

"With live music, big, earthy performances and heart-melting puppetry, this comedy has a joyous, celebratory fizz and a piercing melancholy"

★★★★ The Times

o-region



MINACK  
THEATRE

o-region and the Minack present  
the Kneehigh production of

adapted  
& directed by  
Simon  
Harvey

Based  
on the  
Novel  
by Jim  
Dodge



20 September

- 5 October



Based on the 2016 Kneehigh production adapted and directed by Simon Harvey and designed by Rosanna Vize



Start with a cantankerous, 99 year old with a taste for gambling and homebrew; add in an obsessive, adopted grandson and finish with an oversized fowl with an iron will and a fondness for romantic movies. What do you get? You get FUP. A hilarious and heart-warming tale of a Granddaddy, his Grandson and an ass-kicking duck who will change their world forever.

This wildly irreverent adaptation of Jim Dodge's cult classic novel was a joyous smash hit when it was co-produced by Kneehigh and o-region in 2016. Featuring live foot-stomping music and quacking puppetry, the majority of the original company return to recreate this big hearted, uproarious, modern fable set in a wild and wonderful Cornwall, a bit like this one.

Written and directed by Olivier Award winning Cornish Director Simon Harvey.

Produced by o-region and the Minack Theatre 2023.





# DIRECTED by SIMON HARVEY

I first became aware of Jim Dodge's brilliantly odd little novella about twenty-five years ago when it was recommended by a friend. I was immediately swept up in the weirdly funny and strangely moving world of Granddaddy Jake, Tiny and Fup the whisky drinking duck.

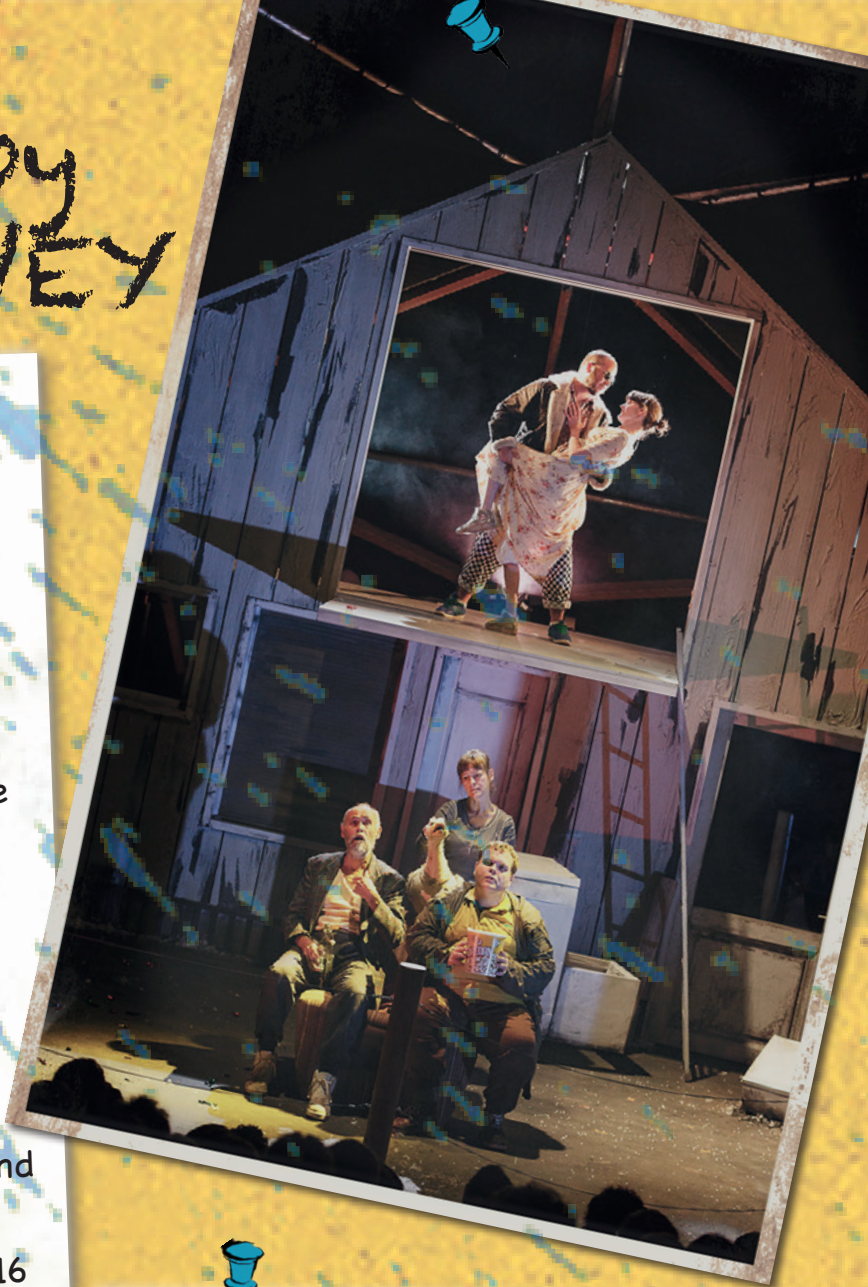
I remember thinking this would make a great show one day.

