

Kneehigh in association with Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Kneehigh  
ASYLUM

946

Adapted by **Michael Morpurgo** and **Emma Rice**  
from *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*



“ People who understand everything get no stories ”  
Brecht



## Kitten Summer

When I was 12, the same age as Lily in our story, our cat had kittens. Four of them. The mother cat had been a fairly grumpy pet, prone to biting and that rabbit kicking thing that bad cats do, but these kittens, these kittens... my! They were heaven sent! Funny, confident and affectionate; that summer was one of the happiest I can remember. The snuggle of fur and the deep peace of a sleeping feline on your lap. Three were eventually found homes, but one, Polly, stayed with us. She was to the manor born, literally. Queen of the Castle, Top Dog and King Pin all in one. She had an attitude and an intellect that wiped the floor with us mere mortals. We loved her with a passion and she purred at the centre of our world.

Once she went missing and my Mum, usually the voice of reason, took to her bed, distraught. It felt as if the heart had been ripped from us.

Needless to say, she re-appeared 3 days later, drenched, embarrassed, ravenous and defiant.

Polly went on to live to a decent age, but we have now been without her for over 20 years. I miss her still and can picture her in astonishing detail as I write. And it is not just a generic comfort and warmth that I miss. I miss her personality, her swagger and her joyous appetite for life and pleasure. To this day, if we talk about her, my Mum, my sister and I feel the tears begin to bubble.

Such is the power of love for an animal. And this is something that Michael Morpurgo profoundly understands. **946** allows us to remember the intense passions, senses and fears of being a child, and through this deceptively simple lens a global, timeless and political vision appears. This story is so full of heart and wonder that it bursts through the page, through the generations and through the soul. With a lightness of touch that dances on our collective memory, it tells us of innocence and loss, of love and prejudice.

It was my Mum who told me to read *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*. She had been reading it to my nieces and had decided it had everything a **Kneehigh** show needed.

And this time, my Mum was not just the voice of reason, but also the voices of instinct and wisdom. She couldn't have been more right.

I have loved every moment of bringing this story to theatrical life. I have stretched one hand back to touch the hands of my Gran and Grandad who lived through the war but are now long gone. The other reaches firmly forward to be placed in the hands of my **Kneehigh** friends, old and new. Once again they have thrilled and moved me with their generosity, bravery and breathtaking talent. And if only I had another hand, I would rest it now on the soft, warm back of my beloved Polly.

Emma Rice 2015



# Kneehigh

**Kneehigh** are a UK based theatre company with a local, national and international profile. For over 30 years we have created vigorous, popular and challenging theatre, performing with the joyful anarchy that audiences have come to expect.

**We tell stories.** Based in Cornwall in breath-taking barns on the south coast we create theatre of humanity on an epic and tiny scale. We work with an ever-changing ensemble of performers, artists, technicians, administrators, makers and musicians and are passionate about our multi-disciplined creative process.

In 2010 we launched the **Asylum**: a beautiful and flexible nomadic structure which means we now have a venue to call home, as well as being one of the leading touring theatre companies in the UK.

Alongside our national and international touring and **Asylum** seasons, we run the **Kneehigh Rambles** that aims to engage creatively with communities in Cornwall and beyond through event and adventure.

Kneehigh



## For Kneehigh

Chief Executive & Executive Producer	Paul Crewes
Joint Artistic Director	Mike Shepherd
Joint Artistic Director	Emma Rice
General Manager	Charlotte Bond
Assistant Producer	Liz King
Company Stage Manager	Steph Curtis
Finance Officer	Fiona Buxton
Administrator & Development Assistant	Bethany Lyne
Communications Assistant	Dann Carroll
Marketing	Kym Bartlett & Sam McAuley
Production Manager	David Harraway
Associate Director	Simon Harvey
Rambles Lead Artist	Anna Maria Murphy
Photographer	Steve Tanner
Graphic Designer	David Mynne
Film Maker	Brett Harvey

## Kneehigh Board

Alan Livingston (Chair)  
Peter Cox  
Sheila Healy  
Clare Morpurgo  
Daphne Skinnard  
Simon Williams

## Kneehigh Associate Artists

Simon Baker  
Stu Barker  
Carl Grose  
Simon Harvey  
Etta Murfitt  
Anna Maria Murphy  
Malcolm Rippeth  
Steve Tanner  
Ian Ross  
Daryl Waller  
Sarah Wright



# ASYLUM

The **Asylum** is our award-winning, long-awaited, much dreamed about, jaw-dropping, spirit-lifting nomadic theatre space. A place of fun, playfulness and sanctuary, the **Asylum** is a purpose built tent, a home and a 'place predisposed to magic'. With theatre, live music and fine food and drink, the **Asylum** is a great night out.

## Asylum Team

Front of House Manager .....	Jenny Beare
Bar Manager .....	Róbert Lučkay
Box Office Assistant .....	Louis King
Volunteer Co-ordinator .....	Bethany Lyne
FOH Designers .....	Alice King, John Voogd, Mae Voogd
FOH Design Assistants .....	Louis King, Andy Taylor, Morgan Val Baker
Production Manager .....	David Harraway
Technical Stage Manager .....	Aled William Thomas
Electrical Infrastructure Design .....	Mike Gunning
Production Electricians .....	Chris Jordan and Alex Shenton-Parkin
Carpenter .....	Alex Crombie-Rodgers
Asylum Crew .....	Ollie Bailey, Martin Burr, Martin Dunning, Sam Gunning, Michael Hart, Nathan Marshall, Al Shalliker, Paul Tregunna, Jenny Tripp, Andrew Wilson
Security .....	Stout Security
Accommodation .....	Sally and Mike Dyer at House by the Beach
Rambles at the Asylum .....	Anna Maria Murphy, Louis King, Daryl Waller

## Volunteers

Boundless thanks to all our wonderful **Asylum Volunteers**:

Connor Baker	Pam Horton	Tiia Veneranta
Sally Bristow	Robyn Hough	Lynne Walker
Jack Bristow	Sally Kerry	Peter Walker
Meg Chaplin	Anna Pattinson	Georgia Wall
Ariane Cole	Anna Phipps	Zoe Waters
Walter Crocker	Beth Preen	Guy Watson
Benedict Crosby	Carys Martin	Peter Weeks
Connie Crosby	Patrick Martin	Joe Willsher
Rosa Dyer	Ros Martin	Kate Wyver
Sophie Enever	Georgia Murphy	
Bryher Flanders	Amy Kennedy	
Gemma Gale	Anais Seager	
Clea Gibson	Jane Spurr	
Gemma Goodman	Phillip Sundercombe	
Lydia Hansen	Sarah Tiley	
Katie Hawken	Sheila Vanloo	

And our brilliant **Street Team**:

Melody Boyce  
Rossi Fiumefreddo  
Beth Greaves  
Alice Wordsworth



# Heligan

**Kneehigh** have been performing at The Lost Gardens of Heligan ever since their rediscovery. Some of our first productions were *Ship of Fools* (described by Mike Shepherd as 'a fairy tale meets Mexican Day of the Dead'), *Windfall* (which was one of the earlier versions of Gabriel Garcia Márquez's short story that eventually led to our production of *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*), and our *Wild Walks* which saw actors and story-tellers taking the audience on a magical journey through the woods.

