

**NEW VIC**

# **BRASSED OFF**

**By Paul Allen**

Adapted from the screenplay by

**Mark Herman**



**Sat 1 June – Sat 22 June**

# CAST

Martin Barrass **DANNY**  
Howard Chadwick **HARRY**  
Andy Cresswell **JIM**  
Clara Darcy **GLORIA**  
Susie Emmett **SANDRA**  
William Fox **PHIL**  
Natasha Lewis **VERA**  
Nicholas Shaw **ANDY**  
Helen Sheals **RITA**  
Richard J Fletcher **ANNOUNCER**

# YOUNG COMPANY

## Tuba

Fred Conway **SHANE**  
Evangeline Giannitto **CRAIG**  
Scarlett Nichols **EVA**

## Trombone

Zac Oakes **SHANE**  
Caitlin Smith **EVA**  
Archie Ayre **CRAIG**

# COMMUNITY COMPANY

Brenda Hennessey, Melanie Osbourne  
Julia Dale, Hannah Walton,  
Marian Williams

# BRASS

# TCTC GROUP BAND

## Jef Sparkes **BAND MD**

Alan Birch, Andrew Dixon,  
Andrew Steele, Annette Lewis,  
Anthony Longden-Kirk, Carl Gratty,  
Claire Dixon, Craig Holloway,  
Dan Mowbray, Daniel Keen,  
David Woollam, Emma Brundrett,  
Emma Ford, Ewan Campbell,  
Hal Walker, Hannah Mills,  
Hannah Mowbray, Keith Atkins,  
Kim French, Marcus Redgrave,  
Mark Brundrett, Mike Jones,  
Miles Redgrave, Nikki Jones,  
Robert Richardson, Robert Smith,  
Ruth Rhodes, Sarah Sparkes,  
Stevie Neville, Sue Madden,  
Tom Wallage, Tony Brookes

## OUR THANKS TO...

**For continued assistance  
in every production:**  
Design and Reprographic  
Supplies Jollies Arts

## For this performance:

Halliwell Funeral Service (Tamworth Co-op) for the funeral wreath  
Les Mason at the Apedale Heritage Centre  
Jim Worgan at the North Staffs Mining History Group  
Sharon Salisbury – Nursing Advisor  
Oldham Coliseum Theatre for the Barnsley FC football shirt

Set and made props by the New Vic Workshop. Costumes by the New Vic Costume Department  
Lighting and sound operated by Daniella Beattie, Alex Day, James Earls-Davis and Peter Morgan.

# BRASSED OFF

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Conrad Nelson**  
Director

**Lis Evans**  
Designer

**Daniella Beattie**  
Lighting Designer

**Rebekah Hughes**  
Musical Supervisor

**James Earls-Davis**  
Sound Designer

**Anji Carroll CDG**  
Casting Associate

**Philip d'Orléans**  
Fight Director

**Anna Poole**  
Assistant Director

**Steve Hall**  
Company Stage Manager

**Ashleigh German**  
Deputy Stage Manager

**Tracey Booth**  
**Natalie Hainon**  
Assistant Stage Managers

**Aaron Batley**  
Assistant Stage Technician/Operator

**Maria Boone**  
Lead Chaperone

**Will Henshall**  
**Karen Hughes**  
**Matthew Jones**

**Peter Lowe**  
Chaperones

A play by Paul Allen  
Adapted from the screenplay  
by Mark Herman

**Interpreted Performances:**  
**Captioned:** Tue 18 June 7.30pm  
**Audio Described:** Sat 22 June 2.15pm

The New Vic's production of *Brassed Off*  
opened on 1 June 2019

# IN REHEARSAL

Pictures by Andrew Billington  
and New Vic.



## Meet the cast video



# ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

The Yorkshire town of Grimley is facing the threat of pit closure. But the miners and the community are keeping their spirits high with the Colliery Band and the hope of reaching the championships at the Royal Albert Hall.

**DANNY** An ex-miner who is the conductor of the Grimley Band.

**PHIL** A miner who is Danny's son and trombone player. He served time in prison during the 1984 strikes.

**SANDRA** Phil's wife.

**JIM** Miner and Veteran band member, plays the euphonium.

**VERA** Jim's wife.

**HARRY** Miner and band member, sidekick to Jim, plays the bass tuba.

**RITA** Harry's wife and a campaigner against pit closures.

**ANDY** Young miner and band member, plays the tenor horn.

**GLORIA** Newly returned to Grimley after many years', is an excellent Flugelhorn player.

**SHANE** 8 year old son of Phil and Sandra, and the narrator of this story.

There are two younger siblings of Shane.

