

A **VANISHING POINT** and **NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND** co-production,  
in association with the **Citizens' Theatre**.

# LITTLE OTIK



Based on the film by  
**Jan Švankmajer**

**HIS BITE IS  
WORSE THAN  
HIS BARK**

# LITTLE OTIK

Based on the film by  
Directed by  
Adapted by  
Set and Lighting Design by  
Sound Design by  
Projection Design by  
Puppetry and Animation Apparatus by  
Costume Design by  
Assistant Director  
Voice Coach

## Cast

Social Worker  
Helena Meadows  
Karl Foster  
Postman/Puppet Animator/Cast  
Bozena Foster  
Frank Meadows  
Mr Ash  
Mrs Hawthorne  
Elspeth Meadows

## Production Team

Production Manager  
Company Stage Manager  
Deputy Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Lighting Supervisor  
Sound Supervisor  
Video Technician  
Wardrobe Supervisor  
Wardrobe Assistant  
Stage Supervisor

Jan Švankmajer  
Matthew Lenton  
Matthew Lenton with Sandy Grierson and the Company  
Kai Fischer  
Christopher Shutt  
Finn Ross for mesmer  
Ewan Hunter  
Becky Minto  
Daljinder Singh  
Ros Steen

Elaine MacKenzie Ellis  
Pauline Goldsmith  
Sandy Grierson  
Ewan Hunter  
Louise Ludgate  
Gary Mackay  
Andrew Melville  
Ann Scott-Jones  
Rebecca Smith

Chris Hay  
David Young  
Alison Brodie  
Carrie Taylor  
Paul Claydon  
Matthew Padden  
Tim Reid  
Aileen Sherry  
Victoria Young  
Mike Hall

Vanishing Point and NTS would like to thank the following actors for their contribution to the creative process of Little Otik; Julie Austin, Roisin Gallagher, Sean Hay, John Kazek, Frederic Nouger, Vari Sylvester, Cath Whitefield and Matthew Zajac.

## With thanks to:

Jan Švankmajer, Vladimir Kroupa, Paula Kallistove, Jaromir Kallista, Athanor Film Production Company Ltd., Reneta Clark & Petra Storchova at the Czech Centre, Jen Davies, Penny Bartlett, Kirsty McKinnon & Glasgow Film Theatre, Hugh Hodgart & Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Vivienne Wood, Lynda Nurse, Catriona Hutchinson & Scottish Opera, Carnegie Hall, Emily Ballard Nairn, Nina Kirk, Jaine Lumsden, Charles Bell, Jenna Watt, Forestry Commission Scotland, [www.humax.co.uk](http://www.humax.co.uk), Max & Lyra Reid, Lyceum Theatre Workshop, Jo Masson & the Tron Theatre, the Domestic Appliance Centre, Kilmarnock, Ailie Cohen, Sonia Tinagli-Macrae & Ramshorn Theatre, Kay Hesford & Gilmorehill Theatre, Louise Anderson & The Fruitmarket Gallery, Julie Brown, Francis McKee & The Centre for Contemporary Arts, all the staff at the Citizens' Theatre, Eden Court, Perth Theatre, Sherman.

*Little Otik was first performed at the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow on Friday 23rd May 2008. The company reserves the right to alter casts, performances, seating or ticket arrangements.*



## AN INTRODUCTION TO LITTLE OTIK, MAY 2008

Vanishing Point is delighted to be presenting **Little Otik** in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland and in association with the Citizens' Theatre. The partnership is our second with the National Theatre of Scotland, after the 2006 tour of **Mancub** to venues across the country.

**Little Otik** gives us the opportunity to work together again, this time on a larger scale and with a few more resources to play with. That the National Theatre of Scotland was so receptive to the idea of adapting and staging Jan Švankmajer's surreal film is testament to its modern approach to making theatre. That it was prepared to take a risk on a 'devised' show of this nature and on a company with a chaotic approach to creating work speaks volumes for its breadth of vision. Not all risk-taking pays off. That is the chance the National Theatre of Scotland must take when it commissions such a project. No other Company in Scotland would have taken a risk on this scale. Partly this is about money, but mainly about people and ideas. It is exciting for Vanishing Point to be working with a Company with such big ideas.

Of course, we have a few big ideas of our own and the next year sees some of these develop in thrilling ways. We will soon begin work with the National Theatre Studio in London creating a new show. Matthew Lenton (Artistic Director, Vanishing Point), will spend a week in Italy exploring new ideas with the National Theatre Studio and the playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker. In 2009 our new production will build more partnerships with leading venues throughout the UK. We are working on an epic musical based on the stories and songs of Ivor Cutler and a number of other ideas are fermenting. We are delighted to have secured another two years of Scottish Arts Council Funding, which guarantees the existence of the company until 2011.

