

## THE COMPANY

**Thomas Frere** has worked with North Country on and off for 20 years. Amongst many roles he was Richard Hannay in the first production of *The 39 Steps* in 1996 and Jesus in *the Passion Plays* in 2002 and directed *The Man who would be King* in 2006. He has an extraordinary CV as a working actor with appearances in repertory all over the country, No.1 tours in Rock musicals, from Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory to *The Royal* on ITV. He will play Sir Andrew Aguecheek in this Summer's *Twelfth Night*. You can follow him on twitter @ThespyFrere.



**Vivienne Garnett** made her professional debut with North Country as Cathy in Ian McEwan's *The Imitation Game* in 2005. Since then she has become a regular, appearing in 7 different productions and has also performed as far afield as a summer season in Frinton and Melbourne's Gas Works Theatre. Vivienne joins the company as an Associate Director in April, will play Viola in *Twelfth Night*, and direct *The Wish House*.



**Mark Cronfield**, first seen in *Moll Flanders* in 2003 Mark has appeared in more North Country productions than any other actor (this will be his 12th ) including Daw the short trousered shepherd boy in *Mak The Sheepstealer* in 2006 and trenches survivor Birkin in *A Month in the Country* in 2014. Mark was a Lost Boy in *Peter Pan* for The National Theatre, a lost youth in *Hollyoaks* for Channel 4 and a lost soul in *The Rocking Horse Winner*. He will however be found playing Antonio and A Life Guard in *Twelfth Night*.



**More from North Country Theatre this autumn...**

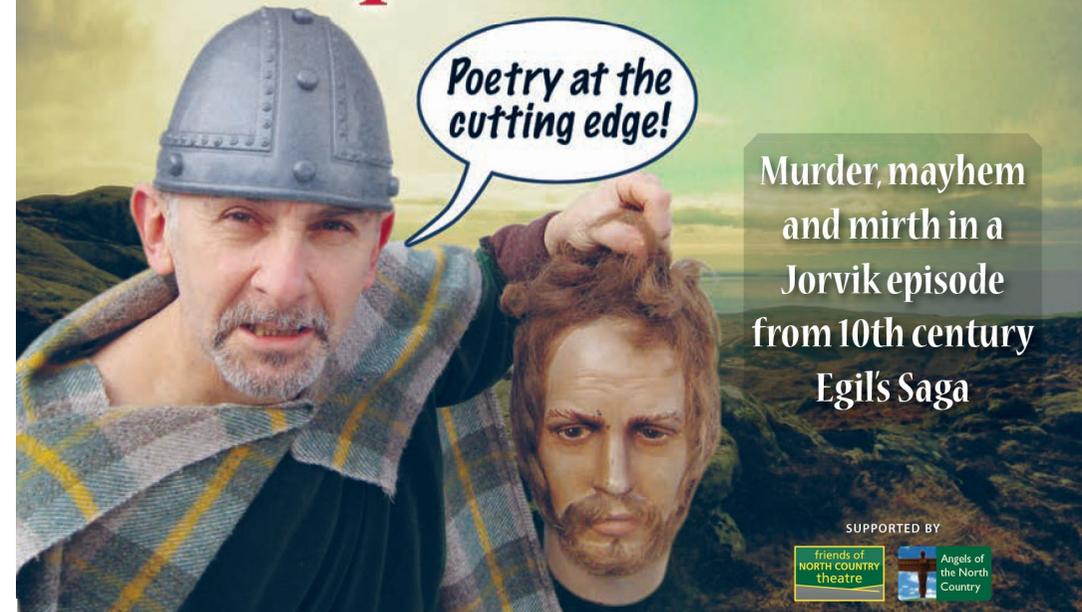
**The Wish House**

*A story of fierce, insane possessive love...  
(and dark goings-on down on the farm)*

Based on a short story by Rudyard Kipling  
Touring 28th September ~ 3rd December 2016

**NORTH COUNTRY theatre 20th ANNIVERSARY 1996-2016**

# Egil Skallagrimmson Keeps His Head



## Programme 50 pence

Includes a "souvenir" copy of the Egil's Head Ransom poem as loosely translated by Nobby Dimon

**The Icelandic Sagas** paint a picture of a well established Viking Culture across modern Nordic countries and the British Isles. First written down in the 12th and 13th Centuries, they almost certainly existed for hundreds of years before as part of **an oral tradition**. They are often our only written source of social and political history from the region for the Early Middle Ages. But they blur the lines between mythic and imaginary characters and historical events. It is however the beauty and power of the poetry for which they are most prized.



