

NORTH COUNTRY theatre

Home on the Range



**Written and
directed by
Nobby Dimon**

From Wensleydale to the Wild West, an epic tale
of struggle, endurance and buffalo droppings!

Programme £1



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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.

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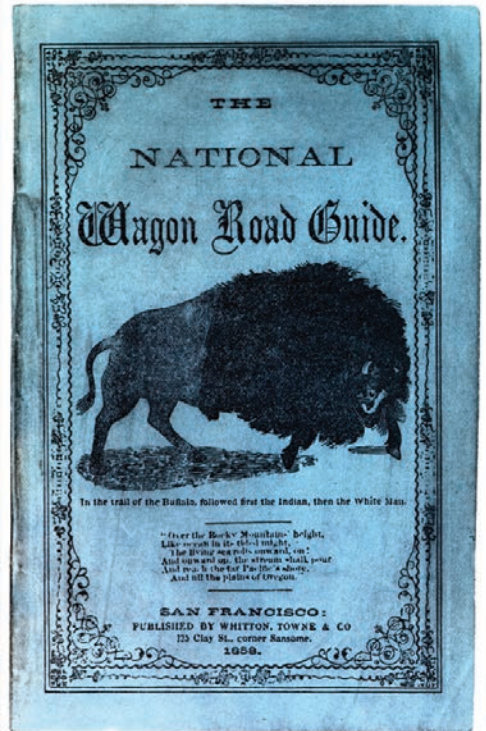
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THE OREGON TRAIL

Between 1840 and 1860, over 200,000 men, women and children made the hazardous journey overland on what became known as the Oregon and California Trails. Drawn by the promise of “land for the taking” and in the case of California by gold, they crossed the vast hinterland of continental North America. At that time this was largely uncharted territory, though of course it was the ancestral home of the indigenous peoples, Sioux, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Shoshone and other nations. It took about five months to travel the 2,000 miles by ox-drawn wagon. The wagons had to cross mountain ranges, deserts, and broad rivers, and accident, exhaustion, starvation and cholera took a toll but many survived to settle and thrive in the new territories.

At first the wagon trains were small independent parties but such was the popularity of the trail that it eventually a great commerce grew up around the mass



migration especially at the trails starting point in Independence Missouri.

Emigration from the Lead mining communities of the Northern Dales to Galena Wisconsin and other places on the Upper Mississippi had begun earlier still, but when in their turn the American mines began to fail some intrepid Dalesfolk set out west for a second time. Their descendants are scattered across the USA.



THE WOMEN OF THE OVERLAND TRAIL

created and held on to some order and routine. Against all odds, they managed to feed their families, do the wash and care for the scattering children. They strove to calm the quarrelling men, to keep a diary record of passing friends and families, to note who took the children when parents died on the road, to note carefully the names on grave markers. The women even managed to bear new life on the crest



Hope Maguire (nee Hawker) Oregon 1865

of the journey's upheaval.

In the very common place of their observations, the women bring us a new vision of the overland experience; they bring it close to our own lives. They do not write of trailblazing adventure but of those facets of living that are unchanging. In reading their diaries we come close to understanding how historical drama translates into human experience. Through the eyes of the women we begin to see history as the stuff of daily struggle.

From
*Women's Diaries of
the Westward Journey*
by Lillian Schlissel

> 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



CAST

Annis Hawker	Fiona Paul
May Buxton (her sister)	Vivienne Garnett
Hope Hawker (her daughter)	Amelia Newbould
Directed by	Nobby Dimon
Scenic Artist	Simon Pell
Wagon & props construction	Malcolm Wood
Costume	Ele Slade
Dance advisor	Faye Doorbar
Lighting	Thomas Weir
Production Administration	Jacquie Wood, Gillian Howells

A short version of this play was first created as part of a schools project by Harrogate Theatre in Education 20 years ago. The participating actors were Liz Humphry Williams, Penny Green and Angela Saville. Much background information was provided by Jim "Tex" Garry and Lynne Simpson from Wyoming.

