

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTATION SERIES

The Kneehigh production of

Brief Encounter

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Dear Friend.



Brief Encounter, by Kneehigh, the award-winning theatre company from Cornwall, England, is a masterpiece of mood and tone. Adapted from David Lean's iconic

Noël Coward's 1936 play, *Still Life*, the piece switches seamlessly between live theatre and projected film footage, between the cinematic experience of the silver screen and Coward at his most swooningly romantic. It is staged in an immersive fashion unlike anything you have experienced before. It is simply a heart-stoppingly unique and unforgettable piece of theatre, and I am delighted to be bringing it to our audiences.

The internationally acclaimed production stars Hannah Yelland, nominated for a Tony Award when the show was on Broadway in 2010. STC subscribers will recognize her as Hermione in last season's beautiful production of *The Winter's Tale*, directed by Rebecca Taichman. Several members of the original *Brief Encounter* cast reunite with Hannah, and on behalf of the Shakespeare Theatre Company, I am thrilled to welcome them, as well as Emma Rice, the original adaptor and director of the piece.

This production is the third and final installment of our STC Presentation Series, which brings bold, thought-provoking works from around the world to our stages in Washington. If you haven't had enough Coward – and who could ever say that? – don't miss the end of our subscription season. From May 29 to July 13, Maria Aitken's production of *Private Lives* – his most fast-talking and manners-breaking comedy – showcases Coward's wit as well as his romanticism. As always, we hope to share these stories with you in our theatres, and I hope to see you there.

Thank you as always for your patronage, and I look forward to seeing you at the theatre.

Warm regards,

Michael Kalin

Michael Kahn Artistic Director Shakespeare Theatre Company

Cover Photo of the U.S. tour of *Brief Encounter* by Jim Cox.

Director's Note



I love Romance.
I also love folk tales.

Brief Encounter has surprisingly embraced both these passions. In Still Life, later to become Brief Encounter, Noël Coward wrote a play about an affair. Not a sordid affair but a love affair between two married people. An impossible affair, a painful affair, an unacceptable affair. It is written with such empathy, such observation, and such tender agony. This man knew what he was writing about. Imagine being gay in the 1930s and you begin to understand Brief Encounter. Imagine the impossibility of expressing the most fundamental of human needs and emotions. Imagine the enforced shame, lies and deceit. Imagine the frustration, imagine the loss and imagine the anger.

Photo by Steve Tanner.

Each of these emotions is delicately and Britishly traced through the meetings of our lovers. They experience a micro marriage, a relationship from beginning to end in a few short hours—and how many of us cannot relate to this careful and painful liaison? Not many, I'm sure. Can many of us go through a lifetime without meeting someone and feeling a spark of recognition that we shouldn't, an attraction that goes beyond the physical? And what a terrible world it would be if our emotions and spirits and psyches were amputated at the altar.

And here is where real life ends and folk tales begin.

In the language of stories, we are able to examine the bargains that human beings make. We see how we bargain our own needs, the needs of the self, for various reasons. These reasons will be familiar to us all: the fear of being alone or of being excluded from 'normal' life. In the language of folk stories the price of this bargain is often physical. A part of the body is chopped off—a hand (*The Handless Maiden*) or feet (*The Red Shoes*). We literally cut a part of ourselves off in order to conform or to be accepted. In *Brief Encounter*, both our lovers have chopped off part of themselves. It is delicately referred to, but Laura talks of swimming wild and free and of playing the piano. Both of these are forms of personal expression—not pleasing anyone but exploring the deep waters of the soul. Alec turns into a child when he talks of his passions, and fears that Laura will be bored. These are people trapped by the bargains that they have freely made—they have bargained their inner lives for stability, family and love. Oh yes, love. I don't for a moment believe that their marriages are all bad or that they are in any way victims. Presumably, their respective partners are as trapped by their own bargains and by the rules of society itself. None of us are victims, but we can review the bargains we make and escape in a profound way.

I have been reading many Selkie stories whilst making this piece. In these stories, a fisherman falls in love with a Selkie – or Seal Woman – whom he sees dancing on the rocks having slipped out of her sealskin. She too, falls for him. He takes her home and hides her skin. He cares for her and she for him; they have children and live a life of contentment. One day, she finds her old skin in a cupboard. She washes and dresses the children, kisses them goodbye, puts on her sealskin and dives back into the sea.



Photo of Hannah Yelland as Laura and Jim Sturgeon as Alec in the U.S. tour of *Brief Encounter* by Jim Cox.

She never returns but sometimes the children will see a beautiful seal swimming far out at sea. No matter how much we try to repress our feelings or how much we wish to conform, our true self will always emerge. There can be no happily ever after until this true self, or nature, has been accepted and embraced. In the language of folk tales, in order to find one's true self, it is often vital that there is a near-death experience before our heroes and heroines can begin to heal and to re-form. This deep depression is an essential part of the process of change. It is something to be endured, understood and then moved away from. The end of the affair is not the end of hope or of love. It is part of the process of change. Alec will travel and see the world in a wider context. Laura will have to re-imagine herself, not just as a 'respectable wife and mother' but as a person in her own right.

