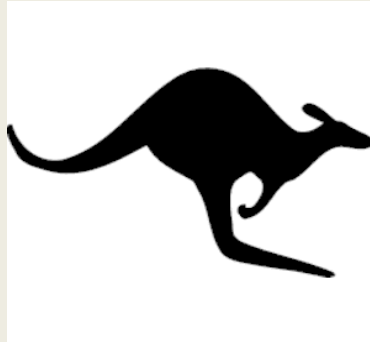


# WIMBORNE COMMUNITY THEATRE

## The Kangaroo and the Tulip Tree

Deans Court, Wimborne, June 1999

Sculpture Exhibition "The Pleasure of Influence"



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**Scene 1**  
**Opening Ritual**

*The audience is led over to the circular mound with tree in the middle. All appear from behind the tree in two lines, singing "What do you see? The kangaroo and the tulip tree."*

*All fan out into two sides of a semi-circle with Sammy and Gill at the extremities. All look wide-eyed and curious focused on the central tree. Shaker is CUE to stop singing.*

SONG:            Turn around  
                      What do you see?  
                      The kangaroo  
                      And the tulip tree.

RITUAL:  
*Gill and Sammy with trug baskets, walk round with offerings. Everyone selects their offering to hold.*

Barbara:        Let us gather all our thoughts and our chosen objects into this ark of summer,  
                      sailing towards winter.  
                      There's a paradox here – the paradox of reality and illusion. Energy and life  
                      within the inanimate. Tangible stone shaped in metaphors.

*Maria starts "Reminds me of ..." sequence. She cues in each speaker with "Reminds me ..."  
In turn everyone lays down their 'offering' in front of them to make the new sculpture and  
then steps back. All focus on whoever is speaking line. Occasional repetition of lines  
(especially TOPS lines).*

Maria:            It reminds me of ...

Voice 1:         Horse chestnut flowers remind me of pineapples.

Voice 2:         This rough cold stone reminds me of the sea and craggy rocks and hidden  
                      caves at Dancing Ledge where I played as a child.

Voice 3:         But not these smooth mottled stones with hidden hollows.

Voice 4:         I like green leaves – pointed like Indian feathers.

Voice 5:         And nice green flowers, rose scented magenta, frothy and delicate as a ballet  
                      skirt.

Voice 6:         Horse chestnut flowers smell of perfume, and lucky clover and lovely  
                      bluebells.

Voice 7:         Broken dandelion clocks remind me of lost time.

Voice 8: And buttercups ... broken buttercups. Neglected and lost. And lonely leaves remind me of ...

Voice 9: This bark reminds me of my Nan's house called Rooky Wood ...

Voice 10: Kingston Lacy which was full of lovely bluebells.

Voice 11: Dandy coloured - it reminds me of family ages, going back like time rings inside trees.

Voice 12: An old brown fir cone brooding with mystery.

All: We are the garden people living inside our own ring of sticks.

*Gill and Sammy walk round touching people on shoulder. All drop down reverently, heads bowed. Gill and Sammy slowly climb the tree.*

*All slap thighs in percussion rhythm and crouch.*



## Scene 2

### Janus

Maria: Here is Janus!

All (*lifting both arms*): Janus! (*Lower arms*)

Steph: God of beginnings!

All (*lifting both arms*): Beginnings! (*Lower arms*)

Daniel: God of endings!

All (*lifting both arms*): Endings! (*Lower arms*)

Janus (*Gill & Sammy as Chorus*):  
Once I was the first God  
Invoked in every sacrament and prayer.  
I had two faces  
One looking back  
One looking forwards.  
I am the watcher at the gate  
The guard at the doorway.  
Wherever there is a way in  
Or a way out  
I will be there.  
I preside over the past  
The here and now

And the future.  
Dust, earth, stone  
Leaves, feathers, bark  
Brain, blood, bone  
All leave their mark!  
*Repeat – rising to a crescendo.* Dust, earth, stone  
Leaves, feathers, bark  
Brain, blood, bone  
All leave their mark!