At the moment, though, all this fades into the distance, because we are a week away from the first preview of **Little Otik**, with some scenes still missing and others unfinished. This is alternately terrifying and exciting, but typifies the way we like to work: spontaneously, in a rehearsal room, with actors and artists writing in three dimensions, dreaming and responding to incidents, accidents and ideas as they occur. Sometimes they can't be rushed. Sometimes you have to be patient and wait for the right one to come along. It's a risky way of making work, devoid of a safety net, but we're addicted to it.

We hope you enjoy the outcome.

## VANISHING POINT

Vanishing Point was formed in 1999 and tours new theatre across the UK and internationally. Our work has been performed in Kosovo, Macedonia, France, Corsica and Sri Lanka. Recent shows include **Subway**, devised by the Company, a co-production with the Tron Theatre and commissioned by the Lyric Hammersmith, **Mancub** written by Douglas Maxwell, a co-production with Soho Theatre, and **Lost Ones** and **Invisible Man**, both devised by the Company.

To find out more about Vanishing Point and Little Otik please visit:

[www.vanishing-point.org](http://www.vanishing-point.org)

[www.myspace.com/littleotik08](http://www.myspace.com/littleotik08)

## WELCOME TO THIS PERFORMANCE OF LITTLE OTIK.

We are thrilled to be co-producing this weird and wonderful new show with the celebrated Vanishing Point. At the National Theatre of Scotland, we are constantly striving to create entertaining, stimulating and innovative events for our audiences to experience. Working in collaboration with Scotland's leading theatre professionals is vital to our success as we continue to grow.

The National Theatre of Scotland celebrated its second birthday in February of this year. Since we began, performances have taken place in magnificent auditoriums and intimate studios spaces as well as in unlikely places such as on a ferry, in a forest, across a tower block and on a football pitch. So far over 280,000 people have sat in theatres, stood in woods or queued round the block in over 90 locations, spanning three continents, to experience our work. With no building of its own, the National Theatre of Scotland is truly a theatre without walls.

Our programme in the coming months includes something for everyone. Over the next seven months, the Company will open productions in Kilmarnock, Dundee, Shetland, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen and produce a season of work in Inverness.

The now legendary **Black Watch** continues its world tour, while our five star family fun comes shaped as **The Emperor's New Kilt**, currently touring the length and breadth of the UK. Meanwhile, back by popular demand, the glittering Alan Cumming reprises his role as Dionysus – the part he was born to play – in our award-winning adaptation of **The Bacchae**. In August, at the Festival Fringe, our Workshop co-production with the outstanding New York based theatre company the TEAM, will be a brand new show called **Architecting**, while over at the International Festival, I will be directing David Harrower's new work, **365**.

Into autumn, highlights include the dark and spooky **Something Wicked This Way Comes** just in time for Halloween, and a season of new writing performed at, and in partnership with, the Traverse Theatre.

The National Theatre of Scotland is delighted to be co-producing with London's Donmar Warehouse for the first time with **Be Near Me**, a new stage version of Andrew O'Hagan's novel, adapted by Ian McDiarmid, with McDiarmid in the lead role. **Be Near Me** will be directed by John Tiffany and premieres at the Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock in January, before beginning an extensive run at the Donmar Warehouse and touring the UK in spring 2009.

For more information on the National Theatre of Scotland, visit our online home at [www.nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com). It's packed with interesting behind the scenes features, ways to book tickets, audience reactions, interviews, trailers and photos.

Enjoy the show.

*Vicky Featherstone*

Vicky Featherstone  
Artistic Director  
National Theatre of Scotland

## CAST

### Elaine MacKenzie Ellis (Social Worker)

Elaine trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Theatre work includes *Cinderella* (Motherwell Theatre), *The Four Twins*, *Scrooge*, *The Twits* (Citizens' Theatre), *Hansel and Gretel* (Paisley Arts Centre), plus many productions for the Traverse Theatre, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh and Birmingham Rep. Television work includes: *Wee Gems – Myself Only More So* (BBC Scotland), *Me Too*, *Rab C Nesbitt* and *Feel The Force* (BBC), *No Angels* (Channel 4). Film work includes *My Life So Far*, *My Name Is Joe* and *Dear Frankie*. Elaine has also appeared in several radio comedy programmes for BBC Radio Scotland such as *Watson's Wind Up* and *The Why Front* as well as fronting the sketch show *Ellis Island*.

