
BLACKEYED
THEATRE
arcola
theatre
THE
TURN
OF THE
SCREW
PROMOTER PACK



The Turn of the Screw

A World Premiere by
Morgan Lloyd Malcolm
Based on the novella by Henry James

Directed by Nicky Allpress
Produced by Blackeyed Theatre and Arcola Theatre

Touring September 2026 - April 2027

A Chilling Classic Reawakened for the Stage!

New for 2026, we bring to the stage a haunting new adaptation of Henry James' gothic masterpiece, *The Turn of the Screw*.

England. A remote country house. A young governess, hired to care for two seemingly angelic children, begins what appears to be an idyllic new life. Yet there is something about the children that hints at a darker presence.

Desperate to protect them from what she believes to be malevolent spirits as the line between reality and imagination blurs, she finds herself descending into a world of ambiguity, leading to one far-reaching question; are the ghosts real... or are they a projection of something far more terrifying?

A masterwork of psychological suspense and the inspiration for Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black*, *The Turn of the Screw* is brought to life in true Blackeyed style, combining powerful performances and stylish theatricality, where audiences become juries in deciding what's truth and what isn't!



Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Morgan is a playwright and screenwriter. She was commissioned by The Globe to write Emilia which became a hit show in summer 2018 before transferring to the West End in 2019, winning three Olivier awards. Her feature adaptation of her play The Wasp, starring Naomie Harris and Natalie Dormer and directed by Guillem Morales, was released in 2024 following a showing at the Tribeca Festival.

Morgan's previous stage credits include Dracula, produced by the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, Belongings and The Wasp, both produced by the Hampstead Theatre and Trafalgar Studios. Belongings was shortlisted for The Charles Wintour Most Promising Playwright Award. More recently Morgan wrote Typical Girls, set in a women's prison and featuring the music of The Slits (Sheffield Crucible, 2021); Mum (Plymouth Theatre Royal and Soho Theatre, 2021); and When the Long Trick's Over (produced by High Tide for New Wolsey Theatre and UK tour, 2022). She also co-wrote the book for new musical Cake, which was performed in London in 2023 and 2024 following an initial tour in 2022. Morgan runs a theatre company called Terrifying Women with Abi Zakarian, Sampira and Amanda Castro which produces new horror plays written by women.

Morgan previously adapted Damage by Josephine Hart for Moonage and Gaumont (produced as Obsession by Netflix) and is working on a number of new script projects, including a pilot for the BBC's Spotlight initiative.

Nicky Allpress

Nicky's 2023 production of The Shape of Things by David Eldridge was a finalist for the What's On Stage 'Best Production Off West End' award. Other recent productions include the Edinburgh Fringe award winning Jobsworth by Isley Lynn and Libby Rodliffe, which is transferring to the Park Theatre in November 2025. Also as Director, Nicky staged the first London revivals of Enda Walshe's Walworth Farce to open the new Southwark Playhouse Elephant and David Eldridge's Market Boy at the Union Theatre. For Blackeyed Theatre Nicky directed the 2023 production of Oh What a Lovely War, which was the recipient of 5 Offie Nominations.

Nicky was also Assistant Director to Jessica Swale on the film Summerland.

THE SOURCE MATERIAL

Written in 1898, *The Turn of the Screw* is considered to be a seminal work of gothic and horror fiction. Its influence and longevity are due to the complexity of the narrative and the ambiguity of its messaging. Through the finely judged narration of the unnamed governess, it is left entirely to the reader to decide as to the presence of ghosts at Bly Manor.

It was the basis for the 1961 cinematic masterpiece, *The Innocents*, held by many as one of the best horror films in history.

In his 1983 nonfiction survey of the horror genre, author Stephen King described *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959) as "the only two great supernatural works of horror in a century".

Oscar Wilde described it as "a most wonderful, lurid, poisonous little tale" while Virginia Woolf pronounced it, "the most hopelessly evil story that we could have read in any literature".

Meanwhile, Truman Capote said of it, "It is not a ghost story — it is the ghost story".

TARGET AUDIENCE

The production is designed for a mainstream theatre audience, including those who love ghost stories and thrillers, alongside those who seek out literary and classic adaptations. The adaptation will be faithful to the source material, while at the same time offering thrill-seekers genuinely scary moments.



SCHOOLS

Free education pack available, plus free online access to a digital recording of the show (post-visit) for school groups of 25+.

Perfect for the live theatre evaluation and for those studying gothic and 19th century literature.