My hope is that, like the Seal Woman, Alec and Laura escape. Not with each other in some idealistic romantic way but an escape provoked by the profound and personal awakening they felt when they met. We humans are fearful by nature it is often somebody else who provides the catalyst for change but they are not the cause. Change can only happen from within. After our story ends, I like to think that our lovers will change. I imagine that Alec will make a real difference in Africa and find an expanse of spirit that seems untouchable in our story. I hope and dream that Laura will take up the piano again and perform on the world's greatest and most awe-inspiring stages.

As I write this, I wonder if these are, in fact, my dreams? That is the power of a great and enduring story; we can all own it and feel it and find something of ourselves in it.

Emma Rice, Adapter/ Director



SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY

Recipient of the 2012 Regional Theatre Tony Award®

Artistic Director **Michael Kahn** Managing Director **Chris Jennings**

The Kneehigh production of

Noël Coward's

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Adapted and Directed by Emma Rice.

Originally commissioned and produced by David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers and Cineworld Adapted from Noël Coward's play *Still Life* and his screenplay *Brief Encounter* with additional verse and lyrics by Noël Coward.

Adapter and Director

Emma Rice

Associate Director
Simon Harvey

Original Music

Stu Barker

Designer Neil Murray

Lighting Designer
Malcom Rippeth

Sound Designer

Simon Baker

Associate Sound Designer

Andy Graham

Associate Projection Designer **Stephen Parkinson**

Musical Director

Producer
Paul Crewes

Projection & Film Designers
Gemma Carrington

Jon Driscoll

STILL LIFE © NC Aventales AG 1936
BRIEF ENCOUNTER © NC Aventales AG 1946

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Brief Encounter at the Shakespeare Theatre Company is generously sponsored by **Dr. Paul and Mrs. Rose Carter** with the support of the **British Council**.

Cast

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

(in order of appearance)

Stanley	Damon Daunno*
Myrtle	Annette McLaughlin
Beryl	Dorothy Atkinson
Laura	Hannah Yelland*
Alec	Jim Sturgeon
Fred/Albert	Joe Alessi
Musicians	Dave Brown, James Gow

THIS PERFORMANCE LASTS 90 MINUTES WITH NO INTERMISSION.

Special Thanks

This version of *Brief Encounter* tours with a 'squad' of artists: Our thanks go to Michelle Nightingale and Kate Cheel who are key members of this squad and played Laura and Beryl in Australia. Emma Rice would like to say thanks to the original cast who helped to create this production: Tristan Sturrock, Naomi Frederick, Andy Williams, Tamzin Griffin, Amanda Lawrence, Stu McLoughlin, Alex Vann and Pete Judge - and special love and gratitude to Beverly Rudd, Gabriel Ebert, Chris Price, Milo Twomey and Mike Shepherd. Kneehigh would also like to thank: Alan Brodie, Ian Scobie & all at APA, Daniel Sparrow, Kate Godfrey, Linda Potter at Wrightsure, David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers and Birmingham Rep.

Production Credits

Production Team

Production Manager Dominic Fraser

Company Stage Manager Steph Curtis

STC Stage Manager Joseph Smelser*

Technical Stage Manager Richard Barlow

Lighting Ben Nichols

Sound Jay Jones

Wardrobe & Wig Supervisor Nicola Webley

Projection Technician / Sound No. 2 Alex Shenton-Parkin

Additional Credits

Puppet Designer and Maker Lyndie Wright

Puppetry Training Sarah Wright

Underwater Filming Robin Kewell

Casting Director Sam Jones

^{*} Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

About the Playwright - Noël Coward

Born in Teddington, Middlesex, on December 16, 1899, Noël Coward began his theatre career as a child actor at the age of 11. By 16 he had played his first adult role in *Charley's Aunt* and written the music and lyrics to his first song, *Forbidden Fruit*, and by 20 he had begun writing plays and revues, in most of which he fully intended to star. Coward's breakthrough came in 1924 with *The Vortex*, a play that was shocking for its time in its portrayal of adultery and drug addiction; the play and its young author became a sensation on both sides of the Atlantic. Three major hits soon followed – *Hay Fever* and *Fallen Angels* (both 1925) and *Easy Virtue* (1926) – and his successes continued well into the 1930s, with *Bitter Sweet* (1929), *Private Lives* (1930), *Cavalcade* (1931) and *Design for Living* (1933).

The year 1936 saw one of Coward's most ambitious ventures – *Tonight at 8:30*, a series of nine one-act plays in which he and Gertrude Lawrence (his closest friend since childhood and favorite stage partner) played all the leads. Several of the plays were subsequently filmed, none more effectively than *Still Life*, which Coward adapted into *Brief Encounter*. He considered *Still Life* "the most mature play of the whole series," later observing, "I am fond of both the play and the film with, as usual, a slight bias in favor of the former. It is well written, economical and well-constructed: the characters, I think, are true and I can say now, reading it with detachment after so many years, that I am proud to have written it."

