



WONDERFUL FEAST

presents

FIRST THE
DANCE,
THEN THE
FEAST

THORINGTON THEATRE

THURSDAY 23 AND FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

Continuing our pop up at New Street Market,
Woodbridge, serving a best of
Suffolk and British produce



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WEDDINGS · EVENTS · ACCOMMODATION · YOGA

An Eastern European Folktale of Magic and Music

Thorington Theatre

Thursday 23 June at 16:30 and

Friday 24 June at 18:30

FIRST THE DANCE, THEN THE FEAST

A poor man, with more children than he can count, is threatened with expulsion from his home, when the alternative to paying higher rent is starvation.

But just as all seems lost, a mysterious woman of the woods appears and gives the poor man a violin that makes people dance - whether they like it or not - and a table that produces an endless amount of porridge and beans.

And so the enchantment begins, and the poor man starts to make use of his newfound power.

But how can such a dance end?
Surely only with a feast.

Wonderful Beast has been dramatising and telling stories for 25 years, through a myriad of ways. Music has been very much at the heart of our work. We aim to impact on the whole community, from early years to senior citizens, offering creative opportunities, valuing everyone's contribution, and mixing up amateurs and professionals in an exhilarating shared experience.

The idea for First the Dance, Then the Feast has long been in the offing. I came across this beautiful Hungarian folk tale several years ago, and imagined how it would make the perfect vehicle for a music and dance-filled community production. And now after two years of Covid restrictions, the dream of presenting live theatre again is finally being realised.

The folktale has been a moveable feast, progressing from a simple telling to a theatrical interpretation, with input from all the creative team and the children. Songs have been composed, and thrilling Eastern European gypsy and klezmer music chosen. Traditional dances and songs have been learned in their own languages, as bit by bit the production has been built. And for the first time, this week, all the children and cast have met to rehearse and perform together, with everything, hopefully, falling into place like a magical jigsaw puzzle.

We have loved working with all the children and are so impressed by their talents and commitment. We want to thank the teachers and staff for their tremendous enthusiasm and support, and also Thorington Theatre, for the help we have received towards presenting this production.

We very much hope you enjoy this performance.

Alys Kihl

Alys Kihl
Artistic Director



1 HUNGARIAN FOLKTALE, 80 CHILDREN, AND 24 HOURS OF WORKSHOPS ACROSS 3 SCHOOLS



We live in the forest, our house is quite small...

First the Dance. Then the Feast concludes a series of four drama, dance and music workshops in three Suffolk primary schools- Handford Hall (Ipswich), Holton St Peter (Halesworth), and Snape.

80 children took part and we're delighted to have almost all of them on stage here together. They have contributed to the story, to the script and to the choreography. Their ideas have been intelligent, original and witty, which is exactly how we found these fabulous children themselves.

Our artists have been working with the children in school to choreograph, rehearse and produce the show we're delighted to present to you tonight.



Each school has been working independently on its own part of the show until earlier this week. This would not have been possible without the support of their fantastic teachers. All three came together for the first time on Wednesday to rehearse here at the magical Thorington Theatre.

We are immensely proud of all of them and would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to each school - pupils, teachers and parents alike. We've loved working with you.



...and sometimes our breakfast is nothing at all...



...living all together, in our little house in the woods...



poor man's children

SNAPE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YEARS 4, 5 & 6

Berin Basi
Sander Van Den Berg
Freya Burnside
Ava Canham-Smith
Freddie Canham-Smith
Harry Ford
Kane Hambridge

Leo Hirst
Sofia Kerry
Theo Lamb
Seb Mannall
Khodi Maynard
Sophia Savage
Ruby (Spence) Smith
Toby (Spence) Smith

Harlowe Reeves
Benjamin Turner
Martha Wardle
Archie Watt
Eleanor White
Jane Villiers
Tobias Villiers

soldiers

HOLTON ST PETER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YEAR 5 & 6

Evelyn Binns
Honey Burgess-Clark
Hannah Chambers
Ashley Cross
Lenni Davis
Calvin Fenn
Freya Fjeld
Bunni Gardner
Seth Hanlon
Harry Hartman

