



NORTH COUNTRY theatre

# Nightmares in Norfolk

## Oh, Whistle And I'll Come to You

by M. R. James

*Adapted by Nobby Dimon*

## The Signalman

by Charles Dickens

*Adapted by Simon Corble*

Two terrifying tales from the masters of the  
ripping yarn, one told tongue-in-cheek  
and one... straight down the line!

*Directed by Vivienne Garnett*

Programme £1

SUPPORTED BY



**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. We'd also like to thank our Angels who by committing to regular giving have not only endorsed our work but kept the company on the road. To find out more ring 01748 825288.

» Andy Thursfield is proud to have designed North Country Theatre's publicity material since 2000. He donated the time spent designing this programme in support of the company.  
Andy Thursfield | Graphic Designer | 01748 829507



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**North Country Theatre  
are supporters of  
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## Creating The Signalman

I first came across Dickens' chilling story when looking for material to include in a simple ghost story-telling engagement with English Heritage. Instantly I could see the dramatic potential for two actors; the claustrophobic setting, the strong psychological dimensions, the opportunity for a few choice effects; above all, perhaps, the ambiguous nature of the haunting and its meaning. It was one of Dickens' final works and heavily inspired by his own involvement in a railway accident, the after-effects of which are thought by some to have led to his early demise. Dickens draws the character of the signalman strongly, but sketches his interrogator only roughly, so my greatest challenge was in creating an internal world for him. He turned into something of an eccentric, influenced by my reading of the activities of genuine Victorian ghost hunters.



The name "Furzan" popped out from an interpretive board I was reading at Helmsley Castle, (on my first outing telling ghost stories) being the name of an old family who had once lived there. It seemed propitious.

*Simon Corble*

### Angels and Friends



Since 2012 North Country Theatre has been able to continue touring thanks to the investment of hundreds of Angels and Friends, whose donations helped replace regular Arts Council England funding.



### **Coming soon: This Evil Thing**

Featuring the story of WWI conscientious objector Bert Brocklesby, one of the 'Richmond 16'.

*Written and performed by Michael Mears*

See [www.northcountrytheatre.com](http://www.northcountrytheatre.com) for more information & tickets  
Performances: Tuesday 13th to Sunday 18th February 2018

## M R James

**Montague Rhodes James** (1862 - 1936) was an English author, scholar and Provost of Kings College Cambridge (1905 - 18), and of Eton College (1918 - 36).

He is rightly regarded as one of our greatest writers of supernatural stories, publishing numerous collections. James introduced a more naturalistic and contemporary setting to the genre and a sinister and suggestive style in telling his tales.

*Oh Whistle and I'll Come to you* has been adapted numerous times for stage and tv most memorably by Jonathan Millar in 1968 for the BBC. It follows the typical "Jamesian" formula- a setting in an English village, seaside town (often East Anglian) or country estate; a nondescript and



rather naive gentleman-scholar as protagonist, the discovery of an old book or other antiquarian object that somehow unlocks, calls down the

wrath, or at least attracts the unwelcome attention of, a supernatural menace. I have taken the liberty of using this formula as the narrative spine for a spoof of the genre.

Over the last 25 years I have created many plays based on the work of great authors, Kipling,

Conan-Doyle, Defoe, Austen, and have always believed that the the authors would have been not too displeased, on this occasion however, I have no doubt that if M R James "was alive today, he would be turning in his grave"

*Nobby Dimon*

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## Director's note

The themes of these two short stories are very similar; faith versus fact, the supernatural, the reliability of one's own brain, yet they are very different in tone. Corble's adaptation focuses on the dark psychology of his characters whilst Dimon has created a tongue in cheek take on the genre that still manages to create a sense of unease. This has provided challenges; how to create two contrasting atmospheres within one coherent evening of theatrical entertainment, but working with two actors who understand each other so well and a team who understand the artistic vision of North Country has made it both possible and pleasurable.

