

LeNavetBete &  
barbican theatre  
present

# THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

#igotnobrains



Directed by Mark Laville

'Get swept down the Road of Yellow Bricks in an hilarious retelling of this classic tale'

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Welcome to

THE WONDERFUL

# WIZARD OF OZ

We are delighted this year to present our own version of 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', a story that has touched so many people over many different generations since 1900 when Frank Baum first published this classic children's tale.

After the success of last year's 'A Christmas Carol', we discovered that taking a well-known narrative and twisting it (in every way we can) to fit our own style is something that can be extremely exciting not just for us as theatre makers, but for the audience also.

The idea for 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' came through feedback after last year's show. We asked our audiences via social media what story they would like to see us interpret next and 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' won hands down. We really connected with the idea and the more we thought about it the more excited we became. The colour, the characters, the iconic witch... the prospect of taking these ideas and creating a fools 'theatre show' got our creative juices flowing. So thank you audience!



Once again we have teamed up with Mark Laville (Artistic Director at Barbican Theatre) who has directed the show. Mark brings such brilliant energy to the process of devising the work, and his 30 years experience in creating theatre is invaluable to this kind of show.

Having worked with Mark on all our Christmas shows we are delighted to continue this creative partnership. We also apologise to his wife and

family for giving him more grey hair every time we work with him.

We really hope you enjoy the show, we have had an absolute blast making it!

See you the other side of the rainbow.

Merry Christmas to you all,  
Al, Alex, Matt, Dan and Nick  
(Le Navet Bete)

## *Cast & Crew*

**Production and Technical Management:** Alex White (Le Navet Bete) supported by Jamie Smith (Barbican Theatre), Nathan Benjamin, Helen Williams and members of Barbican Theatre's FORCE training programme.

**Devised and Written by** Le Navet Bete and Mark Laville

**Performed by** Le Navet Bete

**Head of Oz:** Gordon Sparks

**Director:** Mark Laville

**Choreography:** Jules Laville

**Film:** Gemma Ward and Jamie Smith

**Design Assistant:** Nina Raines

**Production Assistants:** James Young, Kitty Whitmarsh and Helen Gilbert

**Photography:** Kevin Clifford

**Print Design:** Dave Robertson

This production is our own adaptation of the book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum published in 1900 (George M. Hill Co).

As a deliberate parody, this production also pays homage to: the classic 1939 film, *The Wizard of Oz*, produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (Screenplay: Noel Langley, Florence Ryerson & Edgar Allen Woolf; Score: Herbert Stothart; Directed by Victor Fleming; Produced by Mervyn LeRoy) and the following songs by Harold Arlen (music) and E.Y. Harburg (lyrics): 'Over the Rainbow', 'Ding - Dong! The Witch is Dead' and 'We're Off to See the Wizard'.



## *Le Navet Bete*

Le Navet Bete, are an award winning, internationally touring troupe of clowns based in Exeter, Devon, whose high energy, spectacular and hilarious shows have wowed audiences globally, including hundreds of outdoor performances.

Using our extensive training in clowning and improvisation, including music and circus history, we have engaged audiences since 2006, garnering widespread critical acclaim en-route.

The company is made up of five of us and we met whilst studying Theatre & Performance at the University of Plymouth. When we graduated we decided to form our own clowning theatre company and started out as five, slightly naive friends, all with an ambition to create crazy, exciting and surreal shows.

We began our relationship with the Barbican Theatre as a fledgling company via the In the Flesh Festival for new work 7 years ago. Since then the Barbican has continued to support our work and the development of the company.

Eight years later we're now an Arts Council England supported and internationally touring recognised theatre company focused on

creating totally accessible contemporary performance for everyone to enjoy.

Starting out performing our work solely in theatres, as Le Navet Bete has grown, we've expanded our reach to include street theatre, festivals, corporate events and the education sector. We have also toured internationally before with extensive tours of Europe and Mexico as well as working throughout the UK.

