

## PRESS RELEASE

Kneehigh presents:

# THE RED SHOES

BAC, WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH – SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2011

PRESS NIGHT: THU 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 7.30PM

'Intensely charismatic theatre' *Guardian* ★★★★★

'Stunning' *The Times* ★★★★★

**WINNER: TMA AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR**

For its last ever UK performances, one of Kneehigh's best loved and award winning shows, *The Red Shoes*, returns to the stage where it received its London premiere in 2000. Passionate, funny, bloody and surreal, *The Red Shoes* re-imagines Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale about a girl possessed by a pair of red shoes who can't stop dancing. In trademark Kneehigh style, the production fuses dance, live music, striking visuals and compelling story telling to bring the tale to life.

Kneehigh has had a long standing relationship with BAC, dating back to 2000 when *The Red Shoes* was first staged in the Council Chamber. BAC co-produced *The Wooden Frock* (2004) and *Rapunzel* (2006), and collaborated again when Kneehigh staged *Don John* (2009) in BAC's spectacular Grand Hall. *The Red Shoes* is regarded as a seminal Kneehigh show, for which Emma Rice received a TMA Award for Best Director. The production opens shortly before the company's *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* at the Gielgud Theatre in the West End.

Based in Cornwall, Kneehigh is celebrated as one of the UK's most exciting theatre companies. For nearly 30 years, the company has created vigorous, popular and challenging theatre for audiences locally, nationally and internationally. Using a multi-talented team of performers, directors, designers, sculptors, administrators, engineers, musicians and writers, Kneehigh perform with the joyful anarchy that audiences have come to expect from a ground-breaking theatre company.

*The Red Shoes* returns to BAC as part of the organisation's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations- an outstanding example of the venue's wide role in inventing the future of theatre in the UK in the last three decades. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programme also features the return on the *ONE-ON-ONE Festival* following the huge success of the event in 2010, and the launch of the Artists' Bedrooms project, which sees the creation of six specially designed bedrooms, allowing artists to be genuinely 'in residence' at BAC for periods of several months at a time.

"When I made *The Red Shoes* in 2000, the work tumbled out of me as if 30 years of obedience had finally ended.

Flushed with excitement, I sent words and pictures in brown paper parcels to all the theatres in London, telling them of this new arrival. Only one replied, and David Jubb from BAC journeyed down to see us dance our story in the Lost Gardens of Heligan. The rest, as they say, is history... Since that dewy evening, BAC has become our friend, supporter and home. In 2011, *The Red Shoes* could land nowhere but here. BAC; a home from home, as dark and raw as we are, and the bravest, truest, most understanding accomplices this side of the Tamar."

-Emma Rice, Joint Artistic Director, Kneehigh

"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome back Kneehigh and their *Red Shoes*, helping us celebrate BAC's 30th birthday. This time the show will play for three weeks in BAC's Council Chamber and then transfer to our Grand Hall for three weeks: using this great opportunity with Kneehigh to further explore our building with our playgrounding process. We are deeply proud of our partnership with a company that we think has transformed British theatre for the better."

- David Jubb and David Micklem, BAC's Joint Artistic Directors

Running Time: 90 mins

[www.bac.org.uk](http://www.bac.org.uk) / Twitter: Battersea\_arts / #RedShoesBAC

CONTINUED OVERLEAF  
[Company Info](#)

**Music** Ian Ross & Stu Barker  
**Design** Bill Mitchell  
**Lighting** Malcolm Rippeth  
**Producer** Paul Crewes

**Director** Emma Rice  
**Music** Stu Barker  
**Sound** Simon Baker

**Poems** Anna Maria Murphy  
**Film** Mark Jenkin  
**Additional Text** Mike Shepherd

Cast: Giles King (*Lady Lydia*), Patrycja Kujawska (*The Girl*), Dave Mynne (*The Old Lady/The Preachers Wife*), Robert Luckay (*The Soldier/The Shoemaker*), Mike Shepherd (*The Preacher/The Angel/The Butcher*)

**Listings Information**

<b>Venue:</b>	Battersea Arts Centre
<b>Address:</b>	Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TN
<b>Dates:</b>	Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> March - Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Times:</b>	Mon- Sat 7.30pm; Sat Mat 2pm
<b>Price:</b>	Mon - Thu £22.50 (£17.50 concs); Fri & Sat £25 (£20 concs); Sat Mat £17.50; Tue Pay What You Can
<b>Box Office:</b>	020 7223 2223 / <a href="http://www.bac.org.uk">www.bac.org.uk</a>
<b>Transport:</b>	Clapham Junction overground station