

NORTH COUNTRY theatre

The Prisoner of Zenda



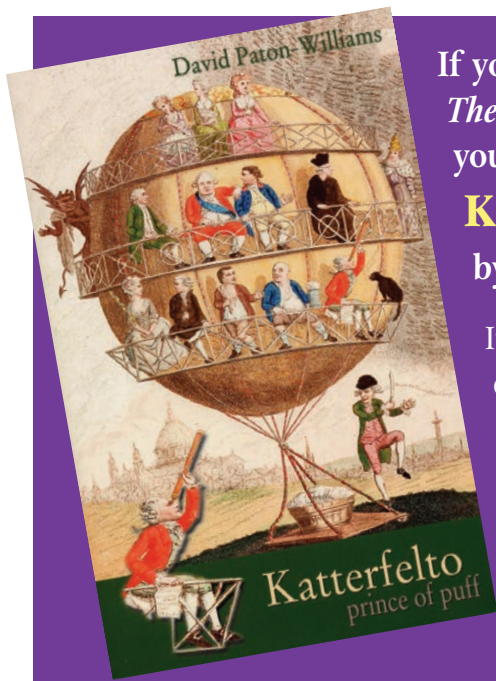
An hilarious
ripping yarn of swashbuckling
Ruritanian romance!



Adapted by
Nobby Dimon from
the novel by Anthony Hope

Programme £1





If you liked North Country Theatre's
The Electrical Wizard of the North
you will enjoy

Katterfelto: Prince of Puff

by David Paton-Williams

It tells the story of one of the very first electrical wizards, Dr Katterfelto - an eighteenth century conjuror, quack, lecturer and charlatan. Available online (www.katterfelto.me.uk) and from book shops (ISBN 978-1906510-916) price £9.99p.

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North Country Theatre is a professional theatre company based in the beautiful market town of Richmond in North Yorkshire. Under the direction of its Artistic Director Nobby Dimon it has created many original new plays along with exciting adaptations of classic novels since it began in 1996.

It has a special understanding of the nature of touring to a rural area as well as educational and site specific drama. It is committed to giving exciting, entertaining and intelligent theatre to audiences whose access to live theatre is limited by geography or who simply enjoy sharing the experience of live theatre in their local community. We would like to express our gratitude to the local promoters, the majority of whom are unpaid, whose hard work allows us to visit their venues.

Do we have VAN APPEAL?

North Country's familiar dark green Mercedes van is 10 years old and we need to think about replacing it.

A number of theatre companies now hire vans when they need them, but that isn't an option for us as we need a specially adapted automatic version — so, we are beginning our Van Appeal. We have worked out that if every member of our audience gave £10 each, then we'd have enough to buy a van at the end of the year. If you feel so inclined — donations are most welcome. Send a cheque to 3 Rosemary Lane, Richmond DL10 4DP or you can drop your donation into the little van collecting box at the end of the show.

Anthony Hope

Hope trained as a lawyer and barrister, being called to the Bar in 1887. He had time to write, as his working day was not overly full during the first years. The idea for Hope's tale of political intrigue, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, came to him at



the close of 1893 as he was walking in London. Hope finished the first draft in a month, and the book was in print by April. The story is set in the fictional European

kingdom of 'Ruritania', a term which has become synonymous with court romances and ludicrous high adventure in a faraway place. *Zenda* achieved instant success, and its witty protagonist, the debonair Rudolf Rassendyll, became a well-known literary creation. The popularity convinced Hope to give up the "brilliant legal career" to become a full-time writer, but he never again achieved such complete artistic success as in this one book. In 1898 Hope also co-wrote, with Edward Rose, the first stage adaptation of *Zenda*.

He wrote 32 volumes of fiction over the course of his lifetime. On a publicity tour of the United States in late 1897, he impressed a New York Times reporter as being somewhat like Rudolf Rassendyll: a well-dressed Englishman

with a hearty laugh, a soldierly attitude, a dry sense of humour, "quiet, easy manners" and an air of shrewdness.

