The Rocking Horse Winner
by D H Lawrence
adapted for the stage by Nobby Dimon

A white knuckle ride between
psychology and the supernatural

Programme £2
North Country Theatre's Rocking Horse

Tom Davies bought the rocking horse in 1977 at auction (it was not in good condition) as a Christmas present for his eldest daughter Anna and his late wife Sally restored it. It was used by all three daughters in turn as they passed through their childhood and all three eventually became accomplished riders on the real ponies and horses which followed as they progressed to their teenage years. So the rocking horse triggered an extremely expensive but enjoyable hobby for all four females in his family and which provided piles of good quality manure for his vegetable garden! The use of it now is dedicated to the memory of Sally Davies, a lover of horses and a wonderful mother, and to those volunteers working for the Lymphoma Association.

Angels & Friends of North Country Theatre 2011


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.

The name David Herbert Lawrence now stands with other respected names in the canon of English Literature but it was not always so in his lifetime. When he died of tuberculosis in 1930 many regarded him as little more than a pornographer who had wasted his literary talents. Even today his fame rests partly on the controversy surrounding the censorship of Lady Chatterley's Lover. That association does him little justice. He was a very serious minded writer creating many novels, plays and poems, and if he often explored suppressed (and expressed) sexuality at a time when this was not thought suitable material for literature the world has caught up with him pretty quickly. On the surface The Rocking Horse Winner is a satire on gambling and the obsession with money but Lawrence wrote when Freudian and Jungian ideas about the unconscious mind were newly in vogue and the short story has many elements that lend themselves to "Freudian" interpretation. There is however an oddity about the story, for what happens in it is absolutely supernatural. Lawrence does not leave room for it to be all rationalised away.

Why would North Country, best known for high adventure spoofs want to deal with this dark tale? Vivid memories of the 1949 film version which sacred the life out of me as a child must have something to do with it. Nobby Dimon

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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 sign up at the Friends table tonight, contact Tim Kendall via email on Timkend11@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 her own design and tailoring workshops in Harrogate which now encompasses work for theatres on a contract basis, cutting, making and wardrobe supervision.

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 twelfth 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 seventh time with North Country Theatre having previously worked on The Imitation Game, The 39 Steps, The Man Who Would Be King, The Prisoner of Zenda, Home on the Range and Blood Wedding. 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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**THE FUTURE**

2012 will be a significant year for North Country Theatre as for the first time in years we will not have the support of regular funding from Arts Council England, so we are busy gathering a Host of Angels – individuals, families, businesses, charities, committees, councils etc – who will commit to giving at least £100 to North Country for the next three years.

With this support we plan to take* Egil Skallagrímson* on tour again in February and March, create some more labyrinths and educational work and in Autumn create a new production based on J S Fletcher’s Lighthouse on Shivering Sands.