

Press Release

manipulate

NORWICH
Puppet
THEATRE

Visual Theatre Festival

4 FEB-8 FEB 2014

Norwich Puppet Theatre

Norwich Puppet Theatre partners with Puppet Animation Scotland to host *manipulate*, one of the most vibrant festivals of its kind, for a third year in 2014. Next year's festival programme in Norwich features some of the most provocative puppetry companies from around the world, including work from Russia, The Netherlands, Germany and the UK. An evening of animated shorts hosted by Clementine the Living Fashion Doll opens the festival on 4 February. As ever, 2014's programme is a sumptuous mix of visual and puppet theatre and animation by groundbreaking international companies. Expect beauty, expect the surreal and expect the unexpected. Challenge your own notions of theatre and experience the unknown as we present *manipulate* Visual Theatre Festival.



Go!, Polina Borisova, Wed 5 Feb, 7.30pm

We are delighted to bring Polina Borisova from Russia for the premiere English performance of *Go!* on 5 February. Inspired by the simplicity and speed with which extraordinary people can leave us, *Go!* articulates the tendency to dwell more with the reality and comfort of memories as we reach the end of our lives. Polina has been touring the show internationally to great acclaim since 2009.

The Seas of Organillo, Stephen Mottram's Animata, Thurs 6 Feb, 7.30pm

One of the UK's most exciting and ambitious puppetry companies, Stephen Mottram's Animata, presents *The Seas of Organillo* on 6 February. Inspired by Elaine Morgan's book *The Aquatic Ape Hypothesis* and Lennart Nilsson's *A Child is Born*, enigmatic and fascinatingly weird puppet figures swim and wriggle to soundscapes from Argentinian composer Sebastian Castagna; created by overlaying sounds from Stephen's handmade organillo.



Scratch Event, Fri 7 Feb, 7pm

For the first time, as part of this year's *manipulate* we are also holding a Scratch Event to give local and national puppetry companies the opportunity to present their work. This will include the brilliant *Under the Microscope* by Club Adelphi. Inspired by a love of crime drama and developed by a team of puppeteers and forensic scientists, this highly visual piece of theatre will take audiences to places deeper than you could ever imagine.

Punch and Judy in Afghanistan, Stuffed Puppet, Fri 7 Feb, 8.30pm & The Power of the Puppet, Thurs 6–Sat 8 Feb, 10am–5pm

Neville Tranter, whose show *Schicklgruber alias Adolf Hitler* was a great success at last year's *manipulate*, returns with his Stuffed Puppet Theatre and a performance of *Punch and Judy in Afghanistan* on 7 February. Neville goes back to the roots of traditional puppetry, using a booth. *Punch and Judy in Afghanistan* tells the story of Nigel, a puppeteer, who has come to Afghanistan to entertain the allied troops. The show preserves the fun and directness of traditional puppet theatre, while exploring a more profound theme: what happens when naïveté and cynicism meet? Neville also guides our *manipulate* masterclass, *The Power of the Puppet*, where participants will explore the potential of puppetry to create powerful and unique theatrical languages, 6–8 February.

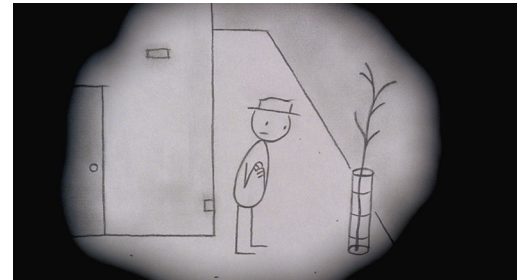


Hôtel De Rive, Figurentheater Tuebingen, Sat 8 Feb, 7.30pm

Based on four surrealist texts by Alberto Giacometti, Figurentheater Tuebingen (Compagnie Bagages De Sable & Theater Stadelhofen Co- Production) from Germany, explore his unique creative world through the virtuosic manipulation of his figures brought to life through soundscapes music and stone in their UK premiere of *Hôtel De Rive*, on 8 February.

It's Such a Beautiful Day, Don Hertzfeldt, Wed 5 Feb, 9pm & Tito on Ice, Max Andersson and Helena Ahonen, Sat 8 Feb, 9pm

As well as visual theatre we also present two animated feature films, as well as our shorts event on 4 February. Don Hertzfeldt's (USA) three short films combine into the seamless, darkly comedic triptych, *It's Such a Beautiful Day*, about the troubled Bill, a stick figure everyday man, who stoically endures the pain, uncertainty and excruciating beauty of life on 5 February. Our second feature *Tito on Ice*, 8 February, follows Swedish comics creators Max Andersson and Lars Sjunnesson as they tour the former Yugoslavia with a mummified Marshal Tito in a fridge, discovering truth may indeed be stranger than fiction. The film created by Andersson and Helena Ahonen uses a combination of stop-motion animation and documentary scenes, to take viewers on a roller coaster ride through a parallel universe where all borders are crazily disintegrating.



Ticket Prices

Opening Gala: *manipulate* at The Golden Clementine's £16 / £14 Concessions, Go! £14 / £12 Concessions, *The Seas Of Organillo* £16 / £14 Concessions, *Punch & Judy In Afghanistan* £14 / £12 Concessions, *Hôtel De Rive* £16 / £14 Concessions, Scratch Event £5
Performance Pass £55 / £45 Concessions (all performances listed above)
The Power Of The Puppet Masterclass £125
Festival Pass £160 / £150 Concessions (all performances listed above and *The Power of the Puppet* Masterclass), Films £8 / £7 Concessions

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