

Media Release: November, 2010
SPARE PARTS PUPPET THEATRE
~ celebrating 30 years ~

2010 – 2011 Summer Holiday Season
The Night Zoo
Wed Dec 8 to Thurs Dec 23, 2010
Wed Jan 12 to Tues Jan 25, 2011

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The Night Zoo returns for Summer Holidays and Spare Parts 30th Year!

The smash hit puppet show, *The Night Zoo* will return for the second annual Summer Holiday Season at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's home theatre in Fremantle from December 8 to 23 and in the New Year from January 12 to 25, prior to leaving for a national tour in April, 2011 – the company's anniversary year.

Celebrating the remarkable friendship between animals and children, *The Night Zoo* is about a little girl, Jamie who can only dream of owning pet because her parents don't think there's enough room in their apartment. One night, as Jamie falls asleep, something magical happens when the animals of the city zoo come out to find her and invite her for a night of dancing in the park - as the sun comes up, the dream is fading fast, but there is one more surprise in store.

Written and directed by Michael Barlow, the production features a colourful cast of animal characters, designed by Iona McAuley, including Elephant, Giraffe, Penguin, Orangutan, Cranes, Thorny Devils, and the dancing Meerkats brought to life by performers, Jacob Lehrer and Katya Shevtsov through puppetry, dance, animation, masks – and a light sprinkling of manure! Lighting designer, Romi Poonosamy transports the action from the city at midnight to the dreamscape of the zoo and composer, Lee Buddle's atmospheric score captures the different characteristics and antics of the animals.

Barlow said that *The Night Zoo* was created to express the joy that can come from making friends with animals. "We're part of the natural world. Developing friendships with animals is one of the most enjoyable aspects of this connection," he said. "And the benefits of looking after a pet are immeasurable as children discover in themselves feelings of care, kinship and the sheer pleasure of being alive."

General Manager of Spare Parts, Cathcart Weatherly said that the Summer Holiday Season had proved a popular addition to the company's public seasons, following the success of the inaugural season in 2009/2010, which saw attendances reach nearly 90% of capacity of the company's 188- seat air-conditioned theatre.

"We have always dreamt of being able to present a season for the public in the summer holidays and with the upgrades to the auditorium, including air-conditioning and refurbished seating, it has all come true," he said. "It allows us to provide quality entertainment options for Western Australian children and their families during the summer and is perfect start to our 30th Anniversary year."

The Night Zoo is suitable for anyone who's "a bit of an animal", but perfect for 4-10! Book with company's own 24/7 ticket online service at www.sppt.asn.au or by phone on 9335 5044.

Spare Parts is Australia's leading puppetry company creating entertaining and inspirational theatre for young people and their families. In 2011, the company will celebrates its 30th anniversary of creating quality new Australian puppetry works that excite the way we view our world through image, illusion and entertainment.

Excellent image, photo and interview opportunities are available.
Please contact John Michael Swinbank 0414 743 418 jm@johnmichael.com.au

LISTINGS: *The Night Zoo* – celebrating the remarkable friendship between animals and children, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's smash hit returns for the summer holidays with its glorious cast of animals from orang-utans to elephants, giraffes to penguins and the hilarious meerkats. Suits anyone who's "a bit of an animal", but perfect for 4-10! Summer Holidays Season from December 8 to January 25. Bookings online www.sppt.asn.au or 9335 5044.