

## STRING THEATRE

# THE RED BALLOON

**Puppet Theatre Barge**  
**Sat 15 Jan - Sun 6 Feb**

After-show discussion:  
Sun 16 January (after 2pm show)  
Led by Beccy Smith,  
BSL interpreted by Martin Fox-Roberts

**Runs approx 45 mins, no interval**  
Age Guidance: 3+

### THE RED BALLOON

*The Red Balloon* tells the story of a small boy's friendship with a balloon, and explores the poignancy of a child's imagination. Inspired by **Albert Lamorisse's** short film of the same name, the piece explores universal themes of childhood, friendship, loyalty and loss and has captured the imagination of both adults and children across the world.

#### Credits

Manipulation

**Elizabeth Barron**

**Stan Middleton**

**Soledad Zárate**

Puppets and props

**Stan Middleton & Soledad Zárate**

Backdrops

**Stan Middleton**

Music

**Josh Middleton**

Directors

**Rob Humphreys & Kate Middleton**

Special thanks

**Sarah Fitzpatrick, Tana Fletcher**

**Gren & Juliet Middleton**

### STRING THEATRE

Based in London, String Theatre was founded in 2011 by puppeteers **Stan Middleton** and **Soledad Zárate**, both of whom learnt their craft on the Puppet Theatre Barge. The company presents live performances using long-string wood-carved marionettes and tours its productions on a custom-built touring stage to festivals and theatres around the world (Bosnia, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey & UK).

[www.stringtheatre.co.uk](http://www.stringtheatre.co.uk)

### PUPPET THEATRE BARGE

Gren and Juliet Middleton of Movingstage Marionette Company founded the Puppet Theatre Barge in 1982. The boat itself is an old Thames lighter which has been ingeniously converted into a unique puppet theatre specialising in string marionettes. Moored in Little Venice from mid-October to mid-July, the Puppet Barge journeys to Richmond-upon-Thames every year for the summer season. All three generations of the Middleton family are involved in running the theatre, which is now cruising through its fourth decade.

[www.puppetbarge.com](http://www.puppetbarge.com)

*"...the scale of puppetry forces you to surrender your imagination in a way that flesh and blood actors never could."*

THE GUARDIAN



### London International Mime Festival

[direction@mimelondon.com](mailto:direction@mimelondon.com)  
[mimelondon.com](http://mimelondon.com)

London International Mime Festival (LIMF) promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have been nominated for, and won, Olivier Awards, and in 2017 the festival was honoured with the *Empty Space - Peter Brook Special Achievement Award* for its work over four decades. Founded in 1977, LIMF is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

Festival Directors:

**Helen Lannaghan & Joseph Seelig**

Production Manager:

**Bill Deverson**

Associate Producer:

**Dawn Prentice**

Press Representatives:

**Anna Arthur**

Graphics & Website designer:

**Iain Lanyon**

[keanlanyon.com](http://keanlanyon.com)

Marketing Consultants:

**Anne Dillow, Richard Fitzmaurice**

**Mobius Industries**

[mobiusedustries.com](http://mobiusedustries.com)

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