Since then we've been back with *Tregeagle*, *Carmen*, *Arabian Nights*, *The Red Shoes*, and lots more. In 2010, we performed *Hansel and Gretel* in a dome tent. The sell-out run was a huge success and was the pre-cursor to our very first **Kneehigh Asylum** season.

We're delighted to return for a second **Asylum** season this year and are indebted to them for twenty years of support and the beautiful surroundings in which we perform.

**Here's to the next twenty years!**

“It's lovely to have the Asylum here once again. We were blown away by last year's performance, *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*. If you didn't see it, it's now touring. Kneehigh continue to go from strength to strength, growing their influence. We would all like to congratulate Mike Shepherd on being awarded the Trelawny Plate and Emma Rice on her appointment at Shakespeare's Globe.

We've been looking forward to welcoming and seeing this year's Kneehigh production **946**.

Enjoy the show and the summer. ”

Best wishes... George and the Heligan team.

photo: James Stephens



# Michael Morpurgo

## How 'The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips' began...

I recall sitting in the pub in Slapton, a few years ago now, having a bite of lunch and a beer, before attending the funeral of a dear friend in the church nearby. I happened to notice some black and white photographs on the wall of the pub, and got up to take a closer look. Every one was similar. In each of them there were American soldiers in World War II uniforms. They were in the village, with local people who were carrying furniture or loading up wagons. I asked at the bar what they were doing in Slapton during the war. The man said I should read the local history book, and that he happened to have them for sale. I bought one. Well, I had to, didn't I? And I am very glad I did.

I read it as soon as I got home. It seems that in 1944, Slapton and 6 other nearby villages had to be evacuated within 6 weeks, everything and everyone moved out, so that the Americans could use the entire area for military purposes. The beach at Slapton and the countryside inland was a perfect exercise ground for them to practise beach landings under fire, in preparation for the liberation of Europe that was to come. The evacuation caused great disruption and upset, but it was done. Everyone had to find somewhere else to live, the children had to be schooled elsewhere, the farm animals dispersed. Churches were bagged up, and valuables removed from the houses.

One little girl, a farmer's daughter, had a cat she adored. This cat disappeared on the morning the family were due to pack up the house and leave. They searched high and low, but in the end were forced to leave without her. The perimeter wire was closed behind them as they left. Of course the little girl was distraught. For ten months the Americans practised their landings, with live firing, to simulate real battle conditions. Shells and bombs exploded all around the villages, in amongst the houses and barns and churches.

There was, during these exercises, a terrible tragedy. During Operation Tiger, a huge landing exercise, US troops were surprised and attacked in their ships by German E Boats out in the Channel. 946 were killed. The tragedy was hushed up, because the losses were so appalling.



Then, on the 6th of June 1944 the invasion proper began, and the Americans went off from Slapton to liberate France. Many died.

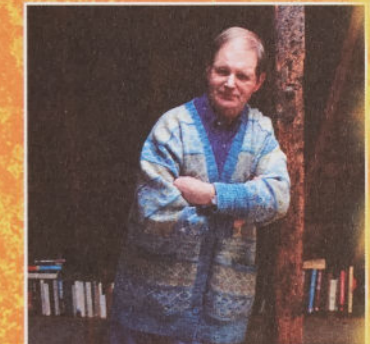
A few months later the villagers were allowed at last to return to their homes, to get on with their lives, and repair the damage. The little girl returned home to the farm with her family, to find it battered and ruined. To her delight and their utter amazement the lost cat came miaowing out of the house. She had survived all the shelling, and kept herself alive, somehow. Her name, I promise you, was Adolphus Tips!

Tell her story, I thought, tell that little girl's story, the story of the villagers and the American troops, how they managed, how they got on together. Imagine how it must have been for the US soldiers, far from home, knowing what lay ahead, what they were exercising for. Imagine what the villagers and farmers felt about these friendly invaders, who spoke and behaved so differently. Imagine what the children must have thought when they saw their first black American soldier.

That I did not have to imagine. I moved to London just after World War II, near Earl's Court, and remember so clearly the first black person I had ever spoken to. He was a very tall American GI. He has stopped me in the street and asked me the way to Piccadilly Circus. I was gobsmacked, couldn't utter a word, just stared and pointed. "That way," I said. He ruffled my hair, called me 'good kid' and went off. He's probably still looking for Piccadilly Circus!

A few months ago, ten years or so after my book was published, I found myself standing on Slapton Sands with Emma Rice and Mike Shepherd, and all the good folk from the wonderful Cornish **Kneehigh**, and our great collaboration began. Now they have made a play, and like the story, it is about war, and loss, and race, and friendship between strangers, and memory and love, about then and now, all done their own inimitable way, the **Kneehigh** way. And I have played a little part in the making of it, which has been a sheer joy and delight.

