

TONY AND RAY FIND YOUR FEET

Rudkin & Hicks

WORKSHOPS & SHOWS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- Physical comedy and eccentric dance show - available as 15 or 25 minute versions
- followed by a short Q&A
- Optional workshops for up to 30 children

SHOW

Inspired by the Variety & Music Hall double acts of the past, this wordless show uses physical comedy and eccentric dance to tell a simple tale about rivalry, reconciliation and the power of cooperation.

Two workmen arrive with a mobile trolley to fix a squeak in the floor; a self-important boss and his absent-minded assistant. Slapstick routines ensue, involving inside-out jackets, a tangled-tape measure and an upside-down clipboard. These link to form an increasingly absurd story in which the mysterious squeak re-appears in unexpected places, and the music on their radio propels them into eccentric dance routines. Eventually they realise their only hope to catch and fix the squeak is to set aside their differences and work together.

A charming show full of surprises, and a playful reminder of the value of teamwork.

- works best in the school hall
- suitable for all year groups
- The minimum stage space required is 5m wide by 2m deep.
- Self-contained: our mobile trolley contains a battery powered PA and our few props.
- Set-up time - 5 mins. Get out time - 1 minute.



WORKSHOP

A series of dance and movement games introducing simple techniques for choreographing routines, while promoting body confidence and the joy of physical self-expression.

'Guess the Dance Leader', a feel-good game involving the whole group in a large circle. A volunteer improvises moves to music whilst the class copies, and someone in the middle tries to guess who the leader is - everyone has the chance to have a go.

'Kids Disco' builds on the energy and increases the level of challenge, though not too much. Pairs work together to make up 3 simple dance moves; a choreographer 'grown up' and their dancing 'kid'. The kids perform their moves at the kids disco, as the grown-ups shout encouragement, then roles reverse

We then demonstrate a short **Hand-Clapping routine**, which leads into the children working with new partners to invent their own piece based on physical repetitive actions - clapping games, eccentric handshakes, popular dance moves. They rehearse these, then every pair has the chance to perform them for the class.

We select one of these routines for us all to learn. With the chosen pair demonstrating, we divide the routine into **rhythmic units** using counts of 8. This culminates in the whole group performing the routine together, often filmed by an attending teacher.

Workshops are led by Matt Rudkin, a highly experienced drama teacher. He was a senior lecturer at the University of Brighton for 17 years, taught children aged 6+ at Stagecoach for 4 years, and has led numerous college and community workshops.

Matt is assisted by Jon Hicks. They both have enhanced DBS checks (with update service).

- suitable for years 2 to 5
- Up to 30 children, suitable for any ability / a whole class group
- Available as up to 40 minute sessions.



FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS

Workshops

"There were children there that have learning difficulties or they've got SEN needs and they were just flourishing in that workshop."

Sarah Peek : Lower Phase Lead Year 3 Teacher : Sneinton Primary

"They enjoyed every second of it...All of the children came out of themselves as well. So children I didn't think would be as confident were really, really joining in."

Josephine Curtis : Year 4 teacher : Sneinton Primary

"absolutely fantastic! It was wonderful to watch all of the children have so much fun and gain confidence in performing"

Marc Smout : Teaching assistant : Hopton Primary

"Bringing them out of their shell, taking them out of their comfort zone, but as a group... everybody embracing it, and everybody enjoying it, it's great, it's great to see"

Mrs Roberts : Year 5 TA : St. Ralph Sherwin Academy

Show

"absolutely hilarious ... captivated the entire audience with their hilarious performance"

Jo Thurtle : KSI Lead : Moorlands Primary

"brought laughter and surprise to our school! ... A heart warming mix of friendship, rivalry, and pure fun"

Mrs Cook : Headteacher : Kidgate Primary

"100 out of 10"

Tania : Reception pupil : St. Ralph Sherwin Academy

"It was the funniest assembly we ever had"

Ella : Rabbits Class : Moorlands Primary

**School visits have become a significant part of our work.
We hugely enjoy the enthusiasm and vitality the children express during the
shows and workshops**

NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS

Physical Education - pupils perform dances using simple movement patterns (KS1) and develop control, balance, coordination and compositional skills (KS2).

- Movement-based storytelling (no spoken text).
- Creation of short movement phrases collaborating in pairs.
- Rehearsal and repetition to refine performance.
- Performing to an audience.

Drama – English. - During post-show discussion, they describe how meaning was created without dialogue - supporting participation, listening and structured response (KS1)

- Use of gesture, timing and spatial relationships to convey character and narrative.
- Interpreting character intention.
- Sequencing narrative events.
- Articulating how movement communicates meaning.

PSHE/Relationships Education - The story centres on rivalry & reconciliation between 2 characters attempting a shared task - relatable to statutory guidance on cooperation, respect and managing conflict. (KS1 and KS2)

- Identifying conflict and resolution.
- Shared problem-solving within the narrative.
- Reflecting on teamwork behaviours.
- Understanding shared goals.

Observable Learning Outcomes (Workshop)

By the end of the session, pupils can:

- Create and perform a short paired movement sequence.
- Use repetition to improve clarity.
- Demonstrate cooperation in a structured task.
- Describe how physical movement conveys character or story.

TONY AND RAY BACKGROUND

Tony and Ray are Matt Rudkin and Jon Hicks, who have worked together since 2007. They create funny, physical, visual, sometimes unusual but always accessible, shows for indoors and outdoors. Together they have received Arts Council funding for outdoor show *The Visionary*, children's show *Silent Jon & The Magical Egg Quest* and most recently *Tony & Ray Find Their Feet*. (also supported by Out There Arts).

The show was Directed by Tom Roden (New Art Club), and they also worked with a number of choreographers and clown directors including Fraser Hooper and Petra Massey (SpyMonkey).

The show has toured a number of notable UK festivals, including Belfast Festival of Fools, Freedom Festival (Hull), Glastonbury, Greenwich and Docklands International Festival, Out There (Great Yarmouth), So Festival, Feast (Stoke), Stockton International Riverside Festival, Winchester Hat Fair...

BIOGRAPHIES

Jon Hicks performs solo and in collaborations. He has toured with *Miss Behave*, appeared in *La Soiree* and was a member of award winning variety troupe *Slightly Fat Features*. His speed painting act has appeared on TV shows and at events around the world, with the street show *The International Man of Artistry* in its 26th year of touring www.thejonhicks.com

Matt Rudkin has an MA in Performance Studies and trained with *Philippe Gaullier* and *The Actors Space*. He set up and ran Edinburgh's infamous *Bongo Club Cabaret* and worked as a puppeteer with the *Edinburgh Puppet Company*. He was one half of street theatre show *The Incredible Bull Circus*, created 5 shows with his theatre company; *Inconvenient Spoof*, and also taught theatre for 17 years at the University of Brighton. www.mattrudkin.co.uk



TECH. REQUIREMENTS

Show

SPACE REQUIRED

- Minimum floor/stage of 5 metres wide by 2 metres deep - plus space for audience
- Best in the School Hall as an assembly or part of a larger assembly

SOUND

- We bring our own battery powered portable sound system.

GET IN

- 5 min get-in time required and 1 min get-out time.
- No Dressing room needed.

PARKING

- For one car

Workshop

SPACE REQUIRED

- Enough room for everyone to spin around with arms reaching out.
- School Hall is good

SOUND

- We bring our own battery powered portable sound system.

GET IN

- 5 min get-in time required and 1 min get-out time.
- No Dressing room needed.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

- One TA or Teacher for a group

PARKING

- For one car

<https://www.thejonhicks.com/tony-ray-schools>

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