

NORTH COUNTRY theatre

ht
HARROGATE
THEATRE

PRESENT

A BLOOD WEDDING

in
Wensleydale!

Cold Comfort Farm meets Carmen
Lorca's famous Spanish tale of
feuding families, freely adapted and
re-set in the farming communities
of the Yorkshire Dales

Adapted & directed by Nobby Dimon



Supported by
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Programme £2


OLDHAM COLISEUM & HARROGATE THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION
WITH ANVIL ARTS PRESENT

Noël Coward's Private Lives

Directed by Robin Herford

Following the huge success of *Absent Friends* we've teamed up with Oldham Coliseum and Anvil Arts once again to present Noël Coward's witty and sophisticated comedy.

THUR 24 - SAT 26 FEB
ALL TICKETS £10

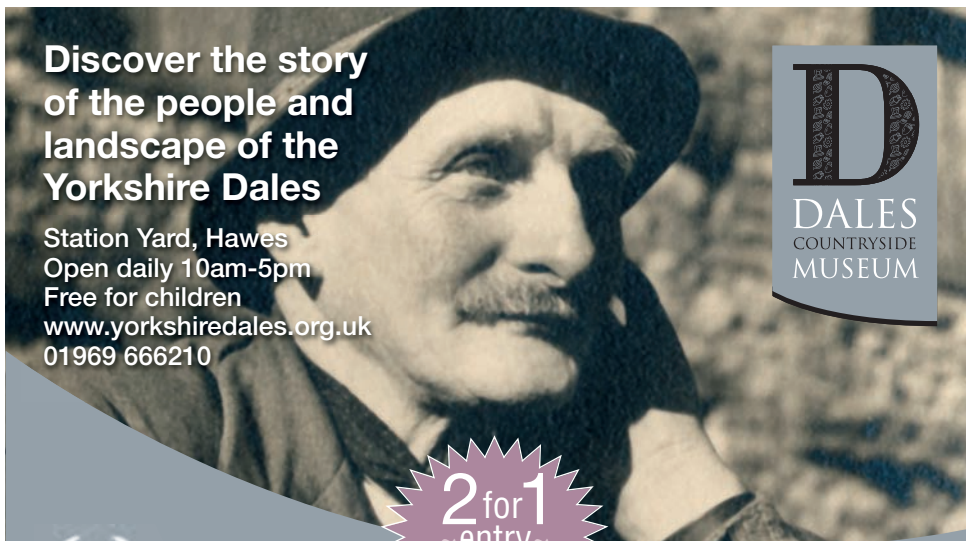


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110 Years

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(* £1.75 BOOKING FEE APPLIES)

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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.

› Andy Thursfield donated the time he spent designing this programme in support of North Country Theatre. Aside from graphic design he tries to find time to paint ~ take a look at

www.andy-thursfield.com



Federico Garcia Lorca

was born near Granada in Andalusia in 1898. After first studying law he became more interested in poetry and the theatre and published poems and dramas throughout his twenties. He became a friend of Salvador Dali who made sets for his first play, and was a figure in the Spanish avant garde. In 1931 he formed and led La Barraca, a theatre company, to take classic drama to the provinces. *Bodas de Sangre* (Blood Wedding) his most famous play was written in 1933, followed quickly by *Yerma*, and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*.

A supporter of the Republican Government, at the beginning of the Civil War he was arrested by Fascist (Franco-ist) militia in 1936, shot, and his body thrown in an unmarked mass grave.

Regarded as one of Spain's greatest poets, his reputation as a playwright has ebbed and flowed over the years since his untimely death. His poetic non-naturalistic style has been highly regarded by students of drama as an important break from the stodgy realism of some early 20th century drama. Characters like The Moon and Death and poetic choruses appear; love, pride, passion, fate and death are recurring themes and he has sometimes seemed too melodramatic for English tastes.

Why "In Wensleydale"?

Blood Wedding is a play about feuding families in isolated farming communities. It seems to me that many rural communities across Europe share certain characteristics - an inherent social conservatism, traditional culture, strong community, anxiety about the encroaching

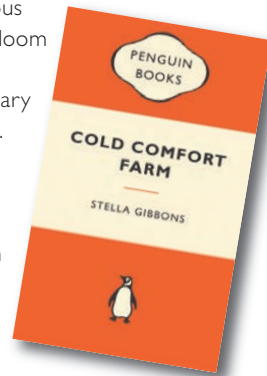


"modern" world and, particularly in the 20th century, the exodus of young people "drawn to the bright lights of Bedale and beyond".

