Kneehigh in Don John, The Red Shoes and as a regular member of The Kneehigh Band. She 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).

#### **Éva Magyar Performer**

Éva is an actress, choreographer and director. She trained at The Budapest Drama and Film Academy. In her native Hungary, Éva worked on a great many productions in diverse theatrical forms, with various companies. In Britain, Éva has worked extensively with Kneehigh as Agave in The Bacchae and Yseult in Tristan & Yseult, which she reprised for the National Theatre. Éva has performed her one woman show House of Deer at Battersea Arts Centre, has played Kaikeyi in Ramayana for the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith and the Mother in Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents at the Gate Theatre in Notting Hill. Recently she has played Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet for the Royal Shakespeare Company and appeared in Breathing Irregular for the Gate Theatre. Her film credits include lead roles in A Matter Of Life, The Understudy, The Death of Pentheus (Methodact Ltd) and most recently X-Men: First Class (Fox London Productions Ltd). Éva runs her own company The Shamans which is highly acclaimed in Hungary and internationally, winning numerous awards including Best Actress (Poland), Best Director (Cairo), The Independent Award (California) and The Herald Angel (Edinburgh).



#### **Anna Maria Murphy Associate Artist & Poet**

Anna is a long-term member of Kneehigh, latterly as a writer of *Tristan & Yseult* (with Carl Grose), *The Red Shoes* and *Don John*. She has also written for BBC Radio 4, *Cscape Dance*, *Rogue Theatre*, *Bagas Degol* and others. Most recently she wrote for *Oh Mary*, *Bec Applebee's* one woman show, and has broadcast her third afternoon play for Radio 4, titled *Scummow*. This summer she is collaborating with Kneehigh on *Midnight's Pumpkin* and is walking all over Cornwall collecting, telling and writing stories as part of the company's *Connections Programme*.

#### **Stuart McLoughlin Co-composer, Musician & Performer**

Stuart returns to Kneehigh having previously been seen in *A Matter of Life and Death* (National Theatre) and *Brief Encounter* (West End). Other theatre credits include: *The Odyssey*, *Suspension*, *Up The Feeder Down The Mouth And Back Again*, *Swallows and Amazons* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Wizard of Oz* (Hall For Cornwall), *Coram Boy* (National Theatre), Film credits include: *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Made In Dagenham*, *The Golden Age*. TV credits include: *Waking The Dead*, *Trevor Island*, *Little Dorrit*, *Clone*.

#### **Bill Mitchell Designer**

Bill became part of the Kneehigh team in 1987 and was Artistic Director from 1997 to 2005. In 2006 he was made an Honorary Fellow of University College Falmouth. Bill has worked on many Kneehigh productions including; *Tregeagle*, *Ghost Nets*, *The King of Prussia* and *Tristan & Yseult*. More recently he designed *The Bacchae*, *The Wooden Frock*, *Nights at the Circus*, *A Matter of Life and Death* and re-visited *The Red Shoes* for the *Asylum* last year. In 2005 Bill established his own landscape theatre company *Wildworks* creating *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (2005), *Souterrain* in 2006/7 and *The Beautiful Journey* in 2009. This year *Wildworks* collaborated with Michael Sheen and the National Theatre Wales on *The Passion in Port Talbot* and at present is enjoying a 2-year residency in Kensington Palace with the much-acclaimed project *Enchanted Palace*.

#### **Etta Murfitt Choreographer**

Etta is Associate Director for Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures*, working on *Cinderella* (Sadlers Wells, UK Tour), *Dorian Gray* (Edinburgh Festival, Sadlers Wells), *Edward Scissorhands* (London, UK tour, Japan, Korea, USA, Australia), the restaging of *Highland Fling* (Sadler's Wells, UK tour and Japanese tour), *Nutcracker!* (London, UK tours, Far East tour and US tour), *The Car Man* (Old Vic, UK tour, European tour, US tour and Japanese tour). Rehearsal Director for the original production of *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells and UK tour, *Cinderella* (West End and Los Angeles), *Highland Fling*, *The Infernal Galop*, *The Percy's of Fitzrovia*, *Deadly Serious* and *Town & Country*; Clara in the original production of *Nutcracker!* (Opera North and Sadlers Wells) and *Matron/Queen Candy* in 2007/08 production. She has performed on TV & Film as Clara in *Nutcracker!* (BBC/NVC), Rita in *The Car Man* (Channel 4), Rehearsal Director *Swan Lake* (BBC), *Late Flowering Lust* (BBC), *Roald Dahl's Red Riding Hood* (BBC), *Mrs Hartley and the Growth Centre* (BBC), and *Storm* (Aletta Collins/BBC Dance for the Camera). Choreography credits include: *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (Sir Trevor Nunn, Chichester Festival Theatre & Theatre Royal Haymarket), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Martin Lloyd-Evans, Holland Park Opera), *The Way of the World* (Selina Cadell, Wilton's Music Hall), restaging AMP's *Nutcracker!* (Sadler's Wells), restaging AMP's

