



Theatre-Rites'
MOJO

*“No matter your age it should leave you feeling stimulated, rib-tickled,
lighter than when you walked in and glad to be alive”*

The Times, ★★★★★ on Theatre-Rites' and Arthur Pita's Mischief

After the success of Mischief, Theatre-Rites has reunited with choreographer Arthur Pita to create a new feel-good family show. **MOJO**, for adults and children aged 5 plus is a co-production between **Theatre-Rites**, the **Barbican** and the **Salzburg Festival**.

The UK premiere will be a Christmas 2011 run at the Barbican and MOJO will tour from August to October 2012, opening at the Salzburg Festival.

In an enchanting new presentation suitable for the whole family and school groups, a riot of dance, puppetry and music takes us on a spectacular journey through the magic and mayhem of growing up. Bursting with energy and evocative movement, objects come to life and characters discover their mojo, igniting stunning visual transformations devised by the award-winning team of Arthur Pita and Sue Buckmaster. A dynamic ensemble including world jazz percussionist Adriano Adewale and blues/folk, jazz singer, trumpeter and guitarist Leo Altarelli enliven this extraordinary world.

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MOJO

Created by

Director Sue Buckmaster

Co-director and Choreographer Arthur Pita

Composition by Adriano Adewale and Leo Altarelli

Set and Lighting Design Peter Mumford

Puppetry Design Michael Fowkes

Puppet Makers Scott Brooker, Helly McGrother, Jonathan Saville, Yvonne Stone

Music Director Keith Clouston

Costume Design Suzy Peters

Magic Consultant John van der Put

MOJO will integrate the world of music with the worlds of puppetry, dance and magic. Exploring how children develop and survive by 'growing up' a gentle psychological thread will emerge and we will discover how children go through their own mini evolution to find their mojo. Central to MOJO will be a young child puppet who we watch grow from baby, to toddler, to 8 year old and finally to teenager.

How many puppeteers does it take to manipulate one puppet? How many adults does it take to bring up one child? Using cutting-edge puppetry techniques we will show how adults influence, inspire, nurture and sometimes hinder a child's natural evolution. Ultimately MOJO will be a treat for all the family, full of fun, fabulous music and wonderful puppets. It will combine the power of visual theatre with the vibrancy of a live music gig.

MOJO is the result of 20 years of Sue Buckmaster's puppetry and object manipulation explorations, drawing on a range of techniques all brought together in one show. The puppets have been made by a team of talented makers whose previous credits include War Horse, Lion King and His Dark Materials.

The cast of 8 includes Theatre-Rites' regular collaborator puppeteer **Mohsen Nouri**, one of the original Mischief cast members **Laura Cubitt**, dancers **Cody Choi**, **Tanya Richam-Odoi** and **Clemmie Sveaas**. Clemmie was recently the lead in "The Most Incredible Thing" at Sadler's Wells, by the Pet Shop Boys and Javier du Frutos. They will be joined onstage by **Adriano Adewale** and **Leo Altarelli**.

Theatre-Rites' Bursary Artist magician John Van der Put (also known as his alter ego Piff the Magic Dragon) will be collaborating on MOJO, adding a touch of magic.

Mojo will have an accompanying Resource Pack and we will offer workshops and/or outreach activities.

MOJO TOURING INFORMATION

TOURING AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2012

COMPANY:

Touring with director and/or choreographer, 8 performers (including two on-stage live musicians) and 3 stage managers:

Stage Management:

1 Company Manager
1 Technical SM (relights)
1 Technical SM (sound/set)

SPACE:

We require:

Pros arch opening - either hard or soft - minimum 8.5m wide x 5m high, stage depth from rear of pros to back wall minimum 9m

Wing width of 2m on both sides beyond pros

Full counterweight flying system AND full flying height

Level wood floor suitable for dance NOT RAKED

Black dance floor covering the whole performance area

If a venue does not meet these criteria then it may still be possible to make it work, but we would need to look at it in detail before booking.

GET-IN/OUT:

Minimum 1.5 day (4 session) get-in/ rig/ fit up / focus/ plot.(min 6 sessions for first two UK venues on tour)

The get-out will immediately follow the final performance, and should take 3 hours or less.

PRS:

All the music in the show has been specially composed and will mostly be played live, with some recorded backing tracks.

