

'The jolly young knight with the trademark dashing socks' THE GUARDIAN

Sir Charlie Stinky Socks

and the

REALLY BIG
ADVENTURE

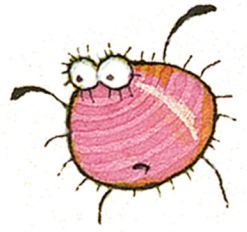
A
Fun-filled
Family
Show

PROGRAMME

www.practicallyperfectpictures.co.uk

PRACTICALLY
PERFECT
PICTURES

ABOUT PRACTICALLY PERFECT PICTURES



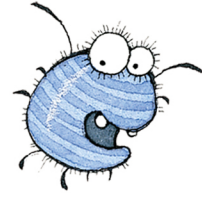
Practically Perfect Pictures is a national touring theatre and multi-arts company fusing live music, storytelling, puppetry, movement and art into unique, carefully crafted performances and workshops for families. It was started by author/illustrator, Kristina Stephenson and musician/composer, Nigel Ellis, with an aim to inspire young audiences, ignite imaginations and make the arts accessible to children everywhere. We tour to theatres, arts centres, schools, libraries, museums, concert halls, outdoor spaces and festivals with a team of actor-musicians and puppeteers, keeping the music live, the imagery beautiful and the magic palpable.

Our work is always based on a picture book but it is never about simply retelling a story – we prefer to explore what lies behind the story and look beyond the pictures in order to help children (and their grown-ups) make an emotional connection with an important theme or message. Central to our work is innovation, humour, empowerment and accessibility, and we pride ourselves in creating high quality work that appeals to children and adults in equal measure. We want families to sit together, side-by-side and get lost in a magical adventure of creative possibility and self-discovery without any boundaries or theatrical preconception.

Recent productions include ***The Museum of Marvellous Things*** which had a successful run at Jacksons Lane, London before touring nationally to The New Wolsey, The Albany, Lyric Hammersmith, Stamford Arts Centre, Salisbury Arts Centre, Lakeside Arts Centre, Cambridge Junction, Cornerstone The Hat Factory, Guildhall Grantham and Ropetackle arts Centre. ***Sir Charlie Stinky Socks & The Really Big Adventure*** has been created to mark the 20th anniversary of a much loved and best-selling picture book of the same name.



A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER



Twenty years ago, I was inspired to write a picture book by my then 3-year-old son, Charlie. A chance comment he made about some imaginary creatures that he called Wiggly Woos sparked an idea. As I watched Charlie leap on and off the sofa, making up imaginary scenarios with this sister, the idea grew into a story. The story was turned into what became a bestselling book. The book led to me develop an interactive storytelling workshop which I took into countless schools over the years. The results of the workshops lay the foundations for a wild but very exciting devising period with musicians, actors, puppeteers and designers. And rather amazingly an epic musical stage show was born – the one that you have come to see today.

Yes, it's taken two decades and a team of incredibly talented creatives to make all this has happen. But it's only been possible because of one very simple yet incredibly powerful thing...PLAY!

Children are natural-born storytellers and when they are allowed the time for unfettered fantasy play something incredible happens. Effortlessly, they weave together stunningly original language with unique role play to create gloriously imagined, unique worlds, characters and narratives. Often, they need nothing more than a sofa, or a pair of fluffy slippers or a stick. They do not follow rules. There are no wrongs or rights - no constraints from someone telling them what they can or can't do. They are kings of their domain and the domain of play is just magical.

As a writer, theatre maker and storyteller, I believe passionately in that magic. It weaves its way through all my work. **Sir Charlie Stinky Socks & The really Big Adventure** is a celebration of the importance of play, the power of imagination and the joy of shared storytelling. It came from children and it's for children.



CAST

STAGE DOOR KEEPER/MUSICIAN

Nigel Ellis

NARRATOR/WITCH

Kristina Stephenson

CHARLIE

Janna May/Maddie Hansen

PRINCESS

Emily Palmer/Marth-Rose McKeown

DRAGON

Eddie Ahrens

BEASTIES

Brought alive by members of the cast

ENVELOPE

Brought alive by Janna May/Maddie Hansen and members of the cast

GOOD GREY MARE

Brought alive by Janna May/Maddie Hansen

ADDITONAL BEASTIES, MONSTROUS TREES/WIGGLY WOOS, ADDITIONAL CHARLIE

Played by members of the audience





EDDIE AHRENS

Dragon

Eddie is an actor, singer, puppeteer, pianist and accordionist, originally from the Cotswolds but now living in London. Fresh off his stint puppeteering the Cheshire Cat in 'Alice in Wonderland' at London's Marylebone Theatre, Eddie is excited to bring his love for puppeteering to many more audiences with Sir Charlie Stinky Socks!

