

24583 Little Creepy Wonders Review by The Stage (<http://www.thestage.co.uk/>) 14th August 2013

Born with vampire teeth, little Pasquale likes biting people. The doctor diagnoses he will grow out of it, but neighbours deem him weird. His parents muffle him in a purple scarf for school, but classmates recoil. All except Lala – who dances happily away with him.

Staging their Gothic atmosphere fantasy in a yurt-style tent, Scarlattinetatro from Italy unfold its bizarre storyline with brilliant visual wit. The show's beguiling formula embraces vivid movement, amusing mime, grotesque facial contortions, rhyming narrative, projection, and an inventive use of a few props – white door, candles, cups, pram, and many balloons. Two become Pasquale and Lala, delicately handled puppet-style.

Bursting around the stage in baggy costumes grunting and shouting numbers, gesticulating in slow motion, creating bizarre mini-tableaux, or poking out from apertures and curtains, the multi-talented cast – Giuletta Debernardi, Anna Fascendini, Marco Mazzo – darkly clown the curious tale, their moody stagecraft evoking both commedia dell'arte and Fellini.

Adalberto Ferrari's original score infuses the fantasy with a strangely rollicking feel, which heightens pace for the surreal episode with the doctor and becomes excitedly playful for the classroom of balloons. Little audience involvement occurs – which hardly matters, as everyone is totally enthralled throughout.