*Vivienne Garnett*

# Nightmares in Norfolk

A double bill of supernatural stories

Directed by Vivienne Garnett

## The Signalman

by Charles Dickens. Adapted by Simon Corble

The Signalman    Mark Cronfield

Montagu Furzan    Nobby Dimon

## Oh Whistle and I'll Come to You

by M R James. Adapted by Nobby Dimon

Professor Parkin    Nobby Dimon

Jolyon Rogers and others    Mark Cronfield

Technical & Touring Stage Management    Matt Blackmore

Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager    Lindsay Trenholme

Set Construction    Jonny Buck

Lighting Design    Tony Wilcock

Digital Imagery    Andy Thursfield

Wardrobe    Alice Lawson

Company Administration    Colin Bailey

Fundraising & Marketing    Gillian Howells

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL, DURATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

**We are grateful to the many Angels of the North Country and the Friends of North Country Theatre for their continuing sponsorship which keeps us on the road.**

We would also like to thank Andrew & Harriet Bull, Richmond Town Council, the Elm House Trust, G W Cadbury Trust, Richmond Fairtrade Group, the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter, Wensleydale Railway Association, the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond

Operatic Society, Richmond Dramatic Society, Dave Harris, Ruth Annison, Michael Bannister, Andy Thursfield, Beki Stevenson, Simon Kirk, Mike Nicholls, and Beth Housden for their help with this and other productions this year.

Grateful thanks too to those who support the company throughout the year, Carillion Amey, John Ward, Caroline Woodroffe, Jenny & Tony Power, Faye Doorbar, Amanda Cook, Geoff Wall, Tim Kendall, Judith Brickwood, Donald & Nina Cline, Wilma Burniston, Liz Floyd, Julian Farrand and Brenda Hale.

## Nobby Dimon



Nobby has been the Artistic Director of North Country Theatre since it was founded in 1996, writing, adapting as well as directing most of the company's output.

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, took the both Critics' and People's Choice Awards plus a couple of Tonys on Broadway. His adaptation of DH Lawrence's *The Rocking Horse Winner*, received rave reviews locally, regionally and nationally.

He has also directed for Cleveland Theatre Company, Harrogate Theatre, Durham Theatre Company, Charivari and Snap Theatre.

## Mark Cronfield



Mark has appeared in numerous North Country productions including last year's *The Wish House* and helping to run and perform in this Summers

youth theatre project *The Bull Dancers* at the Dales Countryside Museum, a hugely enjoyable week which culminated in their auction mart space being transformed into a miniature amphitheatre and the palace of Knossos.

Mark works regularly for Time Will Tell Theatre and has performed for many companies including The National Theatre, Theatre Hullabaloo and three over eden. He has been a professional actor for 20 years and his Mum is still waiting for him to get a role in *Emmerdale*.



## Vivienne Garnett

Vivienne joined North Country Theatre for its 20th anniversary year in 2016 as Associate Director. Her first professional acting job was with the company back in 2005, playing Cathy in *The Imitation Game*, and eleven years later she made her directorial debut with *The Wish House*, as well as being a member of the cast. She has performed many times on the North Country stage in *Prisoner of Zenda*, *Home on the Range*, *The Lighthouse on Shivering Sands* and *The Wish House* to name a few, and has also appeared at Frinton Summer Season in Essex and at Gasworks and Chapel Off Chapel in Melbourne.

### **Matt Blackmore** *Technical and Touring Stage Management*

Matt is a freelance lighting, stage and sound technician who is employed by a number of professional theatre and dance companies. This is the first production Matt has worked on with North Country Theatre. He was previously the Technical Manager for the Priestley Centre for the Arts and Square Chapel Centre for the Arts. Matt has no qualifications in theatre whatsoever – but does have a degree in philosophy – and so has learned by making a lot of mistakes and then finding a way to correct them. Recent companies he has worked with include Northern Ballet, Adverse Camber and The New Bradford Playhouse.