*The Infernal Galop* for Images of Dance and Sarasota Ballet, Florida and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Dawn French, (Matthew Francis, Albery Theatre). Etta was the choreographer for Kneehigh's production of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*.

#### **Emma Rice Adaptor & Director**

Emma is the Joint Artistic Director and Deputy Chief Executive of Kneehigh. For Kneehigh: *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), *Rapunzel* (in association with Battersea Arts Centre), *Brief Encounter* (tour and West End; Studio 54, Broadway - a David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers Production in association with Kneehigh), 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*, a show also nominated for two Tony Awards (2011). As well as these two new shows for this year's *Asylum*, Emma's latest work includes the West End production of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*.

#### **Malcolm Rippeth Lighting Designer**

For Kneehigh: *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (West End), *Brief Encounter* (West End/Broadway), *The Red Shoes*, *Blast!*, *The King of Prussia*, *Don John*, *Cymbeline*, *Nights at the Circus*, *The Bacchae* and *Pandora's Box*. Theatre includes: *H.M.S Pinafore* (Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis); *The Acid Test*, *Kin* (Royal Court); *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (West End); *Calendar Girls* (West End/Australia/Canada); *The Field* (Dublin); *The Devil Inside Him* (National Theatre Wales); *The Winslow Boy* (Rose Kingston); *His Dark Materials* (Birmingham Rep/Tour); *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness*, *Faustus* (Headlong Theatre); *Crash*, *Homage to Catalonia* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Mother Courage*, *Hamlet* (ETT); *James and the Giant Peach* (Northampton); *The Bloody Chamber*, *The Little Prince* (Northern Stage); *Trance* (Bush); *Copenhagen* (Edinburgh Royal Lyceum); *Monkey!* (Dundee Rep) and *Tutti Frutti* (National Theatre of Scotland). Opera and Dance includes: *Armida*, *Le Nozze Di Figaro* (Garsington); *Carmen Jones* (Royal Festival Hall); *Seven Deadly Sins* (WNO/ Diversions Dance) and numerous productions for ballet LORENT. Malcolm won a 2010 OBIE as a member of the design team for *Brief Encounter* in New York and the 2009 Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Lighting Designer for his work on *Brief Encounter* and *Six Characters in Search of an Author* in the West End.

#### **Ian Ross Co-composer, Musician & Performer**

Ian Ross is a multi-instrumentalist with around 12 years experience as a performer and composer. He has worked for Kneehigh on several projects including *Brief Encounter* (musician), *Don John* (musician), *Hansel & Gretel* (musician and co-composer), *The King of Prussia*, 2010 (musician) and *The Red Shoes*, 2010 (musician). With Bristol based ska-hip-hop phenomenon *Babyhead* and the inimitable high tea lovelies *The Zen Hussies*, Ian has had extensive performance history ranging from New York fashion week to the Jazz world stage at Glastonbury festival.



### Mike Shepherd Performer & Director

Mike Shepherd is an actor, teacher and director. He founded Kneehigh in 1980 and has worked for the company ever since. He is Joint Artistic Director with Emma Rice. He is leading the Cornish Connections Programme with Anna Maria Murphy and Asylum planning with Paul Crewes and the Kneehigh team.