**BALIFFS, NURSES AND MINERS**

are all played by members of the company.

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR...



In 1983 I began my time as a Performing Arts student in Leicester. That Christmas an acapella group called The Flying Pickets stole the number one slot with a popular cover version of *Only You*. The group, founded by members of the socialist theatre company 7:84, had originally used acappella singing in their 1981 production of *One Big Blow*, the story of the 1972/74 Miners' Strike.

It was too good an idea not to plagiarize and in 1984 we emulated the Pickets and established our own student band, *Ad Nauseam*, nicking some of their material and embracing the social principles of 7:84 by

performing our first gigs in aid of the 1984 national miner's strike.

When the Miners voted to return to work on 3rd March 1985 the death knell had already sounded for the industry and less than 10 years later, many of the working mines had closed, including the Grimethorpe Colliery (1993) on which *Brassed Off* is based. Whichever side of the political fence you sit on there is no denying the devastating effects of such closures on the individuals and communities closest to the coalface. Local communities are still dealing with the consequence of displacement, disconnection and cultural depression.

I came to live in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 2001. I'd always liked the area when I dropped in to see my college buddy Jason Furnival on the many journeys touring between London and the North. I was too late to see the late Peter Cheeseman's celebrated drama documentaries that reflected the lives and working history of the local community in titles such as *The Fight for Shelton Bar* and *Nice Girls*, but I've always supported the New Vic's work in this area. A few years ago I established a company with Deb McAndrew whose very ethos is to tell the stories inspired by people from The Potteries. In 2014, Claybody Theatre produced, *Diggin' In*. The play marked the 30th Anniversary of the miner's strike in Stoke-on-Trent and I had the privilege of meeting Brenda Proctor, one of the local leading activists of the Women Against Pit Closures movement. Peter stepped down as Artistic Director of the New Vic in 1998 the same year that Staffordshire's last deep coal mine closed at the Silverdale Colliery with the loss of 1,100 jobs, but the role of the working class women who fought to keep the mines open would never be the same again.

In 2015 the cutting wheel at the coal face at Kellingley Colliery in North Yorkshire ground to a halt and the industry that had once employed over a million workers came to an end. There's a wonderful documentary called, *The Last Miners* available on YouTube that you might like to see. It's clear that many of the pit lads would return in a heartbeat – but we can't go back.

The lives of the working classes have always inspired and in turn been inspired by great art, music and theatre. I'm really pleased to have been invited back to the New Vic to direct this play; the setting for *Brassed Off* might be Yorkshire but the themes are universal. The play is an elegy, a salute to the passing of an industry and a celebration of culture and community.

Stoke-on-Trent was one of the great cities of the industrial revolution. The next stories to emerge from the city should be those inspired by a new environment revolution that paves a way to cultural prosperity, jobs and security for all.

In 2019 The Flying Pickets sing on – they're very popular on the continent and now feature two former members of my own acappella group in their regular line-up. I didn't foresee that change back in '83...

By Conrad Nelson – Director



# CAST



## MARTIN BARRASS

Danny

This is Martin's first appearance at the New Vic.

**Theatre credits include:** *And Did Those Feet* (Octagon Theatre Bolton); *Long Live The Kings Of Hull* (New Theatre Hull); *The Hypocrite* (RSC/ Hull Truck); *The Shepherd's Life* (Theatre by the Lake); *One Man, Two Guv'nors* (NT/Theatre Royal Haymarket); *The Railway Children* (York & Kings Cross); *Wind in the Willows*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Elephant Man*, *Peter Pan* and *Laurel and Hardy* (York Theatre Royal); *School for Clowns* (Stephen Joseph Theatre); *Honeymoon Suite*, *Toast*, *Ladies' Day*, *Up On The Roof*, *Bouncers*, *Up 'n' Under* and *Teachers* (Hull Truck).

Martin has also played over 30 consecutive seasons in the York Theatre Royal pantomime.

