

J.S. Fletcher's **The
Lighthouse
on
Shivering
Sands**

Adapted for
the stage by
Nobby Dimon

*A sinister story
of sand, sea and
strangulation!*

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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.



Be an Angel of the North Country, help keep the show on the road!

For more than 15 years North Country Theatre's ripping yarns and historical dramas have been a vital part of the cultural life of the rural north. Your donation can help it continue. Tel: 01748 825288 for information or download the brochure from www.northcountrytheatre.com

› 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 his work in Gallerina, 37 Duke Street, Darlington DL3 7RX

or at www.andy-thursfield.com



J S Fletcher – Yorkshire’s most prolific writer

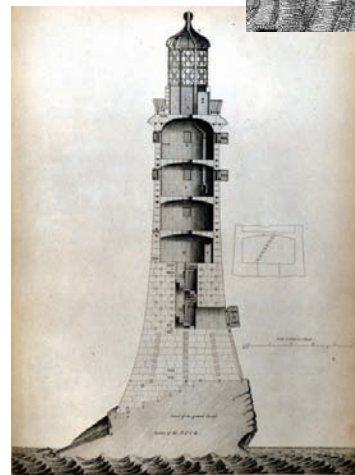


Whilst taking long walks in his beloved Yorkshire landscape he would plot his novels and develop his characters, but unlike other writers of the genre he did not develop one consistent detective [such as Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple], so perhaps this held him back. However, demand for Fletcher’s books in USA took off when the recovering American President Woodrow Wilson was asked what he was reading during his convalescence “It’s a great thriller, *The Middle Temple Murder* by JS Fletcher” he said.

When Fletcher died in 1935 he left behind an impressive body of work, 237 books of which 120 were detective stories. There were also books on the Reformation in the north, Yorkshire monasteries, numerous books on the county’s archaeology which led to him becoming a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, poetry and several short stories including *The Lighthouse on Shivering Sands*.

It is surprising that JS Fletcher who was probably one of Britain’s most prolific writers let alone Yorkshire’s is not well known. He was born in Halifax in 1863 and at the age of 8 months following the death of his clergyman father went to live with his grandmother on a farm in Darrington near Pontefract. Following school in Wakefield he went to London to study law but by 20 was a sub-editor at a London newspaper. He returned north and worked at the Leeds Mercury before moving on to the Yorkshire Post as a special correspondent. This allowed him to pay the bills whilst pursuing his first love of writing books.

Early on in his career as a novelist he wrote a series of books in Yorkshire dialect which led to comparisons with Thomas Hardy. In 1914 he published his first detective novel and then there was no stopping him – he went on to produce more than 100 novels in 20 years.



Cross-section of the Eddystone Lighthouse



Above:
Illustration
from
*The
Lighthouse
on Shivering
Sands*

J.S. Fletcher's *The Lighthouse on Shivering Sands*

Adapted by the company,
written and directed by
Nobby Dimon

Supported using public funding by
the National Lottery through
Arts Council England

We are grateful for sponsorship
from Adrian Bailey Classics,
W E Jameson & Sons and
thecitysecret.com. Also to the
many Angels of the North Country,
the GW Cadbury Trust and the
Friends of North Country Theatre
for ongoing support.

Cast

The Swimmer / Mrs Cornish	Vivienne Garnett
The Helmsman / Jezreel Cornish	Simon Kirk
The Passenger / Mordechai Chiddock	Mark Cronfield
The Lighthouse Keeper	Nobby Dimon

Set Design	Richard Foxton
Lighting Design	Thomas Weir
Back-cloth	Simon Pell
Swimmer Costume	Alice Lawson
Music/SFX	Dave Harris
Administration	Colin Bailey, Gillian Howells

For Harrogate Theatre

Production Manager	Richard Bielby
Technical Manager	Maurice Stewart
Theatre Technician	Jonny Coulson
Theatre Technician	Lucy Elmer
Theatre Technician	Oliver Stables

We’d also like to thank people who support the company throughout the year along with those who have helped with this production: Beki Harrison, Lindsay Trenholme, Lynn Ward, Ian Mawson, Richmond Operatic Society, Andy Thursfield, Julian Farrand, Jean Wrangham, Mike Nicholls, Peter Robinson, Sheila Halladay, Elizabeth Shaw, Dave, Max & Grant Dalton, Nicholas Reckert, Rachel & Howard Walker, Jennifer Thursfield, Mick Bannister, Brenda Hale, John Ward, Caroline Woodroffe, Richmond Town Council, Jenny & Tony Power, Amanda & Steve Cook, Faye & David Doorbar, Geoff & Anne Wall, Tim & Hilary Kendall, Donald & Nina Cline, Wilma Burniston, Liz Floyd, Mike Potter, the late Sue Hutton-Squire

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 sign up at the Friends table tonight, contact Tim Kendall via email on Timkenda11@aol.com or fill in the form overleaf.

