

the Gingerbread Man

**stuff and
nonsense**
theatre company

**Suitable for Large Studio and
Mid Scale Venues**

**Available for Spring,
Autumn and Christmas
2024**



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nonsense**
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the Gingerbread Man

Stuff and Nonsense's best-selling show to date, reaching 84% capacity across its 2018 and 2019 touring.

Seen by over 26,000 people in 2018 and 2019, bringing in over £240k in ticket sales (gross)



*This new show was quite frankly the best thing
I've seen in the Brighton Fringe this year!*

Brighton & Hove News

Imagine being **born in an oven** and the first person you meet wants to **dunk you in his tea!**

Come and see the adventure of the deliciously smelling GINGERBREAD MAN and meet the bravest biscuit of all times!

Stuff and Nonsense apply their usual brilliance with a mix of puppetry, live action, great music, humour and a stunning staging of this well-loved classic tale.

Suitable for 3 plus – no scary bits – just don't turn up hungry! Now run, run, as fast as you can, you need to get tickets to catch this Gingerbread Man!

Created with public funding from Arts Council England through Grants for the Arts, support from The Berry Theatre, Hedge End & The Point Eastleigh, with additional support from Salisbury Playhouse and further support from Lighthouse, Poole in 2020.

For more information, contact: Tour Booker, Paula Hammond, on admin@aloadofstuffandnonsense.com or visit aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk



Artistic Team:

Director - Niki McCretton

Assistant Director - Ed Trotter

Puppetry - Holly Miller

Performers - Jake England-Johns and Hobbit

Composer - Matt Huxley

Lyricist - Toby Gascoigne

Design & Set Build - James Lewis, Tin Shed Scenery

Costume - Rebecca Lewis

Producers - Jane McGibbon and Ben Vleminckx



“This is the third Stuff and Nonsense production I have seen and they are just simply brilliant. They made the story come alive for the children, who were totally enthralled throughout.”

Audience member



“A fabulous production, so cleverly put together!”

Audience member



“A brilliantly worked out show with a masterful combination of physical theatre, acting & puppetry.”

Audience member

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All images by Mark Morreau
www.morraux.co.uk

Tour List 2019 - 2023

Brewery Arts, Kendal - December 2023

Macready Theatre, Rugby - December 2022

Notts Lakeside - June 2022

Corn Exchange, Newbury - May 2022

Polka Theatre - Feb2022

Zarts - Feb 2022

Notts Lakeside - Dec 2021

Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds - Oct2021

Waterside Arts, Sale - Oct 2021

The Egg, Bath - Oct2021

ARC, Stockton - Jun 2021

Theatre Royal Plymouth - May 2021

Theatre Royal Plymouth - Dec 2020

Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield - Apr 2019

Notts Lakeside - Apr 2019

Aberystwyth Arts Centre - Mar 2019

Waterside Arts, Sale - Mar 2019

Leicester Curve - Feb 2019

Theatre By The Lake, Keswick - Feb 2019

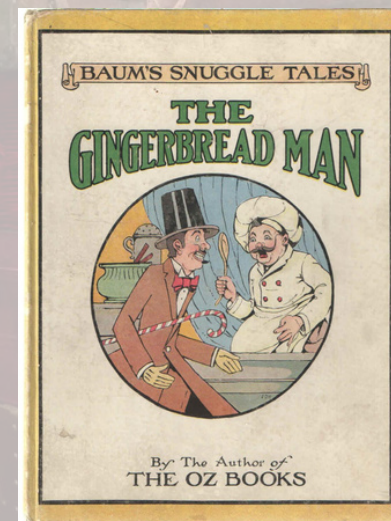
Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds - Feb 2019

Brewhouse, Taunton - Feb 2019



The original Gingerbread Man

The Gingerbread Man is a classic fairy tale, which made its first appearance in print in 1875 and has since appeared in print and on screen worldwide. The tale begins with a childless woman baking a gingerbread man. When the bake is ready the gingerbread man comes alive, leaps from the kitchen and runs away. The woman and her husband give chase but fail to catch him. The gingerbread man then outruns several farm workers and animals, before being caught, outwitted and devoured by a fox.



the Gingerbread Man

A new adaptation

THE GINGERBREAD MAN was created in January/February 2018, following in-depth R&D in 2017, involving dozens of children and young people. As with any Stuff & Nonsense show, this performance features delightful puppets and exciting physical performances by two versatile and experienced performers who specialise in family theatre, specially commissioned music and song, cleverly adaptable staging, comedy relevant to all ages and plenty of audience participation.