Between Still Life and Brief Encounter, however, came World War II. Coward was sent to Paris to open a bureau of propaganda, and then to neutral America to assess opinion. Before the outbreak of war he had been recruited by the British Foreign Office to perform intelligence work: technically, he was a spy. While his own countrymen were unaware of his activities, the Germans certainly were not. Their "Black List" had Coward's name near the top. Had they won the war, he would have been shot. Brief Encounter was released in Britain in 1945. Starring then relatively unknown stage actress Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard and featuring a soundtrack selected by Coward, the film was Coward's fourth and final collaboration with director David Lean (with whom he had co-directed the Academy Award-winning 1942 film In Which We Serve, also authored by and starring Coward, and who had directed film versions of This Happy Breed (1944) and Blithe Spirit (1945)). Shooting of Brief Encounter took place at night in Carnforth Station in the northwest of England, believed to be sufficiently far enough away from Britain's populous southeast to receive advance warning of impending German aerial attack, thus giving the filmmakers time to turn out the filming lights. Although the movie was banned in Ireland for its sympathetic depiction of adultery, it earned Academy Award nominations for Lean and Johnson, shared the 1946 Palme d'Or and went on to become one of Britain's most celebrated films.

After World War II, Coward continued to produce plays and musicals, but found little critical favor in England. America, however, took him into its heart. He reinvented himself as a cabaret star, playing a sellout season in Las Vegas in 1955. He turned up in live television broadcasts – *Together with Music* (1955) with Mary Martin, *Blithe Spirit* (1956) and *This Happy Breed* (1956) – and in the late 1950s, he started yet another profitable career, as a cameo actor in such films as *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Our Man in Havana, Surprise Package, Boom!* and *The Italian Job*. His theatrical "dad's renaissance," as he called it, began in 1963 with a London revival of *Private Lives* and an invitation to direct *Hay Fever* at the National Theatre, the first production there by a living playwright. Coward's final appearance as an actor was in his own *Suite in Three Keys* (1966). By this time his health was beginning to fail, and he was not well enough to take the play to what he had hoped would be a triumphant Broadway farewell. In 1970 Coward finally received a long-deserved knighthood ("You must call me Sir Noëlie now," he instructed his friends). In 1973 he died peacefully in Jamaica.

Biography courtesy the Noël Coward estate. For further info on Noël Coward visit www.noelcoward.com and to join the Noël Coward Society contact cowardusa@nyc.rr.com.

Synopsis

When Laura, a married woman travelling into town to shop, gets a speck of coal dust in her eye, handsome Dr. Alec Harvey is quick to help her. From this chance encounter an irresistible passion sparks and grows.

But their romance is destined to end prematurely as their situation is irreconcilable: both are married, have children and are bound by devotion to their families.

The love story of Laura and Alec is paralleled by two other couples also playing out their lives and loves in the famous railway station tearoom. These intertwined narratives are also interspersed with some of Noël Coward's typically debonair and witty songs, to create a breathtaking, delightfully funny and touching show complete with theatrical invention and knockabout humor.

About Kneehigh

Kneehigh are a UK based theatre company with a local, national and international profile. For over 30 years Kneehigh have created vigorous, popular and challenging theatre and perform with the joyful anarchy that audiences have come to expect from this ground-breaking company.

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

In 2010 Kneehigh launched The Asylum, a beautiful and flexible nomadic structure, which means the company now has a venue to call home as well as being one of the leading touring theatre companies in the UK. The company has now presented three seasons in The Asylum in Cornwall, and will continue to reinvent the space and explore new locations in future years.

Alongside their national and international touring and The Asylum seasons, Kneehigh run their Rambles program aiming to engage creatively with communities in Cornwall and beyond through event and adventure.

Kneehigh are supported by Arts Council England and Cornwall Council.





Kneehigh

Cast Biographies



Joe Alessi

Fred/Albert Theatre credits include: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal & Derngate, Northampton); The Wind in the Willows (West Yorkshire Playhouse); The Second Mrs. Tanqueray (Rose Theatre, Kingston);

Wonderful Town (Royal Exchange/Hallé Orchestra/ Lowry, Manchester, U.K. tour); Tartuffe (Liverpool Playhouse/ETT U.K. tour); Absurd Person Singular (Curve, Leicester): Brief Encounter (Kneehigh U.K. tour, U.S. tours and Broadway); Assassins (Union Theatre, London): Dick Whittington (Salisbury Playhouse); Privates on Parade (West Yorkshire Playhouse & Birmingham Rep); Tartuffe (Liverpool Playhouse & Rose Theatre, Kingston); The Drowsy Chaperone (Novello Theatre, London); Antony & Cleopatra, Julius Caesar, The Tempest (RSC & Novello Theatre, London): Jerusalem (West Yorkshire Playhouse); The Postman Always Rinas Twice (West Yorkshire Playhouse & Playhouse Theatre, London); The Story of Io (Aldeburgh Festival & Almeida, London); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, London); The Play What I Wrote (U.K. tour); Romeo & Juliet (Liverpool Playhouse); The Accrington Pals (Minerva Theatre, Chichester); The Front Page (Chichester Festival Theatre); Polygraph (Nottingham Playhouse); The Taming of the Shrew (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester); Light (Théâtre de Complicite, Almeida & U.K. tour); Animal Crackers (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester; Barbican Theatre & Lyric Theatre, London): The Colour of Justice - The Stephen Lawrence Enquiry (Tricycle Theatre, London); The Rivals (Basingstoke & Greenwich Theatre); The Taming of the Shrew (Leicester Haymarket Theatre); A View From The Bridge, Romeo & Juliet (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester): Arsenic & Old Lace, Tovarich, Henry VIII (Chichester Festival Theatre); The Comedy of Errors (RSC. Barbican Theatre & world tour). Films include: The Other Woman, Family Business, Bridget Jones' Diary, London Kills Me, The Institute Benjamenta, Chaplin. Joe was nominated for an Olivier Award for his role in Animal Crackers.



