

Bringing a classic Cornish tale to life at the Minack Theatre

This autumn, much-loved Cornish entertainers Scary Little Girls will be performing their all-singing, all-dancing, comedy *Duffy Beats The Devil*, based on a classic Cornish tale and back by popular demand after its previous sold-out run.

Appearing in the magical Minack Theatre from 25 September, the show will transport audiences to a colourful Penzance from days gone by with Duffy and her friends.

Brought to life by award-winning feminist production hub Scary Little Girls (Queenagers, the Mayven Festival), the show is based on the Cornish version of Rumpelstiltskin and features a dazzling cast of local and national talent including Johanne Murdock (*His Dark Materials*, *Emmerdale*) and Kate Rawson (*Hall for Cornwall*, Radio 4).

Celebrate Penwith folklore with Joan the Wad, witch Maggie Figgie (and her piggy!) and working-class hero Duffy - can she and her pals triumph over the very Devil?

This show, jam-packed with Cornish cheer and fun for the whole family – features an original score by Cornish composer and fan favourite TJ Holmes (*Hall for Cornwall*, *Kneehigh*) and stunning design and puppets by Jude Munden (*Miracle*, *English Touring Opera*).

Rebecca Mordan, Artistic Director for Scary Little Girls, said: “We’re absolutely delighted to bring Duffy and her friends back to the Cornish stage. The team at Scary Little Girls feels a real connection to this story and we’re in a wonderful position to tell this very feminist story.”

She added: “Audiences know us for bringing visibility and joie de vivre to women all over the country with fabulous cabarets and storytelling events, and we are so excited to be able to share this with girls and families through our high-spirited celebration of a classic Cornish heroine! We’re bringing this tale of a woman triumphing against the odds to life with an all-female company and female-led production team – with the beautiful backdrop of the inspiring Minack Theatre, an iconic female-created Cornish location.”

The show will run from 25 September – 7 October 2024. Ticket prices start at £10, with half-price tickets for under 16s. They are on sale through the Minack Theatre here:

<https://www.minack.com/whats-on/duffy-beats-devil>

Duffy Beats The Devil is part of a body of artistic work including festivals, tours and new commissions Scary Little Girls are set to deliver until April 2025 thanks to a £296,200 grant from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth programme, which is managed by Cornwall Council and funded by the UK Government’s Shared Prosperity Fund. The project is part of a £4.4m investment in a cultural events and talent programme across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by the Good Growth Programme.

Cornwall Council has been chosen by the Government as a Lead Authority for the fund and is responsible for monitoring the progress of projects funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for economy, said: “Through our Good Growth Investment Plan, we are building on Cornwall’s strong theatre and performing arts industry, to reach new audiences and involve our communities in producing and enjoying the very best cultural offer that our established and admired organisations deliver.”

Find full details of the work of Scary Little Girls here:

<https://scarylittlegirls.co.uk/>

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Media Enquiries

Rebecca Mordan, Artistic Director of Scary Little Girls, is available for interview.

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Photography

Attached to the press release

Editorial Notes

About Scary Little Girls

Scary Little Girls is a feminist production hub with a passion for stories that are historically or culturally excluded, or usually told from one perspective only. We actively create jobs for women, cross-collaborating and skills sharing for the benefit of the artistic and wider community and are committed to the creative case for diversity.

SLG employs over 100 artists annually, reaches live audiences of 25,000+, creating both indoor and outside work and collaborating and touring with artistic partners, commissioners, pubs, libraries, town councils, and venues from Lands End to John O’Groats. The diversity of our projects is unified by our overriding belief in the power of stories to change society, our love for our audiences and our dedication to improving human and women’s experiences.

This gives us a unique, wide reach, despite being a small organisation, and a devoted, growing audience who demand that we keep innovating and risk-taking.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025.

The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

For more information, visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperityfund-prospectus>.