

**stuff and
nonsense**
theatre company



Pinocchio

Suitable for Large Studio and Mid Scale Venues

*"Stuff and
Nonsense's
Pinocchio!
It's like
Complicite
for kids!"*

**Jonathan McGrath,
Producer, FutureEverything**

*"Stuff and
Nonsense's
Pinocchio - a BIG
story beautifully
told with wit,
verve and
great skill!
Contemporary
Commedia for
family audiences"*

Mike Shepherd, Kneehigh

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Family favourites Stuff and Nonsense, loved by audiences and artists alike, have created their most ambitious show yet. A contemporary re-telling of a familiar classic, Pinocchio is guaranteed to be popular with audiences and add some stunning theatrical magic to your family programming.

Pinocchio is a co-production with Theatre Royal Plymouth, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, with additional support from Lighthouse, Poole, The Point, Eastleigh and The Lyric, Bridport.

“Niki McCretton, Director is working cleverly with adaptations of known stories to bring contemporary theatre to families of all ages, many of whom are tempted in by a known story and then hit with something wonderful and clever. Having worked with Niki I can see that she approaches adaptation in a genuinely creative way. She clearly aims to capture the spirit of the original, whilst committing to a wildly theatrical reinvention. She encourages audiences of all ages to bring their imaginations to the theatre, and revels in surprising and challenging them.”

Paul Hunter, Creative mentor

(Founder member & Artistic Director, Told by an Idiot)

Visit the incredible world of Stuff and Nonsense

Imagine coming to life to discover you are different, then sent to school on your first day in the world! Pinocchio certainly has a lot to take in his tiny stride.

Using the classic elements of this tale – a poor woodcarver, the tell-tale growing nose, the dream of becoming a real boy – S&N add their hallmark hilarity, cleverness, puppetry, music, incredible staging, outstanding performers and extraordinary physical tricks, in their most ambitious production to date.

Three very funny men seek refuge in a grand but abandoned old house, where they gather around an extraordinary dining table that becomes their playground. Grandfather, Father and Son tell tales of growing up; one of them used to be Pinocchio and it turns out he’s had quite a life!...

S&N are leaders in family theatre and Director Niki McCretton has children’s sensibilities in her heart and connecting families as her mission.

Our shows are a catalyst for creative conversations and families want to talk about them. ‘How did they do that?’ is a common question. Children want to act out the story and play games based on the games played in the show.

We say ‘Invest in your children’s imaginations and take playfulness home with you!’

Suitable for all the family, ages 3+.

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

What to Expect

- High quality production values delivered by an exciting creative team. Director Niki McCretton has been producing theatre for over 30 years, composer Dom Coyote is Associate Artist at Kneehigh, Niki is currently being mentored by Told by an Idiot's Paul Hunter and we're supported by co-producers Theatre Royal Plymouth and partners Lighthouse, Poole
- Top-class performances – Via extensive touring and an authentic, collaborative creation processes we attract experienced performers who have trained at some of the top institutions world-wide. This show stars Tim Dalling (Kneehigh) Daniel Rejano (Gandini Juggling) Jenny Harrold (Senior Artist, Stuff & Nonsense)
- A cast of three playing male roles, with a playful theme of grandfathers, fathers and sons and of home and loss, pertinent to childrens' experiences in the years lost in connecting with others following the pandemic
- Popular with both family audiences and schools - as always, Niki worked with children's input early in this co-creation process
- Genuinely works for all ages of the family - see our feedback!
- A highly physical performance using a large, custom designed table which upturns and is used as a centre piece for climbing, anchoring big physical moves, jumps and for working at height
- A breathtaking set design –a big show that transforms any space and is hugely theatrical. It surprises the audience again and again, with all the transitions made in front of their eyes. Many audience members express how creative the show is, full of ideas, striking images and surprises so that they immediately want to watch it again. They say that their children were totally captivated and that it is beautiful, exciting and at times very moving.
- A recognisable title to build trust and familiarity with new audiences
- Humour, charm and connection for all the family
- Plenty of action and surprises to keep all ages engaged throughout
- Characters include Pinocchio, his father and grandfather, and their conversations often touch on how they have different generational experiences. Although work on the show started pre-COVID, there are themes that are strangely coincidental

"Working with Niki McCretton and Stuff & Nonsense opened my eyes to just how thrilling and creative making good quality work for families and children can be. The attention to detail and nuance is staggering."

Helen Day, Performer
(recent credits:
Cirque Du Soleil, Tim Burton)



Director	Niki McCretton
Composer & Sound	Dom Coyote With additional songs by Tim Dalling
Writer	Anna Murphy
Design & Puppetry	Holly Miller
Performers	Tim Dalling Jenny Harrold Daniel Rejano
Creative Mentor	Paul Hunter (co-founder and Artistic Director, Told by an Idiot)
Producer	Jane McGibbon
S&N Patron	Chris Chibnall (BAFTA award-winning screenwriter, playwright and executive producer; credits include Dr Who and Broadchurch)

Niki McCretton (Director)

Artistic Director Niki McCretton has been producing theatre for over 30 years, with a strong reputation for contemporary, artistic children's theatre. She writes and directs adaptations of existing stories, always with children as her key collaborators. She teaches co-creation and mentors other artists. Niki brings with her an incomparable array of theatre-making experience crossing theatre, dance, puppetry and circus. Directing internationally for other companies as well as Stuff and Nonsense, she has created outdoor circus, large scale community productions and solo shows. She has toured internationally and has been an artist in residence with several theatres and dance agencies.

