



**Blackeyed Theatre, in association with New Theatre Royal Portsmouth and South Hill Park Arts Centre**

**2019 dates announced for Nick Lane's  
Adaptation of *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four*  
By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

**International Tour: September 2018 – July 2019**

***When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains,  
however improbable, must be the truth.***

New dates have been announced for Blackeyed Theatre's thrilling new adaptation of *The Sign of Four*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's epic second Sherlock Holmes novel. Having successfully mystified audiences throughout autumn 2018, this spectacular world premiere, adapted and directed by Nick Lane, will continue to tour to theatres across the UK throughout spring 2019, culminating in a four-week tour of China in July.

When Mary Morstan arrives at Baker Street to request help following the mysterious disappearance of her father, Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr Watson are plunged into a murky world of deception and a complex plot involving murder, corruption and stolen jewels.

Crammed full of adventure, romance, comedy and, of course, one or two rather brilliant deductions, this faithful adaptation will combine original live music, high energy theatricality and ensemble storytelling.

With music composed by Tristan Parkes, the cast of *The Sign of Four* features Luke Barton as Sherlock Holmes (*The Unexpected Guest*, *Mill at Sonning*; *Misterman*, Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse),

Joseph Derrington as Dr John Watson (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, MAC Belfast; *The Canterville Ghost*, Erasmus Theatre), Zach Lee as Jonathan Small (*Bouncers*, *Glass Menagerie*, Hull Truck; *The Derby McQueen Affair*, York Theatre Royal), Stephanie Rutherford as Mary Morstan (*Kubla Khan*, *Mirror Mirror*, Oily Cart; *Cinderella*, Derby Theatre), Christopher Glover as Dost Akbar (*Peckham The Soap Opera*, Royal Court; *Eastenders*, BBC) and Ru Hamilton as Thaddeus Sholto (*Tipping the Velvet*, Lyric Hammersmith; *Peter Pan*, Derby Theatre).

Director Nick Lane comments, *I don't think I know anyone over the age of ten who doesn't know at least the name Sherlock Holmes. He is part of the literary fabric of this country - hugely popular and hugely adaptable - and his cases with Watson are a blueprint for so many crime novels, films, TV shows and theatre. We have approached this adaptation in a stylised way which will appeal to avid fans of the novel as well as those who simply want to come to the theatre and enjoy a rattling good crime story!*

*Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four* is produced by Blackeyed Theatre in association with New Theatre Royal Portsmouth and South Hill Park Arts Centre in Bracknell and supported by Arts Council England.

*One of the most innovative, audacious companies working in contemporary English Theatre. (The Stage)*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four</i>
Running time	120 minutes (plus interval)
Twitter	@Blackeyedtheatr, #SignofFour
Age Guidance	11+
Writer and Director	Nick Lane
Composer	Tristan Parkes
Set Designer	Victoria Spearing
Lighting Designer	Claire Childs
Costume Designer	Naomi Gibbs
Movement Director	Emma Webb
Producer	Adrian McDougall

## Cast

Sherlock Holmes	Luke Barton
Dr John Watson	Joseph Derrington
Mary Morstan	Stephanie Rutherford
Thaddeus Sholto	Ru Hamilton
Dost Akbar	Christopher Glover
Jonathan Small	Zach Lee

## Performance Dates

21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Wyvern Theatre Theatre Square, Swindon SN1 1QN
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Theatre Severn Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury SY3 8FT
28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Capitol Theatre North St, Horsham RH12 1RG
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	The Lighthouse Poole's Centre For The Arts, 21 Kingland Rd, Poole BH15 1UG
5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford Millbrook, Guildford GU1 3UX
12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Corn Exchange Market Pl, Newbury RG14 5BD
14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Theatre Royal Winchester Jewry St, Winchester SO23 8SB
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Venue Cymru The Promenade, Penrhyn Crescent, Llandudno LL30 1BB
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Swan Theatre The Moors, Worcester WR1 3ED

25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre Coal Orchard, Taunton TA1 1JL
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Shanklin Theatre Prospect Rd, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6AJ
4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Key Theatre Embankment Rd, Peterborough PE1 1EF
7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Lincoln Performing Arts Centre University of Lincoln Brayford Pool, Lincoln LN6 7TS
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Theater aan het Vrijthof Maastricht, The Netherlands
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Parktheater Eindhoven, The Netherlands
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Harrogate Theatre Oxford Street, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 1QF
25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Grand Theatre St Leonardgate, Lancaster LA1 1QW
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Charter Theatre Lancaster Rd, Preston PR1 1HT
29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Middlesbrough Theatre The Avenue, Middlesbrough TS5 6SA
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Theatre Royal Wakefield Drury Ln, Wakefield WF1 2TE
4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Broadway Theatre, Letchworth Eastcheap, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3DD
24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock Rouken Glen Rd, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 6UG

26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh Ladywell Way, Musselburgh EH21 6AA
30 <sup>th</sup> Apr – 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne 8 – 10 Compton Street, Eastbourne BN21 4BP
7 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Greenwich Theatre Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES
14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Festival Theatre, Malvern Grange Road, Malvern WR14 3HB
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Palace Theatre, Mansfield Leeming Street, Mansfield NG18 1NG
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mercury Theatre, Colchester Balkerne Gate, Colchester CO1 1PT
24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Theatre Royal, Margate Addington Street, Margate CT9 1PW
28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Civic Theatre, Rotherham Catherine Street, Rotherham S65 1EB
30 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough Westborough, Scarborough YO11 1JW
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Rhodes Arts, Bishops Stortford 1-3 South Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JG
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Broadway Theatre, Barking 11-13 Broadway, Barking IG11 7LS
8 <sup>th</sup> June – 9 <sup>th</sup> July	China

## **Blackeyed Theatre**

Blackeyed Theatre is one of the UK's leading mid-scale touring theatre companies. Since 2004 we have been creating exciting opportunities for artists and audiences by producing theatre that's

audacious, accessible and memorable. Blackeyed Theatre has two principal objectives through the work it produces; to provide audiences and artists with fresh, challenging work; and to make that work sustainable by reaching as wide and diverse an audience as possible. Over the past few years, Blackeyed Theatre has balanced these artistic and business objectives by creating new, exciting versions of established classics in unique ways and by identifying relevance with today's audiences.

Recent examples of this include the company's 2016/17 production of *Frankenstein*, which used Bunraku puppetry to portray the Creature, the 2015 production of *The Great Gatsby*, whose cast of seven doubled up as a 1920s jazz band, and the 2012 production of Brecht's *Mother Courage And her Children*, set in a post-apocalyptic world, designed to establish relevance with 21<sup>st</sup> century world events.

Recent new commissions include *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* (by Nick Lane), *Frankenstein* and *Dracula* (both by John Ginman), as well as *The Great Gatsby* (by Stephen Sharkey), which was published by Methuen.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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