COMING NEXT FROM NORTH COUNTRY THEATRE

Egil Skallagrimson Keeps His Head

a hilarious Viking adventure created especially
for the Jorvik Viking Festival February 2010

Thanks to: Fran Steeples, Mark Whyman, RADS, Richmond Pentecostal Church, Richmond Operatics, Yorke House Antiques, David Morris, Morven Lawson, Oldham Coliseum, Steve Wass, Tim Culkin and Austin Lynch

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.

Eleanor Slade *Costume design*

Ele graduated from the University of Kent, Canterbury in 2008, studying Drama and Theatre Studies, specialising in Design. Recently she has designed set and costumes for community and youth theatre, been a design assistant for Punchdrunk Theatre Company in London, and run design workshops with children. After *Home on the Range* she is working on a large community play in Woking, Surrey.

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.

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.

Thomas Weir *Technician*

Thomas is working for a fifth time with North Country Theatre having previously worked on *The Imitation Game*, *The 39 Steps* and *The Man Who Would Be King* and *The Prisoner of Zenda*. 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.

Lady Sylvia Crathorne

We would like to dedicate this tour to the memory of Sylvia Crathorne who was passionate about theatre. She championed the Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond with a true pioneering spirit.

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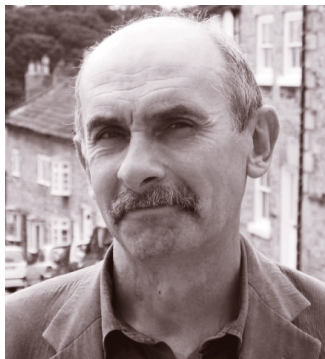
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Nobby Dimon

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.



Amelia Newbould

Amelia is a recent graduate from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Originally from North Yorkshire she is delighted to be

making her professional debut with North Country Theatre. Roles played whilst at drama school: Luciana *The Comedy of Errors*, Dunyasha *The Cherry Orchard*, Reba Freitag *The*

Last Night of Ballyhoo, Hanna Schneider *Enduring Freedom*, Miss Hoyden *The Relapse*, Catherine *The View from a Bridge* and Cassandra *The Oresteia*.



Vivienne Garnett

This is Vivienne's fifth time performing with North Country Theatre, having made her professional debut as Cathy in *The Imitation Game* in 2005.

She also played Gill in *Mak the Sheepstealer* and Antionette de Mauban/Duke Michael in *The Prisoner of Zenda*. Vivienne trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London five years

ago, and has also appeared in several TV and stills adverts, including commercials for Sony, Virgin and Sky. She is delighted to be returning to her native North Yorkshire for this tour.



Fiona Paul

A graduate from The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, Fiona's recent theatre credits include; Lieutenant Woolf and Verbatim roles *An Evening with Psychosis*, Point Blank Theatre - Edinburgh Festival and National Tour. Titania

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Feelgood Theatre. Defence Lawyer *Richard III On Trial*, Demi Paradise Productions. Lady Blakeney *Scarlet Pimpernel*, Fools Gold Theatre.

Michelle Herons, Landor Theatre. Gravedigger *Hamlet*, Wild Thyme Productions. Levidulcia, *The Atheist's Tragedy*, (Blue Eyes) White Bear Theatre. PQ1 in *Patricia Quinn Saved My Life*, Hen and Chickens. Sgt Hash, Dr, Alien *Aliens Are Scary* 5065 Lift, Pleasance. She is an Associate Artist of Babbling Vagabonds Storytelling Theatre and productions include *Wee Meg Barnileg*, *Beast*, *Firebird* and *Lonely Giant*. Her recent film work includes *Arnolds Anonymous* and *Where to Mate?* Fiona lived in Yorkshire as a girl and is glad to be back working in the green hills.



Home on the Range



*"I write on my lap with the
wind rocking the wagon"*
Angeline Ashley 1852

Based on the diaries of women on the famous 2000 mile Oregon trail, this play tells the tale of daleswomen Annis Hawker, her sister May and daughter Hope and the incredible journey they make from the lead mining communities of Northern England to the Wild West of America.

Told with live music and dance as well as North Country's now famous wit and theatrical invention, the story moves from laughter to tears and back again as it takes the audience on an epic journey of the imagination.