Richard Foxton *Set designer*

When designer Simon Pell became ill Richard Foxton stepped in at very short notice to create a design for this production.

His previous work includes: *Absent Friends*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin* (Mercury Theatre, Colchester) *Takeaway* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), *Office Suite* (Theatre Royal Bath and national tour), *Brassed Off* (Sheffield Theatre's national tour), *Blue/Orange*, *The Country Wife* and *Queen's English* (Palace Theatre ,Watford), *Deathtrap*, *Stepping Out*, *Martha*, *Josie and the Chinese Elvis*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Kes*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Perfect Pitch*, *On the Piste* and *Good Golly Miss Molly* (Coliseum Theatre, Oldham), *Equus*, *Macbeth*, *The Miser* and *Dead Funny* (Salisbury Playhouse), *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Harrogate Theatre), *Kvetch* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *All My Sons*, *Neville's Island* and *Brassed Off* (York Theatre Royal), *Things we do for Love* and *Death of a Salesman* (Library Theatre ,Manchester), *Desperate to be Doris*, *Hector's House* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lip Service national tours), *Loot*, *Pub Quiz is Life*, *Macbeth*, *The Flags*, *Ladies Day*, *Wuthering Heights*, *1984*, *Toast*, *Up on Roof* and *Under the Whaleback* (Hull Truck), *Eight Miles High* (Royal Court Theatre ,Liverpool) and over fifty productions for the Octagon Theatre Bolton including *And did those feet...*

The Crucible, *The Caretaker*, *Four Nights in Knaresborough*, *Saved*, *Blood Wedding*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *The Pitchfork Disney*.

He has won the Manchester Evening News design award five times, most recently in 2008 for *Oh What a Lovely War* (Octagon Theatre). His work was included in the British exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial (1995), he was a judge of the Linbury Prize (1997).

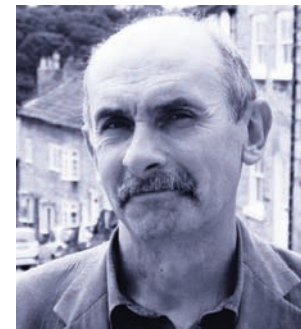
He is designing the Harrogate Theatre 2012 Pantomime.

Thomas Weir *Technician*

Thomas is working for an eighth 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*, *Blood Wedding* and *The Rocking Horse Winner*. 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.

Mark Cronfield

This is Mark's eighth appearance for North Country Theatre after last year's *Rocking Horse Winner* in which he played Paul. He has previously worked with Theatre Hullabaloo, Proper Job, three over eden, Mad Alice and The National Theatre. He lives in Bishopdale and is looking forward to circumnavigating the village halls and theatres of the north.



Vivienne Garnett

This is Vivienne's sixth time performing with North Country Theatre, having made her professional debut as Cathy in *The Imitation Game* back in 2005. A graduate of Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Vivienne has recently returned from Australia where she worked with Attic Erratic, MKA and Short+Sweet, all based in Melbourne. She has also appeared in various TV commercials including Sony, Virgin and Sky and is delighted to be returning to her native North Yorkshire for this tour.



Simon Kirk

Simon has appeared for North Country Theatre in *The Rocking Horse Winner*, *Egil Skallagrimson Keeps His Head*, *Prisoner of Zenda*, *The Electrical Wizard of the North*, *The Man who would be King*, *The 39 Steps* and *Cartimandua*.

He has toured extensively with, among others, Midsomer Actors, Heartbreak, Found Theatre and his own company Time Will Tell. He has recently adapted, produced and directed a three-hand version of *Dracula* for English Heritage, performed to audiences in the ruins of Whitby Abbey. He is delighted to be back in North Yorkshire where the necessity for lighthouses is minimal and the ports of call are welcoming.



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The Lighthouse on Shivering Sands

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SEPTEMBER

Wed 26	Harrogate Theatre	HG1 1QF	www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk	01423 502116
Thu 27	Harrogate Theatre	HG1 1QF	"	01423 502116
Fri 28	Harrogate Theatre	HG1 1QF	"	01423 502116
Sat 29*	Harrogate Theatre	HG1 1QF	*Matinee & evening	01423 502116