*On 'Brain, blood, bone' lines, cast slowly exits, looking back at Janus.  
Six people crouch down behind statue heads.  
Janus beckon the audience to the line of statue heads with the 'Dust, earth, stone' chant.  
They crouch at each end of the row of heads.*

Gill: Out of stone, grow plants.

Sammy: Out of heads, grow stories.  
What stories are they holding on to?

Gill: Can you hear them breathing?  
What are they saying?

Sammy: Out of stone, grow plants.

Gill: Out of heads, grow stories.

*Gill and Sammy walk past crouched figures, chanting 'Out of stones, grow plants. Out of heads, grow stories.' The figures rise as Janus pass and move off slowly.*

Gill & Sammy: Come let us unravel the paths of the unkempt gardens.

*Janus repeat line while beckoning the audience to follow.  
Audience follows in two lines round line of heads statue.  
Other cast members leave to become Garden of Eden group.*

*Audience is stopped facing Chinese pillars, Peter Randall-Page shell-like sculpture in foreground.*

*Janus move through the doors to set up Chaos Greek legend.*



**Scene 3**

**Chaos: Greek Legend**

*Movement piece by TOPS group. Maria, Lesley, Stewart and Freddie.  
Three performers are in a circle over the large stone. Freddie is by the black stone with shaker.*

Janus: I am the watcher at the gate  
The guard at the doorway.  
Awake the North wind!  
Awake the South!  
Unbar the doors!

Janus: Long ago in the beginning of time there was nothing but a huge dark mass called Chaos. In this chaos were hidden all things that now exist, the earth and the sky, light and darkness, fire and water, and everything else ...trees liked better to remain below with the earth ...

*On the word Chaos, the 3 start to move around the stone, chanting 'Chaos' and the flute starts playing.*

Janus: *(All repeat chanting):* Out of Chaos, Heaven - Heaven  
Out of Chaos, Earth - Earth  
Out of Chaos, Moon - Moon  
Out of Chaos, Stars - Stars  
Out of Chaos, Stones – Stones

Janus: Once in the beginning of time, there was another story. In the middle of Wimborne there was a Saxon convent and a Nun called Lioba.

*The audience is turned around by Janus.*



**Scene 4**  
**Lioba and the Garden of Eden**

*Lioba (Tuppy) enters with a group of Nuns, singing plainsong.*

*They sit close to the audience, possibly with backs turned to them. Lioba tells them a story from the Bible about the Garden of Eden. "As perfect as this garden of our monastery here in Wimborne of Cuthburga." As she narrates from Genesis, she moves towards the tree drawing the attention of the audience to the Genesis movement group.*



**Scene 5**  
**Genesis**

*Lioba continues to narrate the creation story from Genesis while the movement group performs a piece depicting the creation. The story unfolds, starting upstage by the tree and growing closer, taking in the Wire Animals statue of cows.*

*On "Adam born from clay and water" – all circle (Jewish cabal style); lift clay pots; pour water around the circle.*

*As the story ends, all freeze in a new statue. They break the freeze and run off.*

Nun 1: Will you teach us, Lioba?

Lioba: Of course, I will.

Nun 2: Is it true that your mother had a dream about you before your birth, Lioba?  
That you were holding a lovely golden bell?

Nun 3: Yes, and you had such a dream yourself, didn't you, Lioba? She told me!  
She dreamt a beautiful purple ribbon was flowing from her mouth. God came  
to her and told her she should one visit foreign lands to teach the word of  
God.

Nun 1: Is that true?

*Lioba nods.*

Nun 2: Of course, it is. Will you take us with you, Lioba? Please!

Nun 3: Yes. We will help you spread the word of God to the heathens.

Nun 1: Oh, please, please. Do not leave us with the cruel mistress, please.

Lioba: Hush now! Only the Lord can guide you on the path. Trust in him. Now go and play! You have worked hard today.

*Lioba invites all the Nuns to rest and play in the garden. The Nuns run off playfully, followed by Lioba and the audience.*

**FREEDOM:**

*She leads the audience over to the large central sculpture, The Ark.*

*The audience is placed in relation to the sculpture. Music. The Nuns are seen dancing: Individuals begin to move inside the wire structure. Sailing theme for movement. Gradually others join in, liberated by interaction with the sculpture. They flick water from the central pool at each other and the audience.*

**CHASTISEMENT:**

*The Cruel Mistress, Ethelburga (Marion), enters.*

Ethelburga: Stop this wickedness at once. This is sacrilege! You are sinners! You will burn in hell! On your knees! On your knees and pray to the Lord for forgiveness!

