



The Singing Mermaid

A Little Angel Theatre and Royal & Derngate,
Northampton co-production, in association with
Watershed Productions

Adapted from the book by Julia Donaldson and Lydia
Monks

25 February – 24 April 2022

CREDITS

Adapted by Barb Jungr and Samantha Lane

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr

Directed by Samantha Lane

Associate Director – Sam Dutton

Set & Costume designed by Laura McEwen

Puppets Designed by Lyndie Wright

Lighting Design by Sherry Coenen

Performed by Lizzie Wort, Ruth Calkin, Gilbert Taylor and Hedi Goldsmith. Please note that the role of the mermaid will be shared by Lizzie Wort and Ruth Calkin.

Stage Managed by Lucy Barter

This play is based on the original book The Singing Mermaid | Text copyright © Julia Donaldson 2012 |

Illustrations copyright © Lydia Monks 2012 Published by Macmillan Children's Books

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Who we are

Little Angel Theatre

Fuelling the imagination through the magic and wonder of puppetry

Little Angel Theatre (LAT) has used puppetry to create and share inspiring stories since opening its doors in 1961; igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds. The theatre's success has been built upon a spirit of artistic innovation. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of what puppetry can be, whilst preserving its heritage. Not only do we produce our own shows for children and young people, which play in-house and tour nationally and internationally, we also welcome puppetry companies from around the UK and overseas to perform on our stages. Alongside our work on stage, our creative learning department delivers imaginative education and participatory activities in our venues, in schools and in community settings. LAT aims to fuel the imagination through the magic and wonder of puppetry. It does this on stage, on screen, in schools, in the community and through training and professional development.

Royal & Derngate, Northampton

Royal & Derngate, Northampton, is the main venue for arts and entertainment in Northamptonshire. As one of the major producing venues in the country, it won Regional Theatre of the Year in The Stage Awards 2011, was nominated again for the same award in 2016 and for Theatre of the Year in 2022, and was named "Outstanding Regional Theatre" by Michael Billington in Country Life in 2021. Its production of The Worst Witch (one of many recent London transfers) won the 2020 Olivier Award for Best Family Show. Recent highlights include Our Lady of Kibeho (nominated for the 2020 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre), Ralph Fiennes' world premiere stage adaptation of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets and the new musical Gin Craze!, named one of the highlights of 2021 in The Guardian, WhatsOnStage and The Stage.

Watershed Productions

Watershed Productions is an independent theatre production company which takes great theatre for children and their families to theatres across the UK and beyond. Highlights of our past work include Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play, Charlie and Lola's Extremely New Play, Horrid Henry – Live and Horrid!, Michael Rosen's Chocolate Cake, Winnie the Witch, Charlotte's Web – the Musical! and stage version of several books by Jacqueline Wilson: Double Act, Midnight, Bad Girls and The Suitcase Kid.

"This was simply the best production for children I've ever had the fortune to take my kids to see." Western Mail on Horrid Henry – Live and Horrid!

"a veritable model of theatre for young people." Manchester Evening News on Bad Girls

"This is the kind of production that gives children's theatre a good name" West Midlands Express & Star on Double Act

"Long may theatre companies weave this kind of magic on stage." Northern Echo on Charlotte's Web

We're hoping to take
The Singing Mermaid
to other theatres later this
year – check out
www.singingmermaid.co.uk

JULIA DONALDSON – Author

Julia Donaldson is the author of some of the world's best-loved children's books, including modern classics *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child*, which together have sold over 17 million copies worldwide, and the hugely successful *What the Ladybird Heard* adventures. Julia also writes fiction, including the *Princess Mirror-Belle* books illustrated by Lydia Monks, as well as poems, plays and songs – and her brilliant live shows are always in demand. She was Children's Laureate 2011–13 and has been honoured with a CBE for Services to Literature. Julia and her husband Malcolm divide their time between West Sussex and Edinburgh.

