**Puppet State Theatre Company**

**The Man Who Planted Trees**

**Adapted from Jean Giono’s story by**

Ailie Cohen, Richard Medrington, Rick Conte

**Performers**

Richard Medrington – Jean

Rick Conte – Jean’s Colleague

**Set and Puppet Design by**

Ailie Cohen

**Lighting Design by**

Elspeth Murray

**Sound Design by**

Barney Strachan

**Music**

*Canarios* by Johannes Kapsberger, performed by

Orphénica Lyra directed by José Miguel Moreno

From *Música en el Quijote* on the Glossa label.

*Terre*by Charles Trénet

From *A Portrait of Charles Trénet*

Music Collection International.

www.puppetstate.com

www.facebook.com/PuppetState

Twitter: @PuppetStateThtr

Instagram.com/puppetstate\_theatre

(facebook, twitter & Instagram logos please)

**Note from Puppet State Theatre Company**

We have performed this production over 1,600 times since 2006 in venues from tents on windswept hillsides, tiny village halls on remote Scottish islands to repeat visits to London’s Southbank Centre, New York’s Lincoln Center Institute and the Sydney Opera House. There is something about this story that seems to strike a chord wherever we go and for that reason – as well as the fact that we get to make up new bits all the time – we never tire of performing it.

In 1957 the author Jean Giono said: *“I wrote this story to make people love trees, or more precisely to make people love planting trees. Of all my stories it is one of the ones of which I am most proud. It has never earned me a penny and for that reason it has accomplished the very purpose for which it was written.”*

But this is much more than a story about planting trees: it is a wonderful parable of life, the tale of a human being who saw a need and decided not to ignore it but to “*put things right” .* The story is also known as *“The Man Who Planted Hope and Reaped Happiness”* and it holds an increasingly vital message for this generation. Maybe we all have a supply of acorns hidden away somewhere …

We hope that you bug a bookseller or librarian and get hold of a copy of *The Man Who Planted Trees* and discover why we fell in love with the story.

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."* **Anne Frank**

*“Jean Giono’s story surely belongs among the most moving and endearing statements of our hope.”*

**Wendell Berry**

**Company Biographies**

Richard Medrington, writer, performer and storyteller found his calling as a puppeteer in 1983. His one-man shows include *The Spider of Spindle Wood*, *The Interrogation*, *The Adventures of Ivan the Slug* and *AA Milne’s Winnie the Pooh*, which toured the UK for five years to packed houses, culminating in a sell-out run at the Royal National Theatre in London. He moved to Edinburgh in 1992 and is a veteran of 23 Edinburgh Festival Fringes. In 2016 he adapted for the stage and toured JJR Tolkien’s *Leaf by Niggle*. His first novel *Sea Above, Sky Below* was published in 2017. He founded Puppet State Theatre Company in 2003 and his collaboration with Rick Conte began in 2005.

Rick Conte is from Georgia, USA. He moved to Scotland on a whim in 1989. He has been lucky enough to have worked with many of Scotland’s finest theatre companies including: National Theatre of Scotland, Catherine Wheels and Puppet State Theatre Company. Rick has performed with the international hit show *White* on Broadway and Shona Reppe’s much-loved *Cinderella*. In 2018 Rick headed up The Scientific Romance Theatre Company with an adaptation of HG Wells’ *The Time Machine* at the Edinburgh Fringe with plans for touring the show into the future of the future. As Puppet Consultant, Rick has advised on productions by Edinburgh’s Lyceum Theatre, the Royal Scottish Conservatoire and Solar Bear Theatre Company. Rick has performed in Puppet State Theatre Company’s *The Man Who Planted Trees* with Richard Medrington over 1,500 times since 2006. They plan to continue doing so until everyone has seen it.

Ailie Cohen went to Moscow to study acting, busked and starved her way round Europe with a street theatre troupe, then discovered she could combine visual art and theatre by becoming a puppeteer. Ailie has worked with The National Theatre of Scotland, Grid Iron, TAG, The Citizens, Puppet Lab, Vanishing Point, Leicester Haymarket Theatre, and her own shows include *Rumpelstiltskin at the Fairytale Laundry*, *Jazz Mouse*, *The New Not New* and [*Cloud Man*](http://www.remarkable-arts-ltd.com/whatson/2011/cloudman) which featured in the prestigious ‘Made in Scotland’ showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe in August, 2011 and *The Secret Life of Suitcases* which has been seen all over the world and continues to tour.[www.ailiecohen.com](http://www.ailiecohen.com/)