

The Fir Tree at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts

Cast and Company



Karina Garnett (Moominmamma)

Karina trained at Middlesex with John Wright. She has worked and toured with various companies including Fevered Sleep, Trestle, Tall Stories, theatre-rites, The Globe, RSC, Polka, Blind Summit, Strangeface, Shifting Sands, Gingerline and Monstro.

Karina plays Sybil Fawlty in 'Faulty Towers The Dining Experience' (ITI) and is looking forward to being part of the Moomin family at Norden Farm this Christmas.



Jonathan Storey (Moominpappa)

Jonathan Storey is one half of theatre company Goody and Storey, whose shows include Jack Pratchard, STAR, co-produced with mac Birmingham, and My Mother is a Fish. Their most recent shows, Play On Your Own and Me. Screaming were premiered at the Schaubude Berlin. Their next show will be a co-production with Norwich Puppet Theatre of Hansel and Gretel, opening in Spring 2019. Outside of Goody and Storey, Jonathan has also worked with Stephen Crowe Opera, Norwich Puppet Theatre, Little Angel Theatre, Eat a Crocodile, and the Royal Shakespeare Company.



Ceri Ashcroft (Moomintroll)

Ceri trained at RCSSD and specialises in children's theatre, puppetry, physical theatre and clowning. She has toured as far afield as Norway, Singapore and the Sydney Opera House and performed extensively for Polka Theatre, Fidget Theatre, Theatre Hullabaloo, MEI and Watershed productions amongst others. Her own company, Tiny Light, is currently a supported SPARK artist at Pegasus Theatre in Oxford and will be making new show POP! for 0-3 year olds with their support next year. Ceri is a big fan of both the Moomins and pancakes with jam.



Alicia Britt - Understudy and Directors Assistant

Alicia is a puppetry artist, designer, puppeteer and puppetry director, she is also the founder of Wondering Hands Theatre. Graduating from Curious School of Puppetry and of Wimbledon College of Art, Alicia was drawn to puppetry as an art encompassing her skills in both design and performance. She is a Cockpit Arts award winner, her studio based out of their head location in Holborn, London. She has run workshops in both performance and making at the Young Vic, Royal Opera House and Little Angel Theatre.

Creative Team

The Ding Foundation (Co-Producers) are Amelia Pimlott and Hannah Marshall.

They make theatre using puppetry, sound-scores and performers. Engaging audiences with striking visual narratives, transforming objects and situations to reveal their hidden stories.



Steve Tiplady (Director)

Puppeteer and director Steve Tiplady is Co-Artistic Director of Indefinite Articles with Sally Todd. Indefinite Articles made its Royal Opera House debut in 2013 on *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, for which Tiplady was puppet director and puppeteer.

His puppet directing credits include *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* for Royal Opera House, *Venus and Adonis*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Morte d'Arthur* for Royal Shakespeare Company, *Ménage à trois* for National Theatre of Scotland, *Dark Philosophers* for National Theatre of Wales, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Dr Faustus* for Shakespeare's Globe and *The Lion*, *the Witch* and *the Wardrobe* for 360 Productions. He is former Artistic Director of Little Angel Theatre, where his directing credits since include *Jabberwocky* and *The Journey Home*.



Bernadette Russell (Script writer)

Bernadette Russell is a writer, storyteller and performer who has created work for National Theatre, Southbank Centre, Birmingham Rep, Thames Festival, National Trust, English Heritage, BFI and LIFT Festival amongst many others. Her children's books are published by Quarto and her new book for adults *The Little Book of Wonder* was published by Orion this November. She is currently Writer In Residence at Talliston House and Community Artist at the Royal Albert Hall.



Amelia Pimlott (Designer)

Originally trained as a designer and maker at Nottingham Trent University but later gained a strong grounding in devised theatre through working with the People Show. Amelia started The Ding Foundation to make original work for adults using puppetry and animation.

Amelia is also a free-lance designer/puppet and prop maker and have worked with amongst others: Slot Machine, Norden Farm, Angela de Castro, People Show, The Kosh, Little Angel Theatre, Indefinite Articles, Theatre Centre and National Theatre.



Hannah Marshall (Composer)

Hannah is a musician, composer and theatre maker. She has worked with Theatre Edible, Improbable Theatre and People Show. Hannah has composed music and created sound designs for theatre productions, performance and puppetry with amongst others Indefinite Articles, The Little Angel Theatre, *20 Stories High*, Norwich Puppet Theatre, *A2* and *The Young Vic*. She has toured in the UK and Europe as well as Russia & Brazil and have received grants and commissions from Sound And Music, Jazz Services, Eye-music and The Arts Council England, and have been broadcast on Radio 3 & Resonance FM.

Credits

Original story: Tove Jansson

Creative Team: The Ding Foundation, Amelia Pimlott, Hannah Marshall, Bernadette Russell, Steve Tiplady

Producers: Jane Corry for Norden Farm Centre for the Arts and The Ding Foundation

Director: Steve Tiplady

Writer: Bernadette Russell

Music: Hannah Marshall

Set Design & Puppets: Amelia Pimlott

Lighting Design: Matt Biss

Technician: Sarah Wallace

Director's Assistant/ Understudy: Alicia Britt

Design Assistant: Michael Morrison



Set Build: Stuart Roberts, Matt Biss

Poly-carving: Kevin Plumb

Costumes: The Ding Foundation

Props: Amelia Pimlott and Michael Morrison

Additional Prop Making: Tristram Phillips, Carin Pimlott, Tina Birn



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Norden Farm
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About Tove Jansson and The Moomins

Tove Jansson (1914-2001) was a Finnish-Swedish writer and artist, who achieved worldwide fame as the creator of the stories about the Moomins, written and illustrated between 1945 and 1977. The Moomin family and their friends live an adventurous life in the idyllic and peaceful Moominvalley in harmony with nature.

Tove Jansson is doubtless one of the best Finnish artists of all time and also the most widely read Finnish author abroad. Her lifework is an immeasurable valuable because of the success she made as a writer, artist and as a cartoonist. She was a multi-talented artist who is mostly remembered as a creator of the Moomins. The Moomin books have been translated into about fifty languages.

In addition to the Moomin books and comics she received recognition for her short stories and novels. Tove Jansson's world fame is also recognisable because she succeeded to write for both children and adults at the same time.

Sophia Jansson, niece of Tove Jansson and creative director of Moomin Characters, said about The Fir Tree: 'Not knowing who or what Christmas is, the Moomin family is whipped into action by hurried and busy passers-by who tell them that they must be ready. They proceed to create the most welcoming setting for Christmas to come, and then wait. Tove Jansson's story The Fir Tree reminds us how a sense of stress and obligation can take over a holiday that should be a time for peace and reflection.'



'A theatre is the most important sort of house in the world, because that's where people are shown what they could be if they wanted, and what they'd like to be if they dared to and what they really are'

- Tove Jansson, Moominsummer Madness



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