

RENEW YOUR BUBBLE LINKS

Help us by renewing your links with the company and joining the Members of Bubble or MOB. You will be kept up to date through our newsletter, receive free tickets to events but most importantly help us model a theatre company that is truly supported by the community.



Contact a Bubble Staff member to know more about MOB, Donations or Legacy Giving or visit www.londonbubble.org.uk

ACCESS TO BUBBLE: SUPPORT OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

London Bubble prides itself on the warmth of its welcome. But, our premises, where much of our theatre making happens, are currently inaccessible and environmentally unfriendly. Our planned refurbishment will enable us to offer the kind of warm, accessible and environmentally sustainable facilities that our members and participants deserve. The improvements will include installing a lift to the first floor and a bridge to connect our two buildings, new accessible toilets and an energy efficient lighting and heating system.

A gift of £25 or more will help make a difference to the project. For those that can give more
A gift of £250 or more will help us take a big step towards completing the refurbishment.

Please speak to us if you would like to discuss making a donation or use one of the Access to Bubble envelopes. Thank you.

London Bubble
celebrates
40

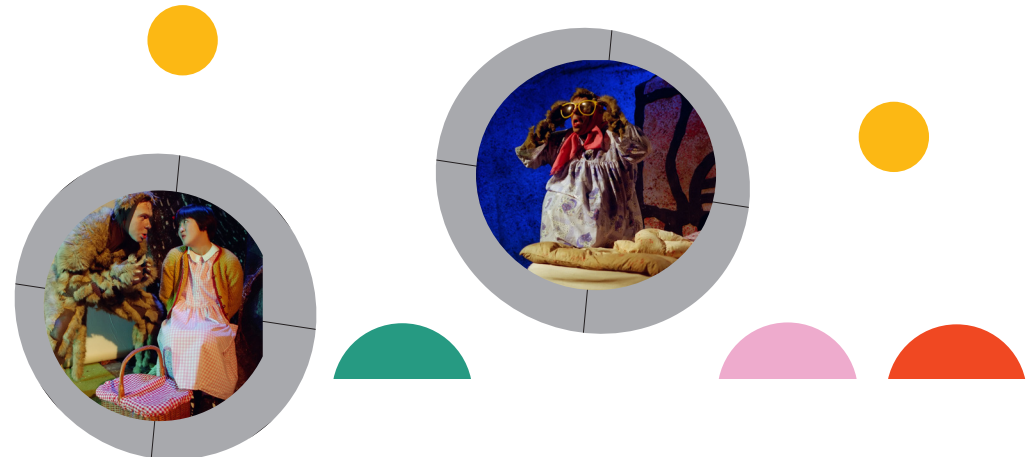
RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF - (the reading)

DORIS
RUBY
MARROW THE DOG
BET THE VET
GORDON
WOLF
MUSICIAN

Simon Thomson
Rebecca Jackson
Robert Stephenson
Marva Alexander
Daniel Tuite
Eric MacLennan
Kim Burton

Original music written by Thomas Johnson, Script by Jonathan Petherbridge, Props and décor by Michael Breakey.

Thanks also to the original cast members Pui Fan Lee and Mojisola Adabayo who send their love but can't be here (Pui's actually performing a panto elsewhere, this very afternoon). And thanks to the original designer Janis Hart and all the makers and managers from '98.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's our birthday and this pantomime event is part of the party. A quick explanation – Bubble gave its first performance in May 1972 in a tent in outer London and in the 40 years that followed, the company has made an awful lot of theatre. To celebrate our 40th we thought rather than having one big bash it would be interesting to focus on different aspects of the company and take it 10 years at a time, and this is the 90's (or 1992-2001 to be pedantic).

Bubble first took on a pantomime in 1992, and, to be frank, panto won. The first naive attempt was a Cinderella for the Albany – performed in the round and using see-through doc martins as glass slippers. It was locally based, rough and featured a gold fish called Tartofolus. 7,000 people came along, some complained about the violence but enough people responded positively to persuade us to keep going. Red Riding Hood was our last Albany pantomime – the sixth in the series. In 1999 we potted out to the Cochrane in Holborn before returning to Greenwich Theatre in 2002. Ironically the last one we produced was also Cinderella – but this was now attended by over 18,000 people.

Pantomime is a joyous thing. It is also a highly complicated, deeply controversial theatrical form that requires a huge amount of hard work and naughtiness. The Bubble form always included original music and music hall routines forensically researched in the British Film Institute archives. We tried to ensure a plot that people would care about and a stop scene that was motivated and tight. We also allowed the Dame full rein to de-bunk, and challenged the audience with some difficult but critically important participation.

These last two factors are why I think Bubble and panto went together naturally. The company has always worked "with" audiences, breaking the fourth wall in various ways to implicate people in the story. Between 1992 and 2004 124,000 people joined performers, designers, makers, managers and stage dwelling animals to enjoy this Christmas collusion.

After tonight we continue our birthday on March 9th, focussing on the development of participatory theatre projects at Bubble and elsewhere. Then in the summer we will be looking at promenade and into the future – considering what small community arts organisations might have to usefully offer the world of 2052.

Thank you for joining us tonight, please keep in touch and let's hope the pantomime isn't really behind us.

Jonathan Petherbridge
jonathan@londonbubble.org.uk



BUBBLE in 2013

2013 is an exciting year for the Bubble. Really, truly, exciting. The Bubble HQ will undergo major works (starting in two weeks) that will allow us to welcome our participants, our community and you our friends, and supporters into an accessible, warm and environmentally friendly building.

Our work with older people will enter an interesting new phase - both with the development of the work we are currently delivering in two local residential homes and with the From Docks to Desktops project moving from people's living rooms into a rehearsal room. Following BLACKBIRDS, look out for another intergenerational performance in the summer of 2013. The year will also see us develop the Speech Bubbles project up in Manchester, working closely with M6 Theatre. And finally, we will be starting work to bring back Fan Made Theatre in 2014! As we said all very exciting!!

And here's what you can come and see/ participate in/ debate on, over the next 3 months -

STORIES THE BUILDING HAS SEEN

20 Jan, 4pm onwards
A special one-off event as we say a temporary goodbye to our building.

RESIDENT GROUPS

w/c 4 Feb (various evenings)
Our regular theatre making groups for people of all ages, 6 upwards. Most groups run in the evenings and there is no selection criteria.

ALTOGETHER NOW - a birthday event

9 March
As part of our 40th birthday celebrations, we are inviting current and former workshop leaders, associated staff and interested guests for an evening to explore the Company's participatory past, present and ask, what next?

To know more about all of these events and activities, or to book for them, visit www.londonbubble.org.uk or call the Bubble team on 02072374434.