Thomas Henderson
Devin Holman-Parker
Jessie Humphreys
Rufus Hurlimann
Neve Jefford
Jasmine Jolly
Marcus Lankester
Laciee Lara
Lewis Mckenzie
Brooke Parker

Shauna Parlsey
Oliver Porter
Abby Shepherd
Ellie Shervington
Jack Skinner
Layla Smith
Isabelle Stephenson
Lila Zarins
The Other King
Micah Marland-Linklater

clerks

HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL
YEAR 5

Ethan Ahmed
Nichola Balmedina
Clara Cristea
Rory Doherty
Luisa Ferreira
Avram Gheorghe
Maria Goubert

Frank Hasani
Erina Lima dos Ramos
Ana Mendonca
Maria Mendonca
Sayeem Mohammed
Mania Pamula
Carolina Pereira
Petru Radu
Ricards Rudbahs

Avram Sandu
Elisei Sandu
Ana Tanasa
Moise Tanasa
Lidia Tanase
Riley Whitby
Farrah Woor

adult cast

farmer/sargeant
Martin Bonger

mayor/king
Rob Gildon

poor man
Matt Prendergast

wise woman/queen
Hilary Creatorex

wonderful beast singers

Bob Frost
Rob Gildon
Hilary Creatorex
Alys Kihl
Denise Mahood
Jane Mardell
Gabriel Maughan
Anthony Mehan
John Wood
Pat Wood

creatives

director
Emma Bernard

choreographers
Rosy May &
Anusha Subramanyam

creative producer
Alys Kihl

script
Emma Bernard & Alys Kihl

costume & set design
Jacky Linney

music: traditional
Klezmer, including
Romanian, Hungarian and
Ukrainian folk tunes
with
original compositions
by Martina Schwarz

stage manager
Daniel Peart

assistant stage manager
Eleanor Beck

musicians

clarinet
Hilary Creatorex

violin
Meg-Rosaleen Hamilton

accordion
Martina Schwarz

magic violin
Bogdan Vacarescu

videography
Nathan Berry

show photography
Mike Kwashiak

workshop photography
& programme layout
Emma Close-Brooks

illustration
Lucy Hart (Silverface
Design)

project manager
Emma Close-Brooks

teachers

Helen Caston
Clara Dragan
Marie Worley
(Handford Hall)

Denise Camp
Liz Shepherd
Christine Starkl
(Holton)

Sarah Gallagher
Megan Moore
Ruth Wharrier
(Snape)

MUSIC



Pre- show Balkan music

played by Meg-Rosaleen Hamilton and Martina Schwarz
accompanying the Wonderful Beast Singers

Makedonsko Devojce (Macedonian love song)
Sednalo e Zore Dos (Bulgarian knitting song)
Erdelezi - Roma name for Bulgarian and Serbian Feast of St. George Spring Festival
(arranged by Stephen Taberner)

The show

English song lyrics by Emma Bernard, set to music by Martina Schwarz

Family Song (to the Slovak tune of A ja taká carná)
Fill In the Forms! Song of the Mayor and Clerks
Marching Soldiers Song
What on Earth is Going On? Song of the King and Queen

Traditional songs

Paparuda (Romanian rain song)
Alunelul (Romanian)
Pidmanula (Ukrainian)

Instrumental

Bolgar (klezmer, from the National Library of Ukraine)
Hora Femeilor - The woman's circle dance (Romanian)
Hej Delare - (Hungarian)
Kopaczinecaer Chusid (Ukrainian klezmer)
Ciganka sam mala (Hungarian)
Hora de la Risipit (Romanian)
Hora Marisorului (Grigoras Dinicu)
Ukrainian Sher (klezmer)
Calusari (Romanian)
Hora Staccato (Grigoras Dinicu)
Deskovo Oro / Blagoja Deskoski (Bulgarian)
Solushka 'Little Sunrise' (Russian)



BIOGRAPHIES



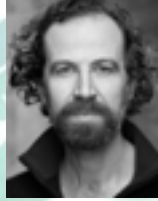
ELEANOR BECK

Eleanor is Suffolk-based and has worked with FolkEast, Latitude Festival, Flipside and the Alde Valley Spring Festival. Eleanor has worked with Wonderful Beast as Assistant Stage Manager on *The Last Woodwose* (2019), written by Thea Smiley and directed by Alys Kihl.