### Pauline Goldsmith (Helena Meadows)

Theatre work includes *This Piece of Earth* (Ransom Productions), *Talking Heads*, *Self* (Tron Theatre), *Rocketville* (Óran Mór), *Elizabeth Gordon Quinn* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Should've Had the Fish* (Assembly Rooms), *Caged Heat*, *Footfalls*, *Play*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Juno and the Paycock* (The Arches), *Not I* (The Arches, winner of The Stage Best Actress Edinburgh Festival 2004), *Finding Mick Jagger* (Traverse Theatre), *Last Stand*, *The Sightless* (Vanishing Point), *Spurt!* (Tangerine), *The Gold of Thomas Vargas* (Brewster Sisters) and *Bright Colours Only* (world tour of one woman show). Film work includes: *Peacefire*, *Hikkimori* (Scottish Bafta winner 2006), *16 Years of Alcohol*, *The Magdalene Sisters* and *Gas Attack*.

### Sandy Grierson (Karl Foster)

Sandy has worked extensively with Vanishing Point on productions such as *Subway*, *Mancub*, *Lost Ones*, *Stars Beneath the Sea* and *Invisible Man*. Other theatre work includes: *Oresteia*, *Mr Pinocchio*, *Witkacy Idiota* (Lazzi), *Fergus Lamont* (Communicado – winner of 2007 Critics Awards for Theatre Scotland Best Actor Award), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sunset Song* (Prime Productions), *Little Requiem for Kantor*, *Dybbuk*, *Night of the Great Season* (Ariel Teatr), and *Home Caihness* (National Theatre of Scotland). Sandy has also performed with Edinburgh's Puppet Lab, the Citizens' Theatre, the Young Vic, Wee Stories, Sweetscar and Periplum and has worked frequently in radio with Loftis Productions.

### Louise Ludgate (Bozena Foster)

Recent theatre work includes *Home Hindrance* (Vanishing Point), *Realism*, *Project Macbeth* and *Home Glasgow* (National Theatre of Scotland). Louise has worked for numerous theatre companies including The Royal Court, Royal Exchange Theatre, Actors' Touring Company, Traverse Theatre, The Tron, Citizens' Theatre, Suspect Culture, The Arches, Óran Mór, 7:84 and Lookout. Television work includes: *Spooks*, *Glasgow Kiss*, *The Key* (BBC), *High Times*, *Taggart* (SMG). Film work includes: *No Man's Land*, *Kissing*, *Tickling and Being Bored* and *Nightpeople*. She has also worked on various radio plays for the BBC.

### Gary Mackay (Frank Meadows)

Gary trained at the Oxford School of Drama. Theatre work includes *Retreat* (Spirit Level Productions, winner of Fringe Review Award for Outstanding Theatre at 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *i*, *The Highway Crossing* (Arcola Theatre), *Lark Rise to Candleford* (Finborough Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Barbican), *Twelfth Night* (Broadway Theatre), *Talk to Me Like The Rain and Let Me Listen* (The Cockpit Theatre). Television work includes *Hollyoaks* (Mersey TV), *Emmerdale* (Yorkshire TV), *Inspector Lynley Mysteries* (BBC). Film work includes *Broken*, *The Magic Flute* (by Kenneth Branagh) and *The Devil's Chair*. Gary is also a frequent newspaper reviewer on Matt Jamison's *Sunday Supplement Show* (BBC Radio Cambridgeshire).

### Andrew Melville (Mr Ash)

Theatre work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (Regent's Park Theatre), *The School for Scandal* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Julius Caesar* (RSC/Lyric Hammersmith), *Loot*, *Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bristol Old Vic), *Crime and Punishment in Dalston* (Arcola Theatre), *Stairs to the Roof* (Minerva Theatre, Chichester), *A Passionate Englishman* (Pace Productions), *Wait Until Dark* (Watford Palace), *Silver Face*, *The Weavers*, *Candide* (The Gate, Notting Hill), *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Young Vic). Television work includes *Harold the Amazing Contortionist Pig* (2am Films), *The Gunpowder Plot* (Channel 4), *The League of Gentlemen*, *Dangerfield*, *Inspector Alleyn* (BBC), *The Advocates*, *Taggart* (STV), *Poirot* (LWT), *The Bill* (Thames Television). Radio work includes *Crime and Punishment*, *Martin Guerre*, *The Burn Supper*, *The Piano* (BBC Radio 4), *The Sexton Tales* (Rewind Productions) and *The Prisoner of Papastour* (BBC World Service).

