

Theatre preview – Pepperland: A Splendid Time Is Guaranteed For All



Photography by Gareth Jones

Mark Morris Dance Group in *Pepperland*
Festival Theatre Edinburgh

Fri 5 & Sat 6 April 2019 at 8pm, plus Sat matinee at 2.30pm

Good Morning, Good Morning Good Morning! It may be a Long and Winding Road until next April, so get Fixin' that hole in your diary. And listen, do you want to know a secret? This will really be Something to Twist & Shout about.

For dance and **Beatles** fans alike, this captivating dance work inspired by The Beatles' revolutionary *Sgt. Pepper's* album was first commissioned by the City of Liverpool. Mark Morris created *Pepperland* to pay homage to The Beatles, the album and its landmark anniversary. Its world premiere performances kicked off Liverpool's *Sgt. Pepper at 50* Festival in May 2017 and received critical and audience acclaim for both its dance and music.

Pepperland is legendary choreographer Mark Morris' unique tribute to the 50th anniversary of the release of the iconic

LP. Hailed as the first-ever 'art rock' album and widely regarded as the best rock and roll album of all time, it spent 27 weeks at number one on the UK Albums Chart and 15 weeks at number one in the USA. It won four Grammy Awards in 1968, including Album of the Year, the first rock LP to receive the honour.

Mark Morris is renowned as an intensely musical choreographer and is undeviating in his devotion to music. *The New York Times* said Morris is the "most successful and influential choreographer alive and indisputably the most musical". Since founding MMDG in 1980, he has created almost 150 works for the company, many of which are widely considered masterpieces.

Pepperland features an original score by composer Ethan Iverson, inspired by some of the album's most enduring hits: *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*; *With a Little Help From My Friends*; *A Day in the Life*; *When I'm Sixty-Four*; *Within You Without You*; and *Penny Lane*. Iverson's fresh arrangements of the original tracks will be performed live by MMDG Music Ensemble – *Pepperland's* unique chamber music group – and is interspersed with six original Pepper-inspired pieces that complement Morris' profound understanding of classical music styles of allegro, scherzo, adagio, and the blues.

<http://capitaltheatres.com/whats-on/festival-theatre-events?page=5>