

Original article taken from
<https://bakchormeeboy.com/2017/03/26/review-itsy-the-musical-by-the-finger-players/>

Review: ITSY The Musical by The Finger Players



BY BAKCHORMEEBOY
MARCH 26, 2017
COMMENTS 0





In a world where childhood fairy tales are constantly being adapted into darker, grittier versions for film, it was inevitable that someone would eventually do the same for nursery rhymes. Enter The Finger Players' first show of the season: *ITSY The Musical*, which does just that, taking some of your favourite nursery rhymes you learnt as a kid and bringing them to life in this grown up musical.



ITSY The Musical takes its title from its antagonist, the Itsy Bitsy Spider from Little Miss Muffet. Plotting to take over the nursery rhyme world with an eight legged army of spiders, writer Chong Tze Chien has given him a bigger backstory, attributing his villainy to being shunned by the other nursery rhyme characters in his youth. Playing him is Sebastian Tan, who chews the scenery every time he steps onstage while retaining an air of menace. On the other side of the war is our unlikely protagonist, a grandfather (a well cast Lim Kay Siu) looking for his grandson (Oliver Chong). He leads a colourful cast of characters making up the resistance

team, consisting Humpty Dumpty (Ebi Shankara), Jack and Jill (Tan Shou Chen and Jo Tan), Twinkle (the star from Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, played by Frances Lee), and the three blind mice (Audrey Luo, Ann Lek and Zee Wong).



ITSY is visually impressive, and though Wong Chee Wai's set is mostly minimalistic, there are deft, interesting touches such as a gigantic spider always looming behind the stage threateningly to really create atmosphere. No Finger Players show is really complete without a touch of their signature puppetry of course, and a show so steeped in fantasy and imagination is ripe for it. Helped by Lim Woan Wen's precise lighting design, the puppeteers, dressed in black, are cleverly rendered invisible, leaving only their realistic looking puppet spiders in sight, creeping around and terrorizing the inhabitants of the nursery rhyme world. In any fantasy type setting, costumes also play a huge role in bringing out and identifying the characters, and it was clear from Anthony Tan's colourful and creative costume design that a lot of thought had gone into these characters, and really helped leave a lasting visual impact.