*Ritualised beating/hair pulling follows.*

*Lioba interrupts.*

Lioba: Sister Ethelburga, they have worked hard today. Please let them play. God wants people to be happy and celebrate.

Ethelburga: You are from a noble family, Lioba, but remember I am in charge of the novices. Go back to your studying. See what becomes of your gentleness to these pagans. See what wickedness you inspire them to! And I am left to pluck out the corruption from their sinful souls!

Go, you dreamer! You whose dreams send you in ships across the sea to save the heathens in Frankish lands. Leave me to save these sinners as I know best.

And as for you pagans, pray! Repeat after me! Oh, merciful Lord, forgive us for we are sinners! Again! Forgive us for we are sinners! What are you?

You are Sinners! Sinners! You will stay on your knees and pray for two days and two nights! No food will pass your lips! Pray!

**DEATH OF THE CRUEL MISTRESS:**

*Ethelburga walks slowly away leaving the Nuns praying. Pause. The Nuns follow her fanned out in a straight line. She falls to the ground dead (seen from a distance by the audience). The Nuns join hands, skipping towards her, and dance round her prone body.*

*When they leave, Janus raise Ethelburga from the ground and wraps her in a black cloak. She exits slowly. Janus beckon the audience forward towards the house.*



## **Scene 6**

### **Tradescant and Adam, the Modern Gardener**

*Music: "In an English Country Garden".*

*Adam, the gardener (Daniel) introduces himself and welcomes the audience to the house. He talks about the Sculpture Exhibition and the variety of species of plants in the garden.*

*Tradescant (Tony) appears on the patio, trying to get inside the house. He carries a tulip tree. He sees Adam the gardener and asks where the Lord and Lady of the house are. He's brought them their tulip tree back from his travels - he introduces new plants from other lands. He has come to tell them about his travels in Virginia. He describes his background and link with Dean's Court.*

*Adam points to the crowd of people (the audience). Tradescant comes forward and delivers his lecture – either using the same sculpture and referring to sea images or leading the audience to Randall Page pods. Demonstration of oranges/grafting. He asks for questions.*

*Adam asks about the deer eating his roses. Tradescant asks him to fetch refreshment and then he will show the remedy. They go off to Kangaroo Point.*

*LINK into Deer Sequence:*

*Janus, carrying the tulip tree, lead the audience across the garden. Musicians play and sing 'Ring Of Harts'.*

**SONG:**

**RING OF HARTS**

Ring of harts, forsaken flowers  
Reveal the magic of your powers  
The sun is sinking through the trees  
The earth is turning on the breeze.

*Chorus:* Tonight, tonight  
We'll sing your song tonight  
Beneath the tulip tree.

Broken dreams to earth we'll cast.  
Show us the future and the past.  
Master of all, you were the first.  
Who else can quench our flaming thirst.



*Chorus:* Tonight, tonight  
We'll sing your song tonight  
Beneath the tulip tree.

Lead us through the darkest night.  
Bathe us in your blazing light.  
Sun and moon and stars above  
Sculpted by your perfect love.

*Chorus:* Tonight, tonight  
We'll sing your song tonight  
Beneath the tulip tree.



## **Scene 7**

### **The Dean's Court Deer and the Green Man**

*The ritual of the trapped deer (trapped between the new bypass and the river) is acted out in a movement sequence, showing the struggle between freedom and enclosure/ancient and modern:*

- *Deer emerge from the foliage slowly and cautiously*
- *Deer pair up – arms crossed and together*
- *Deer circle in pairs pawing the ground*
- *Deer group form an arch*
- *Lead Deer goes through and lunges forward 4 times shouting "Ha"*
- *Group lunges forward shouting "Ha" 4 times behind her*
- *Group turns into Deer and Hunters with Dogs*
- *Then they turn into a Car*
- *2 headlights attack the Deer*
- *Lead Deer (Rachel ) speaks:*

Lead Deer:                      Like antlers, like veins of the brain, they entrap

- *All repeat the lines 7 times*
- *Alec runs to ground and re-emerges as the Green Man*
- *He speaks as he walks around Deer*

Green Man:                      I am the Green Man,  
   Come from the sanctuary of the woods  
   To call the hunted deer  
   Away from the dazzle of headlights  
   And the flare of the motor horn

To lead them to safe pasture.  
I come with the wind  
I rise with the sap  
I speak through the tulip tree.  
Return to the woods  
Leave the roads and highways  
For safety is found in woodland and park.  
Come! Follow me!

