

BILLY GOATS GRUFF

2026/7 UK TOUR

Garlic Theatre



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www.garlictheatre.org.uk

Billy Goats Gruff

by Garlic Theatre

A family puppet show for families from 3 – 7 years.

A wonderfully intimate show for children with puppets made from natural materials, gentle and funny with lots of interaction performed by Mark and Iklooshar.

**'Fast paced, funny, with wonderful music and we all fell in love with the frog...
So magical, the puppets, music and interaction were just perfect. My son
laughed and laughed!'**

Audience member Norden Farm August 2026

- Suitable for studio theatres and audiences of up to 200
- Duration 45 minutes
- Meet and greet the puppets and performers after the show

Garlic Theatre has been touring the UK from 1997 and is one of the leading touring puppet theatre companies in the UK, regularly performing at The Lyric Hammersmith and Little Angel Theatre in Islington. Garlic Theatre have toured their shows in International Festivals in over 22 countries from Singapore to Brazil. Garlic Theatre is off to China in September 2026, touring Beijing and Shanghai. This show, Billy Goats Gruff, will tour China in May 2027.



Billy Goats Gruff

Who's that trip trapping on my bridge...?

This is the simple story of three hungry goats and a grumpy old troll, told with a gentle ecological message. Watch out for the dance of the goats, the flying troll and loads and loads of rubbish. And don't forget to make friends with a little green frog hopping about...

Garlic Theatre create a magical world to entrance and delight a young audience with storytelling by wonderful performers, Iklooshar Malara and Mark Pitman

Billy Goats Gruff show has live accordion music, beautifully crafted puppets and lots of interaction with a magical and positive messages about caring for the environment woven into the story.

Running time 45 minutes

Puppet Theatre for 3-7 year olds

Devised and designed by the Company

Performers Mark Pitman and Iklooshar Malara

Direction Liz Walker and Roland Allen

Music Director Iklooshar Malara

Photography Lucy Tillier

Copy for venues

100 words

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50 words

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INFORMATION FOR BOX OFFICE

Target audience:	3-7 years
Running time:	45 minutes
Interval:	None

Target audience

The story of the Billy Goats Gruff is an all time favourite with younger children and their families who will love to see a live funny and warmhearted adaptation of the story. Although the show is for 3 - 7 years both younger and older children will enjoy the puppetry and the music and be entertained by the show.

Before the show starts, Ikloosha welcomes the children and families into the space as little Billy Goats and this builds a sense of fun and excitement and makes every child feel special. The venue too is invited to refer to everyone as Billy Goats for fun.

The show has been developed with international audiences in mind so the story is easy to follow for anyone who is non verbal or for whom English is a second language.

Brief synopsis of Billy Goats Gruff storyline

Iklooshar plays live accordion music and clowns with the audience when she hears the sound of a goat bleating. Where does it come from? When Mark enters as a big goat, they do a dance and the story begins.

The goats are all have different characters and names, Hilly Billy, Frilly Billy and Silly Billy and they all compete with each other in a funny way to get the best leaf on the mountain. The troll living under the bridge is quite shy and can be seen fishing and playing with a little green frog who combs his hair with a toothbrush and hops about. In our story the people from the town drop rubbish in the river and so there are no more fish for the Troll and he gets very hungry.

When the goats cross the bridge we go into the familiar story where each goat crosses the river and is confronted by a hungry troll. There is a comic end where the Troll tries to eat the biggest goat and rides it into the audience until he is tossed into the river. The troll is forgotten and the goats celebrate. Then we remember the troll and we watch as he is sad and is cheered up by the frog who gives him a handkerchief to blow his nose. The children decide to clear up the rubbish and the audience help by singing the Rubbish Song with actions. The Troll is so happy to see the river cleared up and the fish swimming by, that he lets everyone cross his bridge. A welcome banner comes up and we see everyone celebrating and dancing across the bridge to music for the finale.

Selling points

Mark and Iklooshar from Garlic Theatre are fantastic performers with a wonderful rapport. Billy Goats Gruff is mesmerising to watch, with beautifully manipulated puppets, catchy music and a mixture of storytelling and pure puppetry in the show where there are little or no words.

The children will recognise the puppet characters of the goats and the troll and enjoy our version of the story. Garlic Theatre set the performance in Sweden where trolls are a big part of Scandinavian culture and the audience will learn to say Hello/Hej in Swedish to the troll.

