



Photo: Jason Stang

## WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID ABOUT THE TOOTH FAIRY:

“...probably one of the best, most surreal works of imagination I've seen in ages.”

SEE Magazine, Edmonton

“...a seemingly endless supply of visual delights.”

Vue Magazine, Edmonton

“...utterly captivating.”

Ottawa Citizen

“... a wonderful and engaging sense of play.”

Fast-Forward Magazine, Calgary

### ABOUT THE OLD TROUT PUPPET WORKSHOP:

“one of the best shows of the year... not to be missed.”

The Globe & Mail

“brilliant, sublime and often hilarious... sheer visual poetry... engages an audience like few productions I've ever seen....”

Monday Magazine, Victoria

“...original...hilarious...breathtaking inventiveness...”

The Georgia Straight

“one of the wildest, wackiest, most inventive puppet shows you're ever likely to see.”

The Toronto Star

“visually stunning and endlessly entertaining.”

The L.A. Times

“hilarious, beautiful and macabre... simply remarkable... too intense to allow its

audience to catch its breath, too beautiful for them to want to.”

Fast-Forward Magazine, Calgary

“dramatically engaging and visually stunning.”

The Boston Globe

“Mind-blowing originality... [The Trouts] are boldly reshaping puppet theatre into sophisticated adult entertainment.”

Fast-Forward, Calgary

“Exquisite... boundless invention... virtuosity...”

Variety Magazine

“Nothing short of genius.”

The Ottawa Citizen

“Pure joy. Great, great theatre.”

Alvina Ruprecht, CBC Radio



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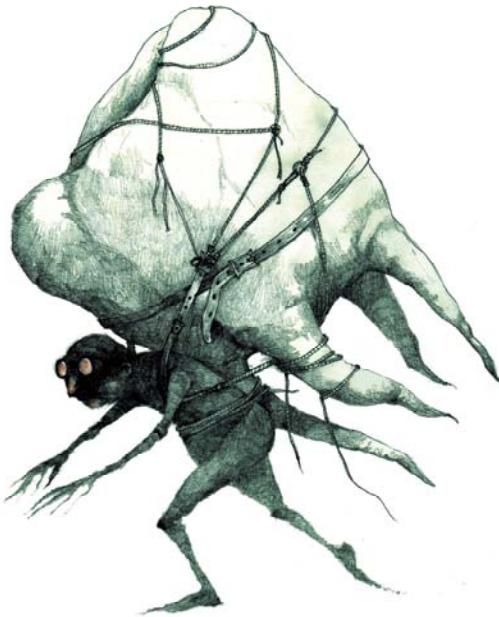
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# THE TOOTH FAIRY

*A puppet musical by the Old Trouts with David Rhymer*

Around the world, children's teeth fall out. They tuck them expectantly under their pillows, and go to sleep. And in the dream-haunted night, a creeping creature from another world makes an exchange filled with dread significance: innocence traded for grubby lucre. And Mum and Dad grin in the morning, as if something deeply strange had not occurred in the glooming dark.

It is time for the truth to be told. Witness this tale of Abigail, the Girl With Perfect Teeth. Cheer her crusade to save the world from the Tooth Fairy, and thereby preserve for eternity the innocent happiness of childhood. No more shall our golden days be bought from us!

The Old Trout Puppet Workshop adapted (and helped write) the cult classic children's book **The Tooth Fairy**, the first book in the Governor-General's Award short-listed series **Preposterous Fables for Unusual Children**, written and illustrated by Judd Palmer.

The result is a colossus of the puppet stage. The Old Trouts do not shirk from extravaganza. Monsters! Cosmic curses! Sea-battles! Broadway brou-ha-ha! Heart-wrenching laments! All told with puppets from the acclaimed company that brought you **Famous Puppet Death Scenes** and **The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan** – this time plying their trade for children. Not only children: all those who have lost a baby tooth, found a coin under their pillow, and wondered if they would ever be the same again.