Michael Morpurgo 2015

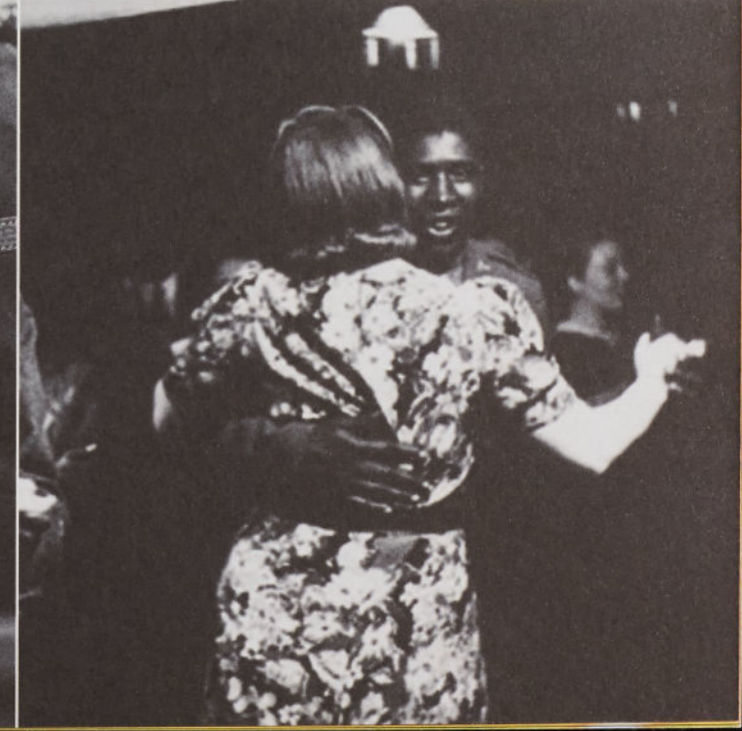




946 rehearsals 2015



Archive images 1939 - 1945





# Sunday Lunch

Inspired by Margaret's story of the day her Father made pasties for the Black GIs

1940's Wadebridge. So there was a sight in this town. GIs.

It has to be said, they were better dancers than the local boys, who stood on the edge of the dance floor like stiff posts.

They weren't shy in coming forward those GIs. They could jitterbug and lindy-hop and jive and sweep a girl off her feet. Not trip you up like St. Issey boys, or step on your toes like St. Kew lads. And they called you 'Ma'am' and 'Sir' and 'Miss' with due respect.

I think they missed their sweet-hearts and home cooking.

And oh, they loved the movies those Americans.

You may not believe this, and I'm ashamed to tell it, but the black GIs were not allowed in the Regal by their Sergeant the same night as the white soldiers.

Rene Polglaze walked out with one of those Black GIs. Reggie Crosby was his name. They cut a dash on a Saturday morning down Molesworth Street it has to be said. He gave her silk stockings and was as handsome as the river on full moon.

When that Sergeant found out, Sergeant Mean-Ass, as we named him, he made sure that Corporal Crosby was on duty every Saturday after that, Rene's only day off.

One Sunday, near Christmas it was, the town were to invite the American visitors to a proper roast in their houses. It was all arranged. Who would go where, what puddings would be made, which china would be put out.

That Sergeant Mean-Ass made sure all those Black GIs went on a manoeuvre up Goss Moor that day - in the bitter cold - and on a Sunday too.

So my Dad invited them for pasties. The whole lot of them. We crimped till our fingers was sore.

Rene made hers for Reggie. Filled with love she said, and tatties.

Mother, she laid our table as if it was royalty who was coming for tea.

When they left the town for ever, Rene went into decline. She never married, but kept those silk stockings and wore them every Saturday till they were nothing but a thread.

Anna Maria Murphy 2013



## Cast & Creative Team

The company play everything from villagers to soldiers, evacuees to chickens; selected highlights are...

Tips the Cat / Harry	Nandi Bhebhe	Grandad / Musician	Giles King
Blues Man	Adebayo Bolaji	Madame Bounine	Patrycja Kujawska
Boowie / Barry	Andrew Durand	Musician	Pat Moran
Adi	Ncuti Gatwa	Lily Tregenza	Katy Owen
Lily's Mum	Kyla Goodey	Musician / Music Director	Ian Ross
Mrs Turner	Craig Johnson	Grandma / Grandpa	Mike Shepherd

### We would like to thank...

George & the whole team at the Lost Gardens of Heligan; Terry Lobb, Ian Lobb & Richard Lobb; Hewaswater Engineering; Mihaela Hedger & Ruth Shepherd for their brilliant Barns support; Rogue Theatre; Mark Seward of Seward Racing, Trethurgy; Steve, Amy & Terry from Skinner's Brewery; Lin Potter at Wrightsure; Dave Cork at PRS; Robin Hunkin & Mevagissey Feast Week for the festoon lighting; Deborah Hinton; Ding & Derek at Event Cuisine; Mike & Sally Dyer at House by the Beach ([housebythebeach.co.uk](http://housebythebeach.co.uk)); Experience Wine; Bosue Vineyard; Helen & everyone at Archie Browns; The Cornish Food Box Company; Watergate Bay Hotel; Peran Odgers; Lee Coverley at CCS Consulting Ltd.; Dan, Ross & the team at Lite Structures; Izzy & the team at The Dome Company ([thedomecompany.co.uk](http://thedomecompany.co.uk)); Alice King, Mae Voogd & Louis King; Jane Feaver, Audrey Brisson & Tristan Sturrock; Maureen Rice (Emma's mum).

### Creative Team

Adapters	Emma Rice & Michael Morpurgo
Director	Emma Rice
Composer	Stu Barker
Designer	Lez Brotherston
Lighting Designer	Malcolm Rippeth
Sound Designer	Simon Baker
Associate Director	Simon Harvey
Music Director	Ian Ross
Associate Sound Designer	Jay Jones
Choreographers	Emma Rice & Etta Murfitt
Puppet Consultant	Sarah Wright

Producer ..... Paul Crewes

Production Manager	David Harraway
Company Stage Manager	Steph Curtis
Technical Stage Manager	Aled William Thomas
Deputy Stage Manager	Kate Foster
Assistant Stage Manager	Molly Crewes
Sound & Production LX	Alex Shenton-Parkin
Lighting Programmer	Jenny Kershaw
Costume Supervisor	Ed Parry

Prop Buyer	Liz Vass
Puppet Makers	Lyndie & Sarah Wright
Set Construction	Birmingham Rep
Casting	Sam Jones CDG
Marketing	Kym Bartlett
PR	Philippa Perry
Illustration	Daryl Waller



# Biographies (with their pets)

## Nandi Bhebhe Tips the Cat / Harry



Nandi Bhebhe trained at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and gained a first-class degree in Performing Arts, Dance. Since completing her training, Nandi's professional work includes 5,6,7,8 at the Royal Court Theatre, *Fela!* (Bill T. Jones) at the National Theatre, international tour and on Broadway, *A Season in the Congo* (Sidi Larbi / Joe Wright) at the Young Vic Theatre, *Last night at the Caledonia* (LookLeftLookRight) at the Oval Space, London and most recently *Whiteout* with Barrowland Ballet Dance Company. Nandi is also member of Vocab Dance Company (Alessandra Suetin) and has been a part of the company's work since 2009. This will be Nandi's first project with Kneehigh and she is more than excited to be joining the team this summer.

