



Kids World

Roald Dahl's The BFG on stage!

This may not be a common dilemma, but consider for a moment what you would do if suddenly faced with the thought of being eaten for breakfast in the very near future. This is exactly what worries Sophie when she is snatched in the middle of the night by a giant with a stride as long as a tennis court.

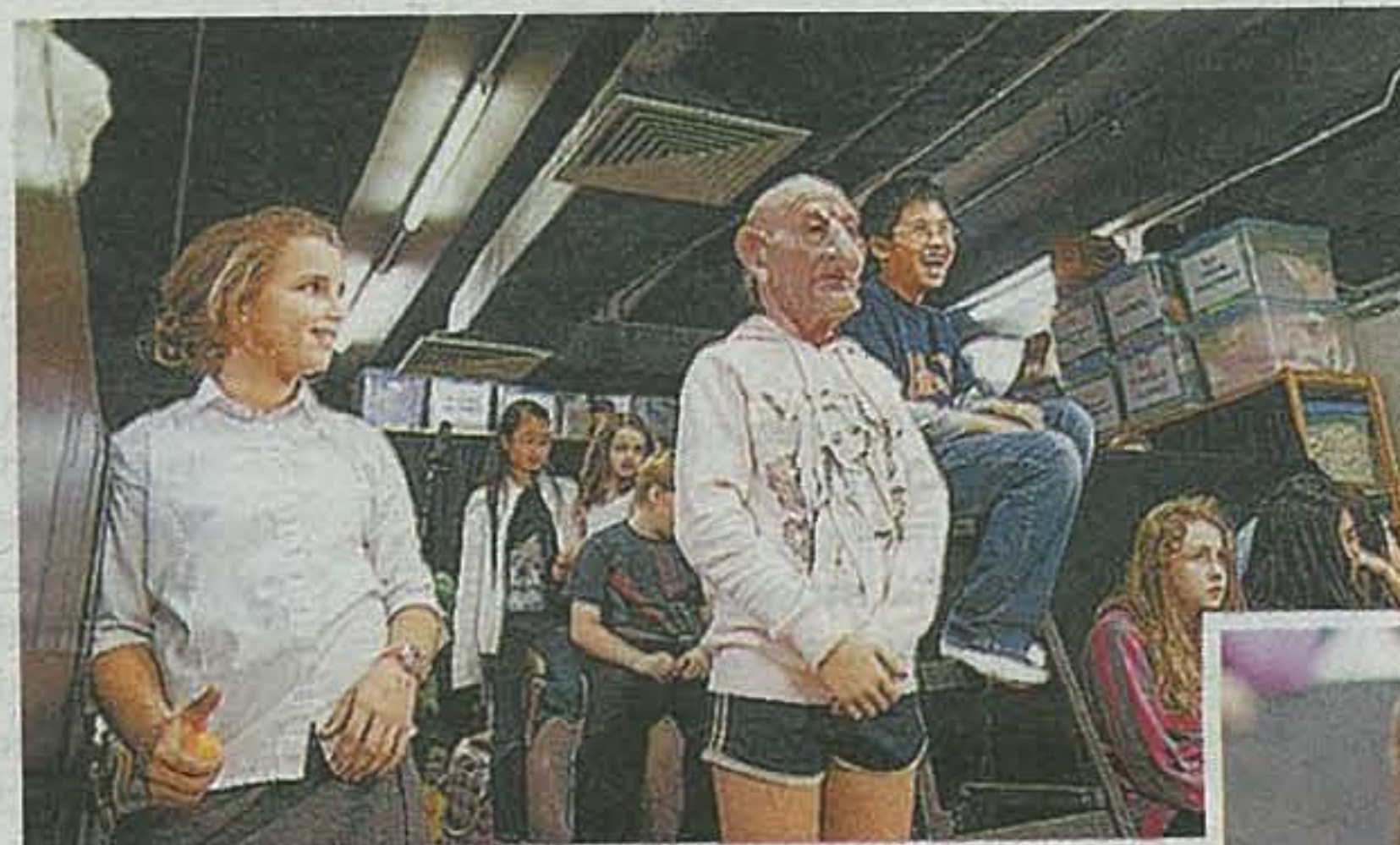
Based on the fantastic novel by Roald Dahl, Faust International Youth Theatre is bringing this wonderful stage version of *The BFG* to Hong Kong in February. The play is adapted for the stage by David Wood and was first performed at Wimbledon Theatre, UK followed by a West End run at the Aldwych Theatre. The performance is ideally suited for families with children aged four and up. Performed by young

actors, Roald Dahl's *The BFG* takes you on a journey through the witching hour, overcoming giant obstacles and proving that true friendship comes in all shapes and sizes. Join Sophie on her wonderful adventure as she travels to lands full of dreams and giants to save human beans the world over, all with the help of some unlikely friends.

For those who are not familiar with the plot, relax. Sophie is safe because the BFG is the only nice Giant in Giant Country, unlike his disgusting neighbors, whose favorite pastime is guzzling and swallowing nice little children. Hand-in-hand with the BFG and The Queen of England, Sophie goes on an adventurous journey against the trogglehumping and bogthumping giants.

Director Nicholas Atkinson explains why he chose this particular story to put on stage. "It's the ultimate children's story really. There are times when every child feels lost and lonely and to be able to befriend a Big Friendly Giant, come up with a plan to save the world and have the Queen of England help you, would cheer even the saddest of children...It's a great story and I hope those who don't know it fall in love with it as much I have," he said.

Adapting a novel for the stage, especially such a wonderful book is not an easy task. "We have used a wonderful play adaptation by David Wood," says Atkinson,



"What I think Wood does really well is capture the real wonder of the book. It's about imagination and dreams and specifically children's imaginations and that came across really well in the script when I first read it," he added.

How, though, can a show performed by an all child cast aged between 8 and 18 portray 54-foot-Giants?

"Obviously the costumes help. And we've had some fantastic costumes designed for the show. The Giants heads are my favorite..." shares the director.

"But really it was a case of convincing the children that they could do it. As long as they believe that they are giants then the lighting, sound and costume will do the rest. It doesn't matter that they are a young cast, as long as they believe in and are committed to what they are doing, they can achieve anything."



Roald Dahl's The BFG

- Venue:** Drama Theatre, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- Time:** Thursday 17 February at 7.30pm
Friday 18 February at 7.30pm
Saturday 19 February at 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Sunday 20 February at 11.00am & 2.30pm
- Ticket:** Adults HK\$260 and Children HK\$200. Available from HK Ticketing (Telephone 31 288 288 or online www.hkticketing.com)

