Gulliver

The Set

The centre of the stage is taken up with a platform about 7 feet above the stage. The platform is solid and has a ladder at an angle of 45 degrees giving access to it at the left hand side. At the right hand side an enormous red pencil is part of the structure, forming an upright for the platform with the pencil point continuing above the top of the platform.

Behind the platform as a back-drop is an enormous painting of a horse with wavy mane and tail. It is in the style of a Da Vinci drawing. Sometimes this becomes a screen projecting a variety of images. In the space below the platform is a window with many panes and through the window a cottage and garden are visible. The space beneath the platform can be closed off with a curtain. In front of the window is a Moses Basket and in front of this again is a kitchen table with three wooden chairs and to the left of the table on upholstered chair.

At the right of the stage is a slanting wall, opening out as it reaches the front of the stage. There are two doors set in the wall, one in front of the other.

The Cast

Mary, Gulliver’s wife, is played by Shelley Atkinson. She has an oval face, large eyes and generous mouth and neat mousey hair. She wears a two-piece suit printed with flowers which shows off her trim figure without flaunting it.

Betty, Gulliver’s daughter, has a round face, and long reddish hair, tied back. He figure is slightly chunky and she wears a grey knitted dress, a canvas jacket and black tights with boots. She wears a large scarf round her neck. This part is played by Nicky Harley.

Johnny, played by Patrick J. O’Reilly, is Gulliver’s son has short hair, a long narrow face, small eyes and a crooked nose. He has a well-toned body and the muscles on his bare arms are very evident. He wears joggers, a hoodie and later a dance vest which reveals all of his arms.

Helen Roche plays, Granny, gulliver’s mother. She is a petite figure with small features and white hair. She wears a pleated skirt, a printed blouse and a small cardigan.

Jim the groom, played by Brendan Conroy, is a small, dapper figure with wide eyes, a furrowed brow and wide mouth. He wears a brown jacket, with a knitted waistcoat and check shirt underneath and black trousers. Incongruously he wears a red and black boy’s school cap on his head.

All of Gulliver’s family are conventionally dressed in present day costumes, so Gulliver comes as a huge shock.

He is a larger than life figure with a mass of curly greyish hair and a luxuriant, curly grey beard with moustache. He first appears in nothing but a furry loin cloth from waist to knee. He has a leather strap over his shoulder, holding the cloth on and soft leather bootees on his feet.

Gulliver later wears a pair of patchwork shorts with a matching top in shades of grey. Underneath the shirt he sports a red t shirt. Later again Gulliver is resplendent in a metallic silver onesy, with a bugle round his neck and a suitcase in his hand. He has pilot’s goggles pushed onto the back of his head and white wellingtons on his feet. Another of his fabulous costumes is a red tail coat with black trousers and high black boots. Under the coat he wears a black waistcoat and a white shirt. He wears a black top hat on his head, decorated with a red ribbon and with a huge pin piercing it.

Tracey is a different character. She is an actual doll, about 2 feet high, with pigtails, a top and trousers. She wears white boots.

From time to time the members of the cast dress up to become characters in Gulliver’s dreams.

The Lilliputians appear at one point. They wear white wigs, and red and white ruffs which extend to their shoulders. They have black trousers or knee breeches, red tee shirts and black tail coats trimmed with red.

Members of Brodingnag’s Women’s Institute appear. They wear red curly wigs with a crinoline dress, open at the front to reveal the framework and bloomers beneath.

The Laputians wear long kaftans in red, orange, green and olive green, ornamented with different coloured ribbons. They wear matching turbans on their heads and dark glasses cover their eyes.

The Sperm Pilot wears a tight Lycra one piece suit, in pale blue with a helmet on its head and goggles over its eyes.

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.