In the same year that Lorca wrote *Blood*

Wedding, in England Stella Gibbons wrote *Cold Comfort Farm* ("I saw something nasty in the wood shed"), a hilarious send up of the rural doom and gloom novels of Thomas Hardy and Mary Webb (*Precious Bane*).

The idea of somehow mixing the hot passion of Spain with the cool stoicism and irony of England seemed potentially amusing. The idea of a rural Yorkshireman joining the International Brigade to fight for freedom in Spain created a bridge between the two remote societies and, I hope, kept a little thread of seriousness underneath the parody. Laurie Lee's *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* and Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom* were also sources of ideas.



**Tell them in England, if they ask,
What brought us to these wars,
To this plateau beneath the night's
Grave manifold of stars -
It was not fraud or foolishness,
Glory, revenge, or pay:
We came because our open eyes
Could see no other way**

Cecil Day Lewis

A BLOOD WEDDING

in Wensleydale!

Cast

Leonard(o) Luckhurst	Mark Cronfield
Mrs Luckhurst [The Mother]	Orla Cottingham
Mr Ottershaugh [The Father]	Nobby Dimon
Daniel Braithwaite [The Bridegroom]	Lane Paul Stewart
Barbara Ottershaugh [The Bride]	Sophia Hatfield
The Dairymaid of Doom	Orla Cottingham

Directed by	Nobby Dimon
Set Design	Simon Pell
Set Carpenter	Malcolm Wood
Costume	Nicola Downing
Lighting Design	Thomas Weir
Production Administration	Jacquie Wood
General Assistance	Gillian Howells

For Harrogate Theatre

Production Manager	Richard Bielby
Technical Manager	Maurice Stewart
Stage Technician	David White
Sound & Lighting Technician	Martin Turner



There are many people who support & help the company in many ways throughout the year especially The Friends of North Country Theatre. For this production we'd particularly like to thank: • Dales Countryside Museum • Stoney End Guest House Worton • Mick Bannister • Susan Jinks • Lizzie Bramley • Caroline Woodroffe • John Ward • The GW Cadbury Charitable Trust • Richmond Pentecostal Church • Marcia Howard • Marcia & Dennis McLuckie • Jude & Geoff Simpson • Faye & David Doorbar • Andy Thursfield • Katy Kennedy • Donald Cline • John Evans at Allan Austin Ltd • Malcolm Warne at The Darlington & Stockton Times

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.

Nicola Downing *Costume designer*

Nicola trained at the London College of Fashion in Advance Craft Ladies Tailoring, Pattern Cutting & Design. She has worked at Covent Garden Opera House, Worcester Swan, The Royal Northampton, and Harrogate Theatre.

In 1981 she established own design and tailoring workrooms in Harrogate which now encompasses work for theatres on a contract basis, cutting, making and wardrobe supervision.

Recent work includes making and supervising costumes on Harrogate Youth Theatre productions of *Wind in the Willows* and *The BFG*. She was also Head Cutter and Wardrobe Supervisor on Harrogate Theatre's 2008-9 pantomime *Cinderella* and 2009-10 pantomime *Aladdin*, as well as a number of touring productions. Nicola is presently working, with a wonderful crew on Harrogate Theatre's 2010-11 Pantomime *Dick Whittington*.

Simon Pell *Scenic artist*

Simon trained at The Slade and worked as a Scenic Artist at the National Theatre before moving to County Durham in 1987. Since then has designed over 150 shows for a variety of companies, including; The Gala Theatre, Durham (resident designer 2006-10), Welfare State International, Durham Theatre Co, Cleveland Theatre Co, Promenade Promotions, and Jack Drum Arts. He is also Artistic Director of The Castle Players in Barnard Castle. He is delighted

to be working for North Country Theatre again, this being the eleventh show he has designed for them since 1997.