### Michael Vale Designer

Michael has designed the sets and costumes for over 160 theatre and opera productions both in the UK and abroad including those he has directed. Companies he has worked with include: The Royal Shakespeare Company; The National Theatre; The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; English National Opera; Glyndebourne Festival Opera; Opera North; English Touring Opera: De Vlaamse Opera, Antwerp; Los Angeles Opera; New Zealand International Art's Festival; Galaxy Theatre, Tokyo; Warsaw Globe Theatre Company; Munich Biennale; Lyric Hammersmith; Almeida Theatre; Manchester Royal Exchange; West Yorkshire Playhouse; Sheffield Crucible; Liverpool Playhouse; Nottingham Playhouse; Bristol Old Vic; Plymouth Theatre Royal; Edinburgh Royal Lyceum; Bolton Octagon; Oldham Coliseum; Manchester Library Theatre; Salisbury Playhouse; Colchester Mercury Theatre; The Royal Festival Hall; The Queen Elizabeth Hall; English Touring Theatre; Battersea Arts Centre; Told By An Idiot and Kneehigh. His work has been nominated for two Olivier Awards; a Charrington Fringe First Award; an Irish Times Theatre Award and a Manchester Evening News Theatre Award.

### Myriddin Wannell Costume Designer

Myriddin (Mydd) is a theatre designer and visual artist based in Cornwall. After graduating with a BA Hons in Theatre Design at Wimbledon School of Art, a new wind blew him to Kernow to study a second degree in Fine Art at University College Falmouth. Mydd has worked alongside Bill Mitchell as associate designer for Wildworks since the company's creation in 2005. Shows include A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (2005), Souterrain (2006/7), The Beautiful Journey (2009) and The Memory Projector (2009). Recent productions include a two-year residency at Kensington Palace with The Enchanted Palace, and The Passion, a site-specific collaboration between Wildworks, Michael Sheen & National Theatre Wales. Enjoying site-specific collaborations, Mydd has also worked extensively as a community artist with a wide spectrum of people in the UK, France, Germany, Romania, Australia and Africa. He is Design Consultant at The Eden Project, Cornwall.



## The Dome Company

Welcome to the Asylum: a tent, but no ordinary tent. The Asylum offers 1200 square metres of light, versatile performance space with room for up to 1000 people – much the same capacity as the Shakespeare's Globe or Old Vic theatres. Around 1500 metres of architectural fabric covers the 20-ton structure. And, as you can see, it's impressive - the backstage area alone can accommodate an articulated lorry. It's portable, demountable and can be erected in days using only manpower and basic site equipment. This is mobile architecture on a grand scale.

The Asylum was designed and built by Gil Gillilan of The Dome Company. Based in Cornwall and Suffolk, and founded in 1990, The Dome Company has 20 years experience of designing, constructing and supplying touring performance structures each combining the portability of a traditional tent and the strength and capacity of a building. The Asylum, its largest project to date, reflects the company's ethos: "combining conventional and new materials to create a structure which is both completely modern and rooted in tradition".

The company's familiarity with large-scale fabric construction came out of an earlier involvement with the design and build of giant inflatables – an area of work that still continues. In 1999, Gil became a partner in Puca Productions, set up specifically to produce inflatable street floats – custom-built or for hire. Puca's colourful carnival floats have taken part in most of the major street parades throughout the UK and Ireland. And they are not just eye-catching: some are powered by invisible vehicles, others are animated by variable air pressure or internal hydraulic mechanisms.



In tandem, The Dome Company has continued to develop a core business in designing, manufacturing and operating curved-arc, geodesic domes and other tented structures, some – like the Asylum – made to order to do a specific job. A series of Domes for Hire, include laminated beam structures and lightweight domes (from 7 metres up to 20 metres in diameter) ideal for theatre and music events, as well as exhibitions, entertainment venues, presentations and private parties. They are, says Gil Gillilan, “designed with the philosophy that the quality of a venue is an important part of the event contained within it.” A range of public, corporate and private clients include Virgin at the V Fest, Liberty Festival on Trafalgar Square, Secret Garden Party, The Big Chill, Henley Festival, The Eisteddfod, The Great North Run, the Derren Brown Show, Smartcar and Landrover.

Bespoke structures include a covered stage and café area for the Eden Project in Cornwall, and a site-specific, demountable reception and entertainment space – bridging the void between two cliffs – for Aillwee Caves in County Clare, The Greenpeace Globe for Poland (seen at Glastonbury Festival), domes for the Budapest Music Centre and an art installation in conjunction with Arup's, Broadgate.

The Asylum consists of two geodesic half domes bridged by a cathedral-like fabric atrium, with a soaring, vaulted roof supported by a geometry of leaning arches. The twin half domes are built of curved, laminated timber beams (using timber from sustainable sources) and galvanised steel anchors and connectors, the arched auditorium is supported by aluminium trusses, and the entire structure is tented with acrylic-coated polyester.

