

2009 programme for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Australia's leading children's theatre company, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has announced their lineup of shows and events for 2009, including two new productions, *The Man from Snowy River* and *The Night Zoo*, and the return of one of the company's most popular productions, Tim Winton's *The Bugalugs Bum Thief*, as well as international and Western Australian regional tours.

Artistic Director, Philip Mitchell said that 2009 will build on the company's extraordinary developments in 2008 which included an extensive national tour of the award winning production, *The Arrival* and a return sell-out season of the adored *Cat Balloon*.

"The 2009 season has been inspired by the 2008 *Journeys* theme. It will see many exciting adventures at home as well as two international tours," he said. "Next year we will produce two world premieres and a revival of the fabulous *The Bugalugs Bum Thief*. As always, there will be exciting combinations of puppetry, dance, movement, circus, masks, beautifully crafted puppets and the inclusion of remarkable digital technologies."

Returning to the stage in Term 1 holidays (April 11 to 24) is the cheeky tale *The Bugalugs Bum Thief*, last seen in 2004. Directed by Noriko Nishimoto, *The Bugalugs Bum Thief* tells the tribulations of a sleepy seaside Western Australian town plagued by a mysterious bum thief. The show's hero and puppet detective, Skeeta Anderson, his mate, Mick Misery and Roger the Dog embark on an exhilarating adventure as they try to solve the mystery of 496 missing bottoms!

A new production inspired by iconic Australian poem, *The Man from Snowy River*, will receive a world premiere in the Term 2 holidays (July 18 to 25). Written by Mark Storen and directed by Philip Mitchell, this new work re-imagines Patterson's famous poem through the eyes of a city boy who dreams of heroic adventures. One day in the supermarket, his dreams come true and he goes on the larrikin-ride of his life. Featuring Shane Adamczak, Michelle Robin Anderson and Michael Barlow with Spare Parts' trademark puppetry techniques as well as shadow play and object theatre, *The Man from Snowy River* is a rollicking adventure story of a boy finding his place in the world.

Another new production *The Night Zoo* will be presented during the Term 3 school holidays (September 19 to October 10) about the remarkable relationships children have with animals. Written and directed by Michael Barlow, *The Night Zoo* is a magical story about a little girl who dreams of owning a pet of her own. She dreams so hard that instead of getting just one animal she gets a whole zoo!

Throughout the year Spare Parts will hit the road for tours in the Great Southern and South West with their acclaimed productions of *Blueback*, *The Mary Surefoot Shoe Collection* and *Swashbuckled!*

The ground-breaking production, *The Arrival* takes to the international stage with a showcase in Cleveland, USA in January and a festival appearance at Charleville, France in September. Acclaimed for its sophisticated use of imagery in telling a moving story of great humanity *The Arrival* is emblematic of Spare Part's remarkable ability to create productions that cross all boundaries.

For further information, visit the company's website www.sppt.asn.au.

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Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

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The Bugalugs Bum Thief
Term 1 school holidays
April 4, April 11 to April 24

The Man from Snowy River
Term 2 school holidays
July 4 to July 18, July 25

The Night Zoo
Term 3 school holidays
Sept 19, Sept 26 to Oct 10