

Giraffes Can't Dance.....

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Warm-hearted moral in the jungle

Most children's theatre companies endeavor to make their young audiences feel at home – but Blunderbus always seem to go the extra mile. From the moment you enter the theatre, you feel welcomed. And, as the show unfolds, the cast regularly spill out into the auditorium, allowing children to get up-close and personal with an array of wonderful puppets.

Giles Andreae's well-loved storybook, *Giraffes Can't Dance* is populated by a wealth of colourful creatures – lions, crickets, meerkats, some incredibly cheeky monkeys and, of course, the eponymous long-necked fellow, Gerald.

Using energetic storytelling, puppetry and a smattering of beautifully sung songs, Andreae's tale of a clumsy, forlorn giraffe who learns to dance comes to life. The underlying moral, of doing things your own way, regardless of external criticism is subtly delivered but clearly received ('just ignore them' shouted one tiny girl, when two mean lions lay into Gerald's maverick approach to movement).

The Blunderbus team consider all-comers, with children enthralled by the action, and accompanying adults chortling at the witty adlibs from this friendly and likeable company.

The Space @ Royal College of Surgeons, 0845 508 8515, until 29 Aug (not 16), 10.35am (9 & 23, 2.35pm), £7 (£6).