"AN ELEGANT LAST ADVENTURE"
THE GUARDIAN

"TRULY STUNNING"
SHERLOCK HOLMES JOURNAL

ON BLACKEYED THEATRE'S
SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VALLEY OF FEAR

MARKETING SUPPORT

Blackeyed Theatre provides top quality marketing materials and support including:

- Leaflets and posters up to 6-sheet size
- Media Pack
- Education Pack
- High quality press and production photos
- Video trailer
- A range of e-shot images
- Advertising through national magazines, Ink Pellet and Drama & Theatre
- National press support
- Interviews with cast and director
- Value-adding activities, including post-show talks and workshops



BEST THEATRE TO WARCH ONLINE
THE GUARDIAN

"AN EXCEPTIONAL PRODUCTION"
DRAMA & THEATRE MAGAZINE

ON BLACKEYED THEATRE'S
JEKYLL & HYDE

BLACKEYED THEATRE

As one of the UK's leading mid-scale touring companies, Blackeyed Theatre has been creating exciting, sustainable theatre since 2004. We have taken our work to over a hundred different theatres across England, Scotland and Wales, as well as The Netherlands and China.

Recent UK tours include *Jane Eyre*, *The Sign Of Four, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, Frankenstein, The Great Gatsby, Not About Heroes, Dracula, Mother Courage And Her Children* and three tours of *Teechers*.

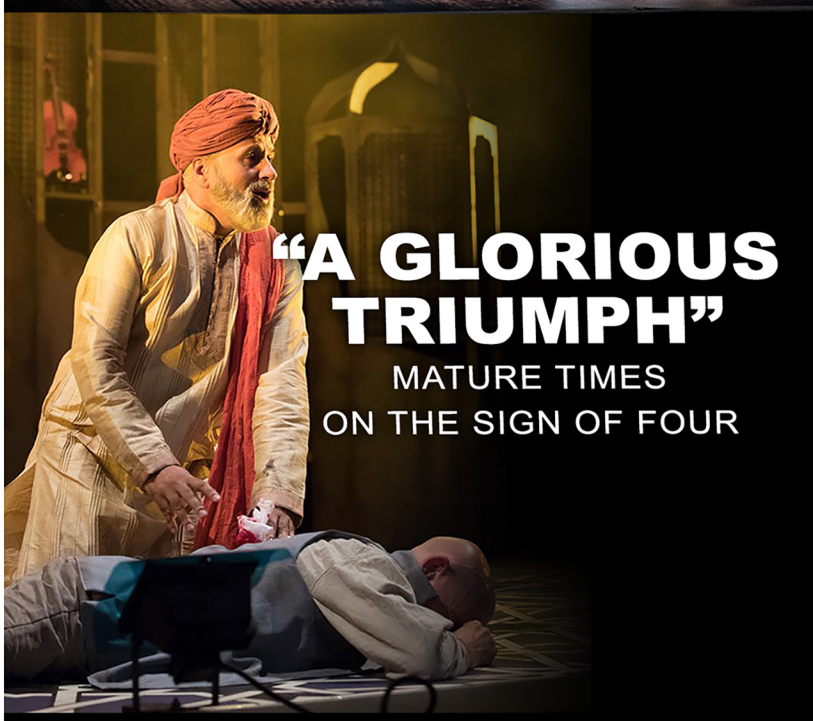
"ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE, AUDACIOUS COMPANIES WORKING IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH THEATRE"
THE STAGE

Since 2020, Blackeyed Theatre has expanded online, with the creation of a digital platform for schools that includes five filmed productions. In addition, *Jane Eyre* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde*, both filmed in 2020, have been streamed on demand, chosen for inclusion on Digital Theatre Plus and received public screenings in Shanghai. As a result the company has a growing online, global audience.

Central to everything we do is our desire both to challenge and engage artists and audiences. As a company that receives minimal funding, we are proof that commercially successful theatre can still be innovative and can still surprise. We believe that only by balancing a desire to push artistic boundaries with an appreciation of what audiences have a desire to see do you create theatre that is truly sustainable, both commercially and artistically.

The company is resident at South Hill Park Arts Centre in Bracknell.









PRODUCTION DETAILS

Technical Staff Requirement:
We require at least two technicians to assist with our get in, LX rigging and focus, as well as the get out after the final performance.

Typical schedule:
9am Venue rig LX
11am Blackeyed Theatre arrive. Toolbox talk.
Unload van, lay floor and build set.
12pm Continue LX rig if necessary and run in sound
1pm Lunch
2pm LX focus overhead, FOH and booms.
5pm Dinner
6pm – cast onstage to check LX and sound check
7.30pm Performance
10pm End of performance

Get Out:
The get out should take no longer than 90 minutes after the audience have cleared the auditorium.

Set/Scenic elements:
Technical details available on request.

The Turn of the Screw is available to book for weeks and sometimes split-weeks **from September 2026 until May 2027**.

Suitable for mid/large-scale theatres (Contact us for detailed technical requirements)

Get-in: 8 hours / Get-out: 90 minutes / Same day get-in is possible

The company will consist of 6 actors and 2 crew

Running time 135 minutes approx. (incl. interval)

Suitable for age 12+

"ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE, AUDACIOUS COMPANIES IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH THEATRE"

THE STAGE

For terms and all other enquiries, please contact Adrian McDougall

adrian@blackeyedtheatre.co.uk

07766 681943

www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk

BLACKEYED THEATRE

Blackeyed Theatre
South Hill Park Arts Centre
Ringmead, Bracknell RG12 7PA