Adaptations

There have been numerous stage and film versions created including two early silent movies and a Peter Sellers spoof. The idea of one actor playing both look-alikes must have appealed to early film makers as something which could be done cleverly on film in a way not possible on the stage. Hollywood heart-throbs like Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Stewart Grainger both starred in different versions.



> Andy Thursfield has been proud to design publicity material for North Country Theatre since 1999 and donated the time he spent producing this programme in support of them

> design@andythursfield.demon.co.uk > 01748 829507

The Prisoner of Zenda



Adapted from the novel
by Anthony Hope

The Company

Rudolph Rassendyll Josh Boyd-Rochford
Melbecks, Col Sapt & others Nobby Dimon
Rose, Lady Bursledon, Antoinette de Mauban Vivienne Garnett
Lord Bursledon, King Rudolf of Ruritania, Rupert of Hentzau ... Simon Kirk
Heidi, Princess Flavia Victoria Brazier

Written and
directed by
Nobby Dimon

Set and prop maker Malcolm Wood
Scenic artists Simon Pell
..... Lynn Ward
Lighting Designer Thomas Weir
Incidental music Dave Harris
Costume Alice Lawson
Admin support Jacquie Wood, Gillian Howells

Special thanks to: Richard & Morven Lawson, Richmond Pentecostal Church, RADS,
Sue Kirk [for fight direction], Friends of North Country Theatre

Grateful thanks to the G W Cadbury Trust, Richmond Town Council
and to our funders Arts Council England

You need Friends... we need 'Friends of North Country Theatre'

The friends of North Country Theatre are a wonderful group of supporters who pay an annual subscription of £20 per household.

For this they get a newsletter and occasional invitations to special fundraising events. They are often invited to come to the opening night of a production and stay behind to see the set and meet the cast. Friends do an invaluable job for the company, and money raised by them is used to enhance the work produced by North Country Theatre, often enabling us to buy props, costumes or even commission work we would not otherwise be able to afford. If you are interested in becoming a friend please contact Tim Kendall via email on Timkenda11@aol.com or fill in the form overleaf.

Alice Lawson *Costume*

Alice went to school in Richmond so has been helping North Country Theatre with costumes for many years before she went on to do her professional training in Fashion and Costume Craft at Leicester College. She has worked at a number of theatres and is currently training with Frank Hall, Tailor at Market Harborough.

Simon Pell *Scenic artist*

Simon trained at Loughborough College of Art and The Slade and worked as a resident Scenic Artist at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, and at the National Theatre before moving to the Northeast in 1987. He has designed for many companies, including Durham Theatre Company, Charivari/Blaize, and Welfare State International. He was also a Director of Jack Drum Arts. He has designed and painted many North Country Theatre shows and recently designed *The Likely Lads* at the Durham Gala Theatre.

Lynn Ward *Scenic artist*

Lynn lives in Bellerby, trained at York College of Art & Technology and Cleveland College of Art. After many years as an architectural illustrator, she launched a freelance career and her remarkable mural work can be seen in many places including The Forbidden Corner. She worked for North Country Theatre on their adaptation of *The Lost World*, *The 39 Steps* and *The 2nd Shepherd's Play*.

Malcolm Wood *Stage carpenter*

Malcolm Wood is a self employed joiner who has contributed design ideas and constructed sets for numerous North Country productions. His knowledge of early magicians and his experience of Punch and Judy are invaluable as is his knowledge of pin hinges, drill bits and "2 x 1". You can book "Professor" Wood's Punch and Judy Show with its beautiful hand carved traditional puppets for parties and events by contacting us.

Dave Harris *Musician/composer*

Dave has written music for theatre, television and film, is an award winning songwriter and is also a session musician who has appeared on many albums and radio and television broadcasts. His previous work for North Country Theatre includes music direction and arrangement for *The Passion Plays* and composing and recording the soundtrack for *2001 Space Idiocy*, *Moll Flanders* and the tenth anniversary production of *The 39 Steps*.

