



Blackeyed Theatre in association with South Hill Park

2020 dates announced for international tour of *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë Adapted by Nick Lane International tour September 2019 – June 2020

Six months of 2020 touring dates have been announced for Blackeyed Theatre's epic international tour of Nick Lane's thrilling new adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece *Jane Eyre*. This spectacular world premiere is touring until June 2020, and will make its way across the UK, including a return home to the Yorkshire moors, as well as The Netherlands and China.

A whirlwind of a production that tells the story of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel with beautiful, intimate flair (★★★★ The Skinny).

Heading to Yorkshire, where Charlotte Brontë was born and her famous heroine struggles for freedom, this Gothic masterpiece of tempestuous passions and dark secrets follows Jane Eyre from her orphaned childhood to her life at Thornfield Hall with the mysterious and brooding Mr Rochester. But her newfound happiness is threatened by hidden pasts in the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall and a terrible secret forces her to make a heart-wrenching choice.

Blackeyed Theatre captivantly brings to life an unforgettable portrayal of Jane's quest for equality in a patriarchal society. In spite of terrible hardships, Brontë's heroine perseveres in order to define her own life and happiness, rather than it being defined for her by others. A woman in a man's world striving to succeed independently, Charlotte Brontë originally published under a male pseudonym. Her and Jane's search for equality and freedom still hit home today.

The cast features **Kelsey Short** as Jane Eyre (*Class*, Spur of the Moment; *F*cking Life Mate*, JamesArts Productions; *Broken*, The White Bear), **Ben Warwick** as Mr Rochester (*Pentecost*; *The Oedipus Plays*, National Theatre; *The Deep Blue Sea*, Watford Palace; *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, York Theatre Royal; *Hamlet*, English Touring Theatre), **Camilla Simson** as Mrs Fairfax (*The Merchant of Venice*, The Globe, Rome; *Thin Toes*, Pleasance; *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Bill Kenwright national tour; *Shakers*, Liverpool Playhouse), **Eleanor Toms** as Blanche Ingram (*The Secret Garden*, The Minack Theatre; *Astley's Astounding Adventures*, New Vic; *Blue Stockings*, Cockpit Theatre), **Oliver Hamilton** as St John Rivers (*Maggie May*, Liverpool Everyman; *Crossroads*, The Actors Church; *A Christmas Carol*, Windsor Castle).

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

Director and Producer Adrian McDougall says, *Bringing Jane Eyre to the stage with such a wonderful group of artists and to see it thrive has been a sheer joy, to say nothing of the incredible reaction from audiences young and old. In 2020 we'll be bringing Brontë's masterpiece to many more UK theatres, including first-time visits to Crewe Lyceum and Theatre Royal Bath, and sharing it with audiences across The Netherlands and China. At a time when we feel so divided, it's comforting to see how much we have in common when it comes to our love of Brontë and, more broadly, literature and theatre.*

Writer Nick Lane comments, *Plays based on books have to be their own thing, no matter the manner in which their stories are related to an audience, and I think this production looks - and perhaps more importantly feels - both strongly connected to the source material and also is its own thing. I'm still pinching myself that I was given the chance to adapt such an incredible, iconic novel as Jane Eyre and I'm looking forward to seeing how the show has grown. I've been reading all the lovely reviews for the cast and for the production and I'm certain they'll continue.*

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

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Running Time	2 hours 30 minutes including interval
Twitter	@Blackeyedtheatr #JaneEyreTour

Facebook facebook.com/blackeyedtheatre/

Age Guidance 11+

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

Cast

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

Performance Dates

10th – 11th Jan Theater AINSI 8.30pm
Lage Kanaaldijk 112-113, 6212 NA Maastricht, Netherlands