The concept, says Gil Gillilan, is drawn from Kneehigh's legacy as an open-air theatre, and provides a roving venue for “progressive modern theatre productions” which can be erected in a few days, on any surface, using several different configurations. The wall behind the stage can be dropped, transforming the landscape into a natural backdrop.

*“The Asylum is a lightweight portable structure but it has been given the same depth of consideration as a bricks and mortar theatre,” says Gil. “The big difference is that it’s more versatile, more flexible, than a fixed theatre. In essence, it’s a kit of demountable parts.”*

In the design and build of the Asylum, The Dome Company, worked in consultation with:

Litestructures: Aluminium truss manufacturers and designers

Intension: Fabric engineering and manufacture

Haydn Evans: Structural engineers (frames, anchorage, co-ordination)

Alan White: Structural engineers (trusswork)

Tristan Simmonds: Structural engineers (fabric membrane).

For more information contact The Dome Company on 01986 872175 or visit [www.thedomecompany.co.uk](http://www.thedomecompany.co.uk).



## Join Us...

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

We're also 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.

Help us to do this by joining the **Kneehigh FRIENDS** and you'll open up a treasure trove of exclusive treats...

### Become a Friend

Give **£2.50** a month or **£30** a year

You'll receive regular updates and access to our website's Members Area that contains exclusive goodies, including sneak-peeks from this season.

### Become an Accomplice

Give **£5** a month or **£60** a year

You'll enjoy Friends' treats, as well as priority booking for productions in the Asylum.

### Become a Champion

Give **£15** or **£180** a month

You'll get Accomplice benefits plus a goody bag bursting with Kneehigh whoopee. We'll invite you to special events and thank you personally in our programmes and on our website.

### To Join

In person at the Asylum.

By phone: +44 (0)1872 267910 (09.30 – 17.00 / Monday – Friday).

Online via our website: [www.kneehigh.co.uk](http://www.kneehigh.co.uk)

We would love you to give more and become even more involved with the company by becoming a treasured member of the **Kneehigh FAMILY**. You can have cream tea with Emma Rice and Mike Shepherd, join us for Opening Nights and party with the company – whilst also helping to support our community engagement scheme the **Connections Programme**.

For more information on becoming a member of the **Kneehigh FRIENDS** or the **Kneehigh FAMILY**, please ask one of the Asylum's stewards or contact Matt Armstrong on +44 (0)1872 267910 / [matt@kneehigh.co.uk](mailto:matt@kneehigh.co.uk)





# Kneehigh CONNECTIONS



## Engaging creatively with local communities through event and adventure.

To celebrate the launch of the Asylum last year, writer, performer and long-time Kneehigh adventurer Anna Maria Murphy walked the length and breadth of Cornwall. Her trusty walking boots covered over 300 miles and she met doctors, travellers, war veterans, cared-for children, a vintage lady surfer and young mums (amongst many others) along the way.

This year, the intrepid Anna is setting off on three, 3-day-long adventures across the summer; trekking from Looe to Gorran Haven, Padstow to Launceston and Mousehole to our glorious Asylum. Each walk starts with breakfast on a harbour and the latest brilliant invention from Robert Higgs (he made the chain reaction devices in Hansel & Gretel), and ends with a celebratory Kneehigh knees-up. While walking these roads less travelled, she's busily gathering stories from the places she visits and the extraordinary people she meets.

There are also daytime workshops at the Asylum for special groups whose members fancy learning dances, discovering design, constructing kites, building dens, experimenting with baking or playing with poems.

And, on top of this we're running an 'almost free' ticket scheme for the groups and individuals we meet!

## The Connections Programme is supported by:

The Joyce Carr Doughty Charitable Trust, The Tanner Trust, FEAST and Rob & Jane Hartley - alongside donations made by members of the Kneehigh FAMILY and bookers for the 2011 Asylum season

The **Project Assistant** post is made possible by the DCMS Jerwood Creative Bursaries Scheme.