- *Group turns back into Deer*
- *Deer are led back into foliage by the Green Man*

**LINK TO THE KANGAROOS:**

*Tradescant returns with Adam the Gardener to bring the audience round to see the sculpture of monsters on the lawn. He leads them to the Kangaroo sculptures and, when they are all assembled, he describes the strange tale he heard from a shipwrecked sailor who claimed to have crossed the Seven Seas.*



**Scene 8**

**Tiddalik the Frog**

*Tradescant draws the audience's attention to the statues, strange creatures from the other side of the world. He is reminded of a story he heard from a shipwrecked mariner (jumping up and down) who called them kangaroos. This leads into the legend of Tiddalik.*

*Tradescant narrates the first part. Others act the next sequence.  
Didgeridoo sounds throughout (hidden).*

*Cast on both sides of Tradescant and the statues. Group 1: Julie, Lesley, Tuesday, Chris on one side. Group 2: Jacky, Maria, Jeff, Stewart on the other.*

Tradescant: In the long, long ago time which these people called the Dreamtime, down in the very bottom of the world, they say, there lived a giant frog. His name was Tiddalik.

*Stewart moves to centre front and becomes Tiddalik.*

Tradescant: Tiddalik was a mountain of a frog, as tall as a tulip tree, as wide as a wall. And he was very, very greedy.

All (repeat): Greedy.

Tradescant: One day he leaned back his huge head and drank up the raindrops that fell from the sky.

*Group 1 makes sounds of raindrops by drumming hands on knees.*

*Group 2 makes slurping sounds.*

*Stewart sticks out his tongue and drinks. He rubs his belly and grows bigger.*

Tradescant: Soon he had drunk up every last drop of rain from the sky. But he was still thirsty. So he began to drink the waters in the rivers.

*Group 2 makes rivers with blue cloth. They shake them up and down and make water sounds. Tiddalik turns his head and jumps over. They make the cloth disappear (inside Tiddalik's shirt) as he drinks.*

*Group 1 makes slurping sounds.*

Tradescant: Soon he had drunk up every last drop of water from the rivers. (*Stewart rubs his belly*) But he was still thirsty! So he began to drink the waters in the lakes!

*Group 1 makes lakes with blue cloth. They shake them up and down and make water sounds. Tiddalik turns his head and jumps over. They make the cloth disappear (inside Tiddalik's shirt) as he drinks.*

*Group 2 makes slurping sounds.*

Tradescant: Soon he had drunk up every last drop of water from the lakes. (*Stewart rubs his belly*) But he was still thirsty! So he began to drink the waters in the creeks!

*Group 2 makes creeks with blue cloth. They shake them up and down and make water sounds. Tiddalik turns his head and jumps over. They make the cloth disappear (inside Tiddalik's shirt) as he drinks.*

*Group 1 makes slurping sounds.*

Tradescant: Soon he had drunk up every last drop of water from the creeks. (*Stewart rubs his belly*) But he was still thirsty! So then he began to drink the waters in the ponds!

*Group 1 makes ponds with blue cloth. They shake them up and down and make water sounds. Tiddalik turns his head and jumps over. They make the cloth disappear (inside Tiddalik's shirt) as he drinks.*

*Group 2 makes slurping sounds.*

Tradescant: At last he was full. All the water in the world was inside his big belly. He hopped very slowly to a shady spot and stopped. Still. It was very very hot. The trees began to die for they had no water to make them grow. The plants began to die for they had no water to make them grow. And all the creatures began to die for they had no water to make them grow. Slowly and sadly they

gathered for a meeting around the oldest tallest red kangaroos in the land,  
beneath the tallest trees.

