

Sophie  
Nüzel

Sarah Trist  
Dance Management Agency

# Stories of a Little Watersprite



**A performance for families and children  
aged 4+ using dance, puppetry and  
storytelling. Touring in Autumn 2024**

*Amongst drifting waterweed and ancient moss-covered rocks the pond is teeming with life. Newts, snails, tiny minnows and bigger fish all go about their business as usual. However, strange things are starting to appear in the pond from above. Things that haven't grown out of the squelchy mud or been born among the boulders. Things that clinker, clatter and clutter up the pond. There's so much of it, the inhabitants of the pond are starting to run out of space to swim, slither and play. This underwater world is in need of change. And this is where a little watersprite awakens.*



Created by choreographer **Sophie Nüzel**, ***Stories of a Little Watersprite*** is a performance for young audiences which uses dance, storytelling and puppetry to explore the world of this mythical figure. The piece is evocative, playful and sensitive, inspiring audiences to use their imagination to experience the performance through all their senses, firing the child's curiosity to learn about their environment and boosting their capacity to care about change. The show will tour as an **integrated relaxed performance** for neurodiverse and neurotypical children, with access needs for deaf and blind/visually impaired children addressed.

**Sophie Nüzel** is a German choreographer and dance maker, based in the UK, who

specialises in creating pieces and happenings for young children and their families. Her previous productions *The Little Witch* and *The Adventures of the Little Ghost* are full of atmosphere and magic; they toured to mostly sell out shows at The Place, Pavilion Dance SouthWest, DanceEast, Artsdepot & The Albany, with 3000+ people engaged- watching, performing & making dance, many for the first time.

***Stories of a Little Watersprite*** was originally created with a large community cast and professional dancers. It has now been adapted to a cast of 5 professional performers and to suit small-scale venues.





## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director **Sophie Nüzel**

Rehearsal Director **Robert Clark**

Performers **Jo Blake-Cave, Iris Chan, Eden Harbud, Marc Stevenson, Sua**

**Tsubokura-Aguiriano**

Composer **Jules Maxwell**

Lighting Designer **Chris Swayne**

Designer **Emily Harwood**

Wellbeing and Rehearsal Support **Jay Jules, Loe d’Arcy**

Access Consultants **Kimberley Harvey** (Former performer with Candoco Dance Company)

and **Vicki Balaam** (founder of Stoppap Company)

Marketing **Lucy White**

Original Cast and Contributors

Performers **Robert Clark, Simon Palmer, Robin Beer**

R&D **Ben Ash, Temi AJose-Cutting, Tom Goodwin**

Lighting Designer **Chris Swayne**

Set & Costume Designer **Jonathan van Beek**

Set & Concept Consultant **Sofie Layton**

Artwork **Kevin Ward, Inkopinko Design**

Photos **Franz Kimmel**

Trailer **Rosie Powell**

Supported by Landeshauptstadt Munich and Arts Council England.

## ACCESS

***Stories of a Little Watersprite*** will tour as an integrated relaxed performance. There is a particular focus on neurodiverse and neurotypical children, adding a layer for deaf and blind/visually impaired children.

What this means for your venue:

- all access support is part of the performance and not an extra layer. Our introduction will explain all elements of the show, include a touch tour and include audio description.
- lights and music will be adapted to cater for everyone
- we will work with venues to make sure all bookers receive the visual story for the show which will use strong visual imagery for our young audiences
- we will work together with your FOH team to make sure that everyone is and feels welcome and can leave and come back during the performance.

With diverse audiences in mind, Sophie will be working together with access consultants Kimberley Harvey (Former performer with Candoco Dance Company) and Vicki Balaam (founder of Stoppap Company) to use the rehearsal period for ***Watersprite*** to trial relaxed performances to target audiences.



## **Sophie Nüzel**

German dance artist and choreographer Sophie lives and works in England. She has a wealth of experience in making work for young audiences, creating magical environments for children and their families to experience stories. Her work has extensively toured across England and Germany, being played at traditional venues such as the Royal Opera House, The Place, DanceEast and Pavilion Dance South West as well as more unusual spaces such as the Chelsea Physic Garden, Kensington & Chelsea Outdoor Festival, St Pauls Cathedral, Tate St Ives, Biotopia Science Festival and many more.

She aims to create pieces that allow the audience to enter and experience work through all senses – work that is full of atmosphere and magic. The work is often calm and sensitive, while still being playful, and aims to encourage audiences to use their imaginations, to go on a journey.

Her work is very calm and sensitive, while still being playful, and aims to encourage audiences to use their own imagination and creativity. She aims to create pieces that allow the audience to enter and experience work through all senses – work that is full of atmosphere and magic.

Participation is key in her work - the first 2 'Little' pieces- The Little Witch and The Adventures of the Little Ghost toured to mostly sell out shows The Place, PDSW, DanceEast, Artsdepot & The Albany.

When not creating and touring work she delivers workshops and classes ranging from vocational sessions to ongoing dance for health classes with people suffering from Parkinson&Dementia. She regularly teaches for organisations such as The Place, Laban, ArtsEd and Artsdepot, as well as Sadlers Wells delivering activity in schools, youth & community centres, Pupil Referral Units and Schools for Children with Special Educational Needs.



## BOOKING DETAILS

Available for touring	from September 2024
No. of performers:	5 Performers
Total no. on the road:	6-7
Age suitability:	Families with children aged 4+.
Performance space:	Minimum 6m x 6m covered in professional dance lino, or a smooth, unsplintered wooden floor
Outline Technical requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ETC (Eos family) lighting desk</li><li>• 24 ways of dimming</li><li>• 4 x 2m lighting booms</li><li>• Selection of lanterns: ideally 12 par 64, 6 profiles, 6 fresnels.</li><li>• Ladders and access equipment</li><li>• Space that can achieve a blackout</li></ul>
Get in and get out:	This show runs as a flexible model. However the more time they have the better it gets! Get in: Ideally a pre-rig followed by a 3 hour get in, aiming for first show at 1pm. Get out: 1 hour
Technical staff required:	1 technician from venue to rig lighting and sound; company tours its own production manager
Running time:	45 min
Performance fee:	£1500 for two shows on one day inclusive
Video trailer:	<a href="https://youtu.be/H-cHwwTM3fE">https://youtu.be/H-cHwwTM3fE</a>
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