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10 Days on Earth @ Library Theatre

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'CUTE' is not a description that you might necessarily expect to ever hear in the context of the thoroughly adult Ronnie Burkett Theatre Of Marionettes.

Nonetheless his brilliant new show, 10 Days On Earth, Burkett's fifth collaboration with Queerupnorth in the last decade, features a nursery-rhyme style duck called Little Burp that you could almost imagine being marketed by toy companies along with another character, the endearing Honey Dog and his "cranberry-coloured coat"!

Fans of Burkett and his unique style of puppet theatre needn't worry that he's gone soft though.

10 Days On Earth is another of Burkett's affectionate examinations of what the Canadian sums up as "this bizarre, flawed, longing and hopeful species of human beings" albeit represented by puppets.

Here, Burkett and his lovingly hand-crafted characters look at coming to terms with death and the real roles of families in our lives.

The simple but kind-hearted Darryl, who has always been looked after by his mother Ivy, initially continues as usual after she dies in the house where they live alone, not really aware of what has happened.

Wild-haired

His routine includes going to work on his shoe-stand, where he meets characters such as a wild-haired and foul-mouthed homeless man who believes he is God.

He's called Lloyd, as in 'your Lloyd God' - Burkett is not above inducing a wince or two as you laugh!

There's also the Salvation Army lady who looked after him and his mother when he was born out of wedlock and who has taught him An Angel With Just One Wing, the hymn Darryl sings to comfort himself.

Running in parallel with Darryl's story is the nursery-rhyme quest of Honey Dog and Little Burp as they try to find a home, encountering such characters as the villainous Valentine Vole and the Tennessee Williams-esque sheep (if you can imagine such a thing) Blanche Du Baa.

Enormously imaginative, improbably moving and wonderfully life-affirming, 10 Days On Earth shows the MEN Theatre Award-winning Burkett is still pulling all the right strings in splendid style.

Ten Days On Earth is at the Library Theatre until May 19 with a post-show discussion on May 17. [Click here](#) for more information.

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