*All move slowly to the centre. Music.*

All (*whispering*): No – water – thirsty – hot – dying – help!  
*They form tableaux. Tuesday leans on one kangaroo, Maria on the one behind near Jacky.  
Eel (Lesley) keeps her distance downstage.*

Tradescant: The eldest – and wisest of them all – Wombat spoke first.

*Wombat (Jeff), steps forward.*

Wombat: Friends, we have a little problem to solve here. But I know, if we all pull  
together, we can solve it. Where is all the water in the world?

*All point at Tiddalik.*

Wombat: Yes, inside the Frog Tiddalik. Now there must be a way of getting it back.  
Any ideas? (*All look puzzled. Silence*) Well, fortunately, I, Wombat, do have  
an idea! (*All look hopeful*) If we can make Tiddalik the Frog open his mouth  
wide, all the water in the world will come out again. (*All silent*) Well,  
fortunately, I have a plan for this too. (*All look hopeful*) We .. must .. make ..  
him .. laugh!

Yes, make him laugh! For then he must surely open his mouth and all the  
water of the world will flow forth and we will be saved. So that is my plan.  
Now, who will volunteer to try and make him laugh first?  
(*Pause*) Kangaroos? How about you?

*The two kangaroos (Tuesday and Julie) circle Tiddalik doing human-style jumps slowly. No  
luck. They return to their places.*

Kangaroos: Nothing! Not even a smile! Never even looked at us!

Wombat: Thank you for trying. Who will go next? Kookaburras?

*The two kookaburras (Maria and Jackie) flap their wings and fly around. Again, to no avail.  
They return to their places.*

Kookaburras: Nothing! Not even a smile! Never even looked at us!

Wombat: Thank you for trying. Who will go next? Koalas?

*The koalas crawl around and waggle their bottoms to no avail. They return to their places.*

Koalas: Nothing! Not even a smile!

Wombat: Oh dear! Thank you for trying. Who else is there to try? (*He notices Lesley, the Eel*) Who are you? I don't recognise you?

Maria: That's Nabunum, the Eel. He lives in the river bed usually.

Wombat: Can you help us make the Frog laugh, Eel?

Eel: I think so. I'll try!

*Eel slowly raises herself up and begins to dance, wagging and going faster and faster.*

Tradescant: Faster and faster danced the little Eel, faster than the speed of light, like a flash of lightning through the sky. Until, suddenly, the Frog's lips began to tremble and quiver. Then he smiled. And then he opened his huge mouth wide as a cavern and – out came all the water in the world! It just flowed right out of the Frog!

*All come in close with backs to the audience and start to pull the cloths from Tiddalik's shirt as if from his mouth. As they pull, they chant:*

All: Back into the rivers!  
Back into the lakes!  
Back into the creeks!  
Back into the ponds!

*Freeze.*

Tradescant: And the creatures drank again and were refreshed. And the plants drank and were refreshed. And the trees drank and were refreshed. The world didn't die. It was saved. It happened in the Dreamtime. It was Wise Wombat's idea. All the creatures danced over. And Tiddalik became their friend. And he was not greedy any more.

*All dance off towards the Frink sculptures.*



## **Scene 9** **Nicola Hicks, Sculptor of the Kangaroos**

*Tradescant moves across to Adam, the Gardener.*

Tradescant: That was the story told to me by the shipwrecked Spanish sailor. And I tell you, Sir, the idea came from the big red kangaroo. Tiddalik became a friend to all the other creatures and to all the other gardeners, as we know.

Adam: That is true, Sir. We actually use frogs here in this garden. They're an organic way of keeping slugs at bay.

Tradescant: There we are, you see. Now look at these splendid creatures. You see how they inspired me. How can you not respond to this art, man?

Adam: Well, to tell the truth, Sir, as much as I don't like Art, they do seem to be growing on me. I've often thought about travelling and hearing that story about Australia and seeing these sculptures, I quite fancy having a trip there.

Tradescant: You should see the world, man. And I should like to meet the artist. This artist must have gone to the bottom of the world. Where is he?

