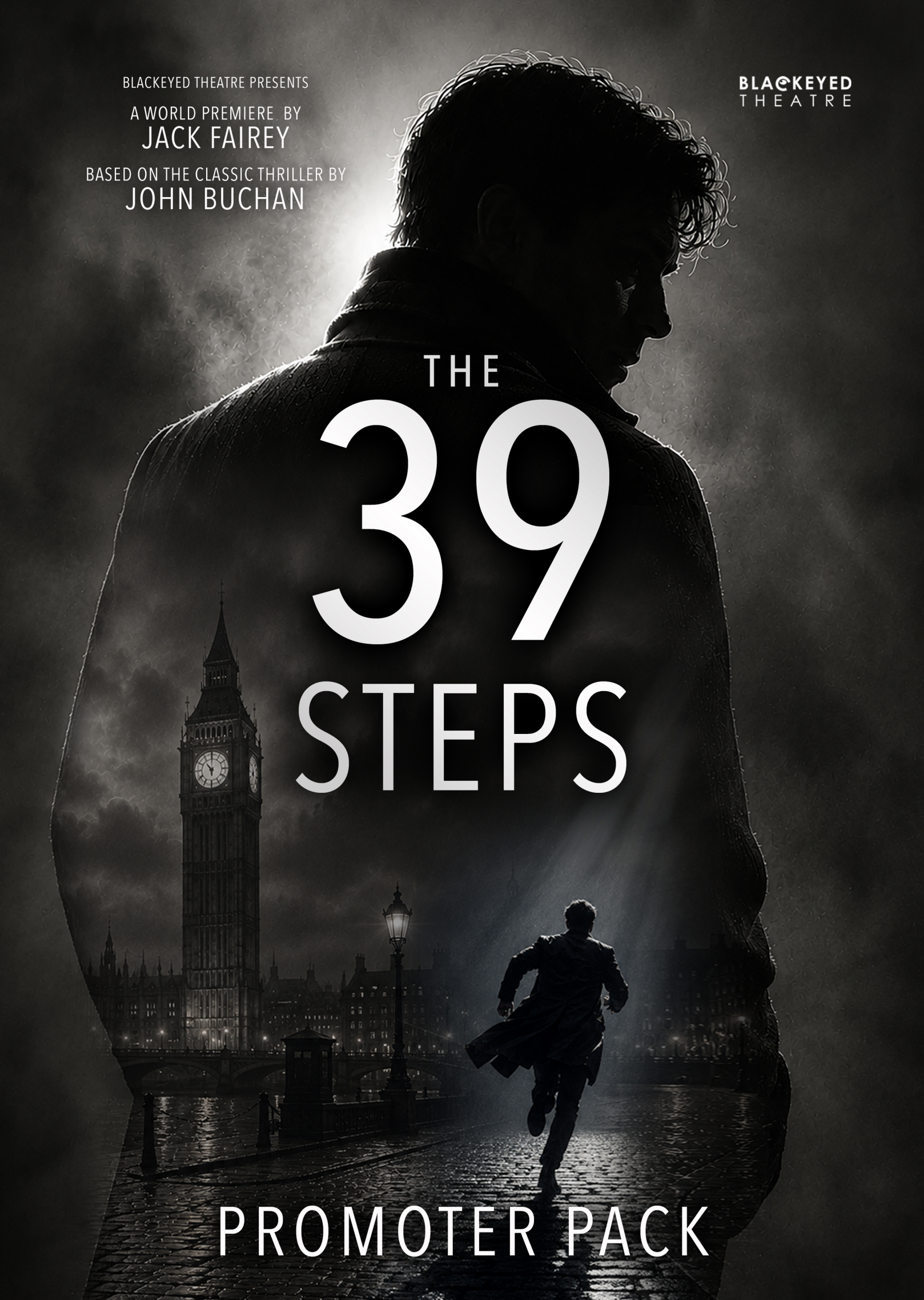

BLACKEYED THEATRE PRESENTS
A WORLD PREMIERE BY
JACK FAIREY
BASED ON THE CLASSIC THRILLER BY
JOHN BUCHAN
BLACKEYED THEATRE
THE
39
STEPS
PROMOTER PACK



The 39 Steps

A World Premiere by Jack Fairey
Adapted from the novel by John Buchan

Presented by Blackeyed Theatre

Touring from September 2027

New for 2027, a gripping new stage adaptation of John Buchan's legendary spy thriller brings suspense, intrigue and high-stakes adventure to theatres across the UK.