**Poetry** in Old Icelandic with its peculiar punchiness, short lines with double meanings, strong rhymes and kennings\* is hard to render into modern English. We have tried to capture some of the flavour - the distant echo of the **Viking Bard** reciting his poetry in the fire lit hall - whilst lightly sprinkling the story with a little modern humour. The currently popular **Nordic Noir** Scandinavian crime dramas could be seen as part of the tradition.

\* stylised metaphors for well-know ideas or objects, e.g. whale road = the sea, raven's feast = dead on battlefield, Thor's laughter = thunder, Baldur's (sun god) glimmer = dawn

### Three ways to help keep this company on the road



A group of supporters who help the company with funds, in kind support & volunteering. There are events and meetings and talks. There is an annual subscription of £25. To join, contact membership secretary Tim Kendall, [Timkenda11@aol.com](mailto:Timkenda11@aol.com)



Angels are our core funders. Individuals, families, businesses and community groups have all become Angels who pledge a regular payment for 3 years. For more information on how to become an Angel call our office 01748 825288 or pick up a prospectus.



**SPONSOR A PERFORMANCE OF TWELFTH NIGHT THIS SUMMER.** Various levels including purchase of a walk on part for you or your nominee!

# EGIL SKALLAGRIMSSON KEEPS HIS HEAD

Adapted from episodes of the 10th Century Icelandic Egils Saga

By Nobby Dimon

**Thomas Frere**

**The Bard, Thorolf (Egil's brother), Gorm (the Less), Sven, Erik Blood-Axe,**

**Mark Cronfield**

**Harald Tangle-Hair, Egil**

**Nobby Dimon**

**Skallagrim (Egil's father), King Athelstan, Knut, Saxon man, Arinbjorn,**

**Vivienne Garnett**

**Bera Yngvarsdottir (Egil's mother), Gunnhild, Saxon woman**

Set constructions - Malcolm Wood, Jonny Buck

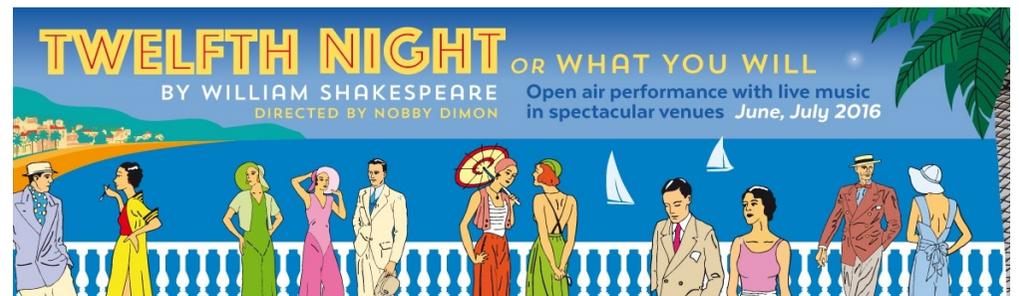
Costumes - Alice Lawson, Deirdre Knibbs

Company administrator - Colin Bailey

Marketing - Gillian Howells

Originally commissioned for the Yorvik Viking Festival and first performed at York Early Music Centre Wednesday 17th Feb 2010, the company were Thomas Frere, Susan Jinks, Simon Kirk & Nobby Dimon.

This performance is part of our 20th anniversary celebrations which continue throughout the year. Tickets are now available for our first ever Shakespeare.



**Aske Hall (Richmond), Bardney Hall (N.Lincs), Walcot Hall (Shrops), Castle Bolton (Wensleydale), Kiplin Hall (Northallerton) Call 01748 825288**