EMMA BERNARD

Emma directs performance for stage, screen, site-specific locations and concert platforms. She has worked extensively for Streetwise Opera, most recently as Associate Artistic Director, and has collaborated with many organisations including Almeida Opera, Norwich Theatre Royal and the Barbican.



MARTIN BONGER

Martin is a theatre maker. His work includes *The Collision of Things*, *Fat Man*, *Messenger* and *This Crossing*. He is a collaborator with director Simon Day, and creates work with other theatre companies including Green Ginger, Pins and Needles, and NIE. He was the solo actor in Wonderful Beast's *Return of the Wildman* (2018). He has worked on a number of Radio 4 plays and as a dramaturg and writer.



EMMA CLOSE-BROOKS

Emma works as a freelance arts consultant in Suffolk and London. She has been with Wonderful Beast since 2019 and project-managed *Lockdown Tales* (2020), *Bubblewrap* (2021), and *First the Dance*, *Then the Feast*. She also works with groups such as Poetry People and the Walter de la Mare Society.



ROB GILDON

Rob is an opera singer who lives in Suffolk with four dogs, nine goats, nineteen chickens, four peacocks, bees and a tortoise. He has worked with Garsington, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Royal Opera House, among many others. He regularly leads workshops for Streetwise Opera and Snape Maltings as well as co-leading the Wonderful Beast singers.



BIOGRAPHIES

HILARY GREATOREX

Hilary's is an actor based in Suffolk and London. Her theatre work includes *Alice in Wonderland*, *Treasure Island*, *The Merchant of Venice* for the Swan, and *Charley's Aunt*. She has been in *Coronation Street*, *Casualty*, *Waterloo Road* and *Doctors*. She is a storyteller and often works in schools. Hilary has been a workshop leader for *First the Dance* and was the lead role in *The Last Woodwose* (2019).



MEG-ROSALEEN HAMILTON

Meg specialises in world and folk music. She studied in Romania with *lautarii* (Roma musicians) and renowned Moldovan Gypsy violinist Marin Bunea. She has toured extensively with *She Koyokh*, hailed as the UK's "best klezmer and Balkan band" and appeared in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Aldeburgh's Snape proms, Brighton Dome, and WOMAD festivals. She regularly tours with *Kosmos Ensemble*. Workshops include schools, prisons and hospitals.



ALYS KIHl

Alys established Wonderful Beast in 1997 and has produced and directed nationally and internationally. In 2014 she formed the Wonderful Beast Singers, who participated in two community operas, and numerous productions. In 2018 she directed *Pearls from the Grit* for Poetry People. During Covid she instigated 'Lockdown Tales', online storytelling for children, and *Bubble Wrap*, creative workshops on Zoom for over 65s.



JACKY LINNEY

Jacky Linney has a degree in Textile Design from Leeds University & an Art Teachers' Diploma. She screenprints and makes clothes & soft furnishings, & runs printing workshops. She is a founder member of a long running craft co-operative. Jacky was the costume designer for *The Last Woodwose* by Wonderful Beast and ran schools' screen printing workshops in conjunction with the production.

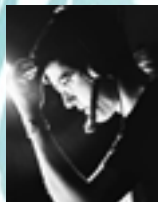


ROSY MAY

Rosy is a professional dancer and choreographer of Jamaican heritage and has spent almost a decade studying and performing traditional West African movements. She has a background in theatre so storytelling is a common theme that she often fuses with her choreography. Being very respectful to different cultures and people is part of what makes her work engaging but also truthful.

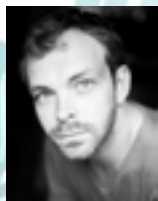


BIOGRAPHIES



DANIEL PEART

Daniel's recent theatre work includes Dick Whittington - Norwich Theatre Royal, Tom Foolery, Hello Norma Jean, Cleo Camping Emmanuelle and Dick - MTP Theatre on the Coast. Daniel regularly stage manages for local Arts Festivals including First Light, Out There, Spill, and the Norfolk & Norwich Festival. Daniel also works as casual crew at Norwich Theatre Royal and covers stage management roles on touring musicals.



