

PRESS RELEASE August 15, 2009
UK tour 2009



scamp
theatre

SCAMP THEATRE in association with Watford Palace Theatre
present the UK tour of Julia Donaldson's

STICK MAN

Director - Sally Cookson
Designer - Katie Sykes
Lighting - Elanor Higgins
Music - Benji Bower
www.scamptheatre.com

Performed by – Brian Hargreaves
Mark Kane
Emily Pollett

'A cracker of a book' **Financial Times** (on *Stick Man* the book)
'I think the quality of what Scamp do is amazing' **Michael Morpurgo, The Independent**

Scamp Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre, the team behind Michael Morpurgo's *Aesop's Fables*, *Private Peaceful* and *The Mozart Question*, are delighted to present **Stick Man - Live on Stage** on a UK tour September 2009 to January 2010.

Stick Man is adapted from the book by **Julia Donaldson** and Illustrated by **Axel Scheffler** - the creators of *The Gruffalo*. The production is directed by Sally Cookson and designed by Katie Sykes, the creative team behind the hugely popular *Aesop's Fables* and the West End hit *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

Stick Man is a touching and witty story featuring an unforgettable hero with real sticking power!

*'Stick Man lives in the family tree
With his Stick Lady Love
and their stick children three...'*

But one day whilst out for a jog, **Stick Man** is pounced on by a playful dog. Mistaken for an ordinary stick, he is swept far away, being used for all sorts of things: from a flag mast to a cricket bat, a snowman's arm to firewood (well almost!). As his adventure unfolds, **Stick Man** – lost and alone – wonders if he will ever get back to the family tree.

Passing through all the seasons and culminating in a joyful Christmas celebration (with an appearance by a certain portly gentleman dressed in red and white) **Stick Man** will delight children and their families, no matter the time of year. Three actors and a one-man-band combine with a host of colourful characters and animals to magically re-tell Stick Man's adventures. Music is played live, with a multitude of instruments.

Suitable for children aged 4+ their friends & families.

Stick Man was published in 2008 and has already sold close to 200,000 copies in hardback and had a rapturous reception in the press and is released in paperback in September 2009.

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler books are published by Alison Green Books, an imprint of Scholastic UK.

Scamp Theatre (Producer) are award-winning producers of all types of live performance, most recently touring the Michael Morpurgo hits *Private Peaceful*, *The Mozart Question* and *Aesop's Fables*. The directors of Scamp are Jennifer Sutherland and Louise Callow.
www.scamptheatre.com



For more information, please contact Louise Callow on 01462 734843
or email admin@scamptheatre.com Download images from www.scamptheatre.com

Benji Bower - Composer

Benji Bower is one third of Unforscene/UFS Productions.

For Bristol Old Vic: We're Going on a Bear Hunt. As Composer: Benji has worked on various Film and Television Soundtracks including Cult of a Suicide Bomber; Comics Britania and Idents. He has collaborated with artists Alice Russell, Nick Yong and Stu Barker to great acclaim, he has also composed music for the theatre productions Papa Please Get the Moon For Me (Bristol Old Vic/Travelling Light). In 2006 Unforscene did a BBC Radio 1 Maida Vale session.

Sally Cookson - Director

Trained at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. For Bristol Old Vic Studio: Christmas Show 2006-7 - We're Going On A Bear Hunt; Christmas Show 2005-6 - Papa Please Get the Moon For Me- based on the book by Eric Carle adapted by the company. Christmas Show and Tour 2004-5 (Co-production with Travelling Light theatre) – CLOWN, based on the book by Quentin Blake adapted by the company. Directed for Travelling Light Theatre Company: Tour March 2007 - Lenny, The Boy Who Wanted To Be A Train by Francis Monty. Tour 2005,2006,2007 – CLOWN. Tour October 2003 - June 2004 - Cloudland - based on the book by John Burningham adapted by the company.

Julia Donaldson – Writer

Julia Donaldson embarked on her publishing career when a song she'd written for the BBC – 'A Squash and a Squeeze; - was turned into a book. This was the beginning of the acclaimed and bestselling partnership of Julia and artist Axel Scheffler. More than a decade on, the duo have become picture book superstars with titles including The Gruffalo (which has sold nearly two million copies worldwide and been translated into thirty languages), The Gruffalo's Child, Charlie Cook's Favourite Book, The Smartest Giant in Town, The Snail and the Whale (named by Prime Minister Gordon Brown as one of his favourite books) and Tiddler.