Marley/Fezziwig/Mrs Cratchit/Ensemble; A Christmas Carol (Half Cut Theatre, The Capitol Studio), *Cheshire Cat; Alice in Wonderland* (Nate Bertone/Eva Sampson, DEM Productions) *Kam; Jock Night* (Adam Zane, Hive North), *Nye Bevan/Company Member; Jennie Lee* (Marianne McNamara, Mikron Theatre Company), *Company Member; Common Ground* (Gitika Buttoo, Mikron Theatre Company), *Company Member, A Force to be Reckoned with/Twitchers* (Mikron Theatre Company 2023).



EMILY PALMER

Princess



Emily is an actor musician who trained at the Guildford School of Acting, graduating in 2022. Credits while training include; *Genevieve (The Baker's Wife)*, *Mrs. Jex/Dance Captain (Tipping The Velvet)*, *As You Like It (Le Beau/ensemble)*. Since graduating, Emily has worked extensively with young people in and around the Surrey area. She has a particular passion for theatre for young audiences and has loved bringing this story to life.



JANNA MAY

Sir Charlie/Princess

Janna May is a proud Filipina from Sydney, Australia. She is an actor-musician and aspiring songwriter, who trained at both Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and Guildford School of Acting with a BA (Hons) in Actor-Musician. Her professional credits include: *Scandalgate* (workshop with New Frame Productions, The Other Palace); *The Museum of Marvellous Things* (UK Tour), *Dick Whittington and his Cat* (New Wolsey Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (UK Tour); *The Hatpin Revival* (workshop with Taylor Wright Productions); *Hare and Tortoise* (Theatre in Education Tour, Suffolk), *Comfort* (The Camden Fringe) and *All For Your Delight* (UK Tour).

She is so delighted to be back, ready to bring some more fun and bigger surprises with the team!



MADDIE HANSEN

Sir Charlie/Princess

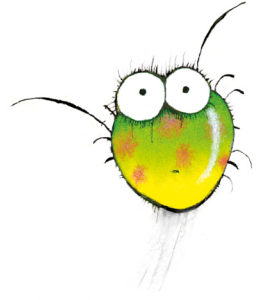
Maddie is an actor and musician who trained at the Guildford School of Acting and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Her theatre credits include; *Speedo Mick the Musical* at Liverpool's Royal Court, *Brassed Off* at Gala Durham, *The Museum of Marvellous Things* with *Practically Perfect Pictures*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Aladdin* at Leeds City Varieties. This year she will be appearing in *Brassed Off* at the Leeds Playhouse. Maddie is a member of the original Sir Charlie Stinky Socks team and can't wait to go on another adventure with Sir Charlie on tour!





MARTHA-ROSE

PRINCESS



Martha-Rose is an actor and musician, having recently graduated in 2024 from the University of Chichester with a degree in Acting. Her professional credits include *Rick Whittington* (West Midlands Children's Theatre); *Frosty & The Snowflakes* (Paultons Park); *The Ladies of Juliana* (SweptUnder Productions); *The Trial of Phillip Merryfield* (Kitchen Sink Productions) and *The UK Premiere Tour of A Christmas Carol: The Concert* (The Spectre Orchestra).

She is absolutely delighted to be joining the team behind *Sir Charlie Stinky Socks* and can't wait to help bring this magical, mischievous world to life for young audiences and their families.



CREATIVE TEAM

**WRITER/DESIGNER/PRODUCER**

Kristina Stephenson

DIRECTOR

Devised by the Company

COMPOSER/MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Nigel Ellis

DRAGON SONG

Mark Walker Arr. Nigel Ellis

CHOREOGRAPHY

By the company

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Sarah Bath

PUPPETS

Stitches and Glue

PUPPET DIRECTION

Paul Vincett & Becky Johnson

PROPS

Cod Steaks

SET CONSTRUCTION

Tin Shed Productions

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Teri Buxton and Bristol Cut & Construct