The future! We are really thrilled to tell you that we have received Arts Council Funding to create and tour our new show, Dick Tracy. The show will launch in April and will be in Plymouth at the Barbican from April 8th-11th 2015.

The show will be based on the famous American comic book detective and is set to go out on a 45 date national tour. We can't wait to get stuck into that one.

If you would like to know more about us then please do visit the website at [www.lenavetbete.com](http://www.lenavetbete.com), and follow us on social media for the most up to date news.

Thanks again, your support is greatly appreciated!

LNB x





## *Generous thanks to:*

BBC Radio Devon for the loan of Gordon Sparks; John Roberts and Puppetcraft for the wonderful puppet ([www.puppetcraft.co.uk](http://www.puppetcraft.co.uk)); Dan Poulson for the donation of the organ; Exeter Phoenix for ongoing support and space; Tim Charlesworth, Cattedown Harbour Master; Theatre Royal Plymouth, particularly Nick Soper and Lorna Price; Tim Hardy, Stuart Billinghamurst and the Theatre and Performance Dept at the University of Plymouth; Spencer Rouse; Hannah Mae; Exeter City Council; Plymouth City Council; Arts Council England; and our kind programme sponsors.

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# Welcome to the Barbican Theatre!

We are a talent development organisation. We support local young people, and new and emerging artists to develop careers in the arts and make performances for the public to enjoy.

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During term time, we use our 140 seat theatre and professional studio to run our Performance Training programme, enabling 5-25s to learn dance and theatre skills from experienced professionals and visiting experts.

We believe that providing progression opportunities for young people and new and emerging artists is vital. We first met Le Navet Bete in 2007 at our In The Flesh Festival and we have been supporting their work ever since. We are delighted that people in Plymouth love this company of fools just as much as we do.

We hope you have prepared yourselves for a whirlwind extravaganza with buckets of



tomfoolery, ridiculous characters and physical comedy...you are in for a real treat!

Have a very, very Merry Christmas and we hope to welcome you to the theatre again soon.

With our very best wishes,

The Barbican Theatre Team

Sheila, Mark, Jules, Andrew, Dan, Rosie, Jamie, Becky, Laura and Josie





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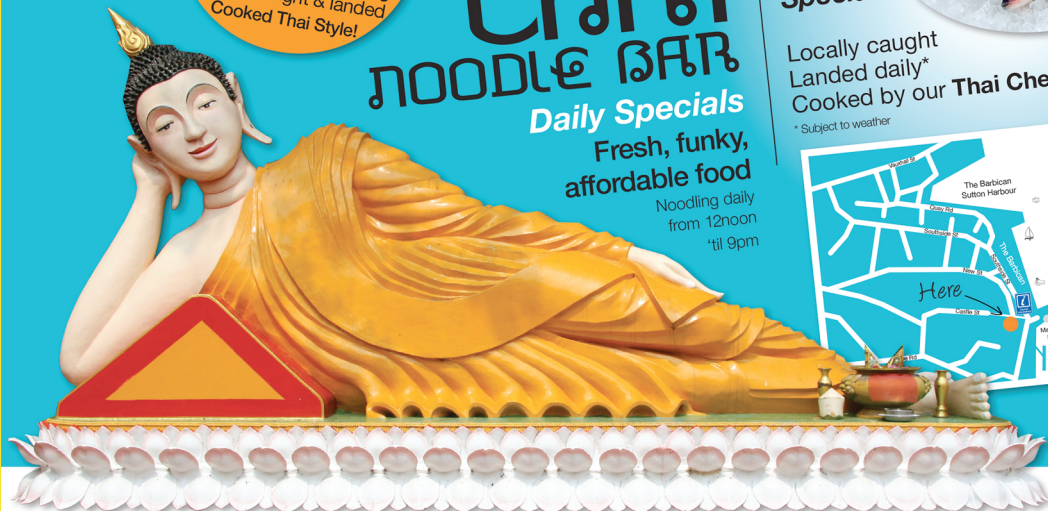
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