

Wattle & Shrub
Figure Theatre

TRIPTYCH

MARKETING PACK



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1. Brochure Copy

150 Word Copy:

Three stories about love, loss and letting go. A small, lonely figure invites us into a magical world in which flowers bloom and break, a mask reveals the stranger lurking within, and feathers offer the elusive and dangerous promise of flight; a witch within the heart of a tree demands one life for every group of creatures that passes through her forest, but when humans arrive they are unable to abide by her rule, creating a larger and more terrible tragedy; and the oldest man in the world stumbles into a Paris jazz club just in time to share one last dance.

Created in collaboration with T S Eliot award-winning poet Philip Gross and with an original score featuring a 4-piece jazz combo, *Triptych* fuses innovative storytelling with a distinctive combination of visual theatre, puppetry and masks that blurs the line between puppet and puppeteer. Magical, lively and somewhat dark.

www.wattleanddaub.org.uk

100 Word Copy:

Three stories about love, loss and letting go. A small, lonely figure is lured by the elusive and dangerous promise of flight; a witch within the heart of a tree demands a Faustian bargain for safe passage through her forest; and the oldest man in the world stumbles into a Paris jazz club just in time to share one last dance.

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75 Word Copy:

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50 Word Copy:

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1 Sentence Copy:

Three stories about love, loss and letting go, *Triptych* fuses innovative storytelling with a distinctive combination of visual theatre, puppetry and masks; magical, lively and somewhat dark.

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2. Sample Press Release

TRIPTYCH

'beautiful, tender and strangely poignant' *Kate Yedigiaroff - Co-Artistic Director, Mayfest*

In a world in which a handful of feathers hold the secret of flight, a witch within the heart of a tree demands a Faustian bargain for safe passage through her forest, and the oldest man in the world dances eternally to the swinging jazz of the bizarre egg-baby, you're never quite sure whether to be amused or frightened.

Triptych, the debut show from innovative new Bristol-based company Wattle & Daub Figure Theatre, is full of such contradictions. Created in collaboration with TS Eliot award-winning poet Philip Gross and with an original score featuring a 4-piece jazz combo, *Triptych* uses a mixture of visual theatre, shadows and puppetry to tell three stories which strike a balance between the grotesque and the loveable, the tragic and the hilarious, the familiar and the downright weird.

'We wanted to create a three-part show around the idea of letting go: How do you let go of something you love?' says puppeteer Tobi Poster. 'Whether that be another person, your youth or even your life. I suppose in a way it's a piece about the different kinds of loss we experience as we go through life, which sounds rather dark, but then again it's also a shadow-puppet-musical about how much I love 1950s jazz!' he adds. 'Of course, it's also a kind of skewed fairy tale, and a clown-show about trying to fly—one of the wonderful things about an anthology piece is that you can look at the same idea in all sorts of different ways.'

If you think you know what you're in for at a puppet show, think again. Wattle & Daub Figure Theatre explodes ideas about what puppetry can do, blurring the line between puppet and live performer, mixing genres with gleeful abandon, and proving that puppetry can be for adults too.

A truly trans-Atlantic duo, the company met in Paris while studying mask and clowning with Philippe Gaulier, whose former students include Sasha Baron-Cohen and Complicite's Simon McBurney. Tobi fell in love with puppetry while working with award-winning clown and physical theatre company Lost Spectacles, who bought their hit show *Lost in the Wind* to Mayfest in 2008. Artistic Director Laura Purcell Gates cut her teeth performing in US burlesque troupe Stilettos and Straps, and honed her puppetry skills in numerous cabaret and street performances across the US and UK. 'I love the atmosphere you get performing in cabaret venues,' she says. 'I'm really interested in how you can create that intimacy with the audience in a theatre space.'

And the company's name? 'We like to play with simple forms in order to explore complex ideas and emotions,' says Tobi. 'We're very low-tech and minimalist in a way; I like the idea that you can build something quite intricate and beautiful out of some scraps of cloth and a bundle of twigs. At the end of the day, we're just looking for the best possible way to tell the story.'

For further information, photos and interviews contact:

[Tobi Poster, tobi@wattleanddaub.org.uk / 07855804526](mailto:tobi@wattleanddaub.org.uk) or
[Laura Purcell Gates, laura@wattleanddaub.org.uk](mailto:laura@wattleanddaub.org.uk)

3. Sample Direct Mail Letter

Wattle & Daub

Figure Theatre

Dear Theatregoer,

Wattle & Daub Figure Theatre is delighted to present *Triptych*, three stories about love, loss and letting go.

Innovative storytelling, strange and wonderful creatures, plus a scorching original jazz score: *Triptych* plunges you into a world that's magical, lively and somewhat dark.

