

~ WORLD CLASS ON THE WORLD STAGE ~

# THEATRE LOVETT

PURVEYORS of FINE THEATRE for ALL AGES

presents

## *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly*

Written by Finegan Kruckemeyer

Directed by Lynne Parker

Performed by Louis Lovett

Produced by Muireann Ahern



Louis Lovett in *The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly*. Produced by Muireann Ahern.



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## CRITICAL REVIEWS

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### AUSTRALIAN TOUR 2014

“Kids shows come and go, but every now and again a show captures the freewheeling wonder of storytelling and it captivates children and adults alike. Absolute magic. Hopefully it will come back again.”

**Annika Priest, Melbourne Leader \*\*\*\*\***

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“Then the show started and our lives were transformed by a funny and clever storyteller telling a funny and clever story. Thanks! We loved it! I left the theatre with a child who'd been inspired, who was fully alive and well. The magic of the theatre, of stories told well, had changed my girl.”

**Sheryl Teese**

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“Direct from Ireland, The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly is one of those magnificent shows that only comes along once in a lifetime. Louis Lovett is a very special performer with a rare type of talent that is not seen every day. Enjoyed by adults and kids alike, this is a small show that is packed full of bigness!”

**Melynda von Wayward \*\*\*\*\* 3**

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### USA TOUR 2013

“The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly at The New Victory Theater not only works, it wows.”

**Jacqueline Burt – The New York Post**

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“Mr. Lovett incarnates all these elements with breathless brio...Mr. Lovett fills this hour with bravura touches...Like the toy in the cereal box, he’s this package’s real prize”

**Laurel Graeber - The New York Times**

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“Louis Lovett delights children and adults. Theatre Lovett is miles ahead of the children’s theatre troupes that I have experienced. They produce theatre that amuses, is playful and challenges their young audiences to think and reason”

**nytheatre.com Joan Kane**

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“From the opening seconds you know you are in the hands of a pro. Lovett’s timing is immaculate, his vocal and physical skills unquestionable ....Lovett reads his audience brilliantly and the stepping in and out of “play” is so deft that it is a thrill to see kids and grown ups play along. Lovett’s is a virtuoso performance but never for the sake of it – everything serves the whole. This is one of those treasured pieces of theater where every element is pulling in the same direction.”

**Kevin Holohan, New York Irish Arts**

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“This show is all about delivery and in the expert hands of Irishman Lovett, the story is told with quirky humour that appeals to both children and adults.”

**Maytal Wichman – Senior Reviewer. Owner of Mama’s Bites and has written for the Huffington Post.**

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“\* \* \* Parents will appreciate the subtleties of Lovett’s wit, while the kids will just get plain carried away by the energy. Fun for all and all for fun.”

**Molly Grogan – Exeunt Magazine**

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### **IMAGINATE FESTIVAL, SCOTLAND (TRAVERSE THEATRE) 2011**

“Best of the bunch is The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly, a tremendously entertaining one- man show. Actor Louis Lovett ... combines playfulness, agility and the wide-eyed innocence of Ardal O’Hanlon. It’s inspired.”

**Mark Fisher, The Guardian, 11 May 2011**

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“Lovett’s ability to switch characters in mid-sentence, his artlessly elastic physicality and comedic flair all marry brilliantly with the quirky twists in Finegan Kruckemeyer’s surreal and scary tale. Add in the clever surprises in Paul O’ Mahoney’s unfolding and expanding set and this Irish production for the 7-plus age group kickstarts the Imagine festival.”

**Mary Brennan, Herald Scotland, 12 May 2011**

“Performed by the remarkable Louis Lovett, it is a truly humorous, emotive and explosively creative piece of drama. From the opening moments – we know we are in for a theatrical treat. Lovett has a fabulous, no-holds-barred approach to physical performance and a brilliantly expressive talent with language. These are perfectly suited to Finegan Kruckemeyer’s quite mad tale. The show also boasts an amazing unfolding set, into which, appropriately enough, Lovett packs his brilliant play at the end.”