Many years later, after performing, assistant and associate directing for Kneehigh Theatre, I was offered the opportunity to develop a show. I looked at various ideas but nothing quite stuck until I remembered that funny little book about the family and the duck.

The show was originally made in 2016 and played a sell-out run at the Kneehigh Asylum. It then went on to tour around the UK and touched a nerve with audiences and critics alike.

I had thought that FUP had flown her last when we finished our tour. So I was delighted when the Minack suggested remounting it for this year's season.

I'm doubly delighted that the majority of our original cast, with the addition of Truro girl Chloe Endean, have returned for this most special show in this most special of theatres.



I think FUP is a story that is deceptive in its depth. Amongst the rough quirkiness and eccentricity lie powerful themes of grief, family and love. Aesthetically and tonally FUP has the naivety of a children's show but with a rich seam of real-life tragedy and drama threaded throughout. It is a show which is designed to make you laugh early and take you somewhere unexpectedly emotional and beautiful later.

Ultimately FUP is a story of love and hope in the face of a difficult hand dealt by life. I hope it finds some resonance with you.



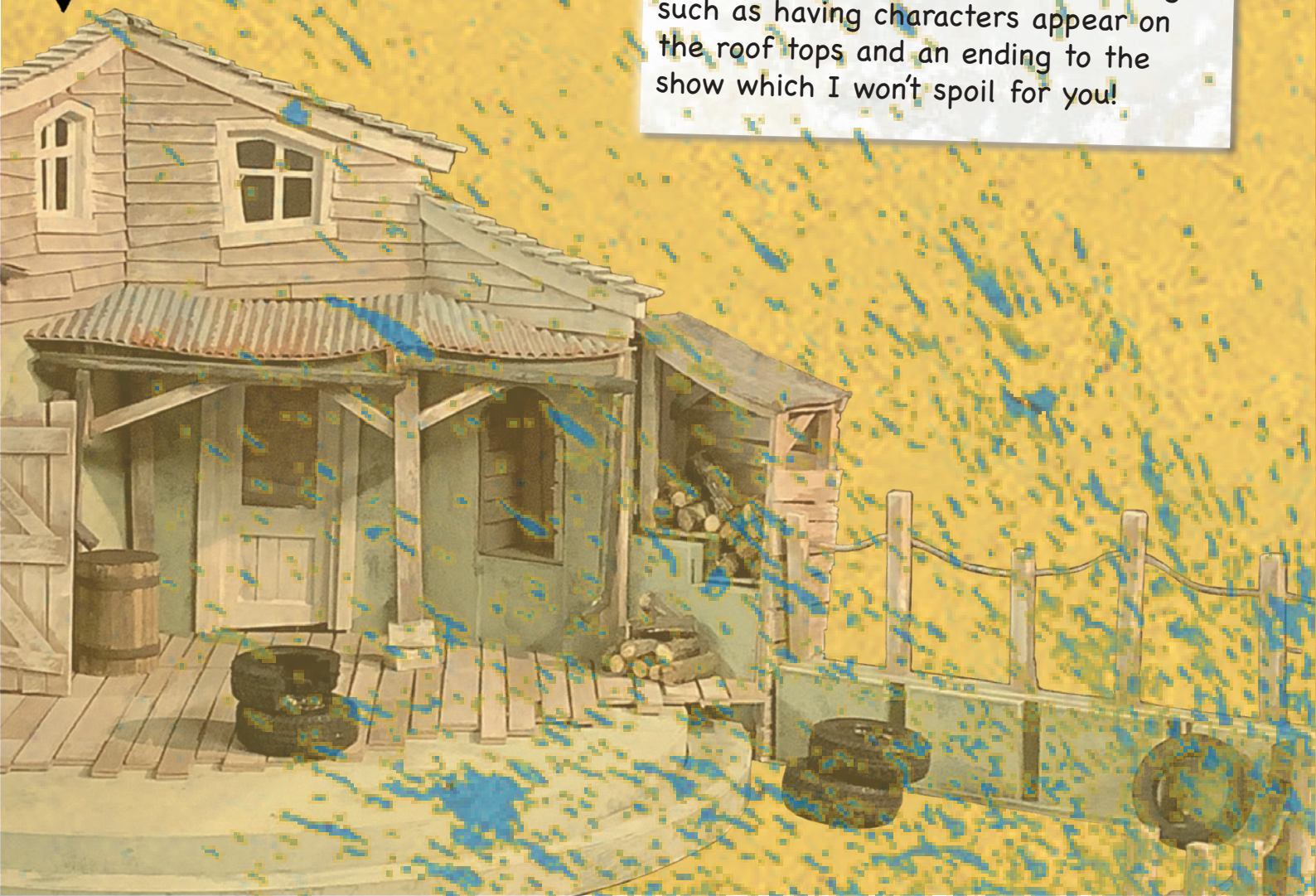
# DESIGN by ELROY ASHMORE

FUP is set in and around the run down yard of a non-working farm full of agricultural machinery and general junk, owned by Granddaddy Jake, a social misfit who lives his life just as he wants. With this in mind I had to think back to my childhood when I had friends who lived on just such a farm. It was the type of place where, when something broke or was finished with, you just chucked it into the yard where

it might come in useful for something else – or not.

I've tried to recreate this within the architecture of the Minack stage. The veranda and farmhouse look as if Jake has cobbled it together with any old wood he could get hold of. My brief to the set builder was to use only demolition timber on the build. I would have loved to dress the set with old tractors, broken down cars, an old lorry and such like, but getting these down onto the Minack stage would be impossible without some prohibitively expensive helicopter lifting!

One other source of inspiration was the Popeye Village in Malta. It was originally the set for the film of Popeye and is now a tourist attraction. All the timber buildings are wonky and out of shape, the very look I was after. The design had a number of challenges such as having characters appear on the roof tops and an ending to the show which I won't spoil for you!