Lydia Monks – Illustrator

Lydia Monks is one of the most original and bestselling picture book artists working today. Lydia illustrates several bestselling series including the *What the Ladybird Heard* adventures and *Princess Mirror-Belle*, written by Julia Donaldson. Her distinctive use of colour and collage has won her critical acclaim and several awards, including the Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Award, the Stockport Children's Book Award and multiple nominations for the Kate Greenaway Medal. *Mouse's Big Day*, written and illustrated by Lydia, is the first book in her *Twit Twoo School* series. Lydia lives in Sheffield.

SAMANTHA LANE – Co-Adaptor & Director

Samantha began her tenure as Artistic Director at Little Angel Theatre in 2015. She was formerly Director of Projects at the Almeida Theatre where she made theatre for, by and with young people aged 14–25; and Education Manager at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, where she created numerous Theatre-in-Education shows for primary and secondary schools, as well as directing community plays with casts of 60+ people. Her adaptation and directing credits at Little Angel Theatre include: *There May Be A Castle*, *The Bed*, *The Slightly Annoying Elephant*, *Me...*, *The Flying Bath* and *The Singing Mermaid*. Her writing and directing credits include: *Let's Fly*, *Junk* and *The Pixie and the Pudding*. She has also directed a number of digital shorts including *Scoop's Space*, *Scoop's Space: Mr Gobble's Garden*, *Clever Cakes* and *Mother Christmas*.

BARB JUNGR – Co-Adaptor & Composer

Barb Jungr is an award winning international performer, recording artist, composer and lyricist. Work for Little Angel Theatre includes *There May Be A Castle*, *The Singing Mermaid*, *The Pixie and the Pudding*, *The Fabulous Flutterbys*, and *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. She also co-wrote the script and wrote music for Little Angel Theatre's 2020 Christmas short film, *Mother Christmas*. Other work includes *Chocolate Cake*, *How to Hide a Lion* (Polka Theatre); *Liver Birds Flying Home* (Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool); *Jungle Book* (Birmingham Stage Company); and the song cycle *Mabel Stark Tiger Tamer*. She is currently working as a lyricist for a new family musical, *Maisie!* and co-writing and writing the music for *Dare* at Polka Theatre.

LAURA MCEWAN – Designer

Laura McEwen has been designing for theatre for more than twenty years. She has a specialism in designing for young audiences and had worked for national and international companies including the Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera, Unicorn Theatre, Polka Theatre and Little Angel Theatre. Her work has toured worldwide across Asia and as far as Sydney Opera House. Most recently she worked alongside theatre architects Foster Wilson in designing the interior of the new Polka Theatre in London, a venue dedicated exclusively to work for young audiences. Laura has had her designs for theatre exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum and her work as an artist exhibited at the Royal Academy, London.

LYNDIE WRIGHT – Puppet Designer

In 1961 Lyndie and John Wright founded Little Angel Theatre. Lyndie was responsible for designing Little Angel Theatre shows as well as making puppets and performing in the productions of the first 40 years. She retired from Little Angel Theatre in 2002, but continues to design and make puppets for theatres including not just Little Angel Theatre, but also the RSC, National Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, Opera North, Opera Circus, Tamasha, Puppet Players – Munich, Polka Theatre, TheatreRites and Kneehigh. Most recently she has made puppets for *The Little Matchgirl* (Shakespeare's Globe) and *Tin Drum* (Kneehigh).

SHERRY COENEN – Lighting Designer

Sherry has been lighting shows in the US and UK since graduating with a BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Miami. Shows for Little Angel Theatre include There May Be A Castle, The Singing Mermaid, WOW! It's Night-time, Prince Charming, The Flying Bath, The Bed and The Pixie and the Pudding. Other shows include: Operation Mincemeat (New Diorama Theatre) *KOI nominated 2019*, Frankenstein (Battersea Arts Centre) *KOI winner 2019*.

SAMUEL DUTTON

Sam trained at The Arts Educational London Drama School.