## Adebayo Bolaji Blues Man



Adebayo Bolaji trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama and is the artistic director of Ex Nihilo Theatre Group, through which he recently wrote, directed and featured in the play *In Bed* (London Theatre Workshop). He is currently developing Jacky Ivimy's play *Dialektikon* based on the 1967 event Dialectics of Liberation (see [exnihilotheatre.com](http://exnihilotheatre.com)). Recent theatre credits include: both original London casts of *The Scottsboro Boys* (Young Vic, Susan Stroman), *The Color Purple* (Menier Chocolate Factory, John Doyle). Original cast of *Ghost* (Piccadilly Theatre, West End, Matthew Warchus), *The Sirens of Titan* (London Bubble, Jonathan Petherbridge), *Drive Ride Walk* (Lilian Baylis, Sabina Netherclift). Recent film and TV credits: *Cucumber* (C4, Russell T. Davies, Alice Troughton) *One Child* (BBC2 three part drama, John Alexander), *Skyfall* (Sam Mendes), *The White King* (Jörg Tittel & Alex Helfrecht).

## Andrew Durand Boowie / Barry



Andrew is thrilled to be back at it again in a field, under a tent with his most favorite humans and artists he has ever had the pleasure of knowing! Previously seen as Filch in the latest Kneehigh concoction *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*. Other Kneehigh productions include: Tristan in *Tristan & Yseult*, The Devil in *The Wild Bride*. West End: Guy in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* Dir. Emma Rice. Broadway: Albert Narracot in *War Horse*, Georg in *Spring Awakening*. TV: Guest Star on *Madam Secretary* CBS. Off Broadway: *Love's Labour's Lost* with The Public's Shakespeare in the Park, *The Burnt Part Boys* with Playwrights Horizons, *School of Rock* produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

## Ncuti Gatwa Adi

Ncuti has recently finished in the West End's *Shakespeare in Love*. He trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Whilst training his credits included *Three Sisters* and *Twelfth Night*. He spent a year at the Dundee Rep Theatre where his credits included *Victoria*, *Hecuba*, *The BFG*, *And Then There Were None*, *Cars* and *Boys and Woman in Mind*.



## Kyla Goodey Lily's Mum

Kyla is an actor, director, writer and choreographer based in Cornwall. She trained at Desmond Jones School of Mime and Physical Theatre and has performed with Miracle, Cube, Red Ladder, Pipeline, Hoodwink, Hall for Cornwall, The Drum Plymouth and WildWorks. She has directed and choreographed for both Cube and Miracle Theatre. She is creative director of Trifle Gathering Productions - writing, directing and performing in *Charity Shop Cabaret* and *A Curious Evening of Trance and Rap with the Ogden Sisters*. This will be her third show with Kneehigh Theatre, her first show was *Don Quixote* at the ripe old age of 18.



## Craig Johnson Mrs. Turner / Lord Somethingorother

Craig has been an actor with Kneehigh for the last 15 years, performing in major national and international tours such as *Tristan & Yseult*, *Cymbeline*, *Don John*, *A Matter Of Life And Death* and *The Bacchae*, as well as small-scale village hall shows, including directing and acting in *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth*. Craig also recently appeared in *Alaska* (Blackfish Theatre), *One Darke Night* (o-region) and the Cornish feature film *Tin* (Dir. Bill Scott). Craig has also created and directed several theatre performances for The Eden Project, Cornwall. As a solo artist Craig performs under the name Squashbox Theatre, creating marvellous, quirky and inventive shows that incorporate puppetry, storytelling, natural history, live music and comedy, touring all over the UK.



## Giles King Grandad / Musician

Giles has worked with Kneehigh since 1987 and has done lots of national and international touring. Whilst *Tristan & Yseult* has been in the USA, he has been in Cornwall performing *Mrs Fitch* with Miracle Theatre and producing/performing *Alaska* with his company Blackfish Theatre. Giles has appeared as Stremov in *Anna Karenina* (Working Title films, Dir. Joe Wright); Lady Lydia in *The Red Shoes* (Kneehigh, Dir. Emma Rice); *Hansel and Gretel* (Kneehigh, Dir. Mike Shepherd); Frocin in *Tristan & Yseult* (Kneehigh, Dir. Emma Rice); and *My Cousin Rachael* and *The King of Prussia* (BBC Radio 4, Dir. Clare Grove). This year he is pleased to be on the team creating Kneehigh's latest show *946*. Then in the autumn the national tour of *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*. See you after the show!



## Patrycja Kujawska Madame Bounine

Patrycja studied violin at the Academy of Music in Poland. Before moving to UK she worked extensively with





physical theatre company Dada von Bzdulow and City Theatre in Gdynia. She also danced in shows choreographed by Tatiana Baganova and Avi Kaiser. Patrycja wrote music for dance solo *Face*, a short animated film and soundtrack for the Sculptures, and co-composed music for Vincent Dance Theatre's *Test Run* and *Motherland*. From 2008 she has worked with Kneehigh. Shows include *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, *Tristan & Yseult* (UK and US Tours), *Don John* (co-production with RSC), *Midnight's Pumpkin*, *The Red Shoes*, and *The Wild Bride* which toured the USA (New York, San Francisco), Australia and New Zealand. For Vincent Dance Theatre Patrycja has made and toured *Drop Dead Gorgeous* (2001), *Let The Mountains Lead You To Love* (2003), *Punch Drunk* (2004), *Broken Chords* (2005), *Fairy Tale* (2006), *Test Run* (2006, 2008), *If We Go On* (2009), *Motherland* (2012) and *Underworld* (2015).

**Pat Moran Musician**



Pat toured the USA with Kneehigh's *Tristan & Yseult* from 2013-2015 and will be seen this winter in the upcoming *Sleeping Beauty* at the Bristol Old Vic. He has composed original music and lyrics for over a dozen professional theatre productions and served as resident composer/lyricist/music director/multi-instrumentalist for the San Francisco Mime Troupe from 2007– 2013. Pat received an MFA Performer Composer degree from the California Institute for the Arts and a BFA in Philosophy with a Concentration in Ethics and Public Policy from Clark University.

**Katy Owen Lily Tregenza**



Katy trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Theatre includes: *The Moon Dragon & The Wounded Angel* (Theatr Gwent), *The Drowned World* (F.A.B Theatre), *Cinders* (Sherman Cymru), *The Tempest* (Theatr Iolo), *Plum (And Me, Will)* (Sherman Cymru), *The Little Matchgirl* (Theatr Iolo), *Maudie in Maudie's Rooms* (Sherman Theatre), *Apparitions of Spirits with the Forsythe Sisters* (Gaggle Babble), *The World of Work* (Difficult Stage at Chapter Arts Centre), *Rebecca* (David Pugh/Kneehigh) and *946* (Kneehigh). Television includes: *The Story of Tracy Beaker* (BBC), *Casualty* (BBC) and *Caerydd* (Fiction Factory). Film includes: *Daddy's Girl* (Daddy's Girl Ltd). Radio includes: *Shopping For Happiness* (BBC), *What We Did On Holiday* (BBC), *A Certain Date* (BBC) and *The Devil's Violin* (BBC).