OCTOBER

Tue 2	Richmond Georgian Theatre Royal	DL10 4DW		01748 825252
Wed 3	Richmond Georgian Theatre Royal	DL10 4DW		01748 825252
Thu 4	Terrington Village Hall	YO60 6QB	01653 648249 / TIC Malton & Terrington Stores	
Fri 5	North Stainley Village Hall	HG4 3HT	01765 635236 / nsarts.events@gmail.com	
Sat 6	Otley Courthouse	LS21 3AN	01943 467466 / www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk	
Tue 9	Sutton on the Forest, Grey Village Hall	YO61 1DP		01347 810978
Wed 10	Husthwaite Village Hall	YO61 4PF		01347 868130
Thu 11	Queen Mary School, Baldersby	YO7 3BZ		Private performance
Fri 12	Kirkby Overblow, All Saints Church	HG3 1HD	AS Sch PTA, Friends of AS Church & village shop	
Sat 13	Northhallerton, Hambleton Forum	DL6 1LP	01609 772620 & Cover to Cover Books	777729
Tue 16	Colburn Village Hall	DL9 4LZ		01748 834112
Wed 17	West Burton Village Hall	DL8 4JY		01969 663753
Thu 18	Carlops Village Hall	EH26 9NF		01968 660388 / 660727
Fri 19	Melrose, The Wynd Theatre	TD6 9PA	08432 898555 or www.redshedtickets.com	
Sat 20	Wetherby Methodist Church Hall	LS22 6FG		www.wetherbyfestival.co.uk
Tue 23	Edgton Village Hall	SY8 7HN		01588 680302 / 672248
Wed 24	Live & Local / Shindig Performance			www.liveandlocal.org.uk
Thu 25	Barnard Castle, St Mary's Parish Church	DL12 8NQ	01833 637334 / Moody Baker, Horsemarket	
Fri 26	Catterick Village, Booth Memorial Hall	DL10 7LD		01748 811316
Sat 27	Hunton Village Hall	DL8 1QZ		01677 450545 / 07702 521410
Sun 28	Helmsley Arts Centre	YO62 5DW		01439 771700
Wed 31	Scarborough, Stephen Joseph Theatre	YO11 1JW		01723 370541 / www.sjt.uk.com

NOVEMBER

Thu 1	Kirklington Village Hall	DL8 2NJ		01845 567295
Fri 2	Yarm Fellowship Hall	TS15 9BU		01642 888786
Sat 3	Lanchester Community Centre	DH7 0JQ	01207 521275 & village newsgent	
Tue 6	Gilling West Village Hall	DL10 5JG		01748 850158
Wed 7	Marton cum Grafton Village Hall	YO51 9QY		01423 325179
Thu 8	Live & Local / Shindig Performance			www.liveandlocal.org.uk
Fri 9	Live & Local / Shindig Performance			www.liveandlocal.org.uk
Sat 10	Live & Local / Shindig Performance			www.liveandlocal.org.uk
Tue 13	Fearby Village Hall	HG4 4NF		01765 689409 / 688488
Wed 14	Pocklington Arts Centre	YO42 2AR		01759 301547
Thu 15	Darley Village Memorial Hall	HG3 2RP		01423 781862 / 780673
Fri 16	Newton le Willows Village Hall	DL8 1SH		01677 450715
Sat 17	Long Newton, The Wilson Centre	TS21 1DD		01642 583002
Tue 20	Peebles, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre	EH45 8AD		01721 725577
Wed 21	Ripon Spa Hotel	HG4 2BU		01765 602172
Thu 22	Torpenhow Village Hall	CA7 1HT	01697 371514 / Wigton Library	01697 366150
Fri 23	Bowness Old Laundry Theatre	LA23 3BT	08445 040604 www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk	
Sat 24	Hutton Rudby Village Hall	TS15 0HP		01642 701744 / 701586
Tue 27	Thornton le Beans Village Hall	DL6 3SL		01609 780208
Wed 28	Hawes Dales Countryside Museum	DL8 3NT		01969 666210
Thu 29	Leyburn Methodist Church Hall	DL8 5AT	01748 825288 / www.northcountrytheatre.com	
Fri 30	Glentworth Village Hall	DN21 5DF		01427 667118

DECEMBER

Sat 1	Barton on Humber, Ropewalk	DN18 5JT		01652 660380
Tue 4	Edgbaston High School for Girls	B15 3TS		Private performance
Wed 5	Knayton Village Hall	YO7 4AZ		01845 537457
Thu 6	Sawley Village Hall	HG4 3EQ		01765 620250
Fri 7	Clifford Village Hall	LS23 6HY	01937 530652 www.clifforddramagroup.org.uk	
Sat 8	Reeth Memorial Hall	DL11 6QT		01748 884759 / www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk

FUTURE WORK

2012 has been a significant year for North Country Theatre as for the first time in many years we have not had the support of regular funding from Arts Council England, however thanks to a Host of Angels – individuals, families, businesses, charities, communities, councils etc – who have committed to giving at least £100 to North Country for the next three years we are able to plan ahead.

In May we were awarded funding from RDPE [Rural Development Programme for England] and the European Leader Fund so have been running a series of workshops throughout the summer exploring local folklore. If further funding bids are successful we plan to stage a large scale community play next summer called 'Bartle: A Peer Gynt for the Dales' which will involve over 100 people from Wensleydale, Swaledale and the people of Gudbrandsdalen in Norway.

Keep up to date with developments on the North Country Facebook page
www.facebook.com/northcountrytheatre

NORTH COUNTRY THEATRE

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