### Ann Scott-Jones (Mrs Hawthorne)

Ann began her career at the Citizens' Theatre in 1962. Recent theatre work includes *Maria of My Soul*, *Ha Ha Ha*, *The Two Sisters* (Óran Mór), *Mother Father Son* (The Arches/Traverse Theatre), *Phaedra* (Perth Rep/Warwick Arts Centre), *Katie Morag* (Mull Theatre), *Lazybed* (Traverse Theatre), *The Steamie* and *All My Sons* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), *Tartuffe* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *Parking Lot In Pittsburgh* and *The Bondagers* (The Byre, St. Andrews). Television work includes *Butterfingers* (STV), *The High Life* (BBC), *John Brown's Body* (C4/FreewayFilms). Film work includes *On A Clear Day*, *Tangerine* and *Restless Natives*.

Ann is also an experienced audio artist, recording dramas, serials, series, short stories and poetry for the BBC. Also popular in comedy, in the past she toured with Jimmy Logan in Scotland and with Sid James in England, Australia and New Zealand.

### Rebecca Smith (Elsbeth Meadows)

Rebecca has appeared in *Whistle Down the Wind* at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre and in Scottish Youth Theatre's production of the stage version of *His Dark Materials* based on Philip Pullman's novels. She has also appeared in many amateur productions including: *The Boy Friend*, *Macbeth* and *Honk! Little Otik* is Rebecca's first professional theatre job.



## JAN ŠVANKMAJER

Jan Švankmajer is a Czech surrealist artist and his work spans several media. He is known for his surreal animations and features, which have greatly influenced other artists such as Tim Burton, Terry Gilliam and The Brothers Quay. The film of *Little Otik (Otesánek)* was released in 2000 to great acclaim. This production will be the first time this piece of work has been adapted for the stage.

## CREATIVE TEAM

### Matthew Lenton (Director)

Matthew is the founder of Vanishing Point and has directed or co-directed all of the Company's productions. Matthew has also directed for the Tron Theatre, Traverse Theatre, the National Theatre of Scotland, National Theatre Studio, Carnegie Hall Dunfermline and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

### Kai Fischer (Set and Lighting Designer)

Kai is an Artistic Associate of Vanishing Point and has designed most of their previous productions including the recent *Lost Ones* and *Subway*. Set and Lighting designs for the National Theatre of Scotland include *Home Caithness* and *Mancub* (National Theatre of Scotland Ensemble/Vanishing Point). As a lighting designer he has worked for companies including Citizens' Theatre, Dundee Rep, National Theatre of Scotland, Perth Theatre, Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, SweetScar, TAG, Theatre Babel, Traverse Theatre, Tron Theatre and Visible Fictions.

### Christopher Shutt (Sound Design)

Christopher trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He has been Head of Sound at Bristol Old Vic, the Royal Court and the National Theatre in London. Work for the National Theatre includes *War Horse*, *Philistines*, *Happy Days*, *Coram Boy*, *Chatroom/Citizenship*, *A Dream Play*, *Measure for Measure*, *Mourning Becomes Electra*, *The PowerBook*, *Humble Boy*, *Play Without Words*, *Hamlet*, *Albert Speer*, *Not About Nightingales* and *Machinal*. Christopher is a regular collaborator with Complicite, including *A Disappearing Number*, *The Elephant Vanishes*, *A Minute Too Late*, *Strange Poetry* (with LA Philharmonic), *Mnemonic*, *Noise of Time*, *Street of Crocodiles*, *Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

Other theatre work includes *The Man Who Had All The Luck* (Donmar Warehouse), *The Bacchae* (National Theatre of Scotland), *All About My Mother* (Old Vic), *The Arsonists*, *Free Outgoing* (Royal Court), *The Caretaker* (Sheffield Crucible/Tricycle Theatre), *Moon for the Misbegotten* (Old Vic & Broadway), *Noughts & Crosses*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (RSC), *Julius Caesar* (Barbican), *Hecuba* (Donmar Warehouse) and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (New York). Radio work includes *A Shropshire Lad* (BBC Radio 4) and *After the Quake* (BBC Radio 3). He has twice been awarded the New York Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Sound Design for *Not About Nightingales* and *Mnemonic* and has been nominated for an Olivier Award for *Coram Boy* and *War Horse*.