**Mark Brown, Herald Scotland, 15 May 2011**



Louis Lovett in *The Girl Who Forgot To Sing Badly*.  
Produced by Muireann Ahern.

“[A] riotously inventive monologue *The Girl Who Forgot To Sing Badly*, written by Finegan Kruckemeyer, directed by Lynne Parker, and performed by the ferociously engaging Louis Lovett. The tale of how she gets her parents back is an epic one, told with huge wit and energy; and if the relentless cute self-consciousness of the narrative sometimes jangles the nerves, it has to be said that the show's audience of children over seven adored the whole experience - not only the story, but the style of the telling.”

**Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman, 13 May 2011**

### **THE ABBEY THEATRE, DUBLIN (VENUE, IRELAND’S NATIONAL THEATRE) 2011**

“This is by no means a piece to be enjoyed just by the little folk (and by that, we mean children as well as fairies).”

**Irish Independent, 15 April 2011**

“Lovett dashes through Peggy’s story with charm and skill. His inhabitations of the characters in the story are performed with great physical dexterity to comic effect. What really makes this show is its emphasis on live performance. Lovett is grooming the next generation of theatre audiences, encouraging them to question boldly the nature of ‘performance’, and when it is this fun how can *The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly* not bellow victorious?”

**Chris McCormack, Musings in Intermissions, May 1 2011**

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### **THE ARK, A CULTURAL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN, DUBLIN (VENUE) 2010**

“...endlessly entertaining.. I absolutely loved it ... All I thought was why can’t all theatre be like this? I felt like Grandpa Joe from Willy Wonka’s Chocolate factory and I felt that Louis Lovett was Willy Wonka as Gene Wilder... I was laughing my head off...an absolute gem of a production.”

**The View RTÉ, 2010**

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“Delightfully effervescent, this one-man performance, clocking in at less than an hour, is chock full with playfulness and rich ideas. Lovett’s endlessly engaging presence, once again proving not just physically dexterous but mentally athletic. Kruckemeyer’s fizzingly comic text has him flitting in and out of the narrative, flagging plot points in advance, telling the story, abandoning it all together and routinely commenting on it. Never missing a chance to respond to the chuckles, gasps and vocal contributions of his audience with witty adlibs, Lovett makes the experience seem as natural and interactive as a warm hug. Indeed, the entire show hums with nimble, exploratory intelligence, captivating attentions and keeping pace with restless imaginations; a story of ingenious packers that always boxes clever.”

**Peter Crawley, The Irish Times, 1 February 2010**



Louis Lovett in *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly*  
produced by Muireann Ahern

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“A delightfully imaginative one-man children’s play by Tasmanian writer Finegan Kruckemeyer, given a stunning performance by Louis Lovett in a five-star production by director Lynne Parker. Lovett has previously done excellent work for children. His secret is to keep the sense of fun without ever talking down to or patronising his audience. The story involves the problem posed for the little Peggy O’ Hegarty when everyone, including the rest of her family, is lured away in a boat. Paul O’ Mahony’s design is a marvelous creation of intertwining boxes and the whole thing is a guaranteed pleasure for young children.”

**Michael Moffatt, Irish Mail on Sunday, 7 February 2010**

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“Gurgling laughter filled the auditorium at the world premiere of Finegan Kruckemeyer’s children’s theatre piece, *The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly*, which tickles the heart strings as much as the funny-bone. Throw in a villain called Peter, a mouse called Hildegard, a boat and a heap of wordplay, and you’ve as much for adults as for children. It’s Lovett’s compelling one-man performance that sprints from tragic to comic and back again that really ticks all the boxes.\* \* \* \*”

**Lucy White, MetroHerald, Theatre Review , 1 February 2010**

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“He animates it all with an abundance vocal and physical energy, Louis Lovett is greatly assisted by Paul O’Mahony’s ingenious, literal box set, a mysterious crate of delights, starting out like something mammoth from Amazon.com and gradually opening, like a Russian doll, to reveal boxes within boxes, laden with light and sound and surprises. The work of Sinéad Wallace and Carl Kennedy give Lovett the technical accompaniments that enhance the clarity and vitality of the narrative. Lynne Parker maintains high production values with taut direction that allows Lovett’s performance to breathe. It’s billed as a world premiere - clearly Kruckemeyer is a significant force in theatre for young people. One of the best plays for children!”