Theatre includes: The Singing Mermaid, The Pixie and the Pudding, Me..., The Further Adventures of The Owl and The Pussycat, Fantastic Mr Fox (Little Angel Theatre); Miss Julie, Black Comedy (Chichester Festival Theatre); Citizen Puppet (Blind Summit); Mojo (Theatre-Rites/New Victory Theater, New York); The Tempest (Dundee Rep); Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Love's Labour's Lost (RSC); Melody Loses Her Mojo (Liverpool Playhouse); Meat (Bush Theatre); Engi, Tröll, Tomten (Handbendi Brúðuleikhús); Rinaldo (Glyndebourne); and many more!

Awards include: Best Puppetry – Polish Association of Theatre, Film, Radio and Television Artists, Fringe First – Edinburgh

RUTH CALKIN – Performer

Ruth has most recently appeared in the much-postponed tour of Twirlywoos (Live) (MEI), which included a summer residency in the West End. She was incredibly lucky to perform and make work during the various lockdowns: Jina and the STEM Sisters (HMDT Music) and The Very Hungry Caterpillar (MEI, Christmas 2020). For Little Angel Theatre, Ruth was most recently in There May Be A Castle and the award-nominated solo-performer show The Bed. She is a regular with Mark Mander in The Clementine Show and past work includes productions with companies such as Oily Cart, Theatre-Rites, Kneehigh and the RSC.

LIZZIE WORT – Performer

Lizzie trained at Elmhurst Ballet School & Bretton Hall. Previous work: Hansel & Gretel (Goldfield); The Smartest Giant in Town, The Dong with a Luminous Nose, The Bed, The Singing Mermaid, WOW! Said the Owl, WOW! It's Night-time (Little Angel Theatre); The Unremarkable Death Of Marilyn Monroe (Dyad); Potted Sherlock (Vaudeville); Animal Farm (Guy Masterson); The Magician's Daughter (Little Angel Theatre/RSC), To Have & To Honk (John Wright), When We Lived In Uncle's Hat (York Theatre Royal/Tutti Frutti); The Chronicles of Bitter & Twisted (Galopin/Arcola). TV credits: Snuffbox (BBC 3), The Mighty Boosh (BBC3), Rob Newman (Channel 4) and comedy sketches for CBBC.



GILBERT TAYLOR – Performer

Gilbert is an actor and a puppeteer. Recent theatre work includes: There May Be A Castle, The Pixie and the Pudding (Little Angel Theatre), Sarah and Duck (MEI, UK Tour), The Dong with a Luminous Nose (Cubic Feet/Little Angel Theatre), How to Hide a Lion (Polka Theatre/Pigtails Productions, UK tour), The Gingerbread Man (Hiccup Theatre, UK tour), The Hound of the Baskervilles (The Mill at Sonning), The Singing Mermaid (Royal & Derngate, Northampton/Little Angel Theatre), Kwaidan (Rouge 28, international tour) and The Smartest Giant in Town (Little Angel Theatre/FirelyLight). He was also puppetry director for Little Red Riding Hood at Derby Theatre, Christmas 2019. Film work includes I'll Never Find Another You which is currently in production. www.gilberttaylor.com

HEIDI GOLDSMITH – Performer

Heidi is thrilled to be back at Little Angel Theatre, having previously performed in 'The Slightly Annoying Elephant' and 'Wow! It's Night-time'.

She has just finished a Christmas run of 'The Gingerbread Man' with Knuckle and Joint at The Churchill Theatre in Bromley. Prior to this, Heidi could be found as Percy, guiding groups around Chiswick Gardens in 'Percy the Park Keeper's Autumn Treasure Hunt'.

She is very much looking forward to bringing this beautiful book to life!

LUCY BARTER– Stage Manager

Lucy recently toured with David Suchet's one-man show and is about to tour with Sandi Toksvig's one-woman show – for the second time. Lucy began her career at the Unicorn Theatre as an Assistant Stage Manager so many years ago it doesn't bear thinking about. She is delighted to be working in theatre for children again and to be working with Watershed Productions' producer Chris Wallis, who gave her her Equity card all those years ago.



Write a letter to Mermaid

& send it to info@littleangeltheatre.com or to a member of our team at the theatre.