**Ian Ross Musician / Music Director**



Ian is a Bristol based multi-instrumentalist. He leads the band Eleven Magpies. Theatre (as composer): *Hansel and Gretel* (Kneehigh); *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (Kneehigh and The Little Angel); *Frankenspine*, *Mayday Mayday*, *Orpheus and the Furies*, *The Table of Delights* (Damfino); *When the Shops Shut* (Cscape) and *Universe Rama* (Squashbox). Theatre (as musician): *Orpheus and the Furies*, *The Table of Delights* (Damfino) *Brief Encounter*, *Don John*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Red Shoes*, *The King of Prussia*, *Midnight's Pumpkin*, *The Wild Bride*, *Tristan and Yseult*, *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)* (Kneehigh); *Alaska* (Blackfish); *Peter Pan* (Bristol Old Vic) and *101 Dalmatians* (Tobacco Factory). Theatre (As Musical Director): *Brief Encounter* Australia



2013 and *Tristan and Yseult* USA 2013-14, *Rebecca* (Kneehigh). Film (as composer): *Weekend Retreat* (o-region).

**Mike Shepherd Grandma / Grandpa**

Mike is an actor, director and teacher. He started Kneehigh in 1980 and has worked almost exclusively for the company ever since. Mike is currently Joint Artistic Director with Emma Rice and most recently directed Kneehigh's new version of the Beggar's Opera – *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, which will be touring Autumn 2015. Mike also runs the Rambles programme with Anna Maria Murphy and is a pioneer of Kneehigh's transportable venue, the Asylum. Recent shows include – *Tristan and Yseult*, *Steptoe and Son*, *Midnight's Pumpkin*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings*, *The Red Shoes*, *The Bacchae*, *Cymbeline*, *The Wooden Frock*, *A Matter of Life and Death* and *Don John*. Motion pictures – *Anna Karenina* and *Pan* (released autumn 2015). Mike was recently awarded the prestigious Trelawny Plate.



**Lez Brotherston Set and Costume Designer**

Lez trained at Central School of Art and Design and is an associate artist of Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. Credits for New Adventures include *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *The Car Man*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Dorian Gray* and *Play Without Words*. He has designed for the National Theatre, Royal Ballet, Scottish Ballet, The Royal Court, Glyndebourne, Northern Ballet and various theatres in the West End. Previous collaborations with Emma Rice are *Umbrellas of Cherbourg* and *The Empress* for the RSC.



**Simon Baker Sound Designer**

Simon is an Associate Artist of Kneehigh. Most recent credits include, *Matilda The Musical* (London, Broadway, US and Australian Tours – 2012 Oliver Award for Best Sound), *High Society* (Old Vic London), *Rebecca* (UK Tour), *Anything Goes* (Sheffield & UK Tour), *Electra* (Old Vic), *An Audience with Meow Meow* (Berkeley Rep), *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward Theatre), *The Roaring Girl* (RSC), *Mojo* (Harold Pinter Theatre) *The Light Princess* (National Theatre), *Josephine and I* (Bush Theatre), *The Amen Corner* (National Theatre). For Kneehigh, work includes *Steptoe and Son* (UK Tours), *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (London), *Brief Encounter* (Worldwide – 2011 Tony Nomination for Best Sound), *Don John* (RSC and International Tour), *The Red Shoes* (International Tour), *Wild Bride* (International Tour). Simon is an Associate Artist of The Old Vic – London and a fellow of the Guildhall School Of Music & Drama.



**Stu Barker Composer**

Has worked extensively as Composer/Musical Director with Kneehigh over the last twenty years. Shows as Composer/MD include; *A Matter Of Life And Death*, *Tristan & Yseult* (Royal National Theatre), *Brief Encounter* (Broadway/West End), *Cymbeline*, *Don John* (RSC), *Hansel & Gretel* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Bacchae*, *The Wooden Frock* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Nights At The Circus*, *The Red Shoes* (Lyric



Hammersmith), *The Wild Bride*, *Rapunzel*, *Midnight Pumpkin* (BAC) and *Pandora's Box* (Northern Stage) Other Composer/MD work includes; Shakespeare's Globe, Bristol Old Vic, Donmar Warehouse, Welfare State International, Contact Theatre, Liverpool Lantern Company, Travelling Light and Horse And Bamboo. Recently Stu has been touring as trombonist with C. W Stoneking & His Primitive Horn Orchestra. This is Stu's 23rd show for Kneehigh.

#### **Paul Crewes** Producer

Paul is Chief Executive and Executive Producer of Kneehigh. He is also a Trustee of Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse. Prior to Kneehigh, Paul worked as Producer at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, where he set up numerous productions including collaborations with Kneehigh, Improbable Theatre, Teatre Romea, National Theatre and West End transfers. Other work includes producing UK tour of *Doorman* for his own company in 2005, Associate Producer for the Lowry, Producer for Phoenix Dance and working for *Metal* with Jude Kelly. For Kneehigh Paul has produced the following: *Tristan & Yseult*, *Cymbeline*, *Rapunzel*, *Don John*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Brief Encounter*, the launch of the Kneehigh Asylum in 2010, *The Red Shoes*, *Blast!*, *The King of Prussia*, *Midnight's Pumpkin*, *The Wild Bride*, *Steptoe and Son* and *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, which have toured the UK and internationally to America, Australia, Brazil, Columbia and New Zealand.

#### **Simon Harvey** Associate Director

Simon is a director and performer based in Truro, Cornwall.

Simon is an Associate Director and Artist of Kneehigh. His work includes *Steptoe and Son*, *The Wild Bride*, *The Red Shoes*, *Hansel & Gretel*, *Brief Encounter* and *Cymbeline*. In 2014 Simon directed the large scale production *Noyes Fludde* (Kneehigh in collaboration with Orchestival) featuring a cast of over five hundred people. He is the Artistic Director of o-region for whom he directed *Laughing Gas* (Darke, Grose) *One Darke Night* and *The Dead Monkey* (Nick Darke) and *Stay Brave Brian Gravy* (Carl Grose). He also produced and performed in *SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN* by Carl Grose. His work in film includes producing the feature films *The Midnight Drives* (Mark Jenkin) and *Weekend Retreat* (2011, Brett Harvey).