## SYNOPSIS

What hidden poetry lurks in children's stories? Viewed from a certain angle, *The Wizard of Oz* could spring from the mind of Kafka; squinting just so, *Where the Wild Things Are* becomes Freudian allegory; and *Alice in Wonderland* is a proto-surrealistic fancy. Yet the tradition of the Tooth Fairy is something we take for granted: what dark truths are hidden in the exchange of baby teeth for money?

*The Tooth Fairy* attempts to illuminate this murky territory. On stage is a ramshackle fantasy machine, constructed out of wood and stained glass and copper, hung with waiting puppets, their eyes staring. Skittering about in the shadows we glimpse the Trout puppeteers, who have come to deliver a grim parable of innocence lost, and sacrifices made; treacheries inflicted and tears wept; the ultimate and inevitable victory of time over us, and of love over time. It all begins with a face looming from the gloom: "There once was a girl named Abigail, who had perfect teeth."

And so we learn that Abigail lives in a world ruled by her Grandfather, who has no teeth at all. Spurred by a secret from his youth, Grandfather is plagued by madness: he stands guard against the Tooth Fairy, who he believes would steal his grand-daughter's smile. But Abigail is impetuous in her innocence, and one day is given an apple by a strange man in the forest. Woe to the world! Abigail's beautiful tooth is loose.

On that night the Tooth Fairy scrapes at her window: "is it out, dear child? Is your tooth... out?" Grandfather chases it away, but Abigail is tired of living in fear. She steals away in the night, clad in the suit of armour from the hall, wielding her Grandfather's old harpoon, and sails in search of the Tooth Fairy's castle. She will rid the world of the Tooth Fairy menace, and be a hero to all for all time.

Of course the world is a treacherous place, and her journey will be long and dangerous. She endures many dangers: pirates who steal teeth for the Tooth Fairy's reward; a Sea Monster whose mother told him that he has the most beautiful teeth in the world; a maroon in the ice who wishes he had no teeth at all.

By the time she reaches the Tooth Fairy's Castle to discover the mortal truths within its walls her Grandfather lies dead in the dark forest, her tooth is gone, and redemption seems beyond grasp. And the final question is answered:

What does the Tooth Fairy do with all those teeth?

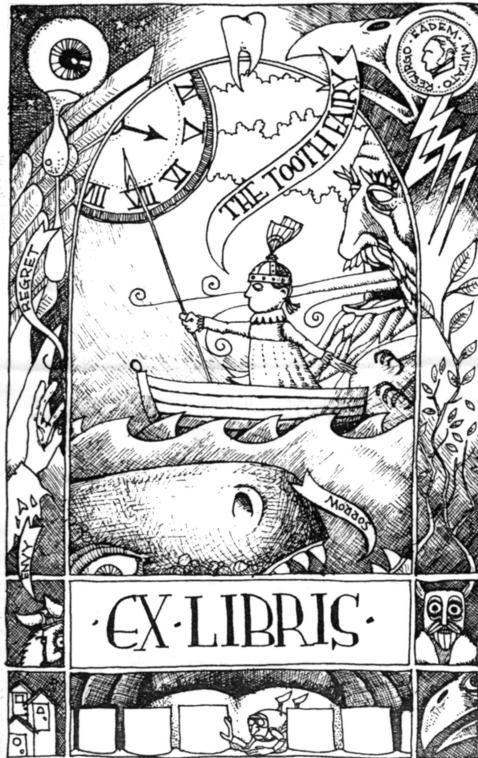




Photo: Jason Stang

Shannon Anderson as Abigail, the Girl with the Greatest Teeth in the World, in the original production in 2001.



Abigail's Grandfather, who has no teeth at all.

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Israel Hands, the maroon in the Sea Monster's belly.



Stoat, the pirate, who covets the perfect teeth of our hero Abigail.

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Abigail encounters the Sea Monster.



Grandfather communes with his friends the birds, who also have no teeth.

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