Dorothy Atkinson

Beryl Dorothy can be seen in Mike Leigh's upcoming feature film Mr. Turner in which she plays Hannah Danby. She can also be seen as regular character Jane Sutton in Call the Midwife (BBC). She played Beryl in Brief Encounter

in both the West End and on Broadway. Other Theatre: A Matter of Life and Death, Two Weeks with the Queen (National Theatre), Epitaph for George Dillon (Comedy Theatre West End), The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Beauty and the Beast (RSC), Just Between Ourselves (Northampton Theatre Royal), Eden End,

Inconceivable. The Dauahter in Law (West Yorkshire Playhouse). Wild Honey, A Doll's House, The Boy Who Fell into a Book, Fool to Yourself, Cheap and Cheerful (with Alan Avckbourn at SJT), Great Big Radio Show (Buxton Opera House), Up and Under (Hull Truck), Rosie Blitz. The Four Friends (Polka Theatre), Abigail's Party (International tour), The Wizard of Oz (Italian Tour), Babes in Arms, The Boyfriend, On the Town (National Tours). Other film: Tubby and Enid, Topsy Turvy (Jessie Bond), All or Nothing, Chatroom, Look at me I'm Beautiful, The Final Curtain, Keep the Aspidistra Flying, Roads. The Night is Young. Other Television: The Town, Phoneshop, Coronation Street, Midlife Crisis, Casualty 1909, Sunshine, May Contain Nuts, Peep Show, Skins, Housewife 49, Innocence Project, Bodies, Life Begins, No Angels, Murder City, Every Time I Look at You, Murder in Mind, Holby City, Heartbeat, East Enders, Peak Practice, London's Burning.



David Brown

Musician David has worked as a professional musician all his life playing jazz, folk, bluegrass, eastern European and gypsy swing in various bands and in various countries. His previous Kneehigh work was Tristan & Yseult

in Sydney and Wellington, Cymbeline in Brazil and Columbia, and Brief Encounter on its U.K. tour. He currently performs with six-piece jump jive swing band The Fabulous Swinging Chandeliers and lives on a narrow boat on the Kennett and Avon canal.



Damon Daunno*

Stanley Damon is an actor/musician from New Jersey with a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He is thrilled to be working with Kneehigh again following the Broadway run of Brief Encounter and U.S. tour of Wild

Bride. Other credits include: Regional: Flv By Night. Jesus in India, The Last Goodbye. TV: The Following. His original music can be found on iTunes and Facebook. He loves you very much. Thanks to Abrams.



James Gow

Musician Multi-instrumentalist James has performed extensively across the U.K. and further afield, particularly as part of a New Orleans style traditional jazz band, playing Sousaphone and Bass. He is currently involved with

various bands in the East Kent folk scene, especially as trumpeter for Coco Lovers, as well as a genre-crossing horn led jazz-fusion group, Blind Thug Orchestra, in London. A former principal cellist of Kent County Youth Orchestra, James has been a member of the University of London Symphony Orchestra for the past three years. His future interests include exploring the uses of music in education and therapeutic outlets, in particular through improvisation. James has recently graduated with a degree in Music from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Brief Encounter is his debut with Kneehigh.



Annette McLaughlin Myrtle

Theatre credits include: Mrs. Wormwood in Matilda The Musical (Cambridge Theatre), Lady Aletta Carey in Written on the Heart (Duchess Theatre and RSC). Mistress Overdone in Measure for

Measure (RSC), Ilona in She Loves Me (Chichester festival theatre), Myrtle in Brief Encounter (U.K. and U.S. Tour, St. Ann's Warehouse Brooklyn, and Studio 54 New York), Belinda in Noises Off (Birmingham Rep), Velma Kelly in Chicago (five times in the West End and 10th Anniversary), Erma in Trevor Nunn's production of Anything Goes (National Theatre and West End), Jaquenetta in Trevor Nunn's Love's Labour's Lost (National Theatre), Mema in Peter Hall's production of Lenny, Betty in Damn Yankees (with Jerry Lewis), Babette in Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Tess in Crazy for You (All West End), Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet, Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lady Percy in Henry IV, Part 1, Tracy Lord in High Society (all at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre). Singin' in the Rain (National Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse), The Women (The Old Vic), The Vagina Monologues (U.K. Tour), Catherine in Tomorrow Morning (New End Theatre), Queen Anne in 5/11 and Hedy La Rue in How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (TMA award nomination, Chichester Festival Theatre), Baker's Wife in Into the Woods (Derby Playhouse), Amanda in Alan Ayckbourn's Dreams From a Summerhouse (Newbury Watermill Theatre), Louisette in Horse and Carriage and Andy in Stepping Out (West Yorkshire Playhouse), Television and film credits include Heartbeat. The Frank Skinner Show, Legionnaire, Lunar IV and Law & Order. U.K. Cast Albums include: Anything Goes and Tomorrow Morning. Concerts include: THE RSC: A Musical 50 years (RSC), BBC Proms Sondheim at 80 (Royal Albert Hall), A Tribute to Trevor Nunn, and A Tribute to Cy Coleman (Royal Albert Hall), and the opening of The Welsh Millennium centre. Training: London Studio Centre and Meisner Technique with Scott Williams at The Impulse Company.