Mark and Iklooshar play with the audience and invite lots of joining in throughout. Near the end of the show the audience sing the Rubbish Song with actions and everyone helps to clear the river. Young people will feel a sense of empowerment and understanding about environmental issues. The show is gentle, inspiring and uplifting for audiences.

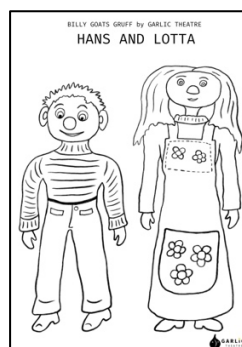
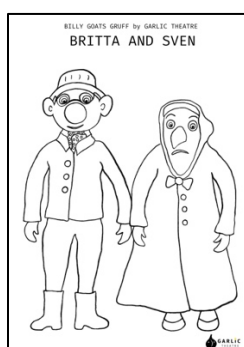
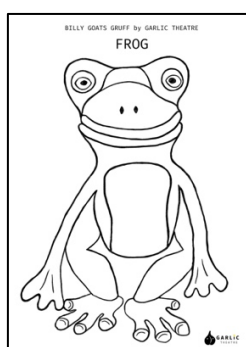
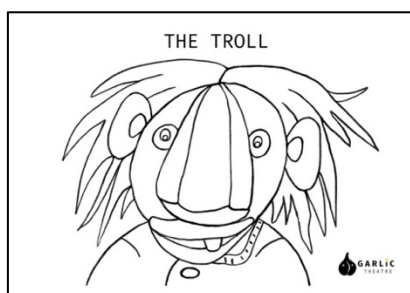
In the meet and greet at the end of the show, audience members can meet the puppets, feed the goats and interact with the troll and take photos or videos.

Garlic Theatre is one of the most loved touring puppetry companies in the UK that receives regular arts council project funding and has toured the UK and abroad for the last 30 years entertaining audiences from Brazil to Taiwan.



Activities for families

Garlic Theatre provide the venue with 6 individual printable colouring in sheets of all the puppet characters from the show. Venues can use these before the show to encourage ticket sales and if they like, they can either give out copies for families to take home or set up an added free activity after the show.



PUBLICITY FOR BILLY GOATS GRUFF

Here is the link to the **publicity page** of the website with high-res images, copy and a PDF of the leaflet and the poster for venues to print and overprint.

Here is also a link to Flickr, where we store the high-res images.

<https://www.garlictheatre.org.uk/publicity/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/153147748@N06/albums/72157681894356455/>

A **promo video** of the show is on you tube on this link

https://youtu.be/LW_exBg_GFg

Social media vertical videos are on these links

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16XW1-4MrCRjiXN_I2tIDyRiZdmb7hGs0/view?usp=sharing

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NW-G8YYMi1wPYu4z5PvSKvukUmvtySJO/view?usp=share_link

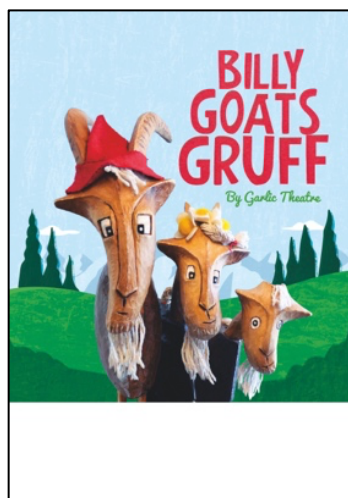
[G8YYMi1wPYu4z5PvSKvukUmvtySJO/view?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NW-G8YYMi1wPYu4z5PvSKvukUmvtySJO/view?usp=share_link)

POSTERS AND LEAFLET

High res PDFs available to download from the website



Poster 1



Poster 2



Leaflet

REVIEWS

Hickory Dickory Dock 2025

*A spectacular show with adorable puppets, amazingly beautiful and filled with laughter! **The Lyric Hammersmith***

*Absolutely captivating, my 3 year old was mesmerised from start to finish, would recommend this for any age **Burton Taylor Rooms***

*We all LOVED it! Wow. It was fantastic. Beautiful, simple, spellbinding. This is children's theatre at its best. Thanks Garlic Theatre!" – **5 Stars, Hereford Courtyard Theatre***

Billy Goats Gruff 2026

Wow what a fantastic show - the children were mesmerised throughout! Garlic as usual are on top of their game - you rock!