When Julia met Malcolm – her husband to be – in her 20's, they set out together on a world trip to taste adventure and to explore different cultures. Relying on busking to survive, they lived a simple existence. Many years later, Julia and Malcolm began another round-the-world trip. This time visiting international schools in Asia, Australasia and the South Pacific. Julia even met Hollywood stars Catherine Zeta Jones and Michael Douglas when they brought their children to her event in Bermuda.

Julia lives in Glasgow and is a full time writer with picture books, novels, songbooks and a phonics series to her name. www.gruffalo.com www.juliadonaldson.co.uk

Brian Hargreaves – Performer

Brian is a multi-instrumentalist performer, composer, arranger and producer. He has arranged and performed on releases by Ninja Tune (The Heavy), Tru Thoughts (The Unforscene / Alice Russell), Brownswood (Ben Westbeech), Wah Wah 45s (The Unforscene) and MonsterPiece (Think / Babyhead / The Zen Hussies). Brian has recorded for Giles Peterson at the BBC's Maida Vale Studios, toured with Bad Manners, and has played extensively with music, circus and cabaret acts worldwide. He has performed at venues from the Glastonbury Festival to Fabric, Disneyland to Dallas, and Newcastle to New York Fashion Week. As a voice over artist he has done work for adverts, radio broadcasts and online magazines.

Elanor Higgins – Lighting Designer

Elanor has been a freelance lighting designer for the last ten years, working predominantly in Wales, where she is based.

Elanor worked with **Scamp** in 2007 recreating the lighting for Private Peaceful and Aesop's fables, and is delighted to be working with them again designing the lighting for **The Stickman**

She has worked closely with the new writing company **Sgript Cymru Contemporary Drama Wales** over the last six years, lighting fourteen shows for them, including 'Acqua Nero' 'Indian Country' 'Pastaway' 'Art and Guff' and 'Amdani'. She has since lit shows for **Sherman Cymru** the new amalgamated companies of Sgript Cymru and Sherman Theatre 'Yr Argae' and 'Maes Terfyn'.

For **Nottingham Playhouse** she lit 'Rats, Buckets and Bombs', for **The Torch Theatre**, 'The Caretaker', for **The Sherman Theatre**, 'Erogenous Zones'.

She has lit shows for Opera, Dance and Site Specific spaces as well as educational companies, such as **The National Youth Theatre of Wales**, where she lit 'Frieda and Diego' and 'Faust a love story.'

Before embarking on a freelance career she worked as a full time lighting technician for The Welsh National Opera, The Royal National Theatre and The Leicester Haymarket.

She is a graduate of The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she now works as a part time lecturer in lighting.

Mark Kane – Performer

Mark trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, graduating in 2003. Theatre credits include: The Ugly Duckling (Travelling Light/Tobacco Factory) Julius Caesar (Barbican Theatre) Riddance (Traverse Theatre) Twelfth Night, Flora The Red Menace, Peter Pan, Dumbstruck and Scenes From An Execution (all at Dundee Rep).

TV: Heartbeat (ITV) Witches (Sky TV) Film: In The Sleep Of Ignorance (Self Help Productions)

Emily Pollet - Performer

Emily trained at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Stage credits include: *Hayfever* (directed by Sir Peter Hall/Joe Harmston), *Whisper* (Royal Court), *Miss Havisham* (BAC), *Viola in Twelfth Night*, *Scenes from an Execution*, *The Danny Crowe Show*, *Wendy in Peter Pan*, *Dumbstruck* and *Cinderella* (all at Dundee Rep Theatre), *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (Apollo, West End), *Jekyll and Hyde* (Perth Rep), *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (New Vic, Stoke), *Taming of The Shrew* (MAC).

TV credits include: *Bodies* (BBC), *The Royal* (YTV), *Red Cap* (BBC), *Lust for Murder* (LWT).

Axel Scheffler – Illustrator

Axel was born in Hamburg, Germany. In the 1980's Axel moved to study illustration at Bath Academy of Arts, where he spent much of his time drawing sheep and peacocks in the grounds of Corsham Court. Axel then moved to London where he began illustrating for a variety of English and German advertising Companies, magazines and newspapers, before moving into book illustrations in the early 90's where he began his picture book odyssey with Julia Donaldson. In 2006, he designed Gordon Brown's Christmas cards.

Axel lives in London but likes to hop across the Channel frequently for visits to continental Europe. His hobbies include walking, cooking, reading and beadwork.

Katie Sykes - Production Designer

For Bristol Old Vic: Recent productions include: We're going on a Bear Hunt, Papa, Please get the Moon For Me, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (co-design with Melly Still), Lee Hall double bill, Antigone, Endgame, Kangaroo Valley, No Loud Bangs plays, The Visit, Fuente Ovejuna.