# MUSIC by BEN SUTCLIFFE

It was almost 10 years ago I was invited to be Music Director for an R&D of FUP at the Kneehigh Barns. We had just a handful of days to play with ideas and it was enormous fun.

Simon Harvey had sent me the book to have a read. It was set on an isolated ranch in a remote corner of America, the sort of place where blues and bluegrass run through the veins. Simon also pointed me in the direction of the film **Raising Arizona** - the soundtrack

of which was a huge inspiration. During the R&D process, I was so inspired that I went home each night full of ideas to explore. The songs I wrote over those few days are still in the show today and paved the way for many of the recurring themes.

When the show went into full force rehearsals to be performed at the Kneehigh Asylum, I was lucky enough to have Zaid Al-Rikabi join me as my fellow musician on the show - a killer guitarist and performer. Together we immersed ourselves in the story, puppetry, comedy and heartbreak of this beautiful fable.

Now set in rural Cornwall, the blues and bluegrass influence remained, giving the music a quirky and raw sound. Everyone in the cast is a strong singer and everybody gets involved in the music area!

This is a show I am truly proud of, and the team are a real family.







# ABOUT O-REGION

o-region is an ambitious, cross-disciplinary Cornish theatre and film production company.

## **Our Mission Statement**

o-region works across theatre and film telling stories that raise smiles, punch guts, broaden horizons and affirm lives. Rooted in our native Cornwall, we produce work for local, national and international audiences, and provide talent development and showcasing opportunities for all ages and backgrounds.

Working class and artist led, we have since 2002 created work which spans touring theatre to feature films, live events, screenings and online film

challenges. Our work is accessible, telling stories and exploring issues which are rooted in Cornwall, but with a national/international resonance.

For more information on our work check out [www.o-region.com](http://www.o-region.com)

**Artistic Director:** Simon Harvey  
**Board of Trustees:**  
Kevin Brownridge (Chair)  
Kirsty Cotton  
Bethany Lyne  
Ian Hughes  
Laura Giles



# CAST

Tiny  
Gabrielle  
Puppeteer  
Granddaddy Jake  
Musician  
Musician

Calvin Dean  
Chloe Endean  
Rachel Leonard  
David Mynne  
Ben Sutcliffe  
Zaid Al-Rikabi

Cover actors: Mike Shepherd,  
Josh Williams & Jennie Rawling

## Thank you to

Mike Shepherd  
Brett Harvey  
Carl Grose  
Steve Tanner  
Millie Brolly  
Yasmin Baird  
Oliver Berry  
Martin Quick  
& Daryl Waller  
for their support of this production.