Without the support of treasured individuals, we wouldn't be able to make our bold and big-hearted work and share it with our wonderful audiences. Thanks especially to members of the **Kneehigh FAMILY**:

Anon  
Merribe Ayres  
Angela Bissett  
Glenn & Wendy Carter  
Tracey Carter  
Brownie Hardman  
Guy Heath

Elizabeth Lindsay  
Dave Mynne  
Jane Rowse  
Hayley Taylor  
Karen Townshend  
David Trenberth

## And our wonderful Champions:

Anon  
Leigh & Emma Bagnall  
Mike Beard  
Kevin Brice  
Archie Burnham  
Sally Caudle  
Jyoti Chandola  
Marielaine Church  
Robbie Clymo  
John Doble  
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Patrick & Barbara Gallagher  
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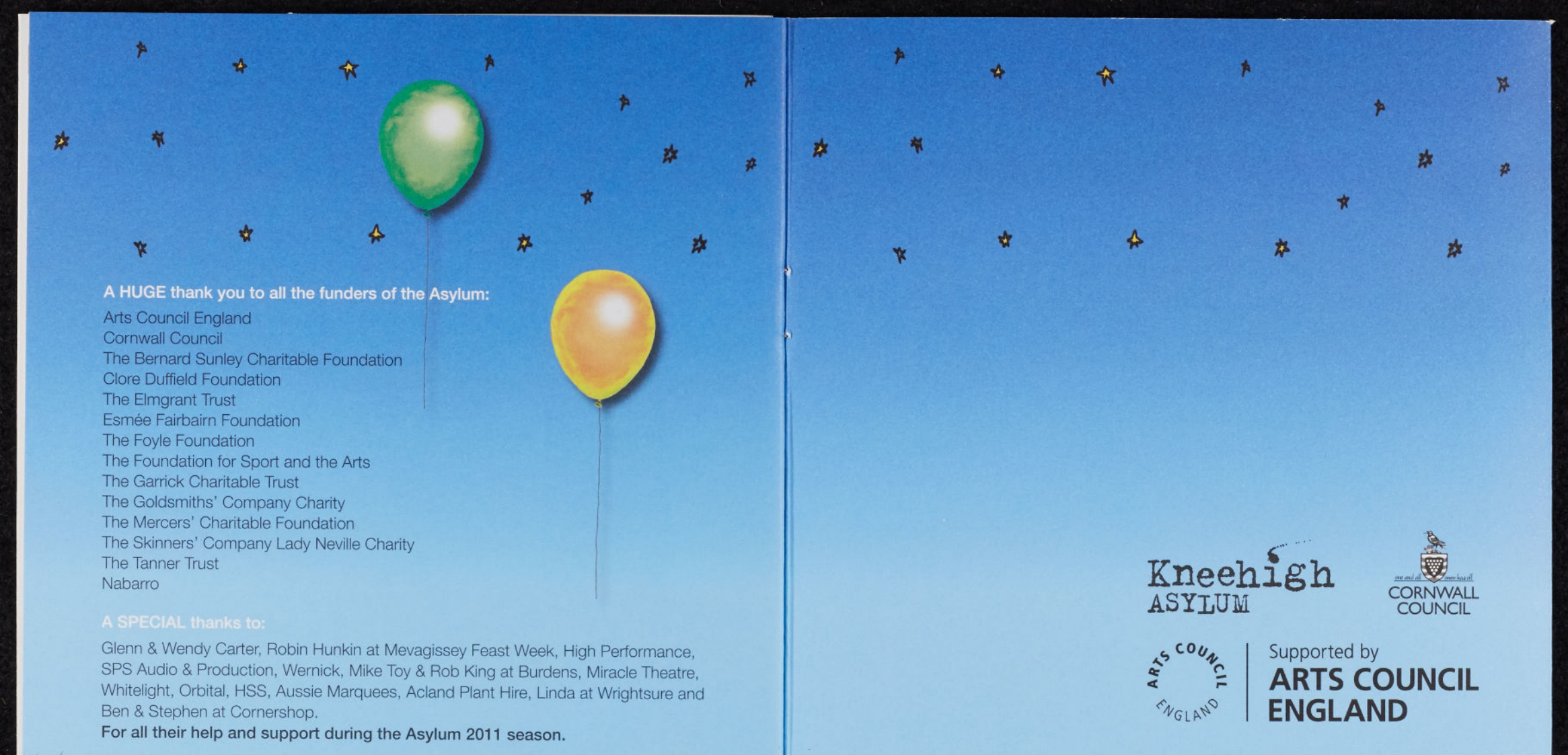
Chris Law  
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**For all their help and support during the Asylum 2011 season.**

**Kneehigh**  
ASYLUM



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Kneehigh  
MIDNIGHT'S PUMPKIN

