

# Lifestyle

## Seasonal fun for the children

Discover two family-friendly festive tales this winter at Stratford children's story centre

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With the countdown well and truly on – and not many sleeps until Christmas Day – now is the time to get the whole family in the festive spirit with some seasonal shows for children.

*Percy the Park Keeper's Winter Park* and *Glitterbugs* are both coming to Discover Children's Story Centre in Stratford.

The shows, aimed squarely at the youngest members of the family (six and under) are running daily in the build up to Christmas, although there is no Monday showing of *Glitterbugs*.

Discover have produced the shows themselves in the hopes of bringing families together this festive period.

*Percy the Park Keeper's Winter Park* takes families on a tour of a sparkling winter world for a fun, interactive performance based on Nick Butterworth's delightful book *After the Storm* with music and puppets.

The story is narrated by Daniel Naddafy, who tells the story of what Percy does after a winter storm blows down the old oak tree that his animal friends lived in.

Director Stephen Harper said: "We took the book and simply told the story. Then we tried to bring the lovely pictures to life."

"The puppets help the characters to leap off the page. It's wonderful to see how the children relate to the animals loving the individual personalities – the steady badger, the frenetic squirrel and the nerdy mole."

Actor and puppeteer Daniel said: "Working with the puppets to create *Percy the Park Keeper's Winter Park* has been challenging at times, as we've created a whole range of different characters and personalities – from slow



■ Narrator Daniel Naddafy performs with animals from *Percy the Park Keeper's Winter Park* at Discover, Stratford

and serious badger to the sleepy rabbits and overexcited squirrel, who all have different quirks and levels of energy.

"The children really engage with the animals and immediately pick their favourites – squirrel and mole are very popular, and you can feel the excitement in the room each time they come on stage."

After the show, the audience will take part in a craft workshop



■ A scene from *Glitterbugs*

creating a glittery Christmas decoration to take home.

Daniel added: "The puppets really bring the story to life and make it feel like there's a whole company of actors on stage, rather than just one."

*Glitterbugs* offers a shiny winter haven with puppets, stories and songs for the very young.

The two performances will also be joined by an exhibition of children's laureate Michael

Rosen's *Bear Hunt*, *Chocolate Cake* and *Bad Things* for the Christmas holidays. The exhibition itself will continue running all the way until Sunday, April 10.

■ Show times and ticket prices vary for the festive shows. Visit [discover.org.uk](http://discover.org.uk) or [gammabookings.com/discover](http://gammabookings.com/discover) to book. Call Discover Children's Story Centre on 020 8536 5555 for more information about pricing and timings.



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