

## Press Release

28/5/2010



7 July – 21 August 2010

Polka Theatre and Little Angel Theatre presents

# Skitterbang Island

*An enchanting fusion of puppetry and music in Polka's first Early Years opera*

By Phil Porter and Martin Ward

Based on an original idea by Danny Vice-Holt

Directed by Peter Glanville

As Marie and her uncle sing to each other on their journey across the peaceful sea, a mighty storm suddenly blows their ship apart and they are left stranded and separated on a tiny island somewhere in the North of the World. When Marie stumbles across a strange character that calls himself Skitterbang, at first she believes he is a monster. But his sweet smile melts her heart, and while Uncle Edvard searches for his niece, Marie finds herself befriending this odd but kind-hearted being.

A gramophone, a selection of pots, pans, screws, tubes and shakeable jars of stones, make up an entire orchestra of homemade instruments, lovingly arranged by Skitterbang. Designer **Laura McEwen** creates a captivating set of beautiful objects, becoming both the cold island and Skitterbang's homely cave.

Artistic Director of Little Angel Theatre, **Peter Glanville**, is directing the show fresh from his recent acclaim for Little Angel's production *The Fabulous Flutterbys*. He will combine the worlds of puppetry and opera this summer in a gentle show brought to life in Polka's intimate Adventure Theatre. This is the first opera Polka has specifically created for a younger audience and with Box Office sales already strong, the popularity of the Adventure Theatre is a testament to the standard and dedication of its' Early Years work.

The multi-skilled cast of three opera singers will also operate **Sue Dacre's** exquisite puppets in this dreamlike tale set to music composed by **Martin Ward** and a libretto by **Phil Porter**. A visual and musical treat for the under 6s, *Skitterbang Island* will ignite the imagination of the very young and remind both parents and children that sometimes appearances can be deceiving.

-Ends-

### Cast credits:

**Natalie Raybould** – Marie, Arnie the Magic Snow Stoat

**Sani Muliaumaseali'i** – Uncle Edvard

**Lowri James** – Skitterbang

### Production credits:

**Written by** Phil Porter

**Directed by** Peter Glanville

**Music composed by** Martin Ward

**Designed by** Laura McEwen

**Puppets by** Sue Dacre

### Listings Information:

**Venue:** Polka Theatre (Adventure Theatre)

**Address:** 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1SB

**Dates:** 19 June – 7 August 2010

**Times:** Usually 2 shows per day, check website or Box Office for times

**Price:** £8, concessions £7

**Box Office:** [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) / 020 8543 4888

For further press information including images and interviews please contact Elise Neve at Polka Theatre on 020 8545 8354 / [elise@polkatheatre.com](mailto:elise@polkatheatre.com).