**Derek West, Irish Theatre Magazine, 1 February 2010**

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“This is a story about a man, a mouse and a goat. Oh, and a girl called Peggy O’Hegarty, who is the hero of Finegan Kruckemeyer’s spirited play. It involves a sad bit, a scary bit, a funny bit and a clever bit, and a really happy bit when performer Louis Lovett comes onto the stage for three big bows at the end. But Lovett, like Peggy, is the main draw of this show. His physical presence, quick role-changes and ability to call on and - more importantly - control audience participation sustained interest for nearly an hour. My nine-year-old companion and I may not have had any flowers to throw on stage but, had we known that the story demanded it, we would surely have obliged.\* \* \* \*”

**Sara Keating, The Sunday Business Post, Agenda, Theatre, 7 February 2010**

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## FEEDBACK FROM AUDIENCES

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**“Just saw the girl who forgot?..brilliant, superb, wild, witty. Theatre Lovett should be the official ambassadors to Ireland, Cleveland loves you.”**

“Best performance EVER at the Pittsburgh Children's Festival. We were at the last show Sat evening and we didn't want it to end. It was fabulous!!!! You are extremely talented!!!!”

**“We have seen 8 shows at the New Vic in the past two years, and "The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly" tops the list! What an amazing performance by Mr. Lovett. The show is very original, funny, quirky, never dull - just absolutely delightful. Just as entertaining for adults as for kids. Keep up the outstanding programming, New Vic!”**

“And even those of us not in the school buses loved the show and loved hearing the kids trying to make the sounds of the show as they left the theatre.”

**“Thank you for an awesome show in Pittsburgh today!!! My children have enjoyed putting on their own shows inspired by yours.”**

“Louis Lovett is quite the storyteller! To carry an entire show, while playing all the characters and engaging with the audience is truly the mark of a great entertainer. I enjoyed the show. I couldn't wait to find out what would happen next.”

**“There were just so many things to love about this production. The set was charming and a wonder. The story was delightful. Any team creative and compulsive enough to create The Trumpeter, we just have to love. But mostly, Louis' performance was amazing, wonderful for all the color and drama and feeling, and for skillfully wrangling the audience of kids, letting them in without letting them take over. We just loved it.”**



“Beg, borrow or steal a ticket to see 'The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly'. Louis Lovett at his best.”

**“The Girl Who Forgot To Sing Badly - Great entertainment for big and small people - Don't miss it!”**

“"the girl who forgot to sing badly" exceeded expectations. Amazing.”

**“Louis, you were absolutely brilliant. Such sincere, daring work. I aspire to be the artist you are! Coming to see you work again tomorrow! So excited to think deeply about your work.”**

“I loved the show. So well crafted and performed. It has it all really. Fingers crossed that it gets another life here and abroad.”

**“..I saw the show yesterday and loved it...Congrats, really fantastic production and Louis has great, natural (and fearless) way of interacting with young audiences.”**

“.. it's the best piece of theatre we've seen in years. It was a joy, riveting, and superbly good. Congratulations to all concerned.”

**“Just a note to say how much I loved the show. It was amazing, everyone should see it from 4 to 400 years...Great production and performance, you are doing a wonderful service by bringing raw and imaginative theatre to a young audience.”**

“I was present for the unbelievable magic of your production of the The Girl Who Sang Badly. The entire production was remarkable, obviously Mr. Lovett, but direction, production - every centimeter of joy possible was exploited in the afternoon.”



