

From sideshow freak to Revolutionary spy:  
A macabre musical tale of one man's quest to be  
human, in a world that sees him as a monster.



"Reminiscent of West End  
musicals but with a winningly  
sardonic streak"  
*The Evening Standard*

"Bloody  
good fun"  
*The Guardian*

"This creepy, heartbreaking  
chamber opera is a stunning feast  
for the eyes and ears."  
*A Younger Theatre*

Wattle and Daub's

# THE DEPRAVED APPETITE OF TARRARIE THE FREAK

Available to Tour from Autumn 2019



“BUT HE TOLD ME HE SWALLOWED THE GOLDEN FORK  
... HE TOLD ME THE FORK WAS KILLING HIM”

Like nothing you will have seen before, **The Depraved Appetite of Tarrare the Freak** is the extraordinary true tale of a man on a quest to become human, in a world that treats him as a monster.

A bold, macabre production - both heartbreaking and witty in equal measure - that tells an extraordinary true story through theatre, puppetry, and a soaring musical score.

based on the true story of Tarrare – an outcast with a strange condition: an insatiable appetite which included live cats, amputated limbs and the occasional toddler.

From his beginnings as a sideshow freak in 18th century Paris, his love story with a conjoined twin, to his service undercover during the French Revolution, Tarrare lived a life that is as compelling as it is unbelievable.

The story is told through an original score, performed live onstage - whose influences include

Sondheim, Britten and Bernstein- as well as a cast of over 20 puppets to create a strange, oddly beautiful world full of tragedy and humour.

Ideal for fans of gothic tales, musicals, opera, historic happenings and black comedy; **The Depraved Appetite of Tarrare the Freak** will make audiences laugh out loud, touch their hearts, and above all, entertain.

“A deeply moving true story, beautifully told with gothic aplomb... not to be missed”



*The Reviews Hub*

“Beautifully composed and quite simply a joy to behold... Magnifique!”



*The Fix Magazine*

“Haunting”

*The Times*

“Like nothing that’s  
been on the London  
stage before... *The  
Depraved Appetite  
of Tarrare the Freak*  
is morbid theatre  
and opera so  
groundbreaking it  
demands to be seen”



*Grumpy Gay Critic*



## THE COMPANY

*Wattle and Daub* is a Bristol-based visual theatre and puppetry company, previously Associate Artists at Tobacco Factory Theatres. They share untold stories using music and grotesque, beautiful imagery. They are committed to creating theatre that audiences find magical, inspirational and transformative.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

A Chamber Opera by  
**Tom & Tobi Poster**

Written in collaboration with  
**Hattie Naylor**

Directed by  
**Sita Calvert-Ennals**

Creative Director of Puppetry  
**Laura Purcell-Gates**

Puppet Design by  
**Wattle and Daub**

Production Design by  
**Rebecca Wood**

Lighting Design by  
**Mark Parry**

Produced by  
**Ellie Harris & Christina Poulton**

## CAST

Puppeteers:  
**Aya Nakamura & Tobi Poster**

Singers:  
**Daniel Harlock & Michael Longden**

Musicians:  
**An-Ting Chang** (piano) & **Katie Rowe** (violin)

Watch the trailer:  
<https://vimeo.com/265371940>



“THE HISTORY OF THIS MONSTER IS AS  
CURIOUS AS HIS HABITS DISGUSTING...”

## PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL

Available Autumn 2019 onwards

For ages 12+

90mins plus interval

6 performers plus 3 touring tech / production on the road

Workshops & wraparound activity available – see page 5

Comprehensive marketing & education resource packs will be provided.

### **Includes:**

*Audience selling points*

*Full synopsis plus a history of Tarrare*

*Press release*

*Box office notes*

*Images from rehearsal and final production*

*Film of whole show plus extended clips*

*Recordings of musical extracts*

*Variety of available wraparound and educational activity.*

### **Requirements**

Pre-rig required - LX spec. available on request

Previous day get-in [minimum full day from 9am]

2 hour strike min.

Parking for 1x LWB van & 1x car

Playing Space:  
MINIMUM 8m wide, 5m deep, 4m high  
End-on;

Small-medium sized venues 75 – 400 seats.

Piano required OR access for piano delivery

Full technical rider is available on request.

The company is willing to discuss variations on the above so please get in touch with any queries.



## PREVIOUSLY TOURED TO

Bristol Festival of Puppetry 2015 *\*sold out run\**  
Suspense Festival, London 2015 *\*sold out run\**  
Tobacco Factory Theatres, Bristol 2017 *\*sold out run\**  
Wilton's Music Hall, London 2017  
*\*sold out 3-week run\**  
North Wall, Oxford 2017  
Bath Spa Live 2017

## AUDIENCES

- Theatre
- Family
- Musical theatre
- Opera / Classical music
- Cabaret and alternative circus
- Puppetry audiences / Puppetry practitioners
- Education groups [secondary – post-graduate]
- Medical humanities students; drama / performance / music students; history students; staff studying medical humanities, arts, medicine.

## Audiences who enjoy productions by/like:

Faulty Optic; Blind Summit; Improbable;  
Tiger Lillies; Tête à Tête; OperaUpClose;  
Stephen Sondheim; La Clique;  
Les Misérables; The Grinning Man.

## KEY SELLING POINTS

- Original musical score performed live on stage
- An engaging theatrical quest, with an unbelievable yet relatable story for its audiences.
- Uses highly skilled puppetry to bring the impossible to life.
- An original chamber opera .
- Addresses the theme of the 'other' and human struggle for acceptance.
- The score is written by internationally renowned pianist Tom Poster. Audiences with a keen interest in music will be hooked!





“HIS PERFORMANCE SO DEPRAVED THAT IT  
CAUSED ALL THE WORLD TO DISTRUST HIM”

## WRAPAROUND & WORKSHOPS

Wattle and Daub have a range of workshops available, plus Q&A and public engagement events.

- Puppetry sampler workshop
- Moving figures workshop
- Puppets and monsters workshop
- Post-show discussion / Q&A
- Animated Lecture: Performing the Freak
- In-house exhibition

**For more info, please get in touch.**

If you are interested in booking the show, one of our workshops or events, or just finding out more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### CONTACT:

**Ellie Harris, Producer**

[ellie@wattleanddaub.co.uk](mailto:ellie@wattleanddaub.co.uk)

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*Development supported by Tobacco Factory Theatres, Puppet Place, Bristol Ferment at Bristol Old Vic, Theatre Bristol, Strike A Light.*

Short-listed for the 2013 Flourish new opera competition.

Photography Credit: **Fluxx Films**

Trailer Credit: **Fluxx Films**







“I KNOW I HOLD THE KEY ...  
TO CURE MONSTROSITY”



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