### **Jonny Buck** *Set Construction*

Jonny is a Bradford-based woodworker who created the first map and stepladder set for *The 39 Steps* back in 1996. Those two pairs of solid stepladders have been repainted numerous times and appeared in several North Country productions in the intervening years. He created the Illyria flats for *Twelfth Night* and the kitchen set for *The Wish House*. He works with a number of theatre companies whilst managing his own commercial joinery business.

### **Lindsay Trenholme** *Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager*

Spent 20 years working in production for BBC TV, ranging from being a runner on *I, Claudius* to Assistant Floor Manager on *Blackadder's Christmas Carol* and *The Hour of the Pig* with Colin Firth. Returned home to Yorkshire as a Stage Manager for several years with *Emmerdale* and *Heartbeat*, and first joined North Country Theatre rehearsals in 2011 for *The Rocking Horse Winner* and has been involved with the creation of almost every show since then.

### **Tony Wilcock** *Lighting Design*

Tony is Production Manager at the Georgian Theatre Royal Richmond and has designed lighting and technical aspects of all North Country Shows since 2012, most recently *The Wish House*.

### **Alice Lawson** *Costume*

Richmond-based costume maker-designer and wardrobe mistress Alice first worked for us whilst still a student in Leicester and has since designed and made costume and wardrobe managed several shows including the challenge of the massive community play project *Blame it on Bartle* in 2014.

### **Andy Thursfield** *Digital Imagery*

A freelance graphic designer in Richmond, Andy has designed North Country's posters, leaflets and programmes for 17 years, including his personal favourites *A Month in the Country* and *The Rocking Horse Winner*.

NORTH COUNTRY theatre

# Nightmares in Norfolk

Oh, Whistle  
And I'll  
Come to You

and

The  
Signalman

Directed by  
Vivienne Garnett

If you have  
enjoyed this  
production  
please spread  
the word ~  
and let  
friends and  
acquaintances  
know where  
they can catch  
up with it at  
one of these  
venues.

TICKETS & INFORMATION FROM THESE LOCAL PROMOTERS, START TIMES VARY, PLEASE CHECK WITH VENUE  
♦ AVAILABLE FROM NORTH COUNTRY WEBSITE ♦ ALTERNATIVE ONLINE BOOKING AVAILABLE

## SEPTEMBER

Wed 27	Richmond Georgian Theatre Royal DL10 4DW	01748 825252	<a href="http://www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk">www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk</a>	♦
Thu 28	Richmond Georgian Theatre Royal DL10 4DW	01748 825252	<a href="http://www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk">www.georgiantheatreroyal.co.uk</a>	♦
Fri 29	Helmsley Arts Centre YO62 5DW	01439 771700	<a href="http://www.helmsleyarts.co.uk">www.helmsleyarts.co.uk</a>	♦
Sat 30	North Stainley Village Hall HG4 3JT	01765 635236 / 07971 093907		♦

