

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt over a red lace top and a white and yellow patterned scarf, is applying a prosthetic mask to another woman's face. The woman being masked has a wide-eyed, intense expression. The scene is lit with dramatic, low-key lighting, with a blue light source on the right and a warmer light from the left. The background is dark.

**my baby just cares
for me**

TOUR PACK

fullbeam visualtheatre

my baby just cares for me

“full of music, movement, film, dextrous puppetry and gentle laughs.” - *The Guardian*
“Comical, elegant and thought-provoking” - *Venue Magazine*



Photography by Rhys Davies

Dad is growing old disgracefully – in between fixing up the house, that is. Catherine has a life to live and Mr Right to find. The last thing either of them need is someone getting in the way....

Full Beam Visual Theatre's *My Baby Just Cares For Me*, premiered The Tobacco Factory in Bristol and then went on to tour in 2009: we are bringing it back for 2012. The show explores a social phenomenon that will affect us all: As the baby boomers start collecting their free bus passes, how do we look after an older generation who are more used to dancing to *The Rolling Stones* than playing dominoes?

Using puppets, Super 8 projection, upside-down physicality and a Space Hopper, this show charts the erratic course of a daughter's love for her father through thick and thin. Snatching unexpected warmth and humour from the jaws of a complex situation, this is a powerful show with a sizzling soundtrack.

The show is suitable for ages 14+ and will appeal to people with a strong interest in highly visual theatre and circus. Target audiences include those who enjoy the work of companies such as Green Ginger, Pickled Image, Theatre Alibi, Kneehigh, Horse & Bamboo, Faulty Optic and Forkbeard Fantasy.

YouTube Clip available at www.youtube.com/fullbeam10
click on "My Baby Just Cares For Me"

The Company

Full Beam Visual Theatre is a Bristol based company specialising in devising work using puppetry, physical theatre, masks and music to create shows for people who like to think and have fun at the same time. Previous shows include *The Man Who Discovered That Women Lay Eggs*, *Alice – Behind The Scenes At The Wonderland Cabaret* and *Don't Play With Your Food*.

Director & Designer – Lizzie Philps

Lizzie is a performer, director and puppeteer who co-founded Full Beam and has a special interest in comedy. She has studied Commedia dell'Arte with Antonio Fava and clown with Phillippe Gaulier. Other professional work includes commissions from the BBC and Aardman, and puppetry direction for Theatre Royal Bath's production of *His Dark Materials*.

Deviser – Frances Merriman

Frances is a classical actor who defected into devised and site-based theatre. She has previously worked with Full Beam, Kneehigh, Red Dog, Horse and Bamboo. She is currently playing the title role in Stuff & Nonsense Theatre Company's production of *The Little Red Hen*.

Performer & Deviser – Adam Fuller

Adam is a writer and performer. He has previously worked with Full Beam, Rough House and is currently touring with Frances in Stuff & Nonsense Theatre Company's production of *The Little Red Hen*

Lighting Designer & Creative Consultant – Mark Parry

Mark is a lighting designer and film-maker. He has designed in Britain and abroad for leading dance companies and theatre directors including Rambert, Yolande Snaith, Sarah Kane, John Wright and Russell Malliphant.

Creative Consultant – Brenda Waite

Brenda is a physical theatre practitioner who uses improvisation in her performance work. She has studied improvisational performance with Juleyn Hamilton, Al Wunder, Andrew Morrish, Katie Duck and Sten Rudstrom and has toured internationally with improv co Born in a Taxi.

Marketing & Publicity Support

Full Beam can offer marketing and publicity support for this show including sample press releases, images, press interviews, marketing pack and help with direct mail outs to relevant local groups including Age Concern, The Alzheimer's Society, Local Council Social Care Units and other groups. For further information about the marketing and publicity support we offer with this show, please contact us.

Reviews for *My Baby Just Cares For Me*

"For anyone with experience of caring for a physically or mentally frail elderly person, this production from Full Beam Visual Theatre will be full of poignant observation. For everyone else, it is a lesson in why caring can be such an all-encompassing, draining way of life.

Yet early on at least, it is not as grim as that sounds, and is full of music, movement, film, dextrous puppetry and gentle laughs. A daughter cares for her father - a former musician who is declining fast, losing touch even with the past he remembers through music.

The key theme is how as a society we don't talk about caring for the elderly. The father and daughter don't ever discuss their situation; in his company, she never actually speaks, while her brother dodges calls and sends fancily wrapped sweets to his father instead.

This is an ambitious, multi-layered production squashed into a claustrophobic space, underlining the daughter's confined options. The puppets representing the father work brilliantly, starkly showing his decline, and the daughter's climbing and dancing over the set at night shrieks of frustrated hopes and desires."

The Guardian

"With My Baby... Full Beam poses a question no one really wants to ask or answer: how will the present generation cope with the gradual (or sudden? Which is worse?) physical and mental decline of their parents, relics of the sex, drug and rock 'n' roll era? Talkin' 'bout my generation (gulp), the fantasy may be that we're gonna barricade ourselves into our yurts, play our vinyl at full volume and rave on as living handbags like Keith and Mick. But in reality, stuff happens...like fragility, mental confusion, incontinence, and Alzheimer's. However beloved the relationship, it's bloody hard to care for an elderly ex-party animal whose quirks have turned weird. My Baby lifts the lid on just such a father and daughter-carer scenario, cleverly distilled from many collected testimonials and brought to life with grainy Super 8 "flashbacks", physical theatre, a sizzling soundtrack and superb adult puppetry. The result is uncomfortably close to home, but also comical, elegant and thought-provoking,"

Venue Magazine

"It was pure magic, very thought provoking, real theatre"

"Wonderful production, focused and still, funny and moving"

"Brilliant. I loved it even though I have never seen a puppet show before which impressed me. "

Audience Feedback

"I went to see "My baby just cares for me" on Friday and loved it !!"

Clive Lyttle - Arts Council England



Photography by Rhys Davies

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Basic Show Information

- Performance Area – approx 7m depth x 6.5m width x 3.7m height
- Lighting – full technical specifications available, venue to provide.
- Sound – mix of live and recorded
- Get In Time 5 1/2 hours minimum, 6 hours ideal
- Running Time 1 hour, no interval
- Get Out Time 2 hours minimum
- Dressing Room for two people required, bathroom facilities appreciated,
- Accommodation desirable
- Please provide tea, coffee, water and a meal for company
- Company: 2 performers and 1 technician

For further information please contact:

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