13th Jan Parktheater 8.30pm
Elzentlaan 50, 5615 CN Eindhoven, Netherlands

15th – 16th Jan Hazlitt Theatre 7.30pm
36 Earl St, Maidstone, ME14 1PP

17th – 18th Jan Theatre Royal 7.30pm
Addington St, Margate, CT9 1PW

20th – 21st Jan Castle Theatre 7.30pm
10 Castle Way, Wellingborough, NN8 1XA

22 nd – 23 rd Jan	Albany Theatre 7.30pm (+2pm Thu) Albany Rd, Coventry, CV5 6JQ
24 th – 25 th Jan	The Kenton Theatre 7.30pm 19 New St, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BP
28 th Jan – 1 st Feb	Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Tue – Thu 7.45pm, Fri – Sat 8pm (+2.30pm Thu and Sat) Millbrook, Guildford GU1 3UX
4 th – 5 th Feb	Lighthouse 7.45pm (+1.30pm Wed) Poole's Centre For The Arts, 21 Kingland Rd, Poole, BH15 1UG
6 th – 8 th Feb	Arena Theatre 7.30pm Wulfruna St, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE
10 th – 12 th Feb	Theatre Severn 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed) Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT
13 th – 15 th Feb	Garrick Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Sat) Castle Dyke, Lichfield, WS13 6HR
24 th – 25 th Feb	Waterside Arts Centre 7.30pm (+1.30pm Wed) 1 Waterside, Sale, M33 7ZF
27 th – 29 th Feb	The Theatre 7.45pm (+2.30pm Sat) 2 Spring St, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NL
2 nd – 3 rd Mar	Key Theatre Mon 7.30pm, Tue 2.30pm Embankment Rd, Peterborough, PE1 1EF
5 th – 7 th Mar	Devonshire Park Theatre 7.45pm (+2.30pm Sat) 8-10 Compton St, Eastbourne, BN21 4BW
10 th – 11 th Mar	Capitol Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed) North St, Horsham, RH12 1RG
12 th – 14 th Mar	Connaught Theatre 7.30pm (+2.30pm Fri) Union Pl, Worthing, BN11 1LG

16 th – 18 th Mar	New Theatre Royal 7.30pm 20-24 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth, PO1 2DD
19 th – 21 st Mar	Theatre Royal 7.30pm (+2.30pm Sat) Jewry St, Winchester, SO23 8SB
24 th – 25 th Mar	Town Hall 7.30pm Market Pl, Loughborough, LE11 3EB
26 th – 28 th Mar	Yeadon Town Hall 7.30pm (+2.30pm Fri) High St, Yeadon, Leeds, LS19 7PP
30 th Mar – 1 st Apr	Hull Truck 7.30pm (+2pm Wed) 50 Ferensway, Hull, HU2 8LB
2 nd – 3 rd Apr	Performing Arts Centre 7.30pm University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, LN6 7TS
14 th – 18 th Apr	Theatre Royal Bath 7.30pm (+2.30pm Wed and Sat) Sawclose, Bath, BA1 1ET
21 st – 22 nd Apr	Cast 7.30pm Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU
23 rd – 24 th Apr	Theatre Royal 7.30pm Drury Ln, Wakefield, WF1 2TE
27 th Apr – 2 nd May	Theatre Royal 8pm (+2.30pm Wed, 4.45pm Sat) 32 Thames St, Windsor, SL4 1PS
5 th May	Palace Theatre 7.30pm Leeming St, Mansfield, NG18 1NG
6 th – 7 th May	Middlesbrough Theatre 7.30pm The Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS5 6SA
8 th – 9 th May	Opera House 7.30pm The Square, Water St, Buxton, SK17 6XN

11 th – 12 th May	Grand Theatre 7.30pm St Leonardgate, Lodge St, Lancaster, LA1 1QW
13 th – 14 th May	Venue Cymru 7.30pm (+2.30pm Thu) The Promenade, Penrhyn Cres, Llandudno, LL30 1BB
19 th – 23 rd May	Lyceum Theatre 7.30pm (2.30pm Wed and Sat) Heath St, Crewe, CW1 2DA
27 th May – 21 st Jun	Tour of China

Blackeyed Theatre

Blackeyed Theatre is one of the UK's leading mid-scale touring theatre companies. Since 2004 we have been creating exciting opportunities for artists and audiences by producing theatre that's audacious, accessible and memorable. Blackeyed Theatre has two principal objectives through the work it produces; to provide audiences and artists with fresh, challenging work; and to make that work sustainable by reaching as wide and diverse an audience as possible. Over the past few years, Blackeyed Theatre has balanced these artistic and business objectives by creating new, exciting versions of established classics in unique ways and by identifying relevance with today's audiences.

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

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

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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