

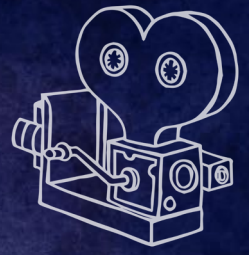


# BEASTLY BELLE



Marketing Pack

# BEASTLY BELLE



## The Production

Originally created as a site-specific show to mark our 35th year, we have now reimagined this spectacular production for a national tour to celebrate our 40th anniversary.

We're going back to the 20s - combining stunning 1920s Hollywood aesthetics with a contemporary twist on the classic Beauty and the Beast tale to delight a 2020s audience.

Full of magical artistic elements, including dynamic projections, a scintillating soundtrack from Hannah Marshall and beautiful puppets created by Gavin Glover (Faulty Optic, PotatoRoom productions), Jan Zalud, Gretchen Maynard-Hahn and Mark Mander.

As part of the development of this project we are also exploring accessibility, including touch tours, embedded audio description and captioning. Full details of these are available on request.

## Copy

Be charmed and surprised by a new twist on an old tale, inspired by the iconic era of 1920s and 30s cinema.

Our young heroine Belle is plucked from a life of poverty by Merill, a greedy film producer who sweeps her off her feet and into fame and fortune in the movies. Caught up in the glitz and glamour, Belle forgets her roots and is ensnared by a world obsessed with good looks - but looks aren't everything, right?

A journey of discovery which explores perceptions of physical beauty and how two strangers can overcome their differences. Will Beauty come to understand and accept the Beast?

Featuring a skilful mix of puppetry, film projections and an original musical score.

## The Basics

- Running time approx 50 minutes (no interval)
- Performed by two puppeteers
- For ages 4 and upwards
- Playing space required 4m by 4m, plus 3m height
- Includes puppetry, live music and projections
- Get in 2.5 hours, get out 1.5 hours
- Touring Thursday 22 October - Thursday 31 December 2020 and Saturday 13 February - Sunday 11 April 2021



# BEASTLY BELLE

## Draft Press Release

[VENUE NAME] are going back to the 20s this [DATE/ Easter Holiday/ February Half Term etc.] as Norwich Puppet Theatre bring their brand new production *Beastly Belle* to [Town name/ The Theatre/ The Arts Centre etc]. The company have combined stunning 1920s Hollywood aesthetics with a contemporary twist on the classic Beauty and the Beast tale to delight 2020s family audiences.

One of only a few dedicated puppetry organisations in England, Norwich Puppet Theatre has been producing family shows for nearly 40 years, specialising in adaptations of traditional tales. Director Joy Haynes describes the appeal of the Beauty and the Beast story: “the fairy tale tells of valuing what is beneath the surface and not to judge on appearances, which is just as relevant today as it ever was.” In Norwich Puppet Theatre’s contemporary adaptation, Belle is transplanted from a life of harsh poverty into the bright and seductive world of the movies, where she is the one transformed. The heroine must burst the beautiful bubble and discover her inner strength to survive.

Bursting with extraordinary rod marionette puppetry, dynamic projections, an atmospheric soundtrack and scintillating songs by composer Hannah Marshall, the show explores a world where beauty and beastliness collide. *Beastly Belle* promises to be a tale full of adventure, intrigue and, as director Haynes puts it, “that which redeems us all...Love.”

Recommended for children aged 4 and above, catch this quirky, humorous and touching show on [DATE] at [VENUE NAME] for a magical family treat.

If your venue is having a touch tour or captioned performance, please add something about this as well, for example:

The production has also been designed with accessibility at its heart, as director Joy Haynes reveals “I am excited to be making a production which is open to as many people as possible.” [VENUE NAME] will have a [captioned performance/ touch tour] on [DATE].

## Press Quotations

(from previous form of the show)

“The characters are witty and snarky, adding a new buzz to the traditional tale. Not to mention, they’re beautifully carved, with vintage velvet and tulle Gatsby-esque costumes, and sparkling marble eyes that seem to engage directly and cheekily with the audience.” - [Georgina Parfitt, Towerbable](#)

“The characters are witty, realistic and a little bit cheeky at the same time”; “exquisite” - [Animations-Online](#)



# BEASTLY BELLE



## Images

A selection of images to use for promotion.  
All photographs by Andi Sapey. Downloadable  
versions available on the touring page of our  
website.



# BEASTLY BELLE



## Norwich Puppet Theatre

One of only a handful of dedicated puppet theatres in England, Norwich Puppet Theatre is a hub for leading international puppeteers and theatre makers.

Using traditional and contemporary puppet craft, Norwich Puppet Theatre productions bring a fresh twist to well loved fairy tales and stories which entrance children and adults alike.

Previous touring productions include *The Tinderbox*, *Pied Piper*, *Thumbelina*, *Red Riding Hood*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* created by Joy Haynes of Banyan Theatre, *Rumpelstiltskin* in collaboration with Ripstop Theatre, *Oddly* based on the children's book written by Joyce Dunbar, and *Three Colours* in collaboration with Polka Theatre.

## Credits

**Written by** Tilly Lunken

**Directed by** Joy Haynes

**Originally designed by** Gavin Glover, with set re-design by Amelia Pimlott

**Music composed by** Hannah Marshall

**Performed by** Gemma Khawaja & Paul Preston Mills

**Photography** Andi Sapey

**Illustrations** Mike Jefferies

**Puppets made by** Gavin Glover, Jan Zalud, Gretchen Maynard-Hahn and Mark Mander

Supported by:



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**NORWICH  
City Council**

 **Norfolk** County Council

## Contact Info

### Main Touring Contact

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### Other NPT Contacts

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**Communications** - Fiona Fletcher  
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**Administration** - Molly Farley  
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### Phone

**Admin Office** - 01603 615564  
Email is usually the best first point of contact as our touring team work part-time.

### Social

 @norwichpuppettheatre

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 @norwich\_puppet

### Post

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[www.puppettheatre.co.uk](http://www.puppettheatre.co.uk)

Norwich Puppet Theatre Reg Charity No. 271041