MILLINERY

Sue Crowle

CAKE CONSTRUCTION

Minki Balinki

POSTER DESIGN

Jenny Stephenson

MARKETING DESIGN

Michelle Brackenborough

VIDEOGRAPHY

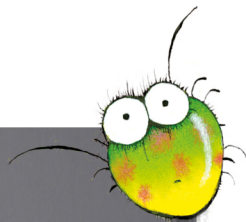
Visuals by Evie

PHOTOGRAPHY

Harvey Mills & Ash Mills

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Charlie Ellis



KRISTINA STEPHENSON

Writer/Designer/Producer

Kristina trained as a set and costume designer at the Central School of Art and Design. She worked as an assistant designer at the NT and went on to design at the Transverse Theatre Edinburgh, Theatre Royal Northampton TIE and numerous small theatres around the country. She moved into television as a designer and later a writer, producer and occasional presenter, specialising in young children's productions and programming for BBC, ITV and Channel 4. She began writing and illustrating children's books in an attic in London after her first child was born. She has worked for publishers both in the UK and USA and has appeared at all the major literary festivals around the country. Her picture books have featured on CBeebies and ITV and her book *The Museum of Marvellous Things* was adapted for the stage and is currently touring as a successful theatre show. Her latest book *Perfect Harmony* featuring three fabulous singing fish is published by Puffin and is being developed by Practically Perfect Pictures into a new musical for families. Kristina is best known for her best-selling series *Sir Charlie Stinky Socks* and is thrilled that her eponymous knight is making his stage debut.



NIGEL ELLIS

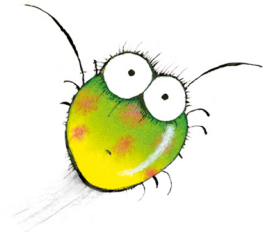
Composer/Musical Director

Nigel is a musician with a wealth of experience as both a composer and a performer. He has written music for children's TV (*A Box Full of Stories*, Channel 4) and composed, arranged and produced music for many children's audio books, including 9 books in the *Sir Charlie Stinky Socks* series. Most recently he composed and arranged the music for *The Museum of Marvellous Things* stage show in which he also performs. As a musician Nigel has played in countless West End shows including *Sunset Boulevard*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Annie*, *Crazy for You*. He has played at NT and Sydney Opera House (although not at the same time) and performed with many of the best orchestras in the UK, including The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the LSO and the BBC Concert Orchestra. He played clarinet and saxophone for *Star Wars in Concert Arena Tour* (USA and Europe) with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He is delighted to be writing the music and songs for ***Sir Charlie Stinky Socks and the Really Big Adventure*** and also playing in the show.

STITCHES AND GLUE

Puppet Design/Movement

An award-winning creature effects and puppet making company, specialising in character creation and fabrication for film, television and theatre. Paul and Becky have a combined 30 years' experience and a unique approach to puppet making from traditional Bunraku puppets to sophisticated creature animatronics. They have expertise in bringing characters alive through design, creation and performance of their puppets, underpinned by a genuine passion for storytelling.

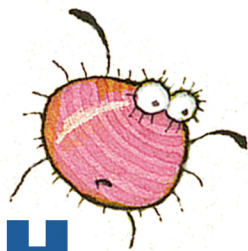


Credits: *ERIC, Netflix 2023 – Creature Effects Supervisors and Suppliers*

Wonka, 2021 – VFX Puppet Supervisors

Jim Henson's The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance, 2019 – Fabrication co Supervisor/Senior Puppet maker. Fabricator

Disney's Beauty and the Beast, 2017 – Fabrication Supervisor/Senior fabricator (Creature Department)



SARAH BATH

Lighting Designer

Sarah trained in Stage Management and Technical Theatre at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Lighting designs include *Sweeny Todd*, *La Cenerentola*, *Candide* (West Green House Opera), *Stone Songs*, *Earthrise* (Salisbury International Arts Festival, Salisbury Cathedral), *Second Star to the Right* (MAST), *The Wizard of Oz* (Stage 65, Salisbury Playhouse), *Strictly Twelfth Night*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *Blood & Ice*, *Mary Shelley* (Arts University Bournemouth), *Kinky Boots*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Evita*, *Into The Woods* (Musical Theatre Salisbury), *Elegy for a Lady/Yalta Game*, *Hollywood Screams* (Salberg, Salisbury Playhouse.)

Sarah previously worked as Assistant Electrician at Salisbury Playhouse and now works as a freelance lighting designer and production manager alongside teaching Production Arts for Wiltshire Creative Academy.

COD STEAKS

Props Design and Construction

In 1980 Cod Steaks was established as a specialist model making company, providing Oscar and BAFTA Award winning sets and models to the animation industry, alongside design and construction for TV, Theatre, museums, advertising, exhibition and theming. Over the years they have become firmly established as a leading Creation Agency in the UK, known for imagination and expertise in extraordinary design and construction.

Credits: *The Making of Harry Potter – Warner Brothers’ Studio Tour – Tokyo*
Harry Potter Stores – NYC, Chicago and Tokyo
The Bristol Whales Project
Wallace and Gromit – The Curse of the Were Rabbit
Alien – Sir Ridley Scott Exhibition
And so much more...