## OCTOBER

Tue 3	Hawes, Dales Countryside Museum DL8 3NT		01969 666210	♦
Wed 4	Kirklington Village Hall DL8 2NJ		01845 567295	♦
Thu 5	Ilkley Playhouse (Wharfeside Auditorium) LS29 8DW		<a href="http://www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk">www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk</a>	♦
Fri 6	Newton le Willows Village Hall DL8 1SH		01677 450715	♦
Sat 7	Lanchester Community Centre DH7 0JQ		01207 521275 & village newsagent	♦
Thu 10	Private Performance: Aysgarth School DL8 1TF			♦
Wed 11	Thornton le Beans Village Hall DL6 3SL		01609 771658	♦
Thu 12	Spofforth, Long Memorial Hall HG3 1AP		01937 591621	♦
Fri 13	Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall HG3 5JS		01423 712157 / 07889 676992	♦
Sat 14	Barton on Humber, Ropewalk DN18 5JT		01652 660380 <a href="http://www.the-ropewalk.co.uk">www.the-ropewalk.co.uk</a>	♦
Tue 17	Husthwaite Village Hall YO61 4PF		01347 868130	♦
Wed 18	Snappe Village Institute DL8 2SZ		01677 470444	♦
Thu 19	Sawley Village Hall HG4 3EQ		01765 620250	♦
Fri 20	Hunton Village Hall DL8 1QZ		01677 450422 & village shop	♦
Sat 21	Barnard Castle, St. Mary's Parish Church DL12 8NQ		01833 637714	♦
Tue 24	Edgton Village Hall SY7 8HN		01588 68030	♦
Wed 25	Belbroughton Church Hall DY9 9TE		01562 730322 / 07913 422543	♦
Thu 26	TBC (check website)		01748 825288 <a href="http://www.northcountrytheatre.com">www.northcountrytheatre.com</a>	♦
Fri 27	Sutton on the Forest, Grey Village Hall YO61 1DP		01347 811866 / 810978	♦
Sat 28	Kirkby Overblow, All Saints Church HG3 1HD		07710 511640 The Shoulder of Mutton, The Star and Garter, Best Kept Secret	♦

## NOVEMBER

Thu 2	Torpenhow Village Hall CA7 1HT		01697 371514	♦
Fri 3	Northallerton, The Forum DL6 1LP		01609 776230 <a href="http://www.forumnorthallerton.org.uk">www.forumnorthallerton.org.uk</a>	♦
Sat 4	Leyburn Methodist Hall DL8 5AT – 2.00pm matinee only		01748 825288	♦
Tue 7	Biggar, Corn Exchange ML12 6DH		07342 152328 <a href="http://www.biggarcornexchange.org.uk">www.biggarcornexchange.org.uk</a>	♦
Wed 8	Carlops Village Hall EH26 9NF		07773 024024	♦
Thu 9	Galashiels, Mac Arts Centre TD1 1SP		01896 756852 <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/macarts">www.ticketsource.co.uk/macarts</a>	♦
Fri 10	Town Yetholm nr Kelso, Wauchope Hall TD5 8RA		01573 420231 or village shop	♦
Sat 11	Catterick Village, Booth Memorial Hall DL10 7LD		01748 811316	♦
Tue 14	Marton cum Grafton Village Hall YO51 9QY		01423 325179	♦
Wed 15	West Burton Village Hall DL8 4JY		01969 663373	♦
Thu 16	Clifford Village Hall LS23 6HY		01937 530652	♦
Fri 17	Settle Victoria Hall BD24 9DZ		01729 825718 <a href="http://www.settlevictoriahall.org.uk">www.settlevictoriahall.org.uk</a>	♦
Sat 18	Yarm Fellowship Hall TS15 9BU		01642 888786 <a href="http://www.yarmhall.co.uk">www.yarmhall.co.uk</a>	♦
Tue 21	Scarborough, SJT – The McCarthy YO11 1JW		01723 370541 <a href="http://www.sjt.uk.com">www.sjt.uk.com</a>	♦
Wed 22	Knayton Village Hall YO7 4AZ		07542 248315	♦
Thu 23	Glentworth Village Hall DN21 5DF		01427 667118 / 667047	♦
Fri 24	Winterton, All Saints Church DN15 9TU		01724 732268	♦
Sat 25	Hutton Rudby Village Hall TS15 0HP		01642 701586	♦
Thu 28	Private Performance: Queen Mary's School YO7 3BZ			♦
Wed 29	Bowness, The Old Laundry Theatre LA23 3BX		08445 040604 <a href="http://www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk">www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk</a>	♦
Thu 30	Masham Town Hall HG4 4DY		01765 680200 Masham Community Office	♦

## DECEMBER

Fri 1	Gilling West Village Hall DL10 5JG		01748 850158	♦
Sat 2	Reeth Memorial Hall DL11 6QT		01748 884759 <a href="http://www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk">www.reethmemorialhall.co.uk</a>	♦

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