Other Theatre: Mother Savage, Too Many Cooks, Cloudland, Into The West, The Stones, Walking the Tightrope (Travelling Light Theatre Company); Warrior Square, Stepping on the Cracks (Nottingham Playhouse); Sapling Song, As Far as I Can Sea (National Trust Theatre) Through the Wire, Jump (Myrtle Theatre Company); Salaam (Fairgame).

Scamp Theatre - Producer (founded by Jennifer Sutherland and Louise Callow) are award-winning international producers, with a superb track record of theatre production in London, on tour and at the world's leading festivals including Edinburgh, Wellington, New York and Melbourne.

Recent productions include:

Michael Morpurgo's *The Mozart Question* (London & tour 2009, Edinburgh), *Charlie Victor Romeo* (UK tour 2008 & Edinburgh), *Private Peaceful* (UK tours 2005, 2007 & 2009, Off Broadway 2007, West End 2005 & 2007), *Aesop's Fables* (Edinburgh and UK & New Zealand & Australia tours 2008), *Two Men Talking* (West End & UK tour 2007). Scamp Theatre won a Fringe First in 2005 for their acclaimed production *screwmachine/eyecandy* by CJ Hopkins.

Watford Palace Theatre - Producer

This is an exciting time at Watford Palace Theatre. WPT aims to be the creative centre at the heart of Watford, engaging with all the communities of Watford, Hertfordshire and the surrounding region. It creates live and interactive experiences that are inclusive, uplifting and empowering whilst developing a national and international reputation for exceptional and diverse theatre.

Watford has a population of just over 80,000, of whom around 20% (including 40% school age students) are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The Palace is a 600-seat producing venue (one of 3 producing theatres in the region, the others being in Colchester and Ipswich), and receives revenue funding from Arts Council England East and Watford Borough Council. The annual programme consists of in-house productions and co-productions, presenting touring productions and a programme of participatory activities that together attract the widest possible local audiences. The theatre was originally built as a music hall, and celebrated its Centenary in 2008.

The Participation programme at Watford Palace had focused largely on schools, and has been generously supported by the Children, Schools and Families Directorate of Hertfordshire County Council. We are now building on this high-quality programme, extending our work to reach young people out of school as well as our wider community in Watford. With increased work with adults and the community we are now planning our next large scale project to take place in Autumn 2010.

**For more information, please contact Louise Callow on 01462 734843
or email admin@scamptheatre.com Download images from www.scamptheatre.com**

Brigid Larmour is our Artistic Director and Chief Executive and her artistic vision and our emerging programme of ambitious community engagement projects make this an exciting time to join our team and make a real difference to our organisation.

STICK MAN

UK Tour 2009

September

5th-6th	Watford Palace Theatre	01923 225671
11th	Haverhill Arts Centre	01440 714140
12th	Greenwich Theatre	020 8858 7755
19th	Colchester Mercury	01206 573948
20th	Arts Depot, Finchley	020 8369 5454
22nd	Uppingham Theatre	01572 821264
26th	Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds	01284 769505
27th	Kings Lynn Arts Centre	01553 764864
30th	Winterford School, Worcs	

October

3rd-4th	Haymarket, Basingstoke	01256 844244
10th	Pontadawe Arts Centre	01792 863722
11th	Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal	01539 725133
13th-14th	Brunton Theatre, Musselborough	0131 665 2240
17th	Gulbenkian, Canterbury	01227 769075
18th	Weston Auditorium, Hatfield, Herts	01707 281127
19th	Key Theatre, Peterborough	
20th-22st	New Wolsey, Ipswich	01733 207239
22nd-23rd	Loughborough Town Hall	01473 295 911
25th	Corn Exchange, Bedford	01234 269519
27th-28th	The Point, Eastleigh	023 8065 2333
29th	Norwich Arts Centre	01603 660352
30th	Rhodes Centre, Bishops Stortford	01279 651746
31st	Corn Exchange, Newbury	01635 522733

November

1st	Aberystwyth Arts Centre	01970 623232
7th	Old Town Hall, Hemel	01442 228091
8th	Salisbury Arts Centre	01722 321744
11th	Taliesin, Swansea	01792 602060
14th	Southport Arts Centre @ Crosby Civic Hall	01704 540011
17th-24th	Madinat Theatre, Dubai	00 97 1436 66546

December

7 Dec - 9 Jan	Soho Theatre, London	0207 478 0100
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