Malcolm Wood *Stage carpenter*

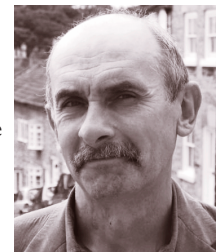
Malcolm Wood is a self employed joiner who has contributed design ideas and constructed sets for numerous North Country productions. His knowledge of early magicians and his experience of Punch and Judy are invaluable as is his knowledge of pin hinges, drill bits and "2 x 1". You can book "Professor" 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 sixth time with North Country Theatre having previously worked on *The Imitation Game*, *The 39 Steps* and *The Man Who Would Be King*, *The Prisoner of Zenda* and *Home on the Range*. 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.

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.



Orla Cottingham

Orla is looking forward to her first tour with North Country Theatre, having been educated on the cusp of the Dales. Her theatre credits include *Yerma*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Magistrate* at The Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. *The Delicious Revenge of Princess Ruby Slippers* and *Noah's Ark* for Oxford Touring Theatre Company, and *Measure For Measure* in Lancaster. Television credits include *Phoenix Nights*, *Life On Mars*, *Emmerdale*, *See No Evil (The Moors Murders)*, *Hollyoaks*, *At Home With The Braithwaites*, *Where The Heart Is* and most recently *Coronation Street*.



Mark Cronfield

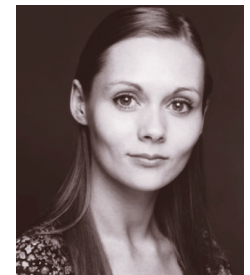
Blood Wedding is Mark's sixth appearance with North Country, having performed in *Electrical Wizard*, *Man Who Would Be King*, *Mac The Sheep Stealer*, *Moby Dick* and *Moll Flanders*. He lives in



Wensleydale and on a couple of occasions on this tour he can actually walk to work! Mark has also worked regularly with three over eden, Theatre Hullabaloo, Mad Alice and Proper Job Theatre. His best paid job was donning prosthetics to be a monster in *The Descent*.

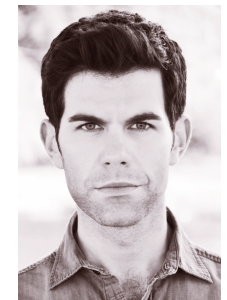
Sophia Hatfield

Sophia Hatfield graduated from Manchester School of Theatre in 2008. Her most recent theatre work includes *Mona* in Ella Hickson's critically acclaimed *Eight* at the Lowry Theatre Salford and a second tour with Fuse Theatre for Young People. She reads regularly for the new-writing workshop Incubate at Bolton Octagon. Her other past theatre credits include *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Teachers*, *After Mrs Rochester*, *Victory* and *Hamlet*. Recent film work includes commercials for New Balance and The Open University. Sophia is also playing a lead role in the independent comedy feature *The Best Little Whorehouse in Rochdale* written and directed by Ian Vernon, currently in production.



Lane Paul Stewart

After completing a BA Honours Degree in Performing Arts, Lane furthered his training at TVI Actors' Studio, New York and Manchester School of Acting. He comes to North Country straight from a summer long outdoor tour of *The Tempest* playing Caliban/Antonio. Other theatre credits include *Arms and the Man* (Sergius), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius), *The Bacchae* (Chorus), *The Beaux' Stratagem* (Scrub), *The Sword In The Stone* (Arthur), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander & Bottom), *An Inspector Calls* (Gerald Croft), *Romeo & Juliet* (Paris), *Twelfth Night* (Duke Orsino), *As You Like It* (Touchstone), *Aladdin* (Aladdin), *Lilo & Stitch Catch A Wave* (Walt Disney Studios, Paris), *The Night Before Christmas* and *Don't Let The Pigeon Stay Up Late!* (UK Theatre Tours).



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I understand that this information will be held on a database exclusively for the use of North Country Theatre and the Friends Group

I should like to become a Member of the North Country Theatre Friends Group and enclose my annual subscription of £20 (per household)

Cheques payable to:

Friends of North Country Theatre

Return to:

Tim Kendall

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Bedale DL8 2NG

01845 567295

FUTURE EVENTS

Come and walk the intricate labyrinths we will be making across the north over the coming year and enjoy some poetry, music and entertainment at the same time. There will be spooky Haunted Halloween tales being told at Richmond Castle at the end of October this year. Touring plans for 2011 include an adaptation of a DH Lawrence short story *The Rocking Horse Winner*. So keep checking the website and we look forward to seeing you at other North Country Theatre events.

