



The Man Who Planted Trees

SAT, APR 1, 2017 | PROMENADE HALL

OVERTURE'S

PUPPET FESTIVAL

MAR 31 - APR 9, 2017

Check out the Playhouse Gallery Puppet Exhibit, which features original work from local artists and puppeteers – open throughout the festival!

FRI, MAR 31

Festival Kick Off! Rotunda Stage/Playhouse Gallery | 5 - 6:30 PM

Puppet play-station and an interactive Shadow Puppet Theater presented by First Act. Family-friendly refreshments available.

Manual Cinema's Lula Del Ray \$25+ | Capitol Theater | 7 PM



SAT, APR 1

Family Toy Theater Workshop* MMoCA | 9 AM - NOON

Puppet Play Theater FREE | Rotunda Lobby | 9 AM - 3 PM

KIR: Taiwan Puppets FREE | Rotunda Stage | 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM

The Man Who Planted Trees \$26 | Promenade Hall | 1 PM, 3 PM

SUN, APR 2

Puppet Play Theater FREE | Rotunda Lobby
11:30 AM - 4 PM

Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live \$25+ | Capitol Theater
1 PM, 4:30 PM | Pre-show meet and greet for both performances with VIP ticket, space limited.

Family Toy Theater Workshop*
Promenade Hall | 12:30 - 3:30 PM

* Local artist Felice Amato will lead a Toy Theater Workshop for families to create a small toy theater set and puppets. Cost is \$15 per family with supplies included.



Overture
CENTER

OVERTURE.ORG | 608.258.4141

COMPANY HISTORY

Puppet State Theatre Company, based in Edinburgh, was founded by Richard Medrington. After performing his one-man puppet shows for 20 years he joined forces with puppeteer Rick Conte and puppeteer/maker Ailie Cohen in 2006. Our show 'The Man Who Planted Trees' has toured to schools, village halls, theatres and festivals across the UK and Ireland as well as in Malaysia, Bermuda, the Netherlands, USA, Canada and Australia including performances off Broadway at the New Victory Theatre and at the Sydney Opera House.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Medrington, compulsive playwright, performer and storyteller found his calling as a puppeteer in 1983. His one-man shows include *The Spider of Spindle Wood*, *The Interrogation*, *The Adventures of Ivan the Slug* and AA Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, which toured the UK for five years to packed houses, culminating in a sell-out run at the Royal National Theatre in London. He moved to Edinburgh in 1992 and is a veteran of 16 Edinburgh Festival Fringes. He founded Puppet State Theatre Company in 2003 and his collaboration with Rick, Ailie and Elspeth began soon after that.

Rick Conte studied journalism at the University of Georgia and moved to Edinburgh, Scotland on a whim in 1989. He has worked with The National Theatre of Scotland, *Wee Stories*, The Edinburgh Puppet Company and Catherine Wheels. Using one of his puppet creations Lord Dennis Tippleworthy, Rick has addressed the European Conference on Alcohol Policy in Helsinki, Leiden and Warsaw. He learned almost everything he knows about theatre and performance at Edinburgh's Bongo Club Cabaret 1998-2002. He and Richard have been touring with *The Man Who Planted Trees* since May 2006. He plans to continue until everyone has seen it.

Ailie Cohen went to Moscow to study acting, busked and starved her way round Europe with a street theatre troupe, then discovered she could combine visual art and theatre by becoming a puppeteer. Ailie also learned almost everything she knows at the Bongo Club Cabaret. She has worked with The National Theatre of Scotland, Grid Iron, TAG, The Citizens, Puppet Lab, Vanishing Point, Leicester Haymarket Theatre, and her own shows include *Rumpelstiltskin* at the Fairytale Laundry, *Jazz Mouse*, *The New Not New* and *Cloud Man* which featured in the prestigious 'Made in Scotland' showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe in August, 2011. www.ailiecohen.com

Elspeth Murray was not allowed to touch electrical appliances at home until she was six. She has been making up for her deprived childhood by operating sound and light equipment with many brightly-colored buttons in countless theatres, village venues and school halls with *The Man Who Planted Trees*. When not pressing buttons in theatres, she is company manager, which involves pressing buttons on screens and keyboards. She would be thrilled if you pressed the 'Like' button on Puppet State Theatre Company's facebook page.

AWARDS

The Man Who Planted Trees has won:

1. Eco Prize for Creativity, 2007
2. Total Theatre Award for Story Theatre, 2008
3. Victor Award IPAY (International Performing Arts for Youth) Showcase, Cleveland Ohio, 2009
4. Best Children's Show at Brighton Fringe, 2009
5. Manchester Evening News Theatre Award for Best Studio Performance, 2009
6. Highest rated and reviewed show of the 2012 Edinburgh Festivals at Tickit.me
7. Winner of the 2012 CSPA Sustainable Production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

REVIEWS

Praise for THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES:

“A decidedly superior play ... Utterly charming ... One can only be grateful that such kinds of professional children’s theatre exist.” –**StageHappenings.com**

“This is a delightful puppet show for young and old – even if you don’t have (or know) any kids, *don’t miss this show!*” –**Arts Beat LA**

“IT IS VERY, very rare to find something that appeals as effortlessly to children and adults as this magical show.” –**Scotsman, 5 Stars**

“Laughs, heartbreak, war, regeneration, scented breezes, sparkling wit, the best dog puppet ever. Perfect for children and grown-ups. Terrific.” –**Guardian**

“The Man Who Planted Trees is a consummate piece of storytelling and physical theatre, with, by turns, charming, funny and genuinely moving performances by the two – or, as Dog would point out, three – leads.” 5 Stars ***** –**All Edinburgh Theatre**

“If you want a feel good production that will warm your heart, go and see this – five stars for sure!” –**Fest**



KID & ADULT
CLASSES

OLBRICH
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olbrich.org

*Our community
is at the heart
of everything
we do!*



Overture Community Mosaic

Overture is creating a large scale digital photo mosaic with snapshots of Overture's community.

Please share favorite pictures from time spent at Overture Center:

overture.org/mosaic

This artwork will be permanently displayed in Overture Center.

Be sure to join our email list and follow us on Facebook & Instagram for updates on the project.

overture.org/mosaic



SUPPORT FOR OVERTURE

PUBLIC SUPPORT

An annual commitment from the City of Madison helps support Overture Center and the community engagement programs we provide. Mayor Paul Soglin, the Madison Common Council and City of Madison residents deserve our gratitude for their generous support.

Overture also wishes to thank Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the residents of Dane County for their generous support.

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Overture Center Development Department | 608.258.4979 | development@overture.org

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LOCAL LEGENDS

The Local Legends program honors individuals and organizations who lead by example in their support of the arts and community engagement. We want to acknowledge those who wish to create a legacy through a transformative gift to Overture and our community.

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