Simon has recently produced and acted in a new feature film *Brown Willy* which will be released in 2015. Other directing credits include *If the Shoe Fits* for Cscape; *Orpheus* for Theatre Damfino; *Oh Mary* for Bec Applebee; *Christmas Time* for Near Ta Theatre; *Above Bored* for Owdyado Theatre; *Alaska* for Blackfish Theatre; *Great Expectations* and *Dracula* for Rabbit Theatre; *Gargantua* for HFC Youth Theatre.

#### **Jay Jones** Associate Sound Designer

Jay graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2012 with a BA (Hons) in Technical Theatre. As Number One Sound Operator, most recent credits include: *High Society* (The Old Vic London), *Shakespeare in Love* (Noël Coward Theatre), For Kneehigh: *Brief Encounter* (USA & Australian Tour), *Tristan and Yseult* (UK Tour), *The Wild Bride* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre CA, & St Ann's Warehouse NYC). Other theatre credits include, *Wah! Wah! Girls* (Theatre Royal Stratford East & Hall For Cornwall), *Aladdin* (Theatre at the o2), *Goodnight Mr Tom* (Phoenix Theatre), *Rock of Ages* (Shaftesbury Theatre), *Leisure*



*Society* (Trafalgar Studios), *Crazy For You* (Regents Park Open Air Theatre). Sound Design work includes: *Long Story Short* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Ushers the Musical* (Charing Cross Theatre), *Broken News* (New Wimbledon Studio), *A Festival Guide* (Dalston Roof Garden), *Lysistrata* (Albany Theatre).

#### **Sam Jones** CDG / Casting

Previously Head of Casting for the RSC, Sam has cast the first five seasons for the highly acclaimed National Theatre Wales.

Previous work for Kneehigh includes *Nights at the Circus*, *Brief Encounter*, *The Wild Bride*, *Midnight's Pumpkin* and *Wah! Wah! Girls*. Her other theatre credits include work for Peter Hall, Stephen Berkoff, Shared Experience, Told By An Idiot, The Young Vic, Hampstead Theatre, The Almeida Theatre, The Royal Court, Sheffield Crucible and West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Her West End work includes *Another Country*, *Journey's End*, *Dinner*, *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, *Up for Grabs!*, *After Mrs Rochester*, *The Children's Hour*, *Betrayal*, *Old Time*, *Mojo* and *Electra*. Her television works include *Prisoner's Wives* (BBC), *Trial and Retribution*, *The Commander*, *Above Suspicion* (La Plante/ITV), The BAFTA award-winning *Occupation* and *Lennon Naked*, *The Hollow Crown II*, *Under Milk Wood* (BBC), BAFTA award-winning *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jeffries*, *Love & Marriage*, *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, *Beowulf*, *Dark Angel*, *Dr Thorne* (ITV). Recent film work includes *Resistance*, *The Gospel of Us*, *Paradise* (Omeros), *Jadoo*, *Another Me*, *One Crazy Thing*, *Father* and *A Royal Night Out*.

#### **Michael Morpurgo** Author of *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips* and Adapter of 946

Michael Morpurgo, OBE, is the former Children's Laureate and best-selling author of over 130 books for children, including *Private Peaceful*, *The Butterfly Lion*, *Kensuke's Kingdom* and *War Horse*, which first performed at the National Theatre in 2007. It continues to be performed at the New London Theatre to packed theatres. *War Horse* was released as a film directed by Steven Spielberg in January 2012. In 1976, Michael and his wife, Clare, started the charity Farms for City Children. The charity runs three farms around the country, in Gloucestershire, Pembrokeshire and North Devon. Each farm offers children and teachers from urban primary schools the chance to live and work in the countryside for a week, and gain hands-on experience. Michael's latest novel is *An Eagle in the Snow*, published in Autumn 2015 by Harper Collins. [www.michaelmorpurgo.com](http://www.michaelmorpurgo.com)

#### **Etta Murfitt** Choreographer

Etta is an Associate Artist for Kneehigh. Her work for the company includes *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)* (Choreographer and Assistant Director, Kneehigh UK tour, directed by Mike Shepherd); *The Wild Bride*, *Midnight's Pumpkin*, *Steptoe & Son*, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Gielgud Theatre, West End) all directed by Emma Rice. Etta is also the Associate Artistic Director of Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and Re: Bourne - the education strand of the company. She has performed in all his major works as a principal dancer. Work includes *Nutcracker!*, *Cinderella*, *Car Man* and most recently, *Edward Scissorhands*. Etta stages all New Adventures repertory and collaborates creatively on all Matthew's new



work. Other choreography includes: *The Invisible* (directed by Michael Oakley Bush theatre); *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (directed by Trevor Nunn, Chichester Festival Theatre); *A Chorus of Disapproval* (directed by Trevor Nunn, Harold Pinter Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* (directed by Sarah Esdaile, Birmingham Rep) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Dawn French (directed by Matthew Francis, Albery Theatre).

#### Emma Rice Director & Adapter



Emma Rice is the Joint Artistic Director of Kneehigh Theatre. Productions for Kneehigh include: *The Red Shoes*, *The Wooden Frock*, *The Bacchae*, *Tristan & Yseult*, *Cymbeline* (in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company), *A Matter of Life and Death* (Royal National Theatre in association with Kneehigh), *Rapunzel* (in association with Battersea Arts Centre), *Brief Encounter* (a David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers Production in association with Kneehigh); *Don John* (in association with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Bristol Old Vic); *Midnight's Pumpkin*, *The Wild Bride*, *Wah! Wah! Girls* (with Sadler's Wells, Theatre Royal Stratford East for World Stages) and *Steptoe and Son*. Emma's other work includes the West End production of *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, *Oedipussy* for Spymonkey, *The Empress* for the RSC and *Meow Meow* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Most recently Emma has adapted and directed *Rebecca* (a David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers Production in association with Kneehigh) which is currently on tour across the UK.