Also to Rosanna Vize  
(Designer, original production)  
& Malcolm Rippeth  
(Lighting Designer, original production)





# PRODUCTION TEAM



Director	Simon Harvey
Assistant Director	Millie Jones
Designer	Elroy Ashmore
Movement Director	Helen Tiplady
Sound Designer	Andy Graham
Puppet Designer	Lyndie Wright
Puppet Direction	Sarah Wright & Rachel Leonard
Production Manager & Lighting Designer	Simon Hutchings
Costume Supervisor	Marion Harrison
Company Stage Manager	Jordan Lever
Deputy Stage Manager	Jenny Beare
Assistant Stage Manager	Millie Jones
Sound Operator	Byron Ladd Carr
Set Builders	Dan Richardson, Louis King & Rob Higgs
Producer	Zoë Curnow
Publicity Design	Matt Travis
Social Media	Holly Stott-Penna
Programme Design	Vanessa Jackson



## ZAID AL-RIKABI (Musician)

Zaid Al-Rikabi is a musician, actor, composer and puppeteer based in the South West. He graduated from Bath Spa University with a BA (Hons) in creative writing before being swept into the successes of his performance career.

He is currently a core member of Quirk Theatre Company, the lead facilitator for the South West music school's performance development program, Associate Artist at the Hall for Cornwall and continues to freelance as a musical director and dramaturg for professional artists.

Zaid is the co-founder/composer and producer of **The People's String Foundation** an internationally touring 32 piece Roots orchestra in its thirteenth year. As well as having toured 100s of theatrical shows they have produced 3 studio albums.

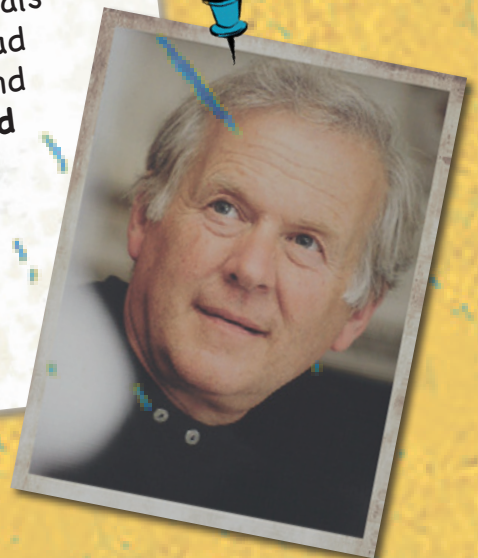
His composer credits: **FUP** (Kneehigh Theatre); **Quest for the Ice Dragon**, **The Magic Lantern** and **The Story Thief** (Stiltskin Children's Theatre); various shows for Trebiggan Productions (formerly Bish Bash Bosh), **Mr Zablonio** (Rogue Theatre), **Goodnight Mister Tom**, **The Railway Children**, **The Secret Garden**, **The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch** and **Tom's Midnight Garden** (the Minack Theatre), **Operation Neptune** (Cousin Jacks); **The Owl Man** (Over The Wall Productions) and **The White Horse of Zennor** (o-region).



## ELROY ASHMORE (Designer)

Elroy studied design on The Motley Design Course and over his career has designed over 250 productions. He has held positions of Head of Design for several theatres including Pitlochry Festival Theatre, The Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke, The Belgrade Theatre in Coventry and at The Mountview Theatre School. He has freelanced for many years designing Drama and Musicals throughout the UK, Opera and Ballet both here and abroad including in Japan, America, South Africa, New Zealand and Iceland. His recent work includes designing **Sweeney Todd** at Wiltons Music Hall in London.

This is the fifth production Elroy has designed for the Minack Theatre following **The Railway Children**, **The Secret Garden**, **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase** and **Hetty Feather**.





## JENNY BEARE (Deputy Stage Manager)

Jenny has spent the majority of her career performing, puppeteering & storytelling, largely in Cornwall. She has worked with Kneehigh Theatre, o-region, Scary Little Girls, Golden Tree, Eden Project and performed at the Minack many times. For the past 4 years she has also worked backstage & on production - she was Company Stage Manager for **Calvino Nights** (the Minack in cahoots with Mike Shepherd) for 2022 and 2023. Jenny was in the first two outings of **FUP** in 2016/18 and is very much looking forward to being part of it again here on the Porthcurno cliffs.



