

## Alba Asks...

# SPONTANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

South London professional theatre for all ages

Special edition with Luna, Betty and Eloise



Welcome to the latest edition of Alba Asks. This time we had the amazing opportunity to interview the director of Spontaneous Productions- Jonathan Kaufman and assistant Producer and head costume designer - Jackie Poulett. Spontaneous Productions is a Sydenham-based theatre company who produce professional theatre, events and workshops at affordable prices for kids and adults.

**Q:** Who/What inspired you to start as a costume designer for S.P?

**A:** Jackie worked with an actor who always played the same character and one day he asked Jackie to make his costumes. She enjoyed doing that and decided she wanted to branch out. After doing that for a while, she found Jonathan who asked her to help him with the shows. Soon after, she was the full-time costume designer for S.P. Her favourite costumes to make were the nutcracker and the little mermaid.

**Q:** What inspired you to start spontaneous productions?

**A:** In 2008, Jonathan had worked at Kirkdale Books for years. When he worked there, he met actors and writers at the bookshop so, with these people he hosted a show at the Dolphin Pub, in their garden. Because his production was put together so suddenly, he decided to call his company Spontaneous Productions.

**Q:** How long does it take to get the cast ready?

**A:** Actors usually arrive an hour and the half before the show. They show up at this time as they need to warm up, physically and mentally. Jackie said she sees the actors doing yoga and stretches. Jonathan says the actors also take deep breaths and sing to warm up for their role.

**Q:** How long does it take to put together a full production. AKA writing the script, rehearsing the play, making the sets and costumes?

**A:** For costumes it depends what's in the cupboard but if you have to make one from scratch it takes at least one day. They only rehearse for 2 weeks because everyone already knows what they're doing. Everyone has their own job and rehearsing is where the whole show comes together. They usually write 2 or 3 months in advance and they have a music composer who does that as well.

**Q:** How do you entertain adults as well as children?

**A:** The production is mostly aimed at children, but there is something for everybody. It's inspired by shows like the Simpsons.

**Q:** What is your next production and when is it coming out?

**A:** It's called The Princess and the Pea and the Enormous Turnip. It's coming out on the 8th of March!

**Q:** How did Covid affect S.P?

**A:** It was really hard. Many had to sit far apart for the social distance. The first show that they did when the quarantine was over was puss in boots. It was only Jonathan, Jackie, and a few other actors during covid-19.

**Q:** What is your favourite production?

**A:** It's incredibly hard to choose but Jonathan said that his favourites were the 3 little pigs and around the world in 80 days. Jackie said that she really liked The Little Mermaid because it was set underwater and had fluorescent lighting and the Nutcracker because she loved the costumes.

Jackie and Jonathan shared a song that was going to be in their next production The Princess and the Pea and the Enormous Turnip. The song is called 'It's a Pea's Life' and we all loved it and gave our thanks to the music composer.

We hope you liked this article and that it answered some of your questions. Don't forget to book your tickets to their new production now!

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**BOOK ONLINE** [spontaneousproductions.co.uk/princess](https://spontaneousproductions.co.uk/princess)

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**THE CAST**



**BEATRIZ SAR AMAGO**  
 as Princess Charlotte /  
 The Enormous Turnip



**MARLON-OLIVER HARRIS**  
 as Prince Ralph /  
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**POPPY PICKLES**  
 as The Queen /  
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**HINAKO NAKAMURA**  
 as Midori the  
 Museum Guard

**+ SPECIAL GUEST VIDEO APPEARANCE**



**HJALMAR NORDÉN**  
 as The Pea

PHOTOS FROM PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS BY MARK DRINKWATER

The Tokyo Museum of Vegetables is justly famous for its unrivalled collection of historical legumes, including Shakespeare's radish, William Tell's onion (you thought it was an apple? Think again) and, most infamously, the carrot that started the American War of Independence...

But two vegetables stand out amongst the rest – an ordinary-looking Pea and a most notorious Turnip. Today, we present their stories...

*You think you know the fairy tale? – bedraggled girl! at the castle gates, a pile of mattresses as high as the ceiling, and a certain small, green pea...*

*Well, in this version, it's time to hear exactly what happened that night, and why the Pea is so keen to tell his side of the story!*

*Is there any such thing as TOO MUCH Fertiliser? When a Farmer and his Wife use a new miracle plant food on their field, they're shocked to discover just how enormously a turnip can grow. Getting it out of the ground is the first challenge, but what happens when your prize turnip decides it wants a life of its own?*

Spontaneous Productions launches its Spring season for families with its most original and inventive musical theatre show yet! As always, expect the unexpected, as two classic fairy tales are given the usual Spontaneous twist – featuring original songs, delightful dance routines, comic chases and amazing video effects!



**WHAT AUDIENCES SAID ABOUT PREVIOUS SHOWS**



*"Always so impressive! Funny, charming, clever and brilliantly acted. Well done!"*

*"Perfect for children, delightful."*

*"Such a great show, the actors were amazing and the singing and dancing were fab."*

**GIVE US A HAND!**

We always need volunteers to help on our shows. Go to [spontaneousproductions.co.uk/volunteer](https://spontaneousproductions.co.uk/volunteer) for more information



**BOOK YOUR TICKETS**

Advance booking online recommended  
[spontaneousproductions.co.uk/princess](https://spontaneousproductions.co.uk/princess)

Please note tickets can no longer be purchased at Kirkdale Bookshop. Advance booking recommended. Tickets may be available on the door subject to availability, from 30 mins before show time.

Standard price **£10** adults, **£5** children aged 3+  
 Pay a little more **£12** adults, **£6** children aged 3+  
 Pay a little less **£8** adults, **£4** children aged 3+  
 (Under 3s FREE as usual)

Our scaled ticket price enables maximum accessibility to those on a budget, so please pay what you can best afford. The ticket price does not reflect the quality of your seat!

Produced, directed and written by **Jonathan Kaufman** Associate producer & Costume designer **Jackie Poulett**  
 Original songs & music by **Alessia Marcovecchio** Special video effects by **Joe Kaufman of Red Kite Films**  
 Scenic artists **Sophie Batchelor, Izzy Snell, Catherine Oswald, Helena Smith, Zac Richardson**  
 Graphic design **Jan Warren** Photography **Mark Drinkwater**