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in Wensleydale!

Tickets & information from local promoters on the numbers below, start times vary, please check with venue

If you've enjoyed this production please tell your friends they can catch it at these venues



SEPTEMBER

Wed 29	Harrgate Theatre	HG1 1QF	www.harrgatetheatre.co.uk	01423 502116
Thu 30	Harrgate Theatre	HG1 1QF	www.harrgatetheatre.co.uk	01423 502116

OCTOBER

Fri 1	Harrgate Theatre	HG1 1QF	www.harrgatetheatre.co.uk	01423 502116
Sat 2	Harrgate Theatre *Matinee & evening	HG1 1QF	www.harrgatetheatre.co.uk	01423 502116
Tue 5	Richmond Zetland Centre	DL10 4AS	www.northcountrytheatre.com	01748 825288
Wed 6	Richmond Zetland Centre	DL10 4AS	www.northcountrytheatre.com	001748 825288
Thu 7	Bowness Old Laundry Theatre	LA23 3BT	www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk	08445 040604 Ext 223
Fri 8	Bowness Old Laundry Theatre	LA23 3BT	www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk	08445 040604 Ext 223
Sat 9	Otley Courthouse	LS21 3AN	www.ilkeyliteraturefestival.org.uk	01943 816714 / 467466
Wed 13	West Burton Village Hall	DL8 4JY		01969 663753
Thu 14	Queen Mary School	YO7 3BZ		private venue
Fri 15	Barton on Humber Ropewalk	DN18 5JT		01652 660380
Sat 16	Ingleby Greenhow Village Hall	TS8 6LX		01642 723492
Sun 17	Helmsley Arts Centre	YO62 5DW		01439 771700
Tues 19	Marton Cum Grafton Village Hall	YO51 9QJ		01423 325179
Wed 20	Edgton Village Hall	SY8 7HN		01588 680302 / 672248
Thu 21	Malbank School & VI College Nantwich	CW5 5HD		01270 611009
Fri 22	The Barbour Institute Tattenhall	CH3 9AD		01829 771442
Sat 23	Hunton Village Hall	DL8 1QZ		01677 450545
Tue 26	Gilling West Village Hall	DL10 5JD		01748 850158
Wed 27	Catterick Booth Memorial Hall	DL10 7LN		01748 811305
Thu 28	Fearby Village Hall	HG4 4NF		01765 689456 / 689409
Fri 29	Yarm Fellowship Hall	TS15 9BU		01642 888786
Sat 30	Lanchester Community Centre	DH7 0HY	01207 521275 (& village newsagent)	

NOVEMBER

Tue 9	Husthwaite Village Hall	YO61 4PF		01347 868247
Wed 10	Arncliffe, Amerdale Hall	BD23 5DD		01756 770235
Thu 11	Pocklington Arts Centre	YO42 2AR		01759 301547
Fri 12	Gosforth Public Hall	CA20 1EL		01946 725700
Sat 13	Torpenhow Village Hall	CA7 1HT		01697 371514
Tue 16	Thornton le Beans Village Hall	DL6 3SL		01609 774458
Wed 17	North Stainley Village Hall	HG4 3HT		01765 635467
Thu 18	Carltons Village Hall	EH26 9NF		01968 660388 / 660727
Fri 19	Melrose The Wynd	TD6 9PA		01896 820028
Sat 20	Melrose The Wynd	TD6 9PA		01896 820028
Tue 23	Darley Memorial Hall	HG3 2RP	01423 781862 / 780673	
Wed 24	Knayton Village Hall	YO7 4AZ		01845 537457
Thu 25	Leyburn Methodist Church Hall	DL8 5AT		01748 825288
Fri 26	Newton le Willows Village Hall	DL8 1SH		01677 450715
Sat 27	Hutton Rudby Village Hall	TS15 0HP	01642 701744 / 701586	
Tue 30	Clifford Village Hall	LS23 6HY		01937 842768

DECEMBER

Wed 1	Hawes Dates Countryside Museum	DL8 3NT		01969 666210
Thu 2	Grindleford The Maynard	S32 2HE	(Anne Atkinson)	01433 631949
Fri 3	Goole Junction	DN14 5DL		01405 763652
Sat 4	Reeth Memorial Hall	DL11 6QT		01748 884759

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