

Noggin the Nog rides again!

In the Lands of the North where the
Black rocks stand guard against the cold sea,
In the dark night, that is very long,
The men of the Northlands sit around their
Great log fires and they tell a tale . . .

This is a delightfully different show for families and fans opening at the Rose Theatre Kingston and touring during Spring 2018.

Noggin the Nog, adapted by Third Party Productions, directed by John Wright from Postgate & Firmin's stories and the original tv films.

The show was a five star hit at Edinburgh and Brighton Festival in 2015

A company of rather English Vikings tell us the story in live action, with puppetry, live music and projection of clips from the original films.

The Saga of Noggin the Nog was first produced by Smallfilms for the BBC in 1959, originally in black & white, although later re-filmed in colour in 1982.

The inspiration for the first Saga of Noggin the Nog (BBC, 1959) came from a set of Norse chess figures from the Isle of Lewis which Peter Firmin had seen in the British Museum in the early 1950s.

One story tells that they were rooted from the sand in Uig bay by a dim witted farmer who mistook them for elves and promptly fled.

Peter decided they were Nogs.

The association between Oliver Postgate & Peter Firmin began in 1958 with Alexander the Mouse which they produced for Rediffusion's magnetic animation system. This went out live and was as hazardous as it sounds with figures dropping off, turning round and whizzing across the screen.

Noggin the Nog was made in single frame animation by Smallfilms - set up in a barn at Peter & Joan's farmhouse in Kent.

Their classic films are still loved by viewers of all ages and it is immensely rewarding for us – as childhood fans – to see the response of audiences to the work all these years later. With simple techniques and delightful story telling, (children's entertainment once moved at a less frenetic pace) this is, for us, a piece of theatre to sit and watch together with your children and grandchildren.

Noggin is a family show with a strong cross generational appeal and our ideal audience has 3 to 4 generations. However it has such a retro appeal that we have done quite a few performances solely to adult audiences.

Peter Firmin talks with childlike enthusiasm about the Noggin stage show: "When we saw it, we were delighted because it's a bit silly." He often uses the word silly in an entirely positive context. "I think the show appeals to all ages really, to people who remember the series and children who've never seen it." He recalls with a smile, when they first saw the play performed in Ramsgate, the audience was largely made up of "hairy old men".
[Guardian article]

Viking storytellers recreate the wonderful world of Noggin in this new piece of theatre for children, families and fans. With Silly Vikings, puppets, projection and live music.

Accompanied by the brave and mighty Thor Nogson and the great green bird Graculus, we travel north on a journey of adventure and discovery, to battle against the fearsome ice dragon and the dastardly deeds of Noggin's wicked uncle, Nogbad the Bad!

Original films

Created by: Peter Firmin, Oliver Postgate
Written by: Oliver Postgate
Music: Vernon Elliott
Drawings: Peter Firmin
Producer: Oliver Postgate

For this production

Cast:

Noggin the Nog:	Harry Emerson	[New Forest area]
Graculus the great green bird/ Groliffe the dragon:	Kevin James	[Norwich]
Thor Nogson	Clive Holland	[Ramsgate]
Nogbad the Bad:	Anthony Gleave	[Hastings]

Directed by: John Wright
Puppetry consultant: Roman Stefanski
Puppets by: Caroline Bowman & Ruth Herbert [Ruth is Peter Firmin's granddaughter]
Costumes: Yee Chuan Mayhew

Instruments: Edmund Mayhew

Produced by Third Party Productions & Mischievous Theatre supported by The Arts Council of England and in association with The New Diorama theatre Regents Park and Theatre Royal Margate.