## CALVIN DEAN (Tiny)

Calvin was born in Cornwall before training at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.



Theatre includes **FUP** (Kneehigh/o-region - 2016/2018); **Breakfast in Brighton** (Boulevard, Soho); **Hell Land** (Theatre503); **The Threepenny Opera** (Battersea Arts); **Hanging Around** (NYT/Kneehigh/National Theatre). TV work includes **Strike** (BBC); **It's A Sin** (Channel 4); **Murder in the Carpark** (Channel 4); **Trauma** (ITV); **Agatha Raisin** (SKY); **Doctor Who** (BBC); **The Intern** (Channel 4); **Dancing on the Edge** (BBC); **Law & Order: UK** (ITV); **The Sarah Jane Adventures** (BBC); **Casualty** (BBC); **Demons** (ITV); **Watch Over Me II** (BBC).

Calvin has also appeared in films including **Fractured** (Amazon/Jumpstart); **Howl** (Metrodome Film); **Passengers** (Ratio Film); **Tormented** (BBC Film/Pathé/Warner Bros); **The Duchess** (BBC Films/Pathé), **Don't Move** (Bloody Cuts); **Scale Down** (CosmoLeigh); **Big Ears** (Baron/Shah); **Make Aliens Dance** (Annex/Lovo Films).

He won Best Actor at Brussels Short Film Festival; Hyperwave, Los Angeles and Eindhoven Film Festival for **Make Aliens Dance**. Calvin recently voiced the character of Boc in the multi-award-winning game **Elden Ring**.



## CHLOE ENDEAN (Gabrielle)

Chloe is a Cornish actress who works across film and theatre.

Her film work includes **LONG WAY BACK** (Brett Harvey); **Sensibility** (Ha Hum Ha) and the BAFTA winning **Bait** (Mark Jenkin). Theatre includes: **Twisted Tales Volume 1**, National Tour ('Owdyado Theatre); **Treasure Island**, Pantomime (Hall for Cornwall); **Calvino Nights** (The Minack); **13: The Musical** (Ambassadors Theatre). Music Videos include: **In the Court of the Dragon** (Trivium); **Apricots** (Bicep).

Chloe has also voiced audiobooks including **The Lip** by Charlie Carroll and **We All Have Our Secrets** by Jane Corry.



## SIMON HARVEY (Director)

Simon is the Artistic Director of o-region for whom he has produced and directed **HIRETH** and **MARTHUSOW HA MYSTERIS** (HFC/Kresen Kernow). He wrote and directed **FUP** (in co-production with Kneehigh).

Simon co-directed the Olivier award winning **Pride and Prejudice (sort of)** for David Pugh Ltd which ran at the Criterion Theatre in London's West End and toured nationally around Scotland and the UK.

For Kneehigh, Simon's work as Director included **The Illustrated Girl**, **FUP** and **Noye's Fludde**. As Associate Director **Brief Encounter**, **Tristan and Yseult**, **946** and **The Red Shoes**. Other directing credits include **Christmas Time** for Near Ta Theatre, **A Christmas Carol**, **The Canterbury Tales Carol** for Palores Productions.

Work in film includes producing the feature films **The Midnight Drives** by Mark Jenkin, **Weekend Retreat**, **Brown Willy** and **LONG WAY BACK** by Brett Harvey.

Simon has been a Bard of the Gorsedh since 2020.





## MILLIE JONES (Assistant Director)

Most recently, Millie has worked on Sarah Connors' **Levelling** (R&D, as Director/Producer), Mike Shepherd's **Calvino Nights** (Minack, as Assistant Director), o-region's **White Horse of Zennor** (R&D, as Assistant Producer/Assistant Director), Double M Arts' **The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart** (USA tour/The McKittrick Hotel NYC, as CSM), Tim Dalling's **The Magic Hare-Piece** (R&D, as Producer), and she books tours for David Mynne. She has also worked for theatres and companies such as Kneehigh, Little Angel Theatre, Lyceum Theatre (Edinburgh), WildWorks, C-Scape Dance Company and Hall for Cornwall, in many and varied roles including Stage Manager, Production Assistant and Art Department Assistant.