OTHER INFORMATION:

MOJO is approx 80 minutes long, with no interval.

We can perform up to 2 shows a day and will usually stay for a minimum of 3 shows in any one venue.



SELLING POINTS

New show by the same team who created the award-winning Mischief

Brilliantly fun choreography by exciting talent, Arthur Pita

Visually breath-taking with designs by Peter Mumford

Amazing puppets, animated by a puppetry ensemble

A unique mix of music, dance and puppetry

Specifically created and tailored to meet the needs of the audience –children aged 5 plus, as well as their families, friends and schools. The children will feel as if the show is “talking” to them and will therefore feel very special

A full company of 8 performers with a mix of skills including puppetry, contemporary dance, acting and two on-stage musicians.

Like everything else in the show, the music has been specially created and commissioned for MOJO

The show will be playful and full of fun – with magic (literally)and silliness.

Lots of unexpected surprises will keep the entire audience enthralled

Fantastic learning and “education” opportunity for all children within the age range

The show will appeal to and be enjoyed by adults as well as children-that’s the beauty of Theatre-Rites productions – it can genuinely be enjoyed by the whole family

A wonderful, creative mix of interesting people, ideas and outlooks means MOJO is guaranteed to be a very special package

MOJO is particularly accessible to adults and children with learning disabilities and adults and children with English as a second language.

Sue Buckmaster



Sue Buckmaster is Artistic Director of Theatre-Rites. She has many years of experience as a director, puppetry specialist and teacher and has worked with companies including the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Young Vic, Sadler's Wells, South Bank Centre and Complicite.

Her most recent work outside Theatre-Rites is head of puppetry for the acclaimed *Peter Pan* in Kensington Gardens. Sue has created eight theatre and nine site-specific shows for Theatre-Rites including the acclaimed *Paradise* for the 2010 Ruhrtriennale festival.

Arthur Pita



Arthur Pita's choreographic work includes *Mappa Mundi* and *Women Beware Women* for the Royal National Theatre, *Caledonian Road* for the Almeida, *La Boheme* and *Show Boat* both directed by Francesca Zambello at the Royal Albert Hall, *Idomeneo* with Placido Domingo for Los Angeles Opera, *Street Scene* (Evening Standard Award Best Musical) for The Opera Group and Young Vic, *The Winter's Tale* for Royal Shakespeare Company, *Orfeo ed Euridice* for Minnesota Opera and *The Glass Menagerie* for the Young Vic. In 2010 he toured his own company's production *God's Garden*.

Peter Mumford



Peter Mumford is a highly experienced set and lighting designer who has worked with a wide range of dance, opera and theatre companies including ENO, New York Metropolitan, Rambert, Royal Court, National Theatre and the Old Vic. His most recent work includes *Faust & Damnation of Faust* (English National Opera); *Alice* (Scottish Ballet); *Our Private Life* (Royal Court Theatre); *Twelfth Night* (National Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Wyndham's Theatre, London).

Adriano Adewale



Adriano is a Brazilian-born percussionist and composer. In 2000, he moved to London and soon became part of the Antonio Forcione Quartet. He creates and performs world jazz and collaborators include Joanna McGregor, Netsayi

Chigwendere and Seb Rochford.

In 2007 he formed international world-jazz quartet the Adriano Adewale Group, releasing their acclaimed debut album *SEMENTES* in 2008. Working in partnerships with artists, he created sound tracks for: fine artist Monica de Miranda, the English dance company Stacked Wonky and a percussion based sound track for an animation movie based on the fairy tale 'Little Red Riding Hood'. He also supported Cesaria Evora, Airton Moreira and Flora Purim, Jools Holland, Seu Jorge, and Boubacar Traore.

World jazz at its best. Exhilarating, uplifting, life affirming music.'
thejazzmann.com****

Leo Altarelli



Leo was born in the countryside of East Anglia and grew up in a musical family. His mum taught him to sing and his grandad taught him to play the trumpet and write songs.

As a solo artist, and in collaboration with other bands and projects, Leo has already built up a varied performing and writing background from festivals such as Glastonbury (Avalon stage) concert halls (Birmingham town hall) to clubs and venues around the country, from the Hammersmith Apollo to the Vortex Jazz Club. As well as recording his own music Leo has written and co-produced albums with bands such as Brummy folk punk legends 'The Destroyers' and 'The Sugar Beats Band' with which he won a Birmingham Jazz Award.

