

BBC Online/ Tyne Online - Theatre Review: Trouble Under Foot 16/05/01. Brid Fitzpatrick.

" If you are looking for a show to introduce your youngsters to the delights of theatre, you won't go wrong with this one. It's colourful, it's imaginative and, above all, it's fun ... The costumes and sets were inventive and, at times, quite beautiful ... children at the production I saw were entranced for the entire show. But this is a play which the adults will enjoy as well, so get there in time to get a seat near the front. "

The Stage - Chester, 20/4/00. Victor Hallett.

" Joy spills over into Katherine Ukleja's brightly coloured sets and costumes, Ieuan Goch ab Einion's Music, excellently played and performed by the whole cast, is both tuneful and complex in it's harmonies ... what I will always remember from this play is the joy the children took in teaching her (the Grump) how to cuddle. "

The Sheffield Star: Terrible Grump at Crucible Studio 12/12/00. Tony Belshaw.

" This play by Monster Productions has been playing to rave reviews all around the country... and it is not hard to see why.

"It is bright, colourful, engaging and genuine. The emphasis is on audience participation, and that doesn't just mean the kids. Parents should be prepared to feel thoroughly silly by waving their arms around and singing along.

" The children should not worry about not knowing the songs either - they choose them themselves during the show.

" All too often children's productions are marred by scripts which sail over the heads of young minds, or over complicated plots that leave even the adults confused.

" In contrast The Terrible Grump is a simple idea carried out very well, wonderfully well pitched for its target age group of three to six year olds, and is one of the best children's plays I've seen in years. "

The Journal: Terrible Grump: Buddle Arts Centre review 17/4/00. David Whetstone.

" It is brilliant entertainment for young children and their parents... High on audience participation and educational content this 75 minute show is just what the doctor ordered ... The sets and costumed are very colourful - credit to designer Katherine Ukleja - and there are lots of funny jokes. "

Jeff Brown, Newcastle Journal 6/12/01 Trouble Underfoot

" Trouble Under Foot is hugely entertaining. A video might last longer but nothing matches good quality live entertainment like this. "

John Giles: Trouble Underfoot: Southend Observer 24/04/01.

" Monster Productions, who have built up a good reputation with shows for the under-sixes in the Dixon Studio, this week move up to daytime performances in the main theatre, for their latest show Trouble Underfoot.

" This is quite an ambitious little 75 minute show. Five actors play a series of roles as well as providing live musical accompaniment and acting as puppeteers for the fun production, which is written and produced by Chris Speyer. " The show has a strong ecological theme in its story, which tells of poor Mrs Dibble's vegetables which are all dying from cold.

" The rat forgiven by Mrs Dibble for stealing some of those vegetables tells her the only way to get the sun back is to go into the underworld.

" With the help of the audience who 'row' a ferry accross the underworlds entry river, Mrs Dibble meets Grandmother Undergrumbly, who gives her a magical cloak. With the aid of this magical clothing, the heroine manages to outwit a dragon who collects everything that glisters - including the sun.

" On the way she meets a two headed, two faced dog and a

ferryman who is compelled to remain in the underworld because of his obsession with Grandmother Undergrumbly's great cooking.

" There is plenty in the show to involve youngsters, for they are required to make some vital decisions during the journey underground ... " As usual with Monster Productions, the show is beautifully costumed - wonderful animal outfits and plenty of colourful scenery are in evidence.

" Janine Birkett holds the show nicely together as Mrs Dibble, with Joanna Kenrick contributing a lot as Rat and with her musical talents, while Sally Bristow and Walter James shine as Grandmother Undergrumbly and Soggysox, the ferryman. "