

KNEEHIGH ANNOUNCE 2017 SEASON



- **MIKE SHEPHERD DIRECTS CARL GROSE'S NEW VERSION OF GUNTER GRASS'S MASTERPIECE THE TIN DRUM WITH MUSIC BY CHARLES HAZLEWOOD**
- **EMMA RICE REMOUNTS THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL TRISTAN AND YSEULT ON A TOUR OF THE CELTIC NATIONS VIA SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE**
- **THE FLYING LOVERS OF VITEBSK PLAYS BRISTOL AND EDINBURGH**

Kneehigh's Artistic Director and Founder Mike Shepherd announces an exceptional season of revivals and world premieres for 2017. In keeping with the company's indefatigable spirit, the season will be a heady and eclectic mix of vibrant and subversive visions, asking vital questions about who we are and how we live today.

One of the defining novels of the 20th Century, Gunter Grass' dazzling tour de force, ***The Tin Drum*** will be brought to thrilling theatrical life in a touring co-production with Liverpool Everyman Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse. Directed by Mike Shepherd, written by Kneehigh Artistic Associate Carl Grose with music by Charles Hazlewood, *The Tin Drum* is a folktale for troubled times: a dark, burlesque comic extravaganza, which is at once daringly provocative, political and profound.

Kneehigh's season also includes the return of one of company's greatest successes ***Tristan and Yseult***, the quintessential tale of forbidden desires which will embark on a Celtic tour, travelling to Cornwall, Scotland, Wales and Ireland via Shakespeare's Globe. Following its sold-runs last year at Bristol Old Vic and the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Daniel Jamieson's sublime ***The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*** will return to Bristol in August before playing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with future London dates planned in 2018. Both plays are directed by Emma Rice.

Artistic Director Mike Shepherd said *'We're thrilled to be taking our Tristan and Yseult, a 21st century take on the oldest of Celtic love stories, on a tour of Celtic Nations as well as to the Globe for Emma Rice's Summer of Love season. Her wonderful production of The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk will play in Edinburgh before it tours internationally in 2018. Last, but certainly not least, I have reassembled the creative team behind Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs) to make a new version of Gunter Grass' extraordinary novel The Tin Drum. Our iconic anti-hero, Oskar, will lead us through a world as delicate as moth's wings and as incandescent as a blazing saw mill. A grand musical satire, it promises to be furious, funny and fiercely full of hope - a story very much for now.'*

Kneehigh presents

TRISTAN AND YSEULT

Adapted and directed by Emma Rice
Written by Carl Grose and Anna Maria Murphy
Designed by Bill Mitchell
Lighting by Malcolm Rippeth with sound design by Simon Baker.

Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 May at Brighton Festival

PRESS NIGHT: WEDNESDAY 24 MAY AT 7.30PM at Brighton Festival (or 14 June in London - see below)

and

Tuesday 13 to Saturday 24 June at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

PRESS NIGHT: WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE AT 7.30PM

Full tour details see overleaf

Kneehigh's hugely successful ***Tristan & Yseult*** is revived as part of a major Celtic tour for the company. The production will open at Brighton Festival before travelling to Glasgow, Cornwall, London, Wales, Bristol and Galway as part of their international arts festival.

Cornish King Mark is at war; he rules with his head not his heart. But he hasn't counted on falling head over heels for his enemy's sister, or expected the arrival of the enigmatic Tristan.

The original tale of forbidden desires, broken hearts and the agony of choosing one human being over another. Seen through the eyes of the 'Unloved', *Tristan & Yseult* blends comedy, live music, grand passion and tender truths, in an irresistible night of love.

Written by long-standing company members Carl Grose and Anna Maria Murphy and directed by Emma Rice, this critically acclaimed production catapulted Kneehigh onto the international stage, and toured extensively in the UK in 2013 and USA during 2014-5.

Further information will be announced shortly.

Kneehigh and Bristol Old Vic present

THE FLYING LOVERS OF VITEBSK

By Daniel Jamieson

Directed by Emma Rice

Musical Direction by Ian Ross

Designed by Sophia Clist with lighting by Malcolm Rippeth and sound design by Simon Baker

Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 August 2017 at Bristol Old Vic and

Tuesday 15 to Saturday 26 August 2017 at Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Emma Rice directs Marc Antolin and Audrey Brisson as Marc and Bella Chagall in Daniel Jamieson's *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*, a dazzling and evocative play vividly drawn from the early life of the artist Marc Chagall.

