

# A star turn...

**T**HE POLKA Theatre has pulled yet another fantastic show out of its large bag of children's productions.

Directed by Jonathan Lloyd and based on the book by Oliver Jeffers, *How To Catch A Star* is based on one simple idea: a boy wishes for a star to be his best friend and makes varying attempts to get hold of it.

There is no script for the play, with everything communicated through music and the superb acting of wide-eyed Daniel Naddafy as the star-lorn boy. The lack of dialogue could well have equated to a tedious 45-minute sacrifice to humour my daughter, but luckily the Polka Theatre got it right again.

The attention to detail and the "lift the flap" set was fantastic. Trees popped out of a giant cardboard backdrop, as



**Daniel Naddafy on stage at the Polka Theatre**

did the boy's bed and alarm clock - to the delight of the infant audience.

But the best bit for the kids (judging by the noisy gasps) was the tiny puppet doppelgänger of the boy, perfectly replicated in striped T-shirt and jeans, who was put into the miniature rocket and propelled into the night sky in another attempt to snare his star.

Grown-ups might have

to endure some slightly laboured stretches, with little going on except Naddafy trying to swat a fly. And the production became a bit slapstick at points, with even the infant audience seeming to lose attention until the capture of the star and the boy's ultimate joy of success.

Clare Casey



● *How To Catch A Star* runs until February 28 at Polka Theatre, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. There are shows for children aged between six months and two years (in a truncated 30-minute format) or the full 45-minute version for two- to five-year-olds.

For more information and to make a booking, visit [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call 020 8543 4888.