

Horse + Bamboo Theatre and Little Angel Theatre Present



## TOUR PACK 2019 - 2020

For Ages 7+

A true tale of Suffragettes defending themselves with Jiu Jitsu



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# INTRODUCTION

From the cotton mills of the Lancashire hills to the big smoke of London, we follow Annie, a young mill lass as she fights for her right to vote. However, the fight for change is never easy, and young Annie must learn to defend herself and her fellow suffragettes from those that seek to stop them.

## **Suffrajitsus assemble!**

**Suffrajitsu** tells the story of one young girl and how she learns that being small doesn't mean you can't change the world. Inspired by the real lives of suffragettes, this is the story of a movement that divided the nation. Suffrajitsu used Jiu Jitsu to protect themselves from arrest and police brutality, and ultimately helped win the fight to give women the vote! Combining original music, puppetry and some graphic style 'Ka-Pows!', Suffrajitsu shows you that you too can change the world, no matter who you are.



**Suffrajitsu has British Sign Language embedded into the performance and so is fully accessible to a deaf audience.** This development has been supported by award winning BSL trainers Ayesha Communications.

Inspired by the stories of the Suffragettes from an Indian princess in Hampton Court to young workers in a Yorkshire mill, the Suffrage movement divided the British nation. Suffragettes suffered repeated arrest and altercations with the police. It was time for them to learn to defend themselves. Suffrajitsu is the true story of a diverse set of suffragettes who were trained in Jiu Jitsu by Edith Garrud, a small, slight woman from Lancashire. Jiu Jitsu is a defensive martial art that uses the strength of the attacker against them - perfect for slight women against taller, stronger men. Women were trained to defend themselves and others and formed an elite group - 'The Bodyguard' to protect the formidable Pankhursts.

After a successful development and schools tour in the North West 2018, Suffrajitsu has developed in to a humours but thought provoking piece of touring theatre designed to inspire everyone that no matter who they are they can make a change. The show will also complete a London run at Little Angel Theatre from May – July 2019.

The show uses unique puppetry crafted storytelling and strong imagery that both Horse + Bamboo and Little Angel Theatre are infamous for and engages with themes of empowerment and change through a fun, quirky and inspiring tale.

**Written by** Ruthie Boycott-Garnett

**Directed by** Esther Ferry-Kennington

**Set and Puppet Design and Creation by** Emma Brierley

**Shadow Puppets by** Alastair Price

**Music by** Cath Tyler

## DETAILS

**Age Range** – The recommended age range is 7 -11 but younger and older children have enjoyed the piece.

**Touring Detail** – Suffrajistu is available to tour from September – October 2019 and February – April 2020.

The piece is suitable for Studio Theatres, Small Scale Theatres, Rural Touring and Schools.

**Running Time** – 45 minutes without an interval plus optional 10 – 15 minutes Q and A

**Technical Requirements** – Get-in 2.5 hours after unload, Get Out 1.5 hours, Black out or near to.

**Space Requirement** – 5m x 5m x 3m height

**Cost** - £900 per day – two shows possible in one day. Contact for prices for more than one day.

**Marketing** – Posters, Flyers, Education Pack and wrap around activity sheet

**Link to production shots** –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3mzhctmlxv66ck5/AADBKdu3mSeGzV0kzDmdRAmLa?dl=0>

All images credit: Ellie Kurttz.



## ABOUT HORSE + BAMBOO THEATRE

**Horse + Bamboo** is a puppet and mask theatre company that has survived the ebb and flow of public finance with remarkable resilience and a clear sense of purpose. The company's modest beginnings in 1978 with Bob Frith and a small team of artists along with a horse, a donkey, caravans with bamboo and papier-mâché props has evolved into a vibrant theatre company firmly committed to serving the community of Pennine Lancashire as well as touring productions

for adults and children nationally and internationally. 2018, their 40<sup>th</sup> year, is the same year as the centenary of the Representation of People Act which gave the first group of women the vote which sparked them to create Suffrajitsu along with Little Angel. For more information visit <http://www.horseandbamboo.org>

## ABOUT LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE

**Little Angel Theatre** is a home for puppetry. Since its doors first opened in 1961 the theatre has been dedicated to creating and sharing inspiring stories. Puppetry is at the heart of this innovative theatre, from igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds to equipping tomorrow's puppeteers with the tools they need to succeed. As well as an internationally recognised theatre with productions touring throughout the UK and across the globe, Little Angel Theatre also has its roots in Islington, and works with its local, diverse community to break down barriers to arts engagement so all can benefit and enjoy this remarkable art form.

<http://www.littleangeltheatre.com>

## TARGET MARKETS

We have found this piece to be a highly accessible show. People who might particularly enjoy it are:

Family audiences

Children aged 7+

Primary school audiences

People interested in the suffrage movement and Women's history

People interested in British history and politics

People interested in Martial Arts and history

Fans of puppetry and visual theatre

Deaf audiences

Deaf schools

BSL students

## GET IN TOUCH!

For more information and booking please contact

Michelle Darwin – [touring@horseandbamboo.org](mailto:touring@horseandbamboo.org) or 01706 220 241