*Nicola Hicks (Rachel) enters.*

Nicola: I'm the artist and I have been to Australia.

Tradescant: A lady! Bless me!

Nicola: I made the kangaroos.

Adam: So what are they made out of then?

Nicola: These are made from bronze.

Adam: Bronze! So how come they've got all these straw bits?

Nicola: Well, it's funny you should mention that because some of my early work was actually made from plaster and straw.

Adam: So you use things from the garden as well. We've got something in common, dear!

Nicola: I really felt with these sculptures that I wanted to try and capture the very stuff of life, as my mentor Elizabeth Frink did very well.

Tradescant: Stuff of life indeed!

Adam: What's a mentor then?

Tradescant: A teacher, man! Is this another woman? Elizabeth Frink? Is she here? I should like to meet her.

Nicola: She's here. Would you like to meet her?

Tradescant: I'm sure we all would.

Nicola: I'll take you there then. *(to audience)* But remember she doesn't like people to see her at work.

Tradescant: We will follow.

*Tradescant, Adam and Nicola Hicks lead the audience to the Frink sculptures.*



### **Scene 10**

#### **Elizabeth Frink, Sculptor**

*Elizabeth Frink (Barbara) is seen moving round the Judas sculpture as if moulding it. Nicola Hicks joins her. The rest of the cast is assembled in a semi-circle behind the sculptures. Drone plays. When the audience is assembled, they step back and look at the work. Elizabeth Frink explains her work to her apprentice.*

Elizabeth: With Judas I wanted to create this massive figure and I wanted a figure which was fending off some kind of betrayal. Judas is quite a strong figure but he also has a weakness about him. With his arm outstretched like that, he's making a gesture of invitation, yet fending you off at the same time. Also he's blinded, like the Goggleheads...

*She leads Nicola to the Goggleheads sculpture.*

Elizabeth: This is a figure I'm deeply attached to because it marked a major change in my work. The Goggleheads are representations of stupid people – portraits of cruelty and inhumanity and stupidity. A statement on my part about the cruelty and stupidity of repressive regimes, and of the men who operated them.

Nicola: A paradox of reality and illusion.

Elizabeth: Energy and life within the inanimate.

Nicola: Tangible bronze cast in metaphors.

*Elizabeth and Nicola exit.*



**Scene 11**  
**Janus and the Final Ritual**

*Janus come together centre front. They join hands and chant.*

Janus:           Dust, earth, stone  
                  Leaves, feathers, bark  
                  Brain, blood, bone  
                  All leave their mark!

*Janus repeat chant as they walk towards the Goggleheads sculpture. They take up position at either end of the heads.*

Marion (*cues in song*):           Look around. What do you see?

*Janus beckon and the cast move forward in two lines from either side, spinning round and singing. They cross through the Goggleheads sculptures and line up behind the sculptures.*

SONG:

THE KANGAROO AND THE TULIP TREE

Within the leafy garden, I wearily did stray  
The sun was slowly sinking and the world had lost its way.  
A blackbird stole the moment, she lifted up her head  
And sang a song so sweetly  
And this is what she said.

Turn around  
What do you see?  
The Kangaroo  
And the Tulip Tree.

*On final chorus, all raise hands and freeze.*

BOW

*Cast and audience join in final song. Janus collect candles, return to position and then lead the cast through the sculptures to form a line in front of the audience, continuing the song. On the final chorus, all exit in a line. They line up on the bridge. The audience follows.*

SONG:

RING OF HARTS

Ring of harts, forsaken flowers  
Reveal the magic of your powers  
The sun is sinking through the trees



The earth is turning on the breeze.

*Chorus:* Tonight, tonight  
We'll sing your song tonight  
Beneath the tulip tree.

Broken dreams to earth we'll cast.  
Show us the future and the past.  
Master of all, you were the first.  
Who else can quench our flaming thirst.

*Chorus:* Tonight, tonight  
We'll sing your song tonight  
Beneath the tulip tree.

Lead us through the darkest night.  
Bathe us in your blazing light.  
Sun and moon and stars above  
Sculpted by your perfect love.

*Chorus:* Tonight, tonight  
We'll sing your song tonight  
Beneath the tulip tree.