London, 1914. Richard Hannay leads a restless, unremarkable life - until a stranger arrives at his door with a terrifying claim: he has uncovered a plot that could plunge Europe into war. Days later, the man is murdered in Hannay's flat, leaving behind only fragments of a warning and a single, baffling phrase: The 39 Steps.

Suddenly the sole keeper of a dangerous secret, Hannay finds himself pursued by shadowy agents determined to silence him, and suspected by the authorities of the very crime he is trying to solve. So begins a perilous journey north, following the faint trail of a conspiracy stretching from the streets of London to the remote landscapes of Scotland.

In this gripping new stage adaptation of John Buchan's celebrated novel, a story of espionage, pursuit and mounting international tension unfolds against the final uneasy days before the First World War.

Atmospheric, intelligent and compellingly theatrical, *The 39 Steps* brings a landmark British thriller vividly to the stage.

More about *The Thirty-Nine Steps*

John Buchan's *The Thirty-nine Steps* is widely regarded as one of the novels that helped define the modern spy thriller. Published in 1915, it established many of the conventions that would later shape the genre: the innocent man on the run, hidden networks of espionage, coded secrets, and a race against time to stop catastrophe. It has inspired numerous adaptations across film, theatre, radio and television, most famously Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film, and influenced movies such as *The Fugitive, North by Northwest, Enemy of the State*, and franchises such as *James Bond* and *The Bourne Identity*.

In 2015, the novel was included in The Guardian's list of 100 Best English Novels while in 2003, the book was listed on the BBC's Big Read poll of Britain's "best-loved novels."

The multi-award winning comedic stage adaptation by Patrick Barlow has raised the profile of the novel among theatre audiences.

Written during the early months of the First World War, the novel appealed to an English reading public that had become gripped by invasion fever, a symptom of the jingoism and xenophobia inspired by the Anglo-German naval arms race.

the novel captures a world on the edge of global conflict, giving its conspiracy narrative an added historical resonance.

Jack Fairey

Jack is a playwright based in London who studied on UEA's prestigious Creative Writing course, and is a current member of the Mercury Colchester's Playwright's Cohort 2026/27 and New Writing South's Playwright's Cohort 2026. He has worked with the Rose Theatre, the Orange Tree, BBC Radio 4, Norwich Theatre, Oxford School of Drama, Chronic Insanity and The Arts Centre Hounslow. Productions of his plays have been nominated for Off West End, London Pub Theatre, Fringe Biscuit and Neurodiverse Awards.

Selected Credits include Hades and Persephone (The Orange Tree, 2026), A Christmas Carol (Boston Manor House, 2025), The Roger Fisher Protocol (Chronic Insanity, 2025), Hear My Voice (Rose Theatre, 2025), Frankenstein (The Arts Centre Hounslow, 2024), The Sun, the Mountain, and Me (Edinburgh Fringe, 2024), Radio Waves (BBC Radio 4, 2023) and Every Seven Years (Jack Studio Theatre, 2021).

TARGET AUDIENCE

The production is designed for a mainstream theatre audience, including those who love mysteries and thrillers, alongside those who seek out literary and classic adaptations.

Audiences will gravitate to titles they know, and theatre audiences will be familiar with *The 39 Steps* through the huge success of the comic stage adaptation of the same name.

The adaptation will be faithful to the source material, offering audiences a serious espionage thriller, tapping into the current desire for high stakes stories that reflect current day socio-polititcs and building on the huge success of similar work by Blackeyed Theatre.



"ABSORBING, ATMOSPHERIC RETELLING OF BRAM STOKER'S HORROR CLASSIC"
THE STAGE

ON BLACKEYED THEATRE'S
DRACULA

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.