Dom Coyote (Composer & Sound Designer)

Composer, performer, recording artist and voice coach Dom Coyote writes music for film and stage, records albums, creates theatre, and is a voice coach specialising in Estill Voice Training. He is an associate artist with Kneehigh, co-director of WorkYourVoice vocal studio, Artistic Director of Bristol based Coyote Collective and has worked with companies including The British Paraorchestra, The National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Cirque Bijou, Battersea Arts Centre, Manchester Royal Exchange and Art Angel.

Holly Miller (Design & Puppetry)

Holly is a freelance puppet creator, propmaker and visual artist based at The Lyric Theatre in Bridport, Dorset. She has worked with Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company for five years. In addition to theatre work Holly designs and creates giant puppets and parade pieces working with community groups and schools. She runs puppet clubs and creative art workshops for adults and children. Holly also acts as our rehearsal director across various productions when things get busy!



Technical Information

Full tech spec available, outline as follows:

- Show Running time: 65 minutes no interval
- Set: minimum playing space required 7m deep x 9m wide x 5m high
- Get In: minimum 4 hours before house opens (assuming pre-rig)
- Get Out: 2 hours
- Technician requirement from venue: x2 technicians for get in, x2 for get out, x1 technician for show op
- Pre-rig before the company's arrival.

Contact: technical@aloadofstuffandnonsense.com

Marketing Support

- Extensive Marketing Pack
- A3 & A4 posters and A5 flyers
- 1-minute video trailer
- Colour production images
- Digital Workshops available in puppet making and music and we provide ideas and templates for wrap-around activities
- S&N's Marketing Consultant can share knowledge of successful campaigns and tours

Target Audiences

- Families, including multi-generational groups
- Primary school groups
- Groups from nurseries, playgroups, childminders, children's centres, beavers / cubs / rainbows / brownies
- Dormitory Dependables and Trips & Treats are our major Audience Spectrum groups (top 55% of 2019/20 attendees). S&N performs better than the industry average in attracting lower and medium engaged groups
- Approx two thirds of our audiences have seen us before, and a third are new. We build loyal audiences who will return to see S&N and trust us to provide a high quality experience

**Ticket prices to be agreed with the company.
Recommended price
£12-15
(min £10 ticket price).**

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

"This is not your regular children's theatre. This is anarchic, ambitious, quietly political work, it's about bringing joy and ideas and imagination into the world, with a real passion for engaging with young people and families all over the country... I don't think I've ever been happier in a rehearsal room than working on this show."

Dom Coyote,
Composer & Sound Designer





Recent Touring

The Gingerbread Man

Our most recent show to tour fully, achieving 85% attendance across 146 shows at 24 venues; touring since February 2018, seen by almost 27,000 people. Our 2018 seven-week Christmas run at Theatre Royal Plymouth beat box office records achieving 90% capacity and taking almost £97k ticket sales.

The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin

Touring impacted by COVID, but we managed a reduced Christmas 2020 run at 66% capacity at The Albany; and a February 2020 half-term run at Watermans at 95% capacity.

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Venues we have recently toured to:

- The Albany
- Watermans
- ARC, Stockton
- Lighthouse, Poole
- Theatre Royal Plymouth
- Brewhouse, Taunton
- Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
- Theatre by the Lake, Keswick
- Curve, Leicester
- Waterside, Sale
- Aberystwyth Arts Centre
- Nottingham Lakeside
- LBT Huddersfield
- Cornerstone, Didcot
- Electric Palace, Bridport
- The Berry, Eastleigh
- Norden Farm
- The Montgomery, Sheffield
- The Octagon, Yeovil
- Z Arts, Manchester
- Brewery Arts, Kendal
- New Wolsey, Ipswich
- MAST Southampton
- Theatre Clwyd
- The Met, Bury
- The Macready, Rugby
- Simply Theatre, Versoix





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More about Stuff and Nonsense

Stuff and Nonsense make inspiring shows for families. We unite creativity and imagination, so that children and adults can learn together and inspire each other. Our shows are co-created with children and incredible artists. We also teach, lead workshops, give schools resources and work with families to learn and make things.

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, which fill a gap in the market. Demand for our work is proven. Since 2010, we've delivered over 2,200 performances to over 300,000 people. Based at The Lyric Theatre Bridport, Stuff and Nonsense is an @HOME Artist at The Point, Eastleigh.

What our peers and critics say about us

"Working closely with Niki McCretton last year on The Man Who Wanted To Be A Penguin was, for me, an utterly mind expanding experience. The R&D process began with us visiting various schools...Almost a year later, in the rehearsal room, Niki was still referring back frequently to something this or that child had said in this or that school. So far from the children's involvement being tokenistic, without their input the show would have been unrecognisable."

Toby Thompson, Performance Poet

"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...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 (Patron), Imaginary Friends Productions, Writer of Broadchurch, Dr Who and Torchwood

Pinocchio

Marketing support includes:

- One minute trailer
- High quality production shots
- Social media posts
- Campaign supported by our experienced marketing associate
- A3, A4 and A5 flyers supplied with venue overprinting as standard.
- Additional sizes and banners available at venue cost.
- Stuff and Nonsense is committed to reducing their environmental impact so venues are requested to carefully consider their need for print and to keep quantities to a minimum.

For more information, contact:

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A huge thank you to our supporters:



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Photos by Mark Morreau