**Television and Film credits include:** *Emmerdale*, *The Bill*, *Heartbeat*, *The Firm*, *Remembrance* (Film 4).

**Martin trained at:** the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art.



## HOWARD CHADWICK

Harry

**For the New Vic:** *Inherit The Wind*, *I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire*.

**At the New Vic:** *She Stoops To Conquer*, *The Grand Gesture*, *A Government Inspector*, *Hard Times* (Northern BroadSides).

**Theatre credits include:** *By Jeeves* (Old Laundry Theatre); *Macbeth*, *Othello* (Stafford Castle); *The Lion*, *The Witch & The Wardrobe* (Sherman Theatre); *Brassed Off* (Derby Theatre); *Digging In* (Claybody); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard III*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Macbeth*, *Measure For Measure*, *Richard II* (Lancaster Castle); *Beauty And The Beast*, *Dick Whittington*, *Snow White*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Jack And The Beanstalk*, *Babes In The Wood* (Harrogate Theatre); *Broken Time* (Three Stones Media); *Twelfth Night* (Cotton Grass Theatre); *Hansel and Gretel*, *Knife Edge* (Hard Graft Theatre); *The Maid Of Buttermere* (Theatre By The Lake); *Brassed Off*, *Aladdin*, *Perfect Pitch* and *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* (Oldham Coliseum); *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer* (Lancaster Dukes); *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *The Way Of The World*, *Richard II* (Royal Exchange); *Shamer* (Rocket Theatre); *The Adventures Of Robin Hood*, *Beauty And The Beast* (Worcester Swan).

**Television and Film credits include:** *The Witcher* (Netflix); *Emmerdale*, *Coronation Street* (ITV); *24:Seven*, *Doctors* (BBC); *Peterloo* (Thin Man Films).

**Radio credits include:** *Closely Observed Trains*, *Buffalo Bill And Little Matty Dyer*, *The Good Soldier Svejk*, *Excluded* (BBC Radio Drama).



## ANDY CRESSWELL

Jim

**At the New Vic:** *The Government Inspector* (Northern BroadSides).

**Theatre credits include:** *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Torch Theatre); *The Cherry Orchard* (Young Vic); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stafford Gatehouse); *Broken Time* (Three Stones Media); *Piano Forte* (Royal Court); *Treasure Island* (Coventry Belgrade Theatre); *Gulliver's Travels* (Illyria).

**Television and Film credits include:** *Pennyworth* (Warner Horizon/Epix); *EastEnders* (BBC Television); *Victims* (Menant Films – David Bryant); *The Ferryman* (Redhead Films); *The porcelain man* (Sameer Kumar).

**Radio and voiceover credits include:** *Birdbath* (Impossible Television for Channel 5); and a number of audiobooks and audio dramas including *Boleyn Brothers* for TBC Audio.

**Andy trained at:** Birmingham School of Speech and Drama.



## CLARA DARCY

Gloria

**For the New Vic:** *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*.

**At the New Vic:** *A Government Inspector* (Northern BroadSides).

**Other theatre credits include:** *A Christmas Carol*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *James & the Giant Peach* (Northern Stage, Newcastle); *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch); *Party Skills for the End of the World* (Manchester International Festival / Shoreditch Town Hall / Shunt); *Brassed Off* (Wolverhampton Grand); *Miss Nightingale* (Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds & national tour); *Forever Young* (Nottingham Playhouse / Oldham Coliseum); *Propaganda Swing* (Coventry Belgrade / Nottingham Playhouse); *Brassed Off* (York Theatre Royal & national tour); *Sweeney Todd*, *David Copperfield*, *The Hired Man\** (Bolton Octagon – TMA Award Winner – Best Performance in a Musical); *Chicago*, *Brassed Off*, *Martha*, *Josie & the Chinese Elvis* (Oldham Coliseum); *We Love You City* (Coventry Belgrade); *Heidi* (Northern BroadSides); *The Right Ballerina* (Library Theatre / Lowry); *The Merchant of Venice* (Lancaster Castle), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Oddsocks Productions).

**Television and Film credits include:** *Eric & Ernie* (nominated for BAFTA), *Emmerdale*, *The Royal*, *Nightmare in Suburbia*, *Hollyoaks* and *Retribution*.