Thomas Weir *Technician*

Thomas is working for a fourth time with North Country Theatre having previously worked on *The Imitation Game*, *The 39 Steps* and *The Man Who Would Be King*. Thomas did a seven-year stint at the Octagon Theatre Bolton where he has designed both lighting and sound for numerous productions the most recent being *I Just Stopped By To See The Man* by Stephen Jeffreys. He has worked and designed with numerous theatrical companies and venues around the country. They include Belgrade Theatre, Buxton Opera House, Opera House Manchester, Everyman Theatre Liverpool and Pitlochry Festival Theatre amongst others.

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Nobby Dimon

Has been the Artistic Director of North Country Theatre since it was founded in 1996. He has been writer adapter as well as director of most of the company's output since then, including acclaimed adaptations of J. L. Carr's *A Month in the Country*, Austen's *Northanger Abbey*, and Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*, as well as writing the large scale community play for Richmondshire *Last Dance of a Dalesman*, which moved its audience from gales of laughter to tears and back again. His adaptation with Simon Corble of Buchan's *The 39 Steps* inspired the West End Production that received an Olivier Award as BEST NEW COMEDY in February 2007. Described as "uproariously funny... strikingly inventive" in the Guardian, as well as the Critics' Choice it also won the People's Choice Award and the Broadway production won a couple of Tony Awards.



Simon Kirk

This is Simon's fifth outing with North Country Theatre, his ability to grow facial hair to order is what keeps him in employ. Previously as Venutius in *Cartimandua* (bushy beard) Blackstone in *The 39 Steps* (evil goatee) Dan Dravot in *The Man Who Would be King* (mutton chops) and most recently as Dr Walford Bodie in *The Electrical Wizard of the North* (extravagant Edwardian moustaches). Now he is thrilled to be buckling his swash as the evil, clean-shaven, Rupert of Hentzau. Earlier this year he played Claudius in *Hamlet* at Lancaster Castle. His play *Deeds not Words* on militant suffragettes, is about to be performed in Parliament.



Vivienne Garnett

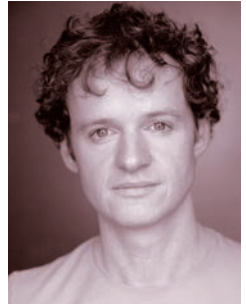
Having performed with North Country Theatre as Frances in *The Imitation Game*, and Gill and Mary in *Mak the Sheepstealer*, Vivienne is delighted to be touring with the company for a third time. Vivienne was born and bred in North

Yorkshire, but moved to London to complete a Postgraduate Acting course at Mountview in 2004, and still lives there now. Since graduating, she has done several TV and stills adverts, including commercials for Sony Playstation, Virgin Trains and Sky Movies, but seems to have spent most of her time improving her skills as a bartender!



Josh Boyd-Rochford

Josh spent seven years as a singer with English National Opera before training at Mountview Academy. Roles in theatre include *My Fair Lady*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *Godspell*, *Rags*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Road, Catchy!*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Poor Unsuccessful & Fat* and *Shakespeare Shorts*. He was a featured soloist in The West End Show regional tour. Josh has appeared in a number of short films and recently appeared in the upcoming feature *Hippie Hippie Shake*.



Victoria Brazier

Victoria trained at Birmingham School of Speech and Drama. Theatre credits include: *All's Well That Ends Well* at Lancaster Castle, *Hobson's Choice* at The Royal Exchange and *The Borrowers* for Watershed Theatre. On television, she has appeared in *Doctors*, *Boy A*, *The Street*, *Vincent* and *Coronation Street*. She can be heard regularly on Radio Four; recent roles include Kathleen in *Mr Maugham's Journey Home*, Clare in *The Crowded Street* and India in *Second Chances*.



