

# Kids

## Review

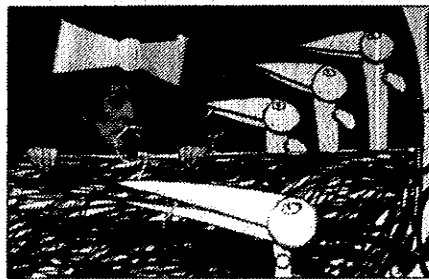
### If All the World Were Paper

★★★★★

Lyric Hammersmith Shows

Oily Cart have fashioned a rustling, tearing, folding world for small children aged two to five based on the hypothesis of its title, which comes from an anonymous poem, whose second line ('and all the sea were ink') gives an added dimension, and splendid use of colour, to this creative fantasy about a paper girl in her paper world.

Curlicue, Doodle and Squiggle, all angles in their monochrome, cut-out outfits, greet their audience with enthusiasm and give each member a paper bag containing a paper plate and a wax crayon. Fascinated children don't have to wait long before these props are put to use. It's a good idea to keep your favourite things in a paper bag, we're told, while Doodle and Curlicue playfully catch ideas that fall with a satisfying plop into their bags. Children are encouraged to draw their favourite food on their plates and hold it up for inspection. Such home-made treats, and surprises like the dramatic entrance of Squiggle, diving through a paper screen that minutes earlier had been the facade of a newly drawn house, are what we have come to expect



*Oily Cart: recycled paper, original ideas*

of the famously resourceful Oily Cart.

Max Reinhardt is responsible for the music, supplemented by lilting tunes courtesy of Doodle (Mark Stevenson) on the mandolin. The actors have a warm, confiding air. Katrina Garnett as Curlicue has a wicked smirk, and the doll-like Keiko Hewitt-Teale as Squiggle (and a paper girl untimely ripped from her chain of sisters), with her expansive gestures and exaggerated facial expressions, makes the children chuckle. The papery world, designed by Claire de Loon – taking in aeroplanes, birds, even a harassed mother monster – is substantial enough to keep young children wrapped up in its carefully orchestrated folds. An absorbing world indeed. *Ronnie Haydon*