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

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

OCTOBER

Fri 2	Richmond Zetland Centre	DL10 4AS	01748 825288
Sat 3	Richmond Zetland Centre	DL10 4AS	01748 825288
Tue 6	Ripon Cathedral Choir School	HG4 2LA	01765 602134
Wed 7	West Burton Village Hall	DL8 4JY	01969 663753
Thu 8	Ireby, Globe Hall	CA7 1EQ	01697 371863
Fri 9	Gosforth Public Hall	CA20 1EL	01946 725700
Sat 10	Brigham Memorial Hall	CA13 0TE	01900 828380
Wed 14	Kirklington Village Hall	DL8 2NJ	01845 567295
Thu 15	Topcliffe Queen Mary School	YO7 3BZ	private venue
Fri 16	Ingleby Greenhow Village Hall	TS9 6LX	01642 723492
Sat 17	Catterick Booth Memorial Hall	DL10 7LN	01748 811305
Sun 18	Helmsley Arts Centre	YO62 5DW	01439 771700
Tue 20	Grassington Village Hall	BD23 5AA	01729 825600
Wed 21	Kirkby Malzeard Mechanics Institute	HG4 3RS	01765 658438 / 658201
Thu 22	Great Ouseburn Village Hall	YO26 9RL	01423 325179
Fri 23	Selby Town Hall	YO8 4AJ	01757 213758
Sat 24	Yarm Fellowship Hall	TS15 9BU	01642 888786
Tue 27	Thornton le Beans Village Hall	DL6 3SL	01609 774458
Wed 28	Wetherby Methodist Hall	LS22 TNQ	01937 520180
Thu 29	East Harlesy Village Hall	DL6 2DB	01609 882641
Fri 30	Barton on Humber The Ropewalk	DN18 5JT	01652 660380
Sat 31	Lanchester Community Centre	DH7 OJQ	01207 521275

NOVEMBER

Fri 6	Sawley Village Hall	HG4 3EQ	01765 620347
Sat 7	Bowness Old Laundry Theatre	LA23 3BT	01539 488444 ext. 223
Tue 10	Glethorth Village Hall	DN21 5DF	01427 667118
Wed 11	Knayton Village Hall	YO7 4AZ	01845 537457
Thu 12	Carlops Village Hall	EH26 9NF	01968 660388 / 660727
Fri 13	Melrose Wynd Theatre	TD6 9PA	01896 820028
Sat 14	Melrose Wynd Theatre	TD6 9PA	01896 820028
Tue 17	Edgton Village Hall	SY8 7HN	01588 680302
Wed 18	Edgton Village Hall	SY8 7HN	01588 672248
Thu 19	Oakham Vale of Catmose College	LE15 6NU	01572 725904
Fri 20	Anstey Jubilee Hall	LE7 7AY	01162 362646
Sat 21	Newton le Willows Village Hall	DL8 1SH	01677 450715
Tue 24	Masham Black Sheep Brewery	HG4 4EN	01765 680100
Wed 25	Arncliffe Amerdale Hall	BD23 5QD	01756 770235
Thu 26	Clifford Village Hall	LS23 6HY	01937 842768
Fri 27	Gilling West Village Hall	DL10 5JG	01748 850158
Sat 28	Leyburn Methodist Hall	DL8 5AT	01748 828747 (Leyburn TIC)

DECEMBER

Tue 1	Darley Village Memorial Hall	HG3 2RP	01423 781862 / 780673
Wed 2	Hawes Dales Countryside Museum	DL8 3NT	01969 666210
Thu 3	Hustwaite Village Hall	YO61 4PX	01347 868247
Fri 4	Otley Courthouse	LS21 3AN	01943 467466
Sat 5	Hutton Rudby Village Hall	TS15 0HP	016420701744 / 701586
Tue 8	Hixon Memorial Hall	ST18	01889 272666
Wed 9	Settle Victoria Hall	BD24 9DZ	01729 825718
Thu 10	Grindelford, The Maynard	S32 2HE	01433 631949
Fri 11	Hunton Village Hall	DL8 1QZ	01677 450545
Sat 12	Reeth Memorial Hall	DL11 6QT	01748 884759

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