The Prisoner of Zenda

An hilarious
ripping yarn of swashbuckling
Ruritania romance!

NORTH COUNTRY theatre



If you enjoyed
this production tell
your friends they can see
it at the venues listed
below or I'll...

Adapted by
Nobby Dimon
from the
novel by
Anthony Hope

From the company who have delighted audiences for a decade with epic dramas, hilarious spoofs and witty adaptations, (including the 2007 Olivier Award-winning *The 39 Steps*)

British aristocrat Rudolph Rassendyll is distantly related to the royal family of Ruritania and when visiting for the coronation of his cousin the Crown Prince, he is discovered to be a double for the drunken and dissolute monarch. Rebellion, Romance & Mistaken Identity follow as our dashing hero saves the day with swordplay and subterfuge and beautiful Princess Flavia is forced to choose between her heart and her duty.

"...immense charm, impressive moustaches and lots of yodelling. Theatre at its enjoyable best."
The Stage

TICKETS & INFORMATION FROM LOCAL PROMOTERS ON THE NUMBERS BELOW, START TIMES VARY, PLEASE CHECK WITH VENUE

OCTOBER

Fri 24	Richmond Zetland Centre	DL10 4AS	01748 825288
Sat 25	Torpenhow Village Hall	CA7 1HT 01697 371514 & Wigton Library	366150
Tue 28	Thornton le Beans Village Hall	DL6 3SL	01609 780208
Wed 29	Kirklington Village Hall	DL8 2NJ	01845 567295
Thu 30	Catterick Village Booth Memorial Hall	DL10 7LN	01748 811305
Fri 31	Yarm Fellowship Hall	TS15 9BU	01642 888786

NOVEMBER

Sat 1	Lanchester Community Centre	DH7 0JQ	01207 521275
Tue 4	Glentworth Village Hall	DN21 5DF	01427 667118
Wed 5	Ashby Magna Village Hall	LE17 5NQ	01455 202599
Thu 6	Clifford Village Hall	LS23 6HY	01937 849789
Fri 7	Hunton Village Hall	DL9 1QL	01677 450545
Sat 8	Bowness The Old Laundry Theatre	LA23 3BT	015394 88444 Ext 223 & online
Tue 11	Drigg Parish Hall	CA18	01946 593040
Wed 12	Ripon Cathedral Choir School	HG4 2LA	01765 602134
Thu 13	Harewood Gateway School	LS17 9LE	01132 181209
Fri 14	Carlops Village Hall	EH26	01968 660388 & 660727
Sat 15	Melrose Wynd Theatre	TD6 9PA	01896 820028
Tue 18	Masham Black Sheep Brewery	HG4 4EN	01765 680100
Wed 19	Salt Village Hall	ST18	01899 508284
Thu 20	Matlock Joseph Whitworth Centre	DE4 2EQ	01629 733678
Fri 21	Didcot Town Hall	OX11	01235 512436
Sat 22	West Hendred Village Hall	OX12	07866 428943
Wed 26	Knayton Village Hall	YO7 4AZ	01845 537457
Thu 27	Hawes Dales Countryside Museum	DL8 3NT	01969 666210
Fri 28	Terrington Village Hall	YO60 6NT	01653 648249
Sat 29	Hutton Rudby Village Hall	TS15 0HP	01642 701744 or 701586
Sun 30	Helmsley Arts Centre	YO62 5DW	01439 771700

DECEMBER

Tue 2	Fearby Village Hall	HG4	01765 659456
Wed 3	Arncliffe Amerdale Hall	BD23 5QD	01756 770235
Thu 4	Sawley Village Hall	HG4	01765 620691 or 620328
Fri 5	Reeth Memorial Hall	DL11 6QT	01748 884759
Sat 6	Otley Courthouse	LS21 3AN	01943 467466

Supported by Friends of North Country Theatre and Richmond Town Council

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