“This production is a contemporary adaptation of a classic tale. It was exciting to develop this story, working with children (ages 3-9) during our R&D, revealing that this classic story holds great interest for children. Their fascination seemed to lie around the energy of THE GINGERBREAD MAN who is born and has to run, without knowing why or who he is. He awakes, is shown a little kindness from the old lady who baked him, then realises he is in danger and has to run to stay alive. He learns to trust a fox that helps him, but then is betrayed by him. The children enjoy the danger and the opportunity to find ideas of ways they would survive.

In conversations with teachers, they spoke of difference in the classroom and how children learn to accept difference. This Gingerbread Boy/Man is different, so this offers a great provocation. He is very different! He is pretty much twodimensional, not just physically but he has not even had the chance to form his personality yet and he has to do this whilst on the run. I am excited to play with ideas of how THE GINGERBREAD MAN finds his feet in the world.

The original story is a brilliant catalyst. I love the energy and pace and all the different animals and characters that he comes across – in the original he doesn’t even know where he is running, so this is an opportunity to be inventive and find him in an imagined destination – hope, the idea (for a child) of what their life will be when they grow up. It also shows a struggle, determination, loneliness, resilience and being dauntless.

We play with urban and rural landscapes to reflect the places children understand, imaginary places that we don’t like and want to speed through, and moments of reflection. Understanding that he is different and using what is thrown at him is a strength that helps form who he is. I like the idea that we keep him writing home to his Mum to tell her of his adventures.” - Artistic Director Niki McCretton

Technical Information

Full tech spec available, outline as follows:

- Show Running time: 60 minutes no interval
- Set: minimum 8m (w), 6m (d) 3.5m (h) onstage, 2.5m (w), 5m (d) offstage
- Get In: minimum 4 hours before the house opens
- Get Out: 2 hours
- Technician requirement from venue:
- Pre-rig before the company's arrival (not included in Get In time)
- X 2 technicians for get in and get out • X 1 technician for show

Contact:

technical@aloadofstuffandnonsense.com

Marketing Information

- Supported by a full marketing pack (containing copy, images, press release, PR ideas and audience segmentation info, biographical info, key selling points and Box Office briefing).
- A3 posters and A5 flyers
- Video trailer and teaser
- Colour images supplied as jpegs
- Our work attracts a good mix of both regular arts attenders (approx. 66%) and those newer to the theatre (approx. 34%), including those in the four groups of least engaged audiences (contact us for more information and Show Stats breakdown).

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What our peers and critics say about us.....

"I've watched Niki McCretton open the eyes/minds/hearts of children and adults to the wonder of storytelling, performance and theatre, for more than a decade now. She's one of British theatre's hidden gemstones... .. Niki's a magnet for talent and great artists: we need to treasure her.

Take a child (by which I mean anyone from 3 to 103) to a show by Stuff and Nonsense. Watch how, within a minute or two their smile begins to widen, their mind starts to expand - then notice their expressions of delight and wonder... Stuff and Nonsense make the world a better place."

Chris Chibnall - Imaginary Friends Productions Head Writer and Show Runner for **Dr Who**, Writer of **Broadchurch** and **Torchwood**

"The qualities of play, production and storytelling coalesce into something very exciting. A packed house of young people were treated to a skilful, generous and imaginative journey."