**Radio credits include:** BBC Radio 2's *Elaine Paige on Sunday*.

**Clara trained at:** Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.



## SUSIE EMMETT

**Sandra**

**For the New Vic:** *Anna Of The Five Towns, Inherit the Wind, I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire.*

**At the New Vic:** *A Government Inspector* (Northern Broadsides).

**Theatre credits include:** *Abigail's Party* (Hornchurch, Derby, Salisbury Co-Production); *Absent Friends* (London Classic Theatre); *The Road to Nowhere* (Croydon Fairfield Halls); *Who's Under Where?, A Piece of Cake* (The Mill at Sonning); *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (Salisbury Playhouse, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds and Tour); *Broken Time* (Harrogate Theatre and Tour); *Blonde Bombshells of 1943* (UK and International Tours); *Lark Rise to Candleford* (Finborough Theatre); *King Arthur* (Arcola Theatre); *An Absolute Turkey* (Electric Theatre); *Claw* (Greenwich Playhouse).

**Television credits include:** *EastEnders, Casualty, Doctors, Waking the Dead* (BBC).

**Film credits include:** *The Man Who Married Himself.*

**Susie trained at:** Guildford School of Acting.



## WILLIAM FOX

**Phil**

This is William's first appearance at the New Vic.

**Theatre credits include:** *Rabbitskin, Promised Land* (Red Ladder); *Playing The Joker* (Red Ladder, WYP); *United We Stand* (Townsend Productions); *Flotsam and Gypsum* (JB Shorts); *Terminal* (Whiteface Theatre); *Trainspotting* (Spud Theatre); *When I Say I Love You.*

**Television credits include:** *Coronation Street* (ITV); *The A word, The Syndicate* (BBC1); *Wolfblood; Jamie Johnson* (CBBC); *That Day We Sang, The Selfish Giant, Attack Of The Adult Babies, Suicide Kelly, Heretic, Shades Of Living, Finding Laura.*

**Film credits include:** *Peterloo.*



## NATASHA LEWIS

Vera

**For the New Vic:** *Peter Pan In Scarlet* (Co-Production with Oxford Playhouse).

**Theatre credits include:** *Call Me Fury* (North Wall, Oxford); *Aladdin* (Hackney Empire); *Miss Littlewood* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Cinderella* (Queens Theatre, Hornchurch); *Oranges & Elephants* (Hoxton Hall, London); *The Threepenny Opera* (Octagon Theatre, Bolton); *The Who's Tommy* (UK Tour – Ramps On The Moon); *Corbyn The Musical – The Motorcycle Diaries* (Waterloo East Theatre, London); *The Insatiable*, *Inflatable Candyion* (National Theatre Wales); *The Life of Galileo*, *Promises and Lies*, *The BFG* (Birmingham Rep); *The Threepenny Opera* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/ Nottingham Playhouse/ Birmingham Rep/New Wolsey/Graeae); *Our House – The Madness Musical* (UK Tour); *Dick Whittington* (Cheltenham Everyman); *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rope*, *Dear Brutus* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre); *The Firework Maker's Daughter* (Bloomsbury Theatre, London); *The Threepenny Opera* (National Theatre); *The Vagina Monologues* (Royal Festival Hall); *Britain's Got Bhangra* (UK Tour); *Buddy* (UK Tour); *South Pacific* (UK Tour); *Mark Ravenhill's Dick Whittington* (Barbican); *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich); *Charmin'* (Soho Theatre/National Theatre Studio); *HMS Pinafore* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park); *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Bajju Bawra* (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); *Cinderella* (Oxford Playhouse); *Emancipation Day* (Soho Theatre/Theatre Royal Stratford East); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Open Hand Productions).

**Television and Film credits include:** *EastEnders* (BBC); Tim Burton's *Sweeney Todd* (Warner Bros).

**Natasha trained in:** BA (Hons) Music – Anglia University, Cambridge PGDip – LSMT



## NICHOLAS SHAW

Andy

**For the New Vic:** *Hamlet* (Co-Production with Northern Broadsides).

**At the New Vic:** *Rutherford & Son* (Northern Broadsides).

**Theatre credits include:** *Wonderland* (Nottingham Playhouse); *The Giant Killers* (Long Lane Theatre Company); *Nell Gwynn* (Shakespeare's