Jane Corry Norden Arts August 2026

Your Billy Goats Gruff show was fantastic. I took my 3 year old son and he absolutely loved it, he laughed and joined in and couldn't take his eyes off it, thank you so much!

Bridport Arts August 2026

So magical, the puppets, music and interaction were just perfect. My son laughed and laughed!

Norwich Studio Carrow House July 2026



So funny and magical and absolutely all the children were transfixed - I loved just watching their faces!

Julie Leader Wreningham School

Fast paced, funny, with wonderful music and we all fell in love with the frog...Garlic Theatre are the BEST!

Rachel Barker Angel Road Primary and Infants School

The children in my class can't stop talking about the show and are inspired to make their own puppets

A wonderful ecological message woven into the story - the children cared so much about the rubbish and wanted to help the little frog clear it all up for the Troll

Cecil Gowing Primary School

Here is a quote from us "Mouths were agape and hearts were captured by this magical story telling"

The children also spoke about how they liked the cow bell goats, " I liked the goat running away with the leaf and the show was so funny"

Lisa Peel All Saints Academy,

We have just watched this delightful performance with our children who range in age groups from Reception to Year 6, they are mixed ability with many SEN children included. The show was wonderfully entertaining. There was something for everyone. Every year our children have a choice of activities for the summer and they choose a puppet show by Garlic Theatre. Billy Goats Gruff was so interactive, funny, musical and beautifully visual so perfect for our audiences

Woodfields SEN school Sheringham



SOCIAL MEDIA

Iklooshar has worked with Little Angel Theatre, Norden Farm and many other venues to create bespoke Instagram videos to promote the show for your venue. Iklooshar is happy to work together with the marketing team and can send templates of social media short reels and/or posts that can be used to promote the show. Garlic Theatre can send over a copy of the **promo video** for **Billy Goats Gruff** on YouTube on request

Website

<https://www.garlictheatre.org.uk>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/www.garlictheatre.org.uk/>

Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/garlic_theatre/

Youtube

Garlictheatre

Publicity page on the website

<https://www.garlictheatre.org.uk/publicity/>

Touring dates on the website

<https://www.garlictheatre.org.uk/tour-dates/>

Video trailers on the website and YouTube

<https://garlictheatre.org.uk/videos/>



TECHNICAL SPECS



Playing Area 4 metres width by 4 metres depth 2.5 metres high
The production can be self contained with lights and sound or one technician is required to operate simple lighting states and one soundtrack.

MORE ABOUT GARLIC THEATRE

Please find more information about Mark Pitman and Iklooshar Malara and Garlic Theatre on the website

<https://garlictheatre.org.uk/about-us/>

Garlic Theatre

Garlic Theatre

Founded in 1997, Garlic Theatre is a Puppet Theatre Company that uses image, puppet animation, movement and live music to create family theatre productions of artistic excellence.

We aim to challenge, entertain and stimulate people of all ages through work which encourages imaginative play and develops a new awareness of the power of puppet animation.

The Company tours throughout the UK and in 2026 is touring Beijing and Shanghai in the autumn for the third year running, touring their hugely popular Hickory Dickory

Dock. Garlic Theatre aims to experiment and develop the power of puppetry and find new ways to engage and emotionally transport young audiences with shows that take them into imaginary worlds. Each show takes over a year to build and we develop ideas slowly through a process of improvisation.

Recently the creative team has included Steve Tiplady from Indefinite Articles and Liz Walker from the world famous Faulty Optic Theatre Company. In 2028 we will be partnering with Fossekleiva in Norway to research and develop a new production.

Garlic Theatre is well loved for their stunningly creative sets and puppets and the attention to detail in all their shows. The Company has been supported by project funding from Arts Council England and has also received funding from Foundations and Trusts.

The Company has toured to 22 countries outside the UK winning 5 awards.

