

Press Release

**A brand-new dance show specially made for children
thrilling, colourful and unpredictable**

Mischief

by Theatre-Rites and choreographer Arthur Pita

commissioned by Sadler's Wells and Dance Touring Partnership

**National tour from 28 September to 22 November
London premiere at Peacock Theatre on 6 October**

Children's theatre specialists Theatre-Rites and rising choreographer Arthur Pita combine their talents to create *Mischief*, a fantastic mix of dance moves with visual art, clowning, puppetry, music and song. Bursting with energy, creative play and magical silliness, this brand-new show for children is perfect for families, friends and schools to share together.

Mischief is performed by seven of the UK's best contemporary dancers along with composer/musician Charlie Winston (currently on tour with Peter Gabriel), live on stage. They inhabit a rainbow world of weird shapes and forms where visual artist Sophia Clist transforms simple materials into jaunty characters and mythological creatures, into dark forests, magic caves and much more, accompanied by songs and music. Feats of theatre and puppetry are interspersed with brilliant, bouncy dancing and forays into the audience.

Mischief is the brainchild of Sadler's Wells and innovative producers Dance Touring Partnership for both of whom this is the first commission specially for children and families where contemporary dance is firmly at the heart of the theatrical experience.

The award-winning Theatre-Rites has been stirring the imagination of children and adults alike since 1995. Total Theatre described its work as "grand in scale, beautifully crafted in its detail and as imaginative and rewarding as any company creating work for adults you'll ever hope to see." Portuguese choreographer Arthur Pita performed lead roles with Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures* before launching

his own company, Arthur Pita Open Heart, in 2003. His commissions include Phoenix Dance Theatre, Candoco and The Royal Opera House.

www.mischieftour.co.uk

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Listings information

Mischief UK tour 2007

September: Fri 28 at 10am / Sat 29 at 11am & 2pm
COVENTRY Warwick Arts Centre

October: Sat 6 at 11am & 2pm/ Sun 7 at 11am & 2pm
LONDON Peacock Theatre

October: Thurs 11 at 2pm/ Fri 12 at 11am / Sat 13 at 2pm
SHEFFIELD Lyceum Theatre

October: Thurs 18 at 1.30pm / Fri 19 at 10.30am & 7pm / Sat 20 at 2pm
STIRLING MacRobert Arts Centre

October: Tues 23 at 1pm
SALFORD The Lowry

October: Sat 27 at 2pm & 5pm
OXFORD Oxford Playhouse

Oct/Nov: Wed 31 Oct at 1.30pm & 6.30pm/Thurs 1 Nov at 1.30pm & 6.30pm
BRIGHTON Dome

November: Sat 3 at 12 noon
SWINDON Wyvern Theatre

November: Tues 6 at 2pm & 7pm
TRURO Hall for Cornwall

November: Fri 9 at 2pm & Sat 10 at 2pm
POOLE Lighthouse

November: Tues 13 at 1.30pm
NEWPORT Riverfront

November: Tues 20 at 7pm
HIGH WYCOMBE Wycombe Swan

November: Thursday 22 at 7pm
NOTTINGHAM Nottingham Playhouse

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Notes to editors

1. Running time approximately 65 minutes with no interval.
2. The *Mischief* tour is supported by Grants for the Arts, the Jerwood Foundation and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
3. Sue Buckmaster, artistic director of Theatre-Rites and the fourth generation of theatre practitioners in her family, has many years' experience as a director, puppetry specialist and teacher. She has worked with the National Theatre, RSC, the Young Vic, Sadler's Wells, the South Bank Centre, the Lyric Hammersmith, Complicite, Leicester Haymarket, Opera Circus, Graeae, Tara Arts, Theatre Centre, Pop-Up Theatre, Roundabout TIE, the Crafts Council and the Puppet Centre.
4. Choreographer Arthur Pita was born in South Africa to Portuguese parents and studied dance in Johannesburg. After performing lead roles with Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures*, Arthur was an Associate Artist at The Place from 2002 to 2004 and it was there in 2003 that he launched his own company Arthur Pita Open Heart. He has been commissioned by Phoenix Dance Theatre, Candoco and numerous international opera houses including The Royal Opera.
5. Visual artist Sophia Clist trained as a sculptor and works in a variety of contexts - from black box theatre to public spaces. She has worked with Theatre-Rites since 1998, designing many touring and site-specific productions including *Shopworks*, commissioned by LIFT and the Vienna Festival in 2003, the touring show *In One Ear* and in 2004 the installation *Outside In*, commissioned by the South Bank Centre. Her own touring installation *Stretch* toured many venues including Nottdance in 2004 and Toronto's Milk Festival 2006.
6. Composer Charlie Winston started a band with his brother, Tom Baxter, after studying music at Brunel University. He studied tabla in India before returning to the UK to write music for theatre, dance and film. Charlie then formed his own band, Winston, playing shows in venues including Ronnie Scott's, Bush Hall, Cargo and The Spitz. Charlie has supported Daniel Powter, Nerina Pallot, Bikini Atoll and Peter Gabriel. In 2007 Charlie released his first CD *Make Way* and in Summer 2007 is supporting Peter Gabriel on his European tour. www.charliewinston.com
7. The performers are Laura Cubitt, Claire Cunningham, Robin Dingemans, Maho Ihara, Matthew Morris, Mohsen Nouri, James Painting and Charlie Winston (see note 6).
8. Dance Touring Partnership is a consortium of regional middle-scale venues, working together to build audiences for dance through the presentation of exciting and engaging international and British work.
9. www.mischieftour.co.uk

1 August 2007
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