

Marketing Pack

The Gardener by Mike Kenny

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www.ajtctheatre.co.uk for further information about the company

Contact Information

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Details of the Company ajtc is a professional touring theatre company working in new writing and new productions of established scripts. The company tours to small and mid-scale theatre and non-theatre venues.

“These two are fantastic” Lyn Gardner The Guardian

ajtc is based in the South East region. This small-scale theatre company has earned a national and international reputation for work that has toured to schools, community centres, theatres and arts centres throughout Britain and in Continental Europe. The Gardener is the company’s fifth production - the second for young people. The company directors have extensive experience in Theatre in Education and have brought together a team of the highest calibre to work on this production.

ajtc has toured nationally & internationally to great critical acclaim. The Gardener is the company’s third commissioned work. The company has performed at numerous venues and festivals including: The Royal National Theatre, The Stadtschouwburg Amsterdam, Leicester Haymarket, Cardiff Sherman, Bristol Old Vic (New Vic Studio), Plymouth Drum, The Edinburgh Festival and The Belfast Festival.

This is ajtc’s fifth production. The company was formed by two actors with many years of professional experience – fed up of waiting for someone to give them a job they decided to do something about it.

Previous Productions: ‘Beside Picasso’

‘The Two-Man Tempest’

‘The Book of Miracles’ (with Nottingham Playhouse Roundabout)

‘Red Sun’.

Reviews of Previous productions

Red Sun, Beside Picasso & The Tempest

The Belfast Telegraph

It's rude and raunchy – like its subject matter. Tantrums are thrown, accusations are hurled – and yet, beneath the loathing there's a deep love between these two adversaries. See this, then look on Picasso's Legacy with fresh eyes.

Eastern Daily Press

'A striking presentation. Set on an island in a sea of troubles, The Tempest is magic & illusion, poetry & fancy.

The action bowls along but not too fast to spoil either the play's surprises or the richness of Shakespeare's language.

Combining quick-change routines with deft teamwork the mini cast know how to create mood in a moment.'

Christopher Smith

The Stage The duel between the two is absorbing and explosive.

Plymouth Evening Herald

Employing only four chairs, a walking stick & a pencil, Mick Jasper projects the frustrations of Sabartes, & Iain Armstrong portrays Picasso's arrogant self-justification. Mercurially they swap roles, & also play all the other characters, including eight of the women most central to Picasso's life.

Compelling theatre & a fascinating insight into the artist's private world.

'These two are fantastic' The Guardian (Lyn Gardner)

'A theatrical tour de force' The Scotsman

'Dynamic' The Independent

The Irish Times It was fitting that the (Belfast) festival kicked off with a show about Spain's greatest artist. Beside Picasso, written by Northern Irish writer Brian McAvera & receiving its Irish premiere here at the Lyric was a fascinating, and oft hilarious two-hander about the nature of art, friendship, genius and celebrity Both the writing and acting were excellent.

The Irish News Mick Jasper, who plays Sabartes, and Iain Armstrong, Picasso, perform their roles with a burning intensity that totally engages the audience.

Audience Comments

Performance: 'Beside Picasso'

Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham, Hants 17th October 2002

Really superb performance and play.

Stunning! Formidable performances!

Mind blowing thought provoking. Tremendous writing & what performances.

What a team, thank you.

An enthralling, impressive and powerful performance Iain Armstrong's portrayal of Picasso was totally convincing and Mick Jasper's Sabartes was a powerful portrayal of a symbol of all of us in awe of Picasso's vast output of Art. Great Experience!

ajtc Theatre Company & Nottingham Playhouse Roundabout T.I.E.

The Gardener

Description of Show

About the Production

Length: 50 -55 minutes - additional pre/post show time with the children as required.

The Gardener – A new play for young children and their grandparents - is very much in the tradition of ajtc’s previous shows. There is an original score - played live by the composer. It is a two-man storytelling piece played on a magical set.

The audience meets Joe, a gardener, who has lost something. While he is trying to remember what it is he finds himself telling the story of one year - a special year - when he was a young boy. It is the story of how he became a gardener. It is a story about his forgetful old uncle Harry.

