

THE GRAND RAGTAG ANIMAL BAND

WRITTEN BY KATHRYN MARQUET

The Grand Ragtag Animal Band

(The Town Musicians of Bremen)

SYNOPSIS/CONCEPT

In our youth obsessed culture, what is the value of our older citizens?

Following the success of *The Owl and the Pussycat*, comes a new favourite for our littlest theatre lovers, featuring Bryan Probets, Christine Johnston, Guitarist Karin Schaupp, Animator Andi Spark and Composer Quincy Grant.

Based on a beloved Brothers Grimm tale, *The Grand Ragtag Animal Band* is a whimsical 50-minute musically-driven theatre work for Families.

The tale begins with four animals at the end of their working life, who have long toiled at menial tasks. They have been unable to pursue what truly matters to them - making music. Donkey, Hound, Cat and Rooster set off to become musicians in the fabled town of Bremen. Along the way, the friends find renewed vigour for life through making music and overcome obstacles by working together.

This tale reminds us of the value of our oldest citizens in society. Age brings experience, wisdom and knowledge to find solutions. In our youth obsessed culture, it is a perfect tale for grandparents and parents to share with loved ones.

MUSIC

This newly-composed song-driven score by multi award-winning composer Quentin (Quincy) Grant will traverse the musical worlds of new classical and eclectic folk music. The four featured performers will sing and play their own instruments live on stage, as part of the action, accompanied by high-quality electroacoustic tracks.

Wild gypsy textures meet driving Flamenco rhythms and lilting Celtic melodies in a distinctive meld and harmonious sound world. With vast experience writing for Families' theatre, Grant's score will delight, challenge and inspire with the unique ensemble of Guitar/mandolin, Piano accordion, Flute, Percussion, Vocals and Musical Saw.

Following on from her theatre debut success with *Don Juan*, internationally-acclaimed Classical guitarist Karin Schaupp will bring her virtuosic playing to the instrumental ensemble, joined by the inimitable actor/vocalist Bryan Probets, multi-instrumentalist and cabaret performer Alicia Cush and Christine Johnston of *The Kranksy Sisters* with her unique skill set of saw-playing, extraordinary vocals and bird-calling.

Quincy writes as a freelance composer on commissions from musicians around Australia and internationally. He has worked in theatre with various companies, including Opera SA, Brink Productions, Slingsby and Windmill Theatre Co.

The Grand Ragtag Animal Band cont.

SETTING

Imagine a pop up world of European folk art. One concept we will explore in this world both visually and musically is the roots of folk art and music. In this world, art is not with the capital "A" of academia and the western art canon, but an essential function of living for the working classes. The setting is bold and colourful, with picture book folk art cut-out flats and moving elements. It comes to animated life with integrated projection co-designed by Penny Challen and highly respected local animator Andi Spark (most recently of ABC's children's series Bluey) and Adjunct Professor of QCAGU's Animation Department.

IMAGE INSPIRATION

Please follow our pintrest board here:
<https://pin.it/uc3bsugzobd2ox>

AUDIENCE

Families

CREATIVES

Writer: Kathryn Marquet
Director: Bridget Boyle
Music: Quincy Grant
Creative Consultant: Karin Schaupp
Creative Producer: Alicia Cush
Designer/Producer: Penny Challen
Animation: Andi Spark

CASTING

4 x performers including:
Christine Johnston
Bryan Probets

FEATURE MUSICIAN

Karen Schaupp

AUDIENCES:

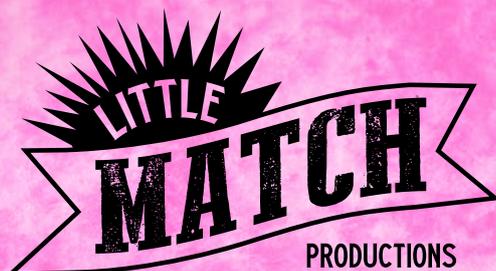
Families

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AT A GLANCE

Development: 2019-20
Rehearsal: 2021
Premieres: 2021



To discuss this opportunity further please contact:

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