'His songs' lyrics strike a judicious balance between the colloquially intimate and the formally poetic, and his stage presence is assured but laced with just enough self-deprecation to amuse.' (Chris Parker, Vortex)

THEATRE-RITES

Theatre-Rites directed by **Sue Buckmaster** stirs the imagination of children and adults alike with critically acclaimed productions including the site-specific *Paradise* commissioned by the RuhrTriennale Festival in 2010 and *Mischief*, originally commissioned by Sadler's Wells and the Dance Touring Partnership in 2007, which launched our middle-scale work. *Mischief* won the TMA Achievement in Dance Award in 2008 and it toured again in 2009 and 2011 including the company's Broadway debut at the acclaimed New Victory Theater. All the work is devised, cross-artform collaboration created for a school and family audience.

Reviews for Mischief :

"Headed by Sue Buckmaster, the London-based company has been devising outstanding live performances for family audiences since 1995. Its new touring show is one of the best times I've had in a theatre all year.

... everyone involved in Mischief knows so well what he or she is doing that it seems right to deem the work touched by a kind of collective genius. No matter your age, it should leave you feeling stimulated, rib-tickled, lighter than when you walked in and glad to be alive". ★★★★★ **The Times**

"The shape of fun" **The New York Times**

"Mischief has been devised spectacularly by Sue Buckmaster and her cast effortlessly pull off a performance of fun. Never have I seen such a simple and enjoyable show that caters to all but those with a heart of stone. Go and see Mischief this half-term even if you pretend you're going for the kids' sake, it will be hard to wipe the smile off your face". ★★★★★ **What's On Stage**

"Alongside the knockabout fun, there are emotions such as anger, tenderness and loneliness at play. Sophia Clist's foam pieces are a versatile rainbow of possibilities, with director Sue Buckmaster astutely drawing all the elements together in a delightfully engaging production". ★★★★★ **The Herald**

"A collaboration between the innovative group Theatre-Rites, which has produced several world-class shows for young people, and choreographer Arthur Pita, this 65-minute piece of dance-theatre will tickle the fancy of both (children) and adults who haven't entirely mislaid their inner child". ★★★ **The Guardian**

"Gold stars all round to Theatre Rites' creative team and engaging performers. A fabulous mime-dance show for all ages - for five-year-olds (as billed) and grown-ups prepared to give wing to the inner child. It's not easy to please everyone, but Mischief does. It does. Global appeal - no languages needed. To paraphrase the final song - let's not be too serious; it's more fun to be mischievous... What a fun way to learn about dance, choreography, theatre, and a moral or two for good measure. A treat for the eyes, ears, and a brush-up for the brain. The theatre was packed". **The British Theatre Guide**

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

- I just loved it all. It made me laugh
- Fabulous work! Inventive, a super wonderful surprise! I would challenge anyone to leave without a smile. (Adult, no children)
- My daughter (10 years old) is profoundly disabled and was really engaged with the whole show. Thank you.
- I want to see it 1000 more times (Zoe aged 6)
- Never thought I could be so entertained by dancing (adult with 6 yo child)
- Storytelling – the development of the characters of the dancers. Not stereotypical dancers and their enjoyment was infectious. (adult with 6 yo)
- Didn't dumb down. My granddaughter had a wonderful introduction to dance.
- More please! There are too few child-friendly dance performances
- Fantastic – I have two youngsters with severe learning difficulties and they were both watching and smiling all the way through – quite an achievement believe me!
- The most brilliant piece of contemporary dance I have ever seen (14 year old)
- Was awesome. Laughed the whole way through. Loved how everyone had such a distinct, unique character (18,19 and 19)
- Just what the theatre should be about! I loved the fact that it was beautiful and subtle in places as well as laugh outloud funny. (parent with 6, 8 and 9 year olds)
- Captivating throughout, it kept children and adults spellbound! Perfect.
- One of the best things I've ever seen for any age group. It was amazing (father with 4 year old)
- Children were mesmerised. Both thought it was lots of fun and didn't get bored at any point. Very original, we haven't seen anything like this before but loved it (adult with 6 & 8 year olds)



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