Iklooshar Malara

Co-Artistic Director of the Company

Iklooshar studied English Literature at Oxford University before co-founding *Big Wheel Theatre Company* in 1986, specialising in theatre-in-education and touring England and Scandinavia. A fully qualified teacher, Iklooshar has trained with Philippe Genty, *Theatre de Complicite*, Philippe Gaulier, Enno Podelhl and Jan Feng and has worked as a freelance actress, puppeteer and musician with U.K. Companies such as *Forest Forge*, *Interplay*, *SNAP*, *Norwich Playhouse*, *Faulty Optic* and *Norwich Puppet Theatre*. In 1997 she founded *Garlic Theatre* with Mark Pitman which has toured nationally and Internationally for 20 years and won many prizes. Iklooshar is a puppet maker and musician and performs and composes the soundtracks for the productions.

Mark Pitman

Co-Artistic Director of the Company

Mark worked as a model maker before training in mime and movement with Desmond Jones and attending Jacques Lecoq's school in Paris. Mark studied object theatre with Enno Podelhl, Chinese glove puppetry with Jan Feng and leather mask making with Donato Sartori in Italy. He worked as a performer and maker for many years at *Norwich Puppet Theatre* with directors Ray Da-Silva, Barry Smith and Luis Boy. He was part-time tutor for puppetry manipulation and construction at the Royal Central School for Speech and Drama in London from 1995-2003. Mark works as a free-lance director with U.K. Companies and has directed *Banyan*, *DNA*, *Nutmeg*, *Indigo Moon* and Mike Chase for the *Mask Studio*. Internationally, Mark also directed *Morgenstern*, *Around the World in a Teakettle* and *Drawing in Motion* for Tineola Theatre in Prague and *Sindbad* for the Andersen Theatre in Lublin. Mark is a puppet maker and construction specialist and performs in the productions.

Liz Walker puppetry director of **Billy Goats Gruff** was the co founder of the hugely famous Faulty Optic Company. Her current company Invisible Thread tours to Festivals in the UK. She is an artist and maker and has made puppets for many companies including the RSC. She is also a brilliant puppeteer and is an invaluable person in Garlic Theatre's devising process. She works with us in our short playing weeks throughout the year and was the director for the final rehearsals for this 2 person production. Liz also works as a mentor and teacher for the Curious School of puppetry.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

Billy Goats Gruff	2026
Hickory Dickory Dock	2025
Snug and Grub catch a Bug!	2023
The Nosy Little Troll	2022
The Bag that went BOO!	2021
Oldilocks and the Three Bears	2020
Eggs on Legs	2019
3 Little Pig Tails	2018
Jack and the Beans Talk	2017
Little Red Robin Hood (new version)	2016
Shoe Kangaroo and the Big Bad Boot	2014
There's a Monster In My Piano	2012
Little Red Robin Hood	2010
The Forgotten Tailor	2009
Old Mother Hubbard and Her Cupboard	2008
The Magnificent Flying Machine	2007
Billy Goats Gruff	2006
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	2005 and 2013
Fiddlesticks	2004
Flea Circus	2002
Sindbad the Sailor	2000
George and the Dragon	1997
Rapunzel	1996

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

Garlic Theatre has toured to 22 countries outside the UK winning 5 awards in International Puppet Festivals:

Shanghai and Beijing Festival China	September to October 2026
Shanghai Festival China	September to October 2025
Shanghai Little Player Festival China	September to October 2024
Ards Puppet Festival, Northern Ireland	2023

Fossekleiva International Puppetry Festival, Norway	2023
Ghent Festival, Belgium	2017
Slovenia, Ljubljana	2016
Gent Festival, Belgium	2016
Moscow Puppet Festival, Russia	2014
Brittany Festival, France	2013
Lasi, Romania	2011
Lubin Hans Andersen Theatre, Poland	2009
Gent Festival, Belgium	2009
Taiwan Arts Festival, Taiwan	2005
Dubin Puppet Festival, Republic of Ireland	
Meppel Festival, Holland	
Singapore Arts Festival, Singapore	
Festival of Wonder, Denmark	2001
Kramfors Puppetry Festival, Sweden	
Brazilian International Festival, Brazil	
Lleida and Gava, Spain	
Ghent Festival, Belgium	2000, Winner of Luk Vincent Prize
32 nd Zagreb International Puppet Festival, Croatia	2000
Slovenia, Ljubljana	2000
Iron Rooster Festival Gyor, Hungary	1999, Winner of First Prize
International Puppet Festival, Lahore	1997

Contact details for Garlic Theatre

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Email – info@garlictheatre.org.uk Website – www.garlictheatre.org.uk