

# ASHA + THE TROLL

(Working Title)

*'You don't always know someone else's story, and things are not always as they seem.'*

Asha and the Troll is a funny, friendly, modern folk tale for 7-11 year olds. It is a theatre for young audiences production, with elements of storytelling, music and puppetry. The show will unfold from a travelling troubadours' wagon. We are swapping technical requirements for good old imagination, and as such, Asha and the Troll can be performed anywhere! We are a COVID safe production, being adaptable to outside performance and with a total cast and crew bubble of 4.

## THE STORY

Asha's family aren't doing very well money wise, and they send Asha deep into the forest, to chop wood. There she is met by a big old troll! And everyone knows the nature of trolls; they're greedy and clumsy and short sighted and terrifyingly big and horrid (if you were wondering).



Before she has time to stop and run, Asha finds herself tricking the troll into thinking she's much stronger than she looks; crushing stones with her hands (Babybels left over from lunch) and being able to command the whole spring to wash down onto the troll's house (With a quick damn to divert the river) The troll may be big and strong himself, but his clumsy actions and poor eyesight mean Asha's final trick (All we'll say is two words; Troll. Porridge...) almost results in her running home with half his treasure! But a short pause listening to his story is enough for Asha to realise she might have been a bit hasty in her fear of the troll, and unkind in her tricking of him. After all, nobody is nice to trolls, and they really can't see very well. Everyone always ran away before this troll could make a good impression, and he just needs a bit of help! In the end, Asha and the troll become firm friends, with Asha being the troll's

eyes, and the troll helping Asha's family with their money troubles.

Asha + The Troll centres around the themes of empathy, agency and friendship. It is based on the traditional Norwegian folk story 'The Boy Who Had An Eating Match With a Troll', and can be linked to KS2-3 humanities and PSHE curriculums.

## THE GOAL

Our long term goal with this show is to tour to schools, family festivals and community events. We hope to develop the show in collaboration with our target audience, engaging children in the process of creating theatre, as well as enjoying the end product. We also intend to run relevant workshops alongside the show, focusing on creativity and empathy, with puppetry, storytelling, movement, design and more!

## THE COMPANY

Matipo is a multi arts company, founded by sisters Sally and Georgia Hardcastle, building creative communities through immediate, entertaining and authentic work. Collaborative facilitation and

multi-disciplinary practice is at the heart of what we do. We are committed to new material and to having fun! We believe that by putting value on imagination, society creates the people that will give back to it the most.

Asha and the Troll builds on what we have learnt in our previous project 'STEAM On!' - a summer programme of arts activities supported by Essex 2020 to encourage learning outside of the classroom, and engagement and curiosity in a child lead environment. Our debut show 'Fleeced' was commissioned by The Redbridge Drama Centre, and went on to play at The Bread and Roses Theatre and The Space to sold out audiences. Our second show 'Hot House' received scratch support from The Garage in 2019, with an R+D period culminating in a rehearsed reading of the show at the Crossrail Place Roof Garden, Canary Wharf.

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