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## PRESS RELEASE

### Lakeside Arts welcomes *The Singing Mermaid* on stage this Christmas

- Lakeside to welcome families to enjoy the much-loved story of *The Singing Mermaid* based on Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks' popular picture book
- Tickets are selling fast so it's well worth booking ahead

With Christmas only a few weeks away, Lakeside Arts is delighted to share news of its 2022 family Christmas show, *The Singing Mermaid* from **Friday 9 to Saturday 31 December**. The much-loved tale is brought to Nottingham by Watershed Productions, which has toured nationally with *Horrid Henry – Live and Horrid!* and *Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play*, with stunning staging, brilliant puppetry and original music, guaranteed to enchant little ones aged 3+.

*The Singing Mermaid* tells the tale of the mermaid with a wonderful voice, who is tempted away to join the circus, only to find herself trapped by the circus master. Will she ever escape? And who will help her along the way?

*The Singing Mermaid* picture book was written by Julia Donaldson, author of *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom* (illustrated by Axel Scheffler) and illustrated by Lydia Monks (*What the Ladybird Heard*). The stage adaptation of this stellar story, originally co-produced by Little Angel Theatre and the Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton, was described by The Guardian as "a fun, warm-hearted adventure." This perfect Christmas treat for the whole family is presented by three talented actor/singer/puppeteers, with puppets made by one of Britain's best regarded puppet-makers Lyndie Wright. Music and songs were specially written by Barb Jungr, who composed songs for Little Angel Theatre's adaptation of *We're Going on A Bear Hunt* – a popular show that is about to sell out its Lakeside run this November.

Samantha Lane, Artistic Director of London's Little Angel Theatre, says: '*When my children were little, The Singing Mermaid was their favourite bed-time story. I loved reading it to them, and we would make up songs for the Mermaid. It really is such a wonderful story, with some serious themes about dreaming big, exploitation and the value of friends and family.*'

Visitors at Lakeside can look out for lots of festive nods to the Singing Mermaid when coming to see the show including mermaid and circus-themed decorations, delicious Christmassy treats in the café, and a Singing Mermaid-inspired installation in the Wallner Gallery, created by primary school children from 7 Nottingham schools, including Djanogly Strelley Academy.

Lakeside is a great place to visit with little ones. Based on the idyllic University Park campus and adjacent to the ever-popular Highfields Park means that there's plenty of space for children to burn off energy. The family-friendly Sophie Ryder art exhibition will be also free to visit throughout the festive period in the Djanogly Gallery.

Shona Powell OBE, Director at Lakeside Arts says: "I loved this production when I first saw it. The performances and puppetry are fabulous, and the music is brilliantly integral to the story with lots of memorable tunes. I'm sure, that like me, audiences will find themselves singing 'How I love to Sing' and 'Swimming Free' long after they've been to a show."

0115 846 7777 | [lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk)  
Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

This wonderfully charming production will warm hearts and bring much excitement – so book your tickets at [lakesidearts.org.uk/SingingMermaid](https://lakesidearts.org.uk/SingingMermaid)

-- ENDS --

**To arrange press visits for shows on Saturday 10 or Sunday 11 December**, contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Manager, Mária Konyelicska  
[maria.konyelicska@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:maria.konyelicska@nottingham.ac.uk) / 0115 846 7777

Lakeside Arts Website: [lakesidearts.org.uk](https://lakesidearts.org.uk)

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @LakesideArts

*The Singing Mermaid* lasts approximately 56 minutes and there is no interval.

## CASTS & CREDITS

Performers: Chris Dobson, Louise Mellor, Claire Pointing and Adam Ryan.

Adapted by Samantha Lane and Barb Jungr

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr

Directed by Samantha Lane

Design by Laura McEwen

Lighting Design by Sherry Coenen

Puppets by Lyndie Wright

<https://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk/>

<https://www.lydiamonks.com/>

<https://www.barbjungr.co.uk/>

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/about-us/our-history/>

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Lakeside Arts** is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, theatre, dance, and families' productions, as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Recital Hall; the Djanogly Gallery; the University Museum; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance. [lakesidearts.org.uk](https://lakesidearts.org.uk)

**Watershed Productions** is an independent theatre production company which takes great theatre for children and their families to theatres across the UK and beyond. Highlights of our past work include *Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play*, *Charlie and Lola's Extremely New Play*, *Horrid Henry – Live and Horrid!*, Michael Rosen's *Chocolate Cake*, *Winnie the Witch*, *Charlotte's Web - the Musical!* and stage version of several books by Jacqueline Wilson: *Double Act*, *Midnight*, *Bad Girls* and *The Suitcase Kid*.

## IMAGES



Production image of Watershed Productions' *The Singing Mermaid*



Production image of Watershed Productions' *The Singing Mermaid*



Promotional artwork, Watershed Productions' *The Singing Mermaid* at Lakeside Arts