Amit Lahey, Artistic Director of **Gecko Theatre** on **The Enormous Turnip**

★★★★ *"Puppetry, live music and good old-fashioned charm sprout up left, right and centre"*

The Stage on **The Enormous Turnip**

More about Stuff and Nonsense

Stuff & Nonsense, led by Niki McCretton, works alongside children, families, artists and theatres to make memorable and outstanding theatre. We place children's creativity at the heart of what we do and enable adults to become seriously playful.

We lead the field in adaptability of artistic product and quality delivery. We work vigorously to raise the quality of work for Children & Young People, building partnerships with leading theatres and encouraging high production values.

Founded in 2001, we have created nine artist-led, contemporary adaptations of well-known tales that fill a gap in the market. Demand for our work is proven, delivering over 2,000 performances to audiences in excess of 290k+ since 2010.

Based at The Lyric Theatre Bridport, Stuff and Nonsense, is an @HOME Artist at The Point, Eastleigh.

★★★★ *"Full of surprises...cleverly executed...imaginative and ambitious production."*

The Argus (Brighton) on The Gingerbread Man

Sample Print

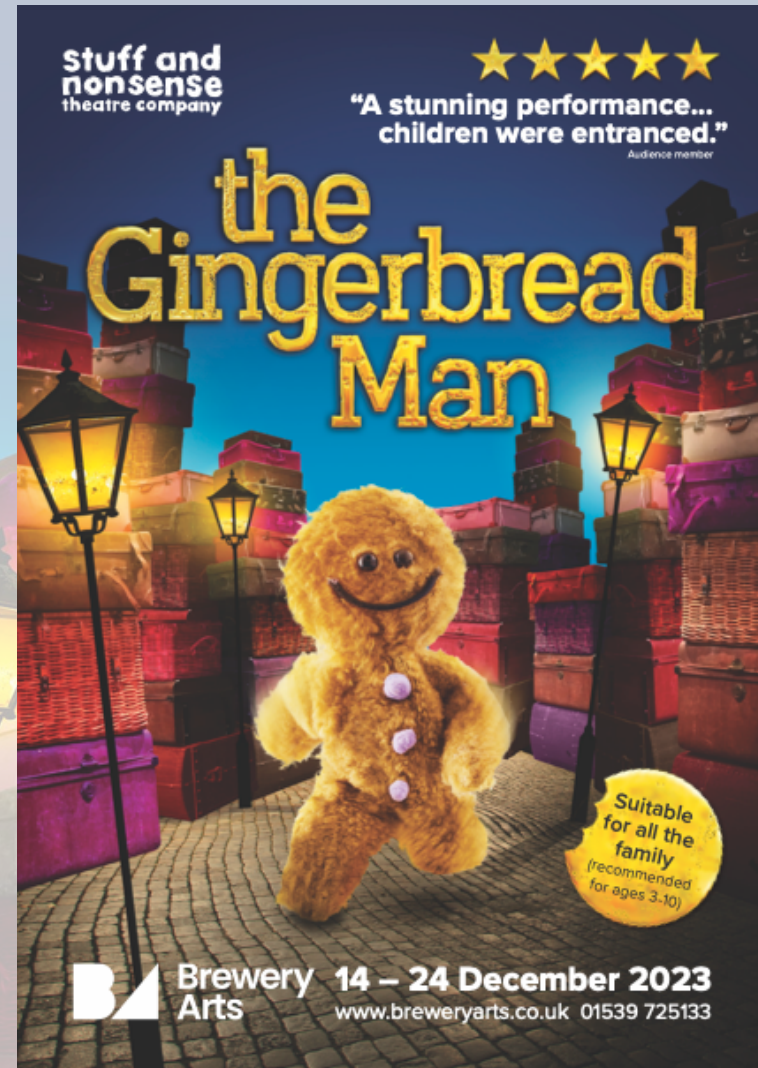
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All images by **Mark Morreau**

www.morraux.co.uk



For more information, contact: Tour Booker, Paula Hammond, on admin@aloadofstuffandnonsense.com or visit aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk

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