The production will play at Bristol Old Vic before playing as part of an international showcase at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Further details to be announced.

Marc and Bella Chagall were the flying lovers of Vitebsk. Partners in life and on canvas, they are immortalised as the picture of romance. But whilst on canvas they flew, in life they walked through some of the most devastating times in history.

Marc Chagall was a leading pioneer of modern art whose vibrant, original style evolved against one of the most tumultuous and terrifying periods in history. Chagall and his young wife were swept up in the confusion and brutality of world wars, revolution, ethnic persecution and the murder and exile of millions. He responded with a radical, original visual style which was both mythic and dreamlike, fusing everyday settings inspired from his home town in Vitebsk in an extraordinary mystical lament, conveying love, loss, exile and the miracle of survival.

Daniel Jamieson's play traces the lives of the young couple as they navigate the Pogroms, the Russian Revolution, and each other in a vigorous staging woven throughout with live Klezmer music from Ian Ross and James Gow inspired from Russian Jewish folk tradition.

Kneehigh, Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse present

THE TIN DRUM

Based on the novel by Gunter Grass

Written by Carl Grose

Music by Charles Hazlewood

Directed by Mike Shepherd

Thursday 28 September to Saturday 14 October 2017 (Liverpool Everyman)

Thursday 17 October to Saturday 28 October 2017 (West Yorkshire Playhouse)

PRESS NIGHT: TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER AT 7.30PM AT LIVERPOOL EVERYMAN

see overleaf for tour details

Mike Shepherd directs a new version of Gunter Grass's epic novel *The Tin Drum* in a co-production with Liverpool Everyman Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse. It will open to press at Liverpool Everyman and then transfer to West Yorkshire Playhouse before travelling to Leeds, Bristol, Cornwall and London's Shoreditch Town Hall.

On Oskar's third birthday he rails against the adult world and decides to remain a child forever. Armed with a heart full of rage, a singing voice that shatters glass, and a seemingly indestructible tin drum, Oskar sets about to reveal the world for what it truly is.

However, the world has other plans for our hero...

Often hailed as one of the greatest novels ever written, Gunter Grass' surreal post-war masterpiece has never been more prescient. *Kneehigh* will retell this extraordinary story of love, war and fizz powder as a startling musical satire. Part Baroque opera, part psychedelic white-out, part epic poem: a burlesque, a blitzkrieg, a tsunami.

Written by Carl Grose, composed by Charles Hazlewood and directed by Mike Shepherd, the team that brought you the internationally acclaimed *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, *The Tin Drum* is a folktale for troubled times: one political, profane and profound.

Prepare to dance to the beat of a different drum!

For press information and reviewing tickets please contact Clíona Roberts on 07754 756504 or e-mail cliona@crpr.co.uk

For images please go to cliona.smugmug.com password is: download

LISTING AND TOUR INFORMATION BELOW:

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Tristan and Yseult

23 to 27 May 2017
Brighton Festival
Tickets: 01273 709 709
www.brightonfestival.org

30 May to 3 June 2017
Citizens Theatre Glasgow
Tickets: **0141 429 0022**
www.citz.co.uk

13 to 24 June 2017
Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
Tickets: 0207 401 9919
www.shakespearesglobe.com

27 June to 1 July 2017
Theatr Clwyd
Tickets: 01352 701521
www.theatrclwyd.com

4 to 15 June 2017
Bristol Old Vic
Tickets: 0117 987 7877
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

17 to 21 July 2017
Galway International Arts Festival
Tickets: 00 353 91 569 777
www.giaf.ie

The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk

4 to 15 July 2017
Bristol Old Vic
Tickets: 0117 987 7877
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

15 to 26 August 2017
Edinburgh Festival
Details to be announced

The Tin Drum

28 September to 14 October 2017
Liverpool Everyman
Tickets: 0151 709 4776
www.everymanplayhouse.com

17 to 28 October 2017
West Yorkshire Playhouse
Tickets: 0113 213 7700
www.wyp.org.uk

7 to 18 November 2017
Bristol Old Vic
Tickets: 0117 987 7877
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

21 to 25 November 2017
Hall for Cornwall
Tickets: 01872 262466
www.hallforcornwall.co.uk

5 to 23 December 2017
Shoreditch Town Hall
Tickets: 020 7739 6176
www.shoreditchtownhall.com