MATT PRENDERGAST

Matt trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Theatre credits include Dracula, The Untold Story, Heart Of Darkness, Dr Blood's Old Travelling Show, The Zero Hour (imitating the dog), The Six Swans (Wonderful Beast community opera) Pericles (National Theatre), World Cup Final 1966 (Beggarsbelief). Film credits include Guardians, I Am Lonely (Brainehownd Films).



MARTINA SCHWARZ

Martina Schwarz is a musician, composer, performer and choir leader. She has composed and performed for the Arcola Theatre, Sadlers Wells, Laban Theatre, Lilian Baylis Theatre, the Place, the South Bank Centre, the Grant Museum (UCL), Spitalfields Festival, Little Angel Theatre, Norwich Puppet theatre and RADA. She has collaborated with Wonderful Beast on several occasions.



ANUSHA SUBRAMANYAM

Anusha is a dance maker and teacher. She is a champion for South Asian and inclusive dance. She has received numerous awards, including the Asian Women Achievement Award in Culture 2011. She curates the Dance Festival Croydon and frequently works with Wonderful Beast as performer (Little Red Churni: Strange Fish: Six Swans), and as Movement Director and Choreographer.



BOGDAN VACARESCU

Bogdan is a graduate of the Conservatoire of Music in Bucharest and the Royal Academy of Music in London as a student of Gyorgy Pauk. He has toured the world leading Balkan band Paprika. He performs traditional music from Romania, the Balkans and Eastern Europe, specialising in undiscovered music, reviving and reinterpreting folk dances and gypsy tunes. He has collaborated with Nigel Kennedy, The Koyokh and many successful ensembles in the UK.



HUGE THANKS TO...

IVAN CUTTING, JESS BAKER and all the team at Eastern Angles Theatre Company, for providing Wonderful Beast with the use of the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich for our workshops with Handford Hall Primary School during April, May and June, as well as providing funding towards our workshop leaders.

The fabulous staff and children of HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOLTON ST PETER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, and SNAPE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL for their flexibility, quickness to learn and eagerness to make this show a success. It has been an absolute pleasure working with all of you.

FFIONA LEWIS and CRISPIN KELLY for the use of their beautiful barn in Brandeston, for our Research & Development Residency in March and our rehearsals over the past week.

Our BOARD OF DIRECTORS: LUCY ROWAN-ROBINSON (chair), BETH FRANKLIN, FERNANDA HERFORD, LOESJE HOUGHTON, ALYSON TIPPING. We are hugely grateful for their support, enthusiasm, hospitality and wisdom.

Volunteers, partners, children and advisors including flyer distributors, bed providers, counsel and accommodation givers: MARIANNE & PAUL BEAMISH, OLIVER & JEMIMA CLOSE-BROOKS, BETH, JONATHAN & OLIVIA FRANKLIN, CLAUDE HARZ, FERNANDA & GEORGE HERFORD, ALEN MATTICH, TIM & LUCY ROWAN-ROBINSON and THEA SMILEY.

The team at LEISTON PRESS for their speedy and superb printing of all our flyers, posters and programmes.

Our extraordinary venue THORINGTON THEATRE, who've been supportive and ready to adapt to this unusual project.

LOUISA THORP, our faithful book-keeper and former administrator.

We would also like to thank: Councillors ANDREW REID and INGA LOCKHART of the Suffolk County Council, the BARBARA WHATMORE CHARITABLE TRUST, LIMBOURNE TRUST, FITTON TRUST and SCARFE FOUNDATION, the HILL FAMILY GRANTMAKING FUND, WN ESTATES FAMILY FUND, SUFFOLK GIVING FUND, WOODWARD FUND, HARRIS FAMILY FUND and all our FUNDERS, FRIENDS, DONORS and SPONSORS, without whom this project could not have happened.



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BEN WARDLE

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original artwork available to view at
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and
The Golden Key, Snape

NEXT EXHIBITION 3-9 NOV 2022
THE QUAY GALLERY, SNAPE MALTINGS

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