A small, lonely figure is lured by the elusive and dangerous promise of flight; a witch within the heart of a tree demands a Faustian bargain for safe passage through her forest; and the oldest man in the world stumbles into a Paris jazz club just in time to share one last dance. *Triptych* proves that puppetry can be for adults too.

Can a butterfly be evil? What comes of severing ourselves from nature? Who is the Egg Baby? Come and find out for yourself...

One not to be missed!

'beautiful, tender and strangely poignant'

Kate Yedigaroff - Co-Artistic Director, Mayfest

For further information about
the company and show please visit
www.wattleanddaub.org.uk

Recommended for audiences aged 12 years and over.

4. Marketing Information

Key selling points

- Accessible and entertaining new work
- Highly-skilled performers/puppeteers
- Soundtrack features an original jazz score by a 4-piece jazz combo
- Created in collaboration with T S Eliot award-winning poet and author Philip Gross
- Distinctive combination of visual theatre, puppetry and masks
- Innovative storytelling

Target audience

- Adults
- A-level and university students of drama, physical theatre, puppetry
- Audiences interested in puppetry, contemporary visual and physical theatre, and/or storytelling
- Those who enjoy the work of Green Ginger, Pickled Image, Trestle Theatre, and Bread and Puppet
- Alternative/fringe theatre audiences

Other

- Company members are available for press and radio interviews
- Educational puppetry workshops available on request
- Suitable for audiences aged 12 and over

5. Box Office Brief

About the show:

- New work
- Visual theatre, Puppetry and Mask
- A trilogy of 3 short stories about letting go - dark, funny and sad
- Created in collaboration with T S Eliot award-winning poet and author Philip Gross
- Soundtrack features an original jazz score by a 4-piece jazz combo
- Recommended for ages 12+

Credits:

- Devised and directed by Laura Purcell Gates and Tobi Poster
- Text by Philip Gross
- Music by Chris Roaf and Tom Poster
- Music Performed by Ewan Bleach, Michael Bleach, James Clegg, Nicholas Pitt, Chris Roaf, Tom Poster and the Company

Performance Details:

- 60 minutes with no interval
- Recommended for ages 12+
- No strobe effects but some flashing lights

6. Company and Collaborator Information

About the Company

Wattle & Daub Figure Theatre is a Bristol-based puppetry and visual theatre company that plays with strange structures, striking visual imagery and the interconnections between puppet and puppeteer.

Tobi Poster trained at Bretton Hall and the École Philippe Gaulier and has also studied clown with Mick Barnfather and Butoh with Tetsuro Fukuhara. Aside from his work in Wattle & Daub Figure Theatre he is co-founder and co-artistic director of Lost Spectacles, appearing in their 2008 production *Lost in the Wind*. He has also recently appeared in Pirandello's *Henry IV* at the Minneapolis Theatre Garage and *In Manus Tuas* at the 2007 Festival of Emergent Arts, London, and has run workshops in physical comedy for the University of Minnesota.

Laura Purcell Gates began designing puppets with Michael Sommers of Open Eye in Minneapolis, and has recently relocated to the U.K. where she co-founded Wattle & Daub Figure Theatre. She trained at LAMDA and the École Philippe Gaulier, has directed and performed throughout the U.S. with such companies as Shakespeare and Company and the Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company, and was a founding member of Stilettos and Straps Cabaret.

Collaborator Biographies

Philip Gross is a poet and novelist, writing for both adults and young people. Winner of the prestigious 2009 T S Eliot Prize for his collection *The Water Table*, and previously shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize for *The Wasting Game*, he enjoys collaboration and has worked with other poets and dramatists, as well as with photographers, sculptors and choreographers.
www.philipgross.co.uk

Winner of First Prize at the 2007 Scottish International Piano Competition, **Tom Poster** appears as concerto soloist, solo recitalist and chamber musician in a range of major international venues. He has also recorded his own Gershwin arrangements with jazz singer Victoria Hart and had his compositions performed extensively, including two chamber operas.
www.tomposter.co.uk

Chris Roaf learned to play shakuhachi and shamisen in Japan while studying Japanese, and has performed with the SOAS Japanese Music Society throughout the UK. In 2009 he composed and recorded the soundtrack for Sam Branton's *Erotica Bestia* exhibition at the Sesame Gallery. He both modifies and creates his own instruments, a number of which were made specifically for *Triptych*.

7. Contact Information

Company members are available for press and radio interviews by prior arrangement.

Please contact:

Tobi Poster, tobi@wattleanddaub.org.uk / 07855804526 or
Laura Purcell Gates, laura@wattleanddaub.org.uk