‘Let’s face it, Harry is not the man he was. His memory is going. But he has his garden. The trouble is ... he can’t quite remember the names of all of the plants.

While Harry is forgetting young Joe is busy making memories.

He needs to know ‘What’s this?’ ‘What’s that?’ ‘Who?’ ‘When?’ ‘Why?’ ‘Where?’ ‘How?’

This is a story that is being forgotten and remembered at the same time. It is being lost and made.

As the leaves fall from the branches of Harry’s fading memory they turn into the green shoots of Joe’s new stories.’

Mike Kenny

As the seasons change this tale of beans, slugs and potting compost is told using rhymes rhythms movement and fun.

The Company

Written for the company by:	Mike Kenny
Directed by:	Rosamunde Hutt
Designed by:	Jane Linz Roberts
Original Score by:	Nigel Waterhouse
Movement Specialists	Becky Edmunds/Lawrence Evans
Performed by:	Mick Jasper/ Iain Armstrong
	Nigel Waterhouse
Print Design	David O’Connor

Biographies of Creative Team – The Gardener

Writer: Mike Kenny – is the leading writer of plays for young children. He has won numerous awards for his work including the Arts Council of England Children’s Writer award in 2000. His work is performed around the world.

Director: Rosamunde Hutt is the Artistic Director of Theatre Centre – Britain’s foremost young people’s touring company. Ros was also a member of the writing group for the ACE publication ‘Drama in Schools’: second edition.

ajtc Theatre Company

Composer & Musician: Nigel Waterhouse is a multi instrumentalist with numerous performance, concert and radio credits.

Wardrobe & Design: Jane Linz Roberts: trained at **Bristol University, Central St. Martins** and gained an M.A. in Design for Film and Television from **Kingston University**. She was Resident Designer of the **Sherman Theatre** and has designed for **Birmingham Rep, Theatr Clwyd, Sheffield Crucible, Nottingham Playhouse**, the **New Victoria**, Stoke-on-Trent, the **Wolsey Theatre**, the **Traverse**, and the **Unicorn**.

Performers and Producers: Mick Jasper & Iain Armstrong

Both actors have worked in television, film, video and radio. They have over 30 years combined experience of professional acting.

Mick has worked in **regional theatre** at Ipswich, Northampton, and the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff; and **on tour** with Forest Forge, Telltale, Footloose, New Perspectives, Zap Theatre, Bracknell, Theatre Centre, Royal Touring, Wolsey T.I.E. & Nottingham Playhouse, and in the **West End** at the Arts Theatre. The National Theatre (Children’s Platform 2001 *Walking the Tightrope*)

Iain has worked in **regional theatre** at Sheffield, Peterborough, Chester, Leatherhead, Ludlow, Perth, Stockholm, Lahore, Sarajevo and Chichester, and **on tour** with Century Theatre, Temba, Jill Freud and Company, Vanessa Ford, Theatre Set-Up, Wildcard Theatre Company, Nottingham Playhouse, and in the **West End** at The Piccadilly Theatre and Arts Theatre

ajtc Theatre Company

www.ajtctheatre.co.uk

Brochure Copy

‘Banging out of the house
Banging the door
My granny’s house

In the garden
In a grump

Nobody notices.
Nobody listens.
Except Uncle Harry’

ajtc & Nottingham Playhouse Roundabout T.I.E. present

‘The Gardener’ by Mike Kenny

A new play with music for young children and their families

Mike Kenny’s plays for young children are performed around the world.
He has won many awards including the 2000 Arts Council of England Children’s’ Writer
award

Joe’s story unfolds to a live musical score from Nigel Waterhouse.

Suggested Target Audience

Young children – up to 8 yrs.
Their Families – it is a family story - Grandparents
– Uncle Harry is a grandfather figure

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www.ajtctheatre.co.uk

General arts participants/audiences.