## JORDAN LEVER (Company Stage Manager)

Jordan trained at GSA Conservatoire and since graduating in 2007 has worked extensively in Stage Management on various productions ranging from West End to Touring and Regional Theatre. Credits include: **The Cher Show** (UK Tour), **SIX** (Vaudeville Theatre, London), **King Lear** (Miracle Theatre Tour), **The Firework Maker's Daughter** (the Minack Theatre) **Johannes Radebe, Freedom** (UK Tour '22 and '23), **Cinderella** (Hall for Cornwall) **Fisherman's Friends: the Musical** (Hall for Cornwall), **The Sorcerer's Apprentice** (Southwark Playhouse), **The Effect** (Boulevard Theatre, London), **The Sunset Limited** (Boulevard Theatre, London), **Fiddler on the Roof** (Menier Chocolate Factory & The Playhouse Theatre, London), **Don Carlos** (UK Tour), **Pressure** (The Ambassadors Theatre, London) **Witness for the Prosecution** (County Hall, London), **Co:Lab Festival** (Royal Exchange, Manchester), **Love In Idleness** (Menier Chocolate Factory & The Apollo Theatre London), **Sweet Charity** (Royal Exchange, Manchester), **Show Boat** (New London Theatre, London), **Jersey Boys** (UK Tour), **Amour** (Royal Academy of Music), **Once: the Musical** (Phoenix Theatre, London), **Chariots of Fire** (Gielgud Theatre, London), **Dirty Dancing** (Aldwych Theatre, London & UK Tour), **The Olivier Awards 2011** (Theatre Royal Dury Lane, London), **Keeping Up Appearances** (UK Tour), **Dancing Queen** (UK Tour), **Victoria Wood's Dinnerladies** (UK Tour), **Cinderella** (Basingstoke), **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** (UK Tour).





## RACHEL LEONARD (Puppeteer)

Rachel is thrilled to be back in the company of this feisty duck and her unique family and also to be performing at the Minack for the first time.

Previous work includes: Travels with **Little Amal**, the 3 and a half metre tall puppet of a Syrian girl who lost her mother on their hunt for safety, and now travels as an ambassador for displaced children everywhere, with the simple message 'Don't forget about us'. Other theatre includes: **A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings** (Kneehigh); **War Horse** and **Il Returno D'Ulisse** (Handspring); **The Tao Of Glass** (Improbable). For the RSC: **Venus and Adonis**. For Silent Tide: **The Adventures of Curious Ganz**. For The Little Angel Theatre: **The Journey Home**, **Sleeping Beauty in the Wood**, **Angelo**, **The Little Mermaid** and many more.

Rachel has directed puppetry for the RSC and Gyre & Gimble amongst others, and is a tutor with The Curious School of Puppetry.



## DAVID MYNNE (Grandaddy Jake)

"Veteran Cornish actor" - someone described him as this in a review, (David says he thinks it's a polite way of saying old!) - and a founder member of Kneehigh.

In 2013, with retirement looming, he worked with director Simon Harvey to create a solo performance of Charles Dickens' **Great Expectations**. Further titles followed: Bram Stoker's **Dracula**; Homer's **The Odyssey**; another Charles Dickens classic, **A Christmas Carol** and Geoffrey Chaucer's **Canterbury Tales**. **Sherlock Holmes** is in the pipeline for 2024.

David tours his work nationally (with the occasional outing abroad) performing in theatres, arts centres, village halls, churches, barns, pubs, cellars, fields, gardens, parks... basically anywhere with enough space for him and an audience!

In 2016/18 he toured **FUP**, playing 'drunken old reprobate, Jake Santee'. Now, five years on, he finds himself growing a beard again and readying Jake for his first outing at the Minack. "Let's get on with the getting!" [davidmynne.com](http://davidmynne.com)





## BEN SUTCLIFFE (Music Director)



Ben is a Music Director, composer and performer who has worked for a number of theatre companies including Dash Arts, Kneehigh Theatre, the Minack Theatre, Rogue Theatre, o-region and Owdyado Theatre. He works as a puppeteer for Stiltskin Children's Theatre in Devon and for Brave Biscuit Studios in Cornwall. Ben is the co-founder, violinist and singer for the urban-roots project **The People's String Foundation** which tours internationally as a duo, a festival band and an orchestra. He is a Grade 8 classically trained violinist who has played with **The Levellers, The Yardbirds, Ralph McTell, Carleen Anderson, Reef and The Stranglers.**

Ben is a mentor and workshop leader for the South West Music School - working with individuals and as part of residencies. He has toured nationally to schools and community spaces providing workshops in puppetry, theatre and music. Ben has recently released an album of original choral music, **Stations of the Cross**, sung in the Cornish language which has won the Gorsedh Kurnow award.







at the Minack Theatre  
17-19 October

(a new play by  
sarah connors)

01736 810181  
minack.com