

STAGE THE Edinburgh

Giraffes Can't Dance

Blunderbus Theatre
Company

STAGE!
.....
MUST SEE ★

The Spaces @ Royal College of Surgeons

Blunderbus Theatre Company returns in triumph to the fringe with a hugely enjoyable new musical for children – especially three to seven-year-olds – and their families. Colourful scenery and animal sounds create a vivid jungle setting for Bill Davies’ adaptation of Giles Andreae and Guy Parker Rees’ children’s best-seller. Its hero, Gerald the shy giraffe, sadly just can’t dance like other animals at the Jungle Dance, because his legs are too thin and bandy. The chimps laugh at him, the lion threatens to gobble him up, but one moonlit night Gerald discovers he can dance beautifully to his own tune, winning the other animals’ applause.

With giraffe legs and huge head mask, Bill Davies plays Gerald with charm, tireless energy and constant rapport with the children. Actor-puppeteers Claire Alizon Hills, Jeanette Longworth and Ross Collins amaze in the other roles, dashing among the audience wearing beautiful hand-crafted head-masks of chimps and lions, gazelles, hippos and zebra, or chatting as bright green cricket, sandy anteater or old tortoise – all deftly-handled puppets. The cast even gets the audience dancing on their chairs. Frank Goodhind’s music and lyrics keep the fun action rollicking – but this appealing show ends too soon for the audience.

*Review by **Brian G Cooper***

Published online at

11:40 on Thursday 13 August 2009

<http://ed.thestage.co.uk/reviews/407>

Published in *The Stage Newspaper* in the issue dated
Thursday August 20, 2009