#### Malcolm Rippeth Lighting Designer



Malcolm is an Associate Artist of Kneehigh. Productions including *Brief Encounter*, *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, *The Wild Bride*, *The Red Shoes*, *Nights at the Circus*, and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. His other work includes *The Empress* (RSC); *The Dead* (Abbey Theatre Dublin); *Spur of the Moment* (Royal Court); *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (West End); *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (Chichester); *The Promise* (Donmar Trafalgar); *West Side Story* (Sage Gateshead); *Decade* (Headlong); *The Threepenny Opera* (Graeae); *The Birthday Party* (Manchester Royal Exchange); *After Electra* (Plymouth); *HMS Pinafore* (Guthrie Theater Minneapolis); *Designer Body* (balletLORENT); *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Buxton Festival); *Seven Deadly Sins* (Welsh National Opera) and *The Coronation of Poppea* (Opera North). His lighting design for *Brief Encounter* was awarded the whatsonstage.com Theatregoer's Choice Award in London, an OBIE in New York and was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award on Broadway.

#### Sarah Wright Puppet Consultant and Maker

Associate Artist of Kneehigh and Artistic Director of Curious School of Puppetry. Sarah trained from a young age at the Little Angel Theatre and has worked extensively within physical and puppet theatre ever since. Recent shows: *Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Wild Bride* (Kneehigh); *A Season in the Congo* (Young Vic); *The Empress*, *The Tempest*, *Venus and Adonis* (RSC); *Sleeping Beauty* (Matthew Bourne's New Adventures); *Silent Tide and Curious Ganz* (Silent Tide). She has also worked with Silo Theatre, Faulty Optic, Invisible Thread and Improbable.



We want to be a beacon of pleasure, welcoming people from all walks of life to be listened to, excited and delighted. We are a registered charity, and we want to work with you to make even braver work, and to share it with more people!

You can help us do this by joining the **Kneehigh Friends**. For just £2.50 a month you can unlock a treasure trove of **Kneehigh** treats! From access to our exclusive Member's Area, your name in our programmes, or a cream tea with our Artistic Directors, there will be a level to suit you. You can join up at the **Asylum** merchandise stand, on our website or by calling 01872 267910. For more information contact Bethany at friends@kneehigh.co.uk

## Friends

We would like to thank all of our generous donors, especially treasured members of the **Kneehigh Family**:

Angela Bissett  
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Jon & NoraLee Sedmak  
Hayley Taylor  
David Trenberth  
John Wood

#### And our brilliant Champions:

Val Barnecutt  
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Richard Toombs  
Andy Ward



# Rambles

**Rambles** aims to engage creatively with communities in Cornwall and further afield through event and adventure. We believe that theatre has the power to transform; that it can help us to imagine, console, inspire and entertain. **Rambles** continues our proud tradition of working with communities and providing greater access to the arts: whether it's Anna Maria Murphy walking the *Roads Less Travelled* and collecting stories, **Kneehigh** artists providing workshops, or community groups attending a performance at the **Asylum**.

Since **Rambles** began in 2010:

1247 people have attended a Workshop or Tea Party run by **Kneehigh** artists.

2233 people have received a free or subsidised ticket to a **Kneehigh** show.

4790 people have seen a performance of the **Rambles** show.

*"They all absolutely loved it! This is self-help group for people with mental health issues, and most had not seen a Kneehigh show before and weren't sure what to expect. It was delightful to witness their unanimous response to the entire experience"*

St Just Swings & Roundabouts

*"The production was truly unique and magical. The group members commented on how brilliant the performance was and were very happy to have the opportunity to attend which they wouldn't normally have. One group member stated that it was great to have a night away from thinking about his current situation"*

Coastline Homeless Service

**Kneehigh Rambles** is supported by: Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Tanner Trust, Albert Van den Bergh Charitable Trust, FEAST, members of the **Kneehigh** Family and supporters of the Community Tickets Crowdfunder.

Find out more about future Rambling at [www.kneehigh.co.uk](http://www.kneehigh.co.uk)



# Birmingham Repertory Theatre

**Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company** is one of Britain's leading producing theatre companies. Founded in 1913 by Sir Barry Jackson, Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company rapidly became one of the most famous and exciting theatre companies in the country launching the careers of an array of many great British actors including Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Edith Evans, Paul Scofield, Derek Jacobi, Elizabeth Spriggs, Albert Finney and many more. In 2013 the company celebrated its centenary.

The theatre's programme includes many premieres from new versions of the classics to contemporary writing. The commissioning and production of new work lies at the core of The REP's programme and over the last 15 years the company has produced more than 130 new plays.

Many of the REP's productions go on to have lives beyond Birmingham, transferring to the West End and touring nationally and internationally. Recent transfers and tours include *Rudy's Rare Records* (Hackney Empire), *Khandan (Family)* (Royal Court), *Twelve Angry Men* (West End), Philip Pullman's *I Was A Rat!* (National Tour) and Kate Tempest's *Hopelessly Devoted* (National Tour).

The REP's long-running production of *The Snowman* recently celebrated its 21st anniversary. This year it has become a must-see fixture in London's West End calendar, playing to packed houses at the Peacock Theatre every Christmas for a record-breaking 17 years. *The Snowman* also tours regularly across the UK and to theatres in Holland, Korea, Japan and Finland.

The REP re-opened in Autumn 2013 following a two-and-a-half year refurbishment alongside the new Library of Birmingham. The refurbishment of the theatre includes a new 300-seat studio theatre, as well as the restoration of its original façade, plus much improved public and backstage facilities.

Artistic Director **Roxana Silbert**  
Executive Director **Stuart Rogers**  
Box Office **0121 236 4455**  
Administration **0121 245 2000**  
[birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)



# Berkeley Repertory Theatre

**Berkeley Repertory Theatre** has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. In four decades, four million people have enjoyed nearly 400 shows at Berkeley Rep. These shows have gone on to win five Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, and many other honours. In recognition of its place on the national stage, Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. Its bustling facilities – which include the 400-seat Thrust Stage, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, the Osher Studio, and a spacious new campus in West Berkeley, California – are helping revitalise a renowned city.

Berkeley Rep has been thrilled to introduce San Francisco Bay Area audiences to extraordinary artists at **Kneehigh** too, first with the *The Wild Bride* (2011, encore 2013) followed by *Tristan & Yseult* (2013), both of which enjoyed critical acclaim and extended runs.

Artistic Director **Tony Taccone**  
Managing Director **Susan Medak**  
[berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)





# Dead Dog in a Suitcase

(AND OTHER LOVE SONGS)

Following the success of last year's **Asylum**, **Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)** is off on tour this autumn; fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be one hell of a time!

Based on the Beggar's Opera, John Gay's classic musical satire, **Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs)** is bustling with wit, wonder and weirdness. An extraordinary cast of actor musicians shoot, hoot and shimmy their way through this twisted morality tale of our times, with many of the original cast returning to reprise their roles... by turns SHOCKING, HILARIOUS, HEARTFELT and ABSURD! Echoing Gay's original, the live score plunders the sounds of our times. Trip hop combines with folk, Renaissance polyphony with psychedelia, ska with grime and dubstep to create a gorgeous and powerful musical mix.