Suggested Selling points

Age Range - A story that will appeal to young children and their grandparents - especially written with this audience in mind.
Internationally renowned playwright.
Storytelling -
Gardens and gardening
The Seasons

**Remembering and Forgetting
The company & the creative team**

Press

Sample Press Release 1

AJTC Theatre company presents – The Gardener – by Mike Kenny

Date: Time: Venue:

Sample Press Release 2

Fantastic coup for ajtc

With backing from Arts Council England – South East ajtc theatre company has commissioned **Mike Kenny** to write their latest production **‘The Gardener’**.

ajtc is an established theatre company known for its high quality productions of new work for small and mid-scale venues. It has toured three successful productions forging a national and international touring circuit. The company’s first production, *‘Beside Picasso’*, toured throughout the UK and abroad receiving critical acclaim from the national press for performances at the Edinburgh Festival and the National Theatre. Following this tour ajtc presented a two man *‘Tempest’* and a young people’s show – *‘The Book of Miracles’* co-produced with Nottingham Playhouse, Roundabout.

‘The Gardener’ is a vibrant collaboration between a major playwright and a dynamic theatre company.

Press ‘Grabs’.

World Premiere Tour of new work by award winning playwright.

This Guildford based company has won international renown for innovative and exhilarating work.

Ajtc – a small-scale theatre company with a big scale reputation brings its latest work to

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Toured nationally and internationally with productions that have won great critical acclaim.

Committed to the production of new work for national and international touring, with performances at the Royal National Theatre, the Edinburgh and Belfast Festivals, and the Stadsschouwburg Amsterdam,

ajtc - a company of two - “are virtuosi in the art of pure theatre”.

Mailing Letter outline –

This is a remarkable opportunity to see a brand new work by one of Britain's greatest contemporary playwrights.

The theatre company? Ajtc.

Ajtc was set up by two experienced actors who were tired of waiting for the phone to ring and decided to do something about it. 'Red Sun' is their fourth production. They have taken productions to the National Theatre, the Belfast Festival, Leicester Haymarket, Plymouth Theatre Royal, the Amsterdam Stadsschouwburg and many theatres, arts centres and community venues throughout Britain and Northern Ireland.

We can promise you a truly memorable night of total theatre.

PR Opportunities: Interviews Ajtc is happy to do radio & press interviews etc if they will be useful to support your general marketing plan.

Open Door Policy We have a general open door policy and will be happy to work with individuals &/or groups at any time during our visit - where time allows.

After Show Talks The company is happy to spend time chatting with the audience, answering questions etc - on a formal or informal basis - after the performance.

Workshops ajtc offers a combination of workshops and performances run by highly trained, experienced, educators and community arts workers.

'Shape your own garden! Join members of the cast for a green fingered drama workshop'.

Age Range: under 8yrs.

Maximum number of children: 20

BOX OFFICE BRIEFING SHEET

The Gardener – by Mike Kenny

Produced by

ajtc & Nottingham Playhouse Roundabout Theatre in Education company

with support from

ACE (The Arts Council of England)

Venue:

Date:

Time/s:

Ticket Prices:

Length of performance: 50 -55 minutes (+ a few minutes after the show for audience chat)

Workshop Information:

(Company contact - venue use only: 01483 232795 michael.jasper@ntlworld.com)

About the play:

A new play for young children (-8yrs) and their families (particularly grandparents)

‘The Gardener’ is a two-man storytelling piece played on a magical set.

The audience meets Joe, a gardener, who has lost something. While he is trying to remember what it is he finds himself telling the story of one year - a special year - when he was a young boy. It is the story of how he became a gardener. It is a story about his forgetful old uncle Harry.

As the seasons change this tale of beans, slugs and potting compost is told using rhymes rhythms movement and fun.

Live music - an original score played by the composer.

Nottingham Playhouse, Roundabout is one of the foremost Theatre in Education Companies in Britain. Established for over 20 years the company has a huge national and international reputation for innovative and specialist work for young people.

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Writer: Mike Kenny – is the leading writer of plays for young children. He has won numerous awards for his work including the Arts Council of England Children’s’ Writer award in 2000. His work is performed around the world.

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Composer & Musician: Nigel Waterhouse is a multi instrumentalist with numerous performance, concert and radio credits.