"AN ELEGANT LAST ADVENTURE"
THE GUARDIAN

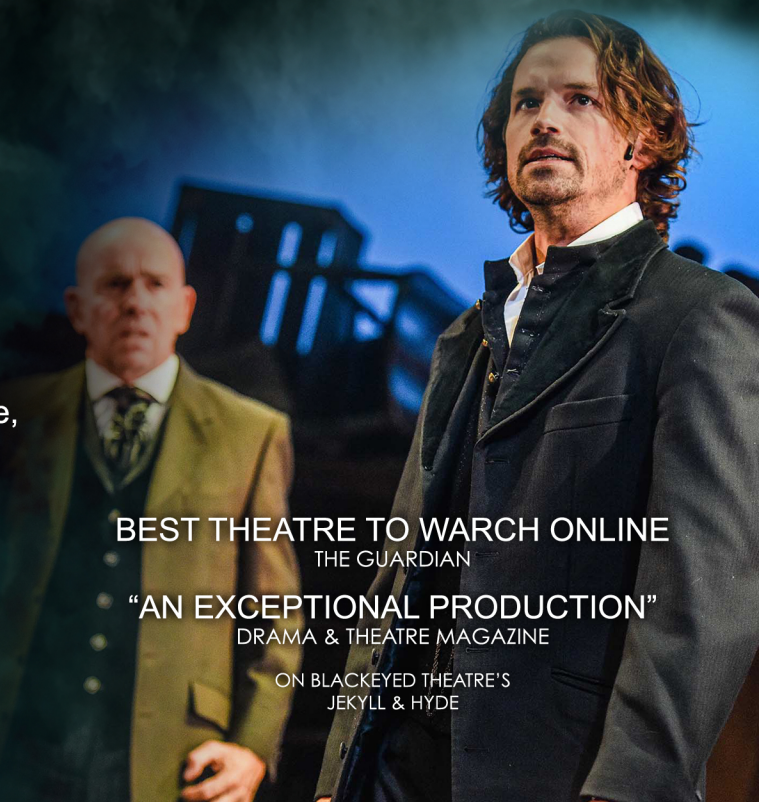
"TRULY STUNNING"
SHERLOCK HOLMES JOURNAL

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
- Teaser trailer
- Video trailer
- A range of e-shot images
- National META Ads
- Advertising through national schools magazine, 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*.

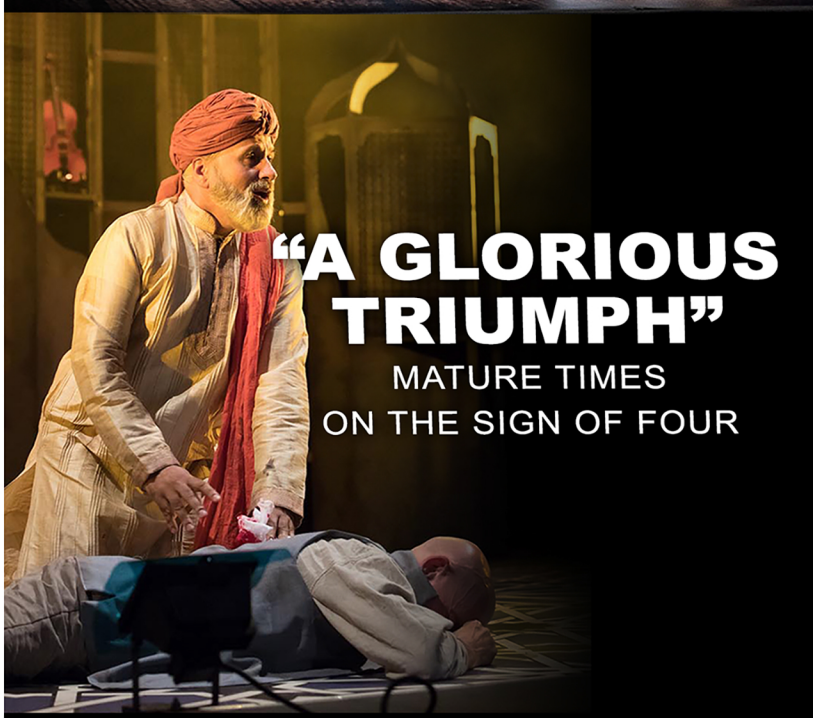
"ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE, AUDACIOUS COMPANIES WORKING IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH THEATRE"
THE STAGE

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 approx 90 minutes after the audience have cleared the auditorium.

Set/Scenic elements:
Technical details available on request.

The 39 Steps is available to book for weeks and sometimes split-weeks **from September 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 11+

"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
South Hill Park Arts Centre
Ringmead, Bracknell RG12 7PA