### Finn Ross (Projection Design for mesmer)

Finn trained at Central School of Speech and Drama. Recent work includes *Shunkin* (Setagaya Public Theatre, Tokyo), Associate Design on *A Disappearing Number* and *Measure for Measure* (Complicite), *Julius Caesar* (Barbican), *Richard II* (Old Vic), *Götterdämmerung* (Royal Opera House), *Il Tempo del Postino* (Manchester International Festival), *Silverland* (Arcola Theatre), *An Audience with William Barlow (Deceased)* for the London Architecture Biennale, *Sugar Mummies* (Royal Court), *Orlando* (Sadler's Wells), *Face of* (Royal Dublin Society), *All Our Hellos and Goodbyes* (German Gym) and *A2K* (International Touring).

### Ewan Hunter (Puppetry & Animation Apparatus)

Ewan trained in Environmental Art at the Glasgow School of Art and is a designer, maker and theatrical performer. He recently appeared in the National Theatre of Scotland's *The Wolves in the Walls* in New York having been part of the original company in 2006. In addition to working alongside the multi-disciplined Scott Associates Sculpture and Design, which he co-founded, Ewan has worked on a diverse range of projects from the Olivier Award-winning *Shockheaded Peter* to outdoor events in the Sri Lankan jungle.

### Becky Minto (Costume Designer)

Becky trained in Interior Design at Liverpool College and in Theatre Design at The Welsh College of Music and Drama. She has previously worked with Vanishing Point on *Lost Ones* and *Mancub*. Recent productions include *The Emperor's New Kilt* (Wee Stories/National Theatre of Scotland), *Once Upon A Dragon*, *Fierce* (Grid Iron), *A Sheep Called Skye*, *The Recovery Position* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Six Black Candles*, *Monks* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Visible Fictions), *The Little Foxes* (Perth Rep), *The Wall* (Borderline Theatre Company), *Arthur*, *The Story of A King* (Wee Stories, Best Children's Show TMA & Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland 2004), *Drenched* (Boilerhouse, nominated for Best Design MEN Awards 2006). Future projects include *Tryst* (Grid Iron for Stavanger 2008 European Capital of Culture).

### Daljinder Singh (Assistant Director)

Previous directing work includes *Fewer Emergencies* (Ankur Productions), *The Penal Colony* (Tara Arts) and *The Severed Head of Comrade Bukhari* (The Arches Theatre/Traverse Theatre). Daljinder has previously worked for TAG Theatre Company, Talawa Theatre Company, National Theatre of Scotland, Contact Theatre, Soho Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse. She is the winner of the Arches Award for Stage Directors 2008.

## NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

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**National Theatre of Scotland wishes to thank the following freelancers, independents and other practitioners who make a valuable contribution to the Company.**

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National Theatre of Scotland  
Atlantic Chambers  
45 Hope Street  
Glasgow G2 6AE  
T: +44 (0) 141 221 0970  
F: +44 (0) 141 248 7241  
info@nationaltheatrescotland.com

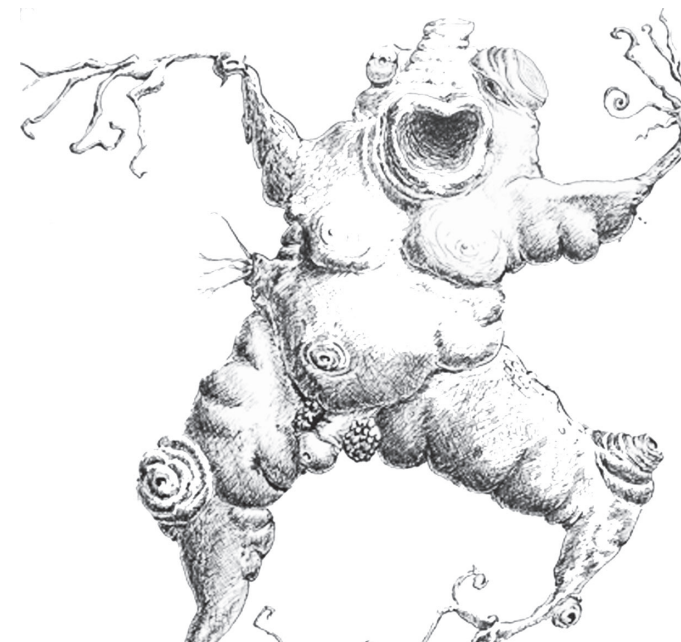
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Vanishing Point  
2nd Floor  
Centre for Contemporary Arts  
350 Sauchiehall Street  
Glasgow G2 3JD  
p: 0141 353 1315  
e: info@vanishing-point.org  
w: www.vanishing-point.org



# LITTLE OTIK



[www.myspace.com/littleotik08](http://www.myspace.com/littleotik08)



Scottish  
Arts Council



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THEATRE  
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VANISHING POINT