



Blackeyed Theatre, in association with South Hill Park, present

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Adapted by Nick Lane

UK Tour September 2019 – June 2020

Press night: 7.30pm, Tuesday 24th September, Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB

This autumn, Blackeyed Theatre brings to the stage a thrilling new adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece *Jane Eyre*. Adapted by Nick Lane, this spectacular world premiere embarks on a major eight-month tour across the UK and beyond.

A Gothic masterpiece of tempestuous passions and dark secrets, *Jane Eyre* tells the thrilling story of an orphan and her journey from a childhood of loneliness and cruelty to a life at Thornfield Hall and an unlikely relationship with the mysterious Mr Rochester. Falling in love, she gradually uncovers a hidden past to the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall - a terrible secret that forces her to make a heart-wrenching choice.

Captivating, brooding and intensely powerful, *Jane Eyre* is a moving and unforgettable portrayal of one woman's quest for equality and freedom and remains one of the great triumphs of storytelling. Originally Brontë published *Jane Eyre* under the male pseudonym Currer Bell. The literary world became consumed with the identity of the writer but even her publisher didn't know Currer Bell's gender. A woman in a man's world, Brontë wrote of a female character who, in spite of agonising hardships, manages to persevere and define her own happiness, rather than have it defined for her by others.

The cast features **Kelsey Short** as Jane Eyre (*Class, Spur of the Moment; F*cking Life Mate*, JamesArts Productions; *Broken, The White Bear*), **Ben Warwick** as Mr Rochester (*Pentecost; The Oedipus Plays*, Royal National Theatre; *The Deep Blue Sea*, Watford Palace; *Les Liaisons*

Dangereuses and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Theatre Royal York; *Hamlet*, English Touring Theatre), **Camilla Simson** as Mrs Fairfax (*The Merchant of Venice*, The Globe, Rome; *Thin Toes*, The Pleasance; *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Bill Kenwright national tour; *Shakers*, Liverpool Playhouse), **Eleanor Toms** as Blanche Ingram (*The Secret Garden*, The Minack Theatre; *Astley's Astounding Adventures*, New Vic; *Blue Stockings*, Cockpit Theatre), **Oliver Hamilton** as St John Rivers (*Maggie May*, Liverpool Everyman; *Crossroads*, Actors Church, Covent Garden; *A Christmas Carol*, Windsor Castle).

In their trademark style, Blackeyed Theatre's interpretation of *Jane Eyre* will feature an ensemble cast of actor-musicians. The performance includes live music written specially for the production by award-winning composer George Jennings.

Director and Producer Adrian McDougall comments, *Jane Eyre is simply epic in its vision and scope of ideas, in terms of time and space, and in its sheer emotional depth. I'm very conscious of the responsibility that comes with putting such an important and well-loved novel on stage, but it's a fantastic challenge for any theatre maker, and one that lends itself perfectly to the highly creative, bold brand of theatricality for which Blackeyed Theatre is known. What we produce will, I hope, induce that same intensity of feeling you get when you read the book: the joy, the despair and everything in between... A searing celebration of female empowerment, a beautiful, brooding love story, with a little Gothic horror thrown in for good measure!*

Writer Nick Lane comments, *Jane Eyre is such an important character in literature. She was iconic for a female character of her time, shaping her own destiny and risking everything to follow what she believed in. I think she's been an inspiration to a lot of women, and will continue to be so. There's satire, there's socio-economic commentary, there's this beautiful ache of a love story. But, for me, Jane's an underdog; all her life she's been underestimated or treated with resentment and contempt, yet she endures it all and prevails.*

Jane Eyre is produced by Blackeyed Theatre in association with South Hill Park in Bracknell and supported by Arts Council England.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Running Time	2 hours plus interval
Twitter	@Blackeyedtheatr #JaneEyreTour

Facebook facebook.com/blackeyedtheatre/

Age Guidance 11+

Writer Nick Lane
Composer George Jennings
Director and Producer Adrian McDougall
Musical Director Ellie Verkerk
Movement Director Sammy Fonfe
Assistant Director Lucy Fennell
Set Designer Victoria Spearing
Costume Designer Naomi Gibbs
Lighting Designer Alan Valentine

Cast

Kelsey Short Jane Eyre
Ben Warwick Edward Rochester/Mr Brocklehurst
Camilla Simson Mrs Fairfax/Bertha Mason/Aunt Reed
Eleanor Toms Blanche Ingram/Georgiana Reed/Helen Burns/Adele Varens
Oliver Hamilton St John Rivers/John Reed/Mr Mason

Performance Dates

Autumn 2019

18th – 20th Sept Wilde Theatre 7.45pm (+1pm Thu)
Ringmead, Bracknell, RG12 7PA

24th – 28th Sept Malvern Theatres 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed & Sat)
Grange Road, Malvern, WR14 3HB

30th Sept – 1st Oct Rhodes Arts 7.30pm
1-3 South Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JG

2nd – 3rd Oct Hertford Theatre 7.45pm (+1.30pm Thu)
The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PS

4th – 5th Oct Broadway Theatre 7.30pm
Eastcheap, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3DD

7 th – 9 th Oct	Norwich Playhouse 7.30pm Mon & Tue/10.30am Wed (+1pm Tue) 42 - 58 St Georges St, Norwich, NR3 1AB
10 th – 11 th Oct	Marina Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Fri) Marina, Lowestoft, NR32 1HH
15 th – 16 th Oct	Shanklin Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed) Prospect Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 6AJ
17 th – 19 th Oct	Haymarket 7.30pm (+2pm Sat) Wote St, Basingstoke, RG21 7NW
22 nd – 23 rd Oct	Octagon Theatre 7.30pm Hendford, Yeovil, BA20 1UX
24 th – 25 th Oct	Corn Exchange 7.45pm Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5BD
28 th Oct – 2 nd Nov	Dundee Rep 7.30pm (+2.30pm Thu & Sat) Tay Square, Dundee, DD1 1PB
5 th – 6 th Nov	Gala Theatre 7.30pm 1 Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1WA
8 th – 9 th Nov	The Atkinson 7.30pm (+2pm Sat) Lord Street, Southport PR8 1DB
12 th – 13 th Nov	Towngate Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed) St. Martins Square, Basildon, SS14 1DL
14 th – 16 th Nov	Theatre Royal 7.30pm (+3pm Sat) Westgate St, Bury Saint Edmunds, IP33 1QR
18 th – 19 th Nov	Stahl Theatre 7.45pm West Street, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4EJ
20 th – 21 st Nov	Stantonbury Theatre 7.30pm Stantonbury Theatre, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6BN

22 nd – 23 rd Nov	Cornerstone Arts Centre 7.30pm 25 Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NE
25 th – 26 th Nov	Luton Library Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Tue) Luton Central Library, St George's Square, Luton, LU1 2NG
27 th – 28 th Nov	Bridge House Theatre 7.30pm Warwick School, Myton Road, Warwick, CV34 6PP
29 th – 30 th Nov	Aberystwyth Arts Centre 7.30pm Aberystwyth University, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth SY23 3DE

Spring 2020 dates to be announced.

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 21st century world events.

Recent new commissions include *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* (both 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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