“Lovely work. So nice to see great, specific physical work and honest question asking. I'm inspired.

Nothing better than closed box on stage! The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly. Serious fun!”

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## FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS

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“Standing O! Gr. 5 was at PlayHouse Square this a.m. for "The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly.”

### **Laurel School Cleveland OH**

“I just wanted to send a note and say thank you for a wonderful performance. Our 3rd grade class was there seeing ‘The Girl Who Forgot To Sing Badly’ on May 2nd. We are from a local elementary school called Franklin Towne Elementary. The students loved the performance! On Friday morning I had the students write a journal entry telling about their favorite part of the trip. There were a few that really enjoyed the crafts and dancing but the majority really loved the play! It is such a treat to have such talent and entertainment right here in our area!”

### **Franklin Towne Elementary, Philadelphia, PA**

“Everything about this performance was excellent. My seventh graders truly enjoyed the play and the actor, Louis Lovett, who really left one breathless with his acting skills and all the "unpacking" energy he employed.”

“The performer was obviously very talented and the show well conceived & designed.”

“Quite a great performance- very entertaining and engaging for the students.”

“The students loved the play. They are still talking about it days later. They thought it was funny and creative.”

### **Teacher Feedback from US Tour**



Louis Lovett in *The Girl Who Forgot To Sing Badly* produced by Muireann Ahern

“On Thursday, our 4<sup>th</sup> class went to see your play, *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly*. We all enjoyed the play. We all liked the part where you were in the van fighting Peter. I liked the part where you played dominos with the bins. We all liked your own sound effects. The one thing we didn’t like was your swim suit and your hairy chest. Congratulations, we’d all like to go and see you in another play soon.”

### **Our Lady of Good Counsel BNS, Johnstown, Dun Laoghaire**

“Came away feeling inspired on a number of levels. The play is brilliant and I can't imagine how Louis keeps that performance going day after day.”

### **Mother of Divine Grace National School**

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## FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

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“I think the play was very funny and entertaining and had a lot of work put in to it. The background sounds were brilliant. They way the story is told is very exciting. Louis interacts with the audience a lot. It is aimed at 7 years and up but the younger audience seems to enjoy it just as much. Overall it was very enjoyable and I would definitely recommend it.”

### **Children’s Review Panel, Barnstorm Theatre Company**

“The best part was when Louis was Peggy and he was wearing a dress...the show is excellent for other children around the world...it was the best one man show I’ve ever seen.”

**“I loved your play. It was very funny. But I did not like the way you said that sharks kill people on purpose. But you do make a good hairy girl!!!! You must of went threw a lot of trouble to learn all your lines.”**

“Loved it because there was only one actor for lots of parts...I love Louis...”

**“I think the show was brilliant. I liked the way you were making the sounds was deadly.”**

“Loved how the giant house was turned into a house and a ship...it was very good when he was using his imagination because it made me feel it was real...”

**“Liked the man that came out of the box because when he came out he gave me a fright and his voice was a little bit funny...think your clothes are very funny too...”**

“The show was fantastic and of course, absolutely brilliant and funny. The actor Louis Lovett was prefect and really funny. Louis Lovett, if you are reading this you were absolutely mevelas. Ps. Thanks for the show.”





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## COMPANY BIOGRAPHY

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Theatre Lovett produces theatre for all ages. Theatre that can amuse, involve and sometimes scare. Theatre Lovett was founded in 2007 by Joint Artistic Directors Muireann Ahern and Louis Lovett. We take risks: we are playfully dangerous. We might ask your opinions in performance, and sometimes act on them in ways you don't expect. We love music, physical theatre, clowning, absurd comedy and poignant tragedy, and we believe that children and young audiences respond to and recognise the best when it is shared with them, without stereotyping or belittling our audience's experience and innocence. Theatre Lovett offers you theatre as adventure.

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