Jim Sturgeon

Jim Sturgeon was born and raised on a farm is Scotland, taking up acting in his late 20's he trained at The Royal Scottish Academy Of Music and Drama and graduated in 2003 with a BA in Acting. Theatre

credits include: Brief Encounter (Australian tour), The Mill Lavvies, Equus, A Christmas Carol (Dundee Repertory Theatre), Hansel and Gretel, Beauty and

The Beast, LIAR (Citizens Theatre), Betraval (Harold Pinter Theatre, London), Whispering Happiness (Tristen Bates Theatre, London), Yellow On The Broom (Perth Theatre), Attempts On Her Life (Tron Theatre), Jim also toured The Highlands and Islands of Scotland with A Sheep Called Skye and appeared in The Cosmonaut's Last Message To The Girl He Once Loved In The Former Soviet Union at The BAT Theatre in Berlin. He can currently be seen on television playing Uncle Matthew in the Katie Morag series. Other television credits include Shetland, Hope Springs and Tinsel Town. He can also be seen in the feature film 71 which premiered this year at the Berlin Film Festival to great acclaim, and in the new Tom Cruise film Edge Of Tomorrow which was directed by Doug Liman which is out later this year. Other film credits include The Last Piper, Will, A Demon Within, Spare Change, Friendly Fire, Night People and Afterlife. Jim is delighted to be making his American debut performing in such an exciting production with such a talented cast.



Hannah Yelland*

Laura

Hannah returns to STC after a successful run playing Hermione in last season's The Winter's Tale, and is delighted to be reprising her Tony nominated role of Laura Jesson in Brief Encounter here in Washington,

D.C. She toured with Brief Encounter throughout the U.K., to A.C.T San Francisco, the Guthrie, Minneapolis and St. Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, before transferring to Studio 54, Broadway in 2010/11. Her previous theatre credits include playing Daisy in Daisy Pulls It Off, and Kate in The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby in London's West End. She also toured the production (with her father, David Yelland playing Ralph Nickleby), throughout the U.K. and to Toronto. Regional work includes Hermione in The Winter's Tale (Shakespeare Theatre Company, McCarter Theatre Center); Rachel in My Cousin Rachel, at the Gate Theatre, Dublin; Vivie Warren in Mrs. Warren's Profession (U.K. Tour); Nora Helmer in A Doll's House at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin; Jacqueline Maingot in French Without Tears (English Touring Theatre Company), Marion de Saint Vaury in The Linden Tree and Jan in Bedroom Farce (U.K. Tour). Film and television work includes Method, AKA, Modern Love, the leading role in Catherine Cookson's The Secret. Ultimate Force and guest starring roles in Dalziel and Pascoe, Doctors, Ahead of the Class, Holby City, Danielle Cable: Eyewitness, Heartbeat, The Project, Dinotopia, Swallow, The Bill, Micawber, A Touch of Frost and Poirot, Lord Edgware Dies.

Creative Team Biographies

Simon Baker

Sound Designer

Most recent credits include Matilda The Musical (RSC and Cambridge Theatre - 2012 Olivier Award for Best Sound), My Fair Lady (Sheffield), Merry Wives of Windsor (RSC), Steptoe and Son (Kneehigh/U.K. Tour), Loserville (West Yorkshire Playhouse/Garrick Theatre), Hedda Gabler (Old Vic), Wah! Wah! Girls (Saddlers Wells), Angus Thongs and Even More Snogging (West Yorkshire Playhouse), Batman Live (World Arena Tour), Me and My Girl (Sheffield), The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg (Lyric Theatre), The Real Thing (Old Vic), The Norman Conquests (Old Vic and Broadway), Late Middle Classes (Donmar), La Bête (Comedy Theatre and Broadway), The Lord Of The Rings (Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Toronto - 2007 Olivier Nomination Best Sound), Deathtrap (Noël Coward Theatre), Boeing Boeing (Comedy Theatre and Broadway - 2007 Tony Nomination for Best Sound), Di Viv and Rose (Hampstead Downstairs). Bridge Project for BAM/Old Vic Theatre 2009, The Birds (Dublin), Closer To Heaven (Arts Theatre). For Kneehigh work includes Brief Encounter (London, WYP, U.K. and U.S. Tours, Broadway and St Ann's Warehouse NY - 2011 Tony Nomination for Best Sound), Don John (RSC and International Tour), The Red Shoes (International Tour), The Wild Bride (International Tour), Midnights Pumpkin and all three years of Kneehigh's Asylum Season.

Stu Barker

Original Music

Stu has worked extensively as composer/musical director with Kneehigh over the last sixteen years. Shows as composer/MD include: A Matter Of Life And Death and Tristan & Yseult (National Theatre): Brief Encounter (Broadway/West End); Cymbeline and Don John (RSC); Hansel and Gretel (Bristol Old Vic); The Bacchae and The Wooden Frock (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Nights At The Circus and The Red Shoes (Lyric Hammersmith); The Wild Bride and Rapunzel (BAC); Pandora's Box (Northern Stage); and Midnight's Pumpkin. Other composer/MD work includes for: 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.