HOME, Manchester ..... 11 – 26 Sept  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre ..... 29 Sept – 03 Oct  
 Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham ..... 13 – 17 Oct  
 Northern Stage, Newcastle ..... 20 – 24 Oct  
 Warwick Arts Centre ..... 27 – 31 Oct  
 West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds ..... 03 – 07 Nov  
 Liverpool Everyman ..... 10 – 14 Nov  
 Shoreditch Town Hall ..... 02 – 12 Dec

“A RIOT... WOULD I GO AND SEE  
 THIS AGAIN? LIKE A SHOT.”

★★★★ THE TIMES



## DAPHNE DU MAURIER'S **REBECCA**

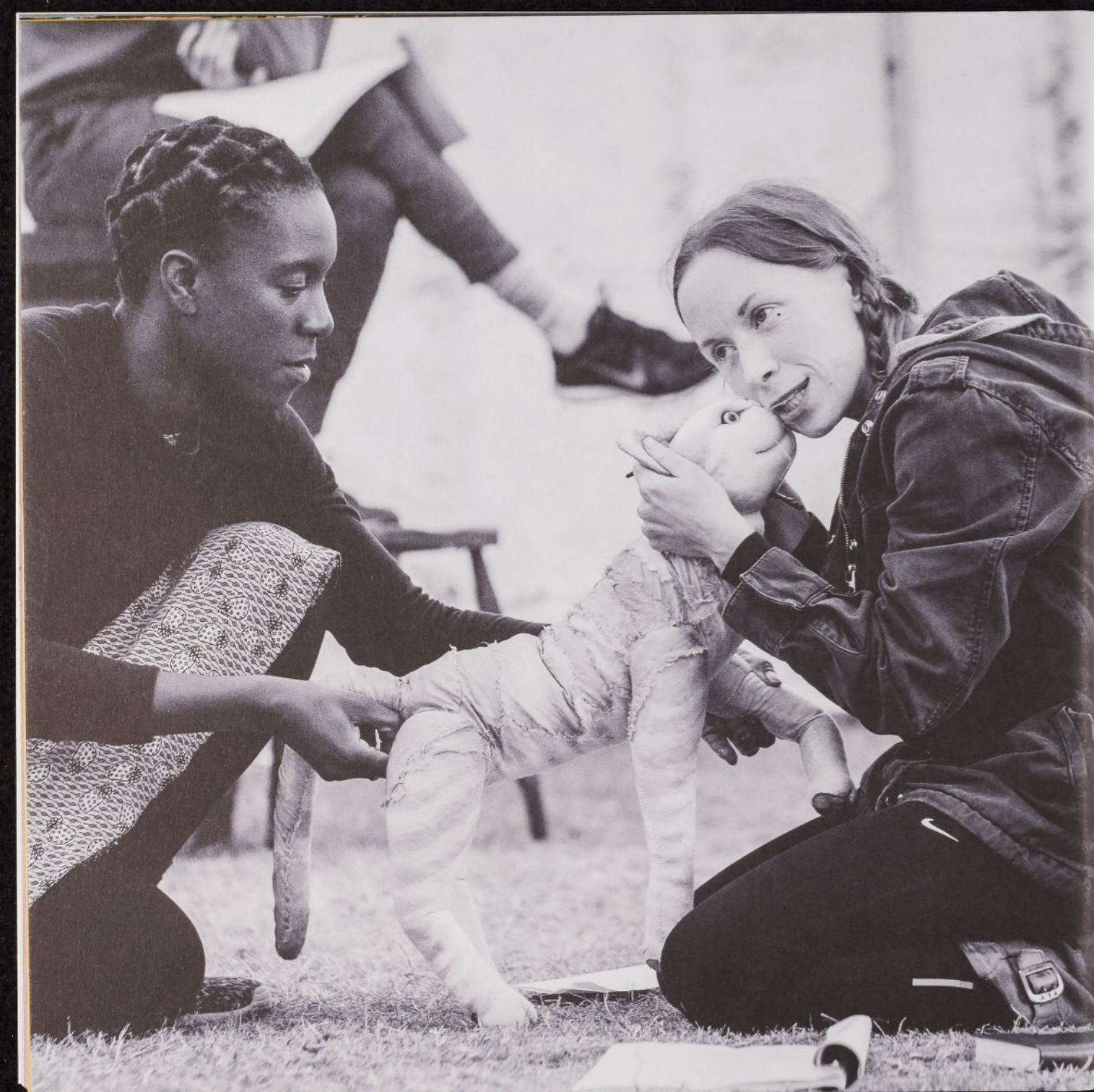
Directed and adapted by EMMA RICE

**REBECCA** is timeless; the book beloved by generations and the iconic Alfred Hitchcock film, a classic of the genre.

Following the mysterious death of his first wife, Maxim de Winter returns to Manderley with his new young bride. Surrounded by memories of the glamorous Rebecca, the new Mrs De Winter is consumed by jealousy. She sets out to uncover the secrets of the house and a past fiercely guarded by the sinister housekeeper Mrs Danvers. All is not what it seems in Manderley...

Rebecca is produced and presented by David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers, the multi-award winning producers of Art, Brief Encounter, God of Carnage and Calendar Girls, in association with Steve & Jenny Wiener.

Hall For Cornwall, Truro ..... 9 – 19 Sept	His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen ..... 26 – 31 Oct
Norwich Theatre Royal ..... 21 – 26 Sept	King's Theatre, Glasgow ..... 2 – 7 Nov
Brighton Theatre Royal ..... 28 Sept – 3 Oct	Royal & Derngate, Northampton ..... 9 – 14 Nov
Alhambra, Bradford ..... 5 – 10 Oct	Oxford Playhouse ..... 16 – 21 Nov
Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford ..... 12 – 17 Oct	Sheffield Lyceum ..... 23 – 28 Nov
King's Theatre, Edinburgh ..... 19 – 24 Oct	The Mayflower, Southampton ..... 30 Nov – 5 Dec



**Kneehigh**

15 Walsingham Place, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2RP, UK

[www.kneehigh.co.uk](http://www.kneehigh.co.uk)

01872 267910 [office@kneehigh.co.uk](mailto:office@kneehigh.co.uk)

Twitter: @WeAreKneehigh

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photos: Steve Tanner / drawings: Daryl Waller / design: David Myrnie



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