Gemma Carrington

Projection and Film Designer

Gemma studied Animation at the National Film and Television School, and at Norwich School of Art and Design. THEATRE: Projection design credits: Finding Neverland at Leicester Curve; Alice's Adventures in Wonderland for the Royal Ballet; Birdsong (Comedy); Earthquakes In London, The Power of Yes, All's Well That Ends Well, Gethsemane, A Matter of Life and Death (RNT); Separate Tables (Chichester Festival Theatre); Brief Encounter (London West End, U.K.

tour, U.S. tours and Broadway); Associate Projection Design credits: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); Chaplin the Musical (Ethel Barrymore on Broadway), Phantom of the Opera 25th Anniversary (Royal Albert Hall), Chost The Musical (London Piccadilly and on Broadway); The Wizard of Oz (London Palladium); Love Never Dies (London Adelphi); Dirty Dancing (London Aldwych, and in Holland, Chicago and Berlin). AWARDS: OBIE for Projection Design, Olivier award nomination for Best Design for Brief Encounter, and Olivier award nomination for achievement in dance for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Cineworld

Original Producer

Cineworld Group plc was founded in 1995. In 2007, Cineworld became the first cinema company listed on the London Stock Exchange. Today, the company operates 831 screens at 81 locations across the U.K. Cineworld is the U.K. market leader in digital and simulcasts of live plays, concerts and live sporting events. In 2013, Cineworld had over 49 million admissions and revenue of more than \$600 million. WEB: www.cineworld.com

Paul Crewes

Producer

Before working with Kneehigh, Paul worked as Producer at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, where he set up over 40 productions as well as collaborations with Kneehigh (The Wooden Frock & The Bacchae), Improbable Theatre, Teatre Romea, National Theatre and with commercial & West End producers. Other work includes producing the U.K. tour of Doorman with his own company in 2005, Associate Producer for the Lowry, including producing King Cotton in 2007 and working for Metal with Jude Kelly. Paul has worked for Kneehigh since 2005 and has produced; Tristan & Yseult (U.K. 2006, Sydney & New Zealand, and U.K./U.S. tour 2013/14), Cymbeline (U.K., Columbia & Brazil); Rapunzel (U.K. & U.S.) Don John (U.K. & U.S.), Hansel and Gretel, Brief Encounter (U.K. tour 2008, U.S. Tour and Broadway 2009/10, Australia and U.S. 2013/14), the launch of the Kneehigh Asylum (featuring The Red Shoes, Blast!, The King of Prussia), the 2010 tour of The Red Shoes (U.K., U.S. & Australia), Midnight's Pumpkin (Kneehigh Asylum 2011 & BAC 2012), The Wild Bride (Kneehigh Asylum 2011, U.K. & U.S. tours), Steptoe and Son (U.K. tour 2012), Brief Encounter (Australian and U.S. tour 2013/14; LA and Washington) and Tristan & Yseult (U.S. tour 2013/14; Berkeley, Minneapolis and Chicago). Paul is currently working on a new version of The Beggar's Opera called Dead Dog in a Suitcase (and other love songs), which will open at the new Liverpool Everyman in

David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers

Original Producers David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers commissioned Emma Rice to adapt Noël Coward's Brief Encounter and originally produced the piece with Cineworld Plc at the Cinema on the Haymarket in London's West End where it played for more than 350 performances. David & Dafydd first produced Yasmina Reza's Art, which became the most successful play in London of the last 25 years while winning every major award, including the Tony Award for Best Play. They then produced the play What I Wrote, directed by Kenneth Branagh, which won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and a Tony Award nomination for Best Special Theatrical Event. Their production of Tom Stoppard's adaptation of Heroes opened in the West End in 2005 and won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy. Pugh and Rogers then produced one of the most successful productions ever in the West End, Equus, which starred Richard Griffiths and Daniel Radcliffe. They have since produced Christopher Hampton's adaptation of Reza's God of Carnage in the West End where it won the Olivier Award and on Broadway where it won the Tony Award. Their production of Tim Firth's Calendar Girls played a record breaking West End season and toured for over 5 years

becoming the most successful touring production of a

play ever in the U.K. David & Dafydd's latest production

the Noël Coward Theatre February 2014.

of Simon Beaufoy's new play of The Full Monty opens at

Jon Driscoll

Projection and Film Designer Jon Driscoll studied Cinematography at the National Film and Television School, Beaconsfield and Theatre Design at Croydon College of Art. He is a technical associate of the Royal National Theatre. THEATRE: The Effect, The People, Last of the Haussmans, Travelling Light, Earthquakes In London, The Power of Yes, Nation, All's Well That Ends Well. The Observer, Gethsemane. Her Naked Skin, Fram, A Matter of Life and Death, The Reporter (National Theatre); ENRON (Headlong); Separate Tables, The Last Cigarette (Chichester); Richard III, The Prisoner of Second Avenue, Complicit (Old Vic); The Lightning Play, Whistling Psyche (Almeida): Frost/Nixon (Donmar); Finding Neverland (Leicester Curve); Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Ghost The Musical, The King's Speech, The Wizard of Oz, Love Never Dies, Dirty Dancing, On the Third Day, Glorious, When Harry Met Sally, Our House, Up For Grabs, Dance of Death (West End); Chaplin The Musical (Broadway). DANCE: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden). CONCERTS/ EVENTS: The Phantom of the Opera (Royal Albert Hall); Blade Runner (Secret Cinema). AWARDS: Drama Desk award and Tony award nomination for Ghost The Musical: Drama Desk nomination for Chaplin; Obie award and Olivier award nomination for Brief Encounter; Olivier award nominations for ENRON and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Andy Graham

Associate Sound Designer
Andy graduated from Mountview Theatre School in 2001 with a BA (Hons) in Technical Theatre.
As a sound operator, credits include The King & I,

The Full Monty, Contact, Jerry Springer The Opera (Olivier Award for Best Sound), Guys And Dolls (Olivier Nomination), The Lord Of The Rings (Olivier Nomination), Our House, Loserville and Once The Musical. For Kneehigh, Andy has worked as an operator and Associate Sound Designer on three seasons of The Asylum, Brief Encounter (U.K. Tour, U.S. Tour & Broadway - Tony Nomination for Best Sound), The Red Shoes (U.K., U.S. and Australia). The Wild Bride (U.K., U.S. and New Zealand). The King of Prussia, Midnight's Pumpkin, and Blast! Solo design work and collaborations include Oedipussy for Spymonkey, Mary Rose for Dog Orange, Allegro for LSMT and Jekyll and Hyde for Vienna's English Theatre (Vienna and European Tour). Andy was also a sound operator for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Simon Harvey

Associate Director

Simon is a director, performer and producer based in Truro, Cornwall. As Kneehigh's resident Associate Director his recent work includes Steptoe and Son, The Wild Bride, Midnight's Pumpkin, The Red Shoes (National/International tour), Hansel and Gretel, Brief Encounter (U.K. /U.S. Tour), Rapunzel (U.K. /U.S.) and Cymbeline. Simon has performed in number of Kneehigh shows including BLAST! (Rambles, 2012) and The King of Prussia (Asylum 2010), Wagstaffe the Wind Up Boy (2005) and Journey to the Centre of the Earth (2006). Outside Kneehigh, Simon is the Artistic Director of O-region, a theatre and film production company, for whom he has directed Laughing Gas, One Darke Night and The Dead Monkey. He also produced and performed in the show Superstition Mountain. He also produced the feature films The Midnight Drives (writer/director Mark Jenkin) and award-winning Weekend Retreat (writer/director Brett Harvey).

Neil Murray

Designer

For Kneehigh: Pandora's Box, Brief Encounter (Evening Standard, Critics Circle, Outer Critics Circle, Obies, & Olivier Award nomination for Best Design), and Steptoe and Son. For Northern Stage (Associate Director/Designer 1991-2012) as Designer including A Clockwork Orange, 1984, Wings Of Desire, Animal Farm, Homage To Catalonia (Design selected for inclusion in U.K. stand at Prague Quadrennial of Scenographyin 2007 - subsequently at the V&A); and as Director/Designer including The Threepenny Opera, Octopus Hotel, Carmen, They Shoot Horses Don't They (w/ Emma Rice), Therese Raquin, The Tiger's Bride. The Bloody Chamber. For Dundee Rep (Associate Director/Designer 1980-1991) as Director/Designer including 'Tis Pity She's A Whore, Phantom Of The Opera, Sweeney Todd, Dracula, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest. For Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh as Designer including Mary Queen Of Scot's Got Her Head Chopped Off, Mrs. Warren's Profession, Romeo and Juliet, Vanity Fair, Copenhagen; and as Director/Designer Beauty and The Beast. Other Design includes - 1001 Nights Now, Wings Of Desire for Betty Nansen Theatre,

Copenhagen. *Tutti Frutti* for National Theatre Scotland. *A Tender Thing* for RSC, *Like Water For Chocolate* for Theatre Sans Frontières. Neil is currently designing *My Granny Is A Pirate* for New Writing North and *The Threepenny Opera* for Wolsey, Ipswich/Birmingham Rep and Nottingham Playhouse/Co-Prod with *Graeae* for Spring 2014.

Stephen Parkinson

Associate Projection Designer

After leaving college Stephen worked up and down the country working for various theatres and companies. In 1992 he joined the Royal National Theatre. Working there as Senior Electrician he worked on and programmed countless productions with some very well-known Lighting Designers. This is also where he first met Jon Driscoll. Stephen left the Royal National Theatre in 2000 to become a freelance Lighting and Video Programmer and Production Engineer, working in the West End and around the U.K. He also started working with Jon on the Video Design for several of these shows including Brief Encounter (West End, U.K. and U.S. tours) and Dirty Dancing (West End, Utrecht, Berlin & U.S. tour). Other work includes: Fela (as International Video Production Engineer and Programmer) and work for U.K. theatre companies including The Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera, and Opera North. Work with bands includes: The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Sting and Jools Holland. Work for large scale productions includes: Les Miserables 25th Anniversary at the O2 (as Video Programmer), and Aida at the Royal Albert Hall (as Video Production Engineer and Programmer). Stephen has also worked as Television Lighting Programmer for many sporting events at the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, and as Catalyst Engineer for the 2013 Olivier Awards.

Emma Rice

Adaptor & Director

Emma is the Joint Artistic Director of Kneehigh. Productions for Kneehigh include: The Red Shoes, The Wooden Frock, The Bacchae, Tristan & Yseult (2003-6; U.K./U.S. tour 2013/14), 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, and The Empress for the RSC.

Malcolm Rippeth

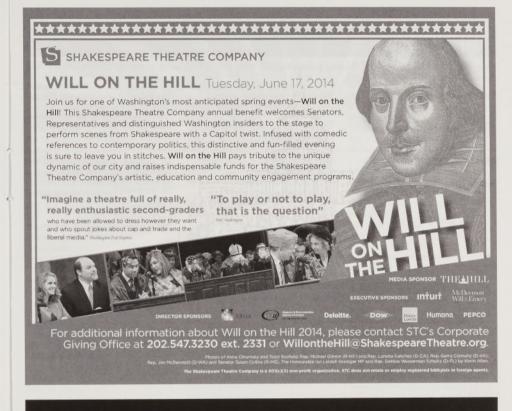
Liahtina Desianer

Malcolm has been working with Kneehigh since 2002, highlights including Nights at the Circus, Don John, Wah! Wah! Girls and The Umbrellas of Cherbourg. His work in the U.S. has included Kneehigh's Tristan & Yseult at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and U.S. tour, The Wild Bride at St. Ann's Warehouse, The Red Shoes at the Spoleto Festival, Brief Encounter at Studio 54 and the Guthrie Theater production of H.M.S. Pinafore in Minneapolis. Other favorite work includes The Empress (RSC); The Dead (Abbey Theatre Dublin); Spur of the Moment (Royal Court): The Promise (Donmar): Six Characters in Search of an Author (West End): West Side Story (Sage Gateshead): Decade (Headlong Theatre at St. Katharine Docks); The Birthday Party (Manchester Royal Exchange); London (Paines Plough); Stones in his Pockets (Tricycle); His Dark Materials (Birmingham Rep); Refugee Boy (West Yorkshire Playhouse); The Bloody Chamber (Northern Stage); Copenhagen (Edinburgh Royal Lyceum); La Nuit Intime (balletLORENT); Tutti Frutti (National Theatre of Scotland) and The Devil Inside Him (National Theatre Wales). 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.

Ian Ross

Musical Director

lan is a Bristol based multi-instrumentalist with around 13 years' experience as a Musician and Composer. THEATRE (as Composer): Hansel and Gretel (Kneehigh); A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (Kneehigh and Little Angel Theatre); Frankenspine, Mayday Mayday, Orpheus and the Furies (Damfino); When the Shops Shut (Cscape); and Universerama (Squashbox). THEATRE (as Musical Director): Brief Encounter. THEATRE (as Musician): Tristan & Yseult, Don John, Hansel and Gretel, The Red Shoes, The King of Prussia, Midnight's Pumpkin, The Wild Bride (Kneehigh); and Peter Pan (Bristol Old Vic). FILM (as composer): Weekend Retreat (O-region).



About STC

STC is the recipient of the 2012 Regional Theatre Tony Award* as well as 81 Helen Hayes Awards and 322 nominations.

Presenting Classic Theatre

The mission of the Shakespeare Theatre Company is to present classic theatre of scope and size in an imaginative, skillful and accessible American style that honors the playwrights' language and intentions while viewing their work through a 21st-century lens.

Promoting Artistic Excellence

STC's productions blend classical traditions and modern originality. Hallmarks include exquisite sets, elegant costumes, leading classical actors and, above all, an uncompromising dedication to quality.

Fostering Artists and Audiences

STC is a leader in arts education, with a myriad of user-friendly pathways that teach, stimulate and encourage learners of all ages. Meaningful school programs are available for middle and high school students and educators, and adult classes are held throughout the year. Michael Kahn leads the Academy for Classical Acting, a one-year master's

program at The George Washington University. Beyond the classroom, educational opportunities like Creative Conversations are available to all in the community.

Supporting the Community

STC has helped to revitalize both the Penn Quarter and Capitol Hill neighborhoods and to drive an artistic renaissance in Washington, D.C. Each season programs such as Free For All and Happenings at the Harman present free performances to residents and visitors alike, allowing new audiences to engage with the performing arts.

Playing a Part

STC is profoundly grateful for the support of those who are passionately committed to classical theatre. This support has allowed STC to reach out and expand boundaries, to inform and inspire the community and to challenge its audiences to think critically and creatively. Learn more at ShakespeareTheatre.org/Support or call 202.547.1122, option 7.

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Lansburgh Theatre 450 7th Street NW

Sidney Harman Hall 610 F Street NW

Ticket and Group Sales:

Tickets: 202 547 1122 Toll-free: 877.487.8849 TTY: 202.638.3863 Box Office fax: 202.608.6350 Bookings: 202.547.3230 ext. 2206

Box Office phone hours (both theatres):

Daily: noon-6 p.m.

(Box Office window open until curtain time)

The Lansburgh Box Office is closed on the weekends if there is no performance at the Lansburgh Theatre.

Concessions and Gift Shops:

Food and beverages are available one hour before each performance. Pre-order before curtain for immediate pick-up at intermission. Lansburgh Theatre and Sidney Harman Hall gift shops are open before curtain, at intermission and for a short time after each performance.

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An audio-enhancement system is available for all performances. Both headset receivers and neck loops (to use with hearing aids outfitted with a "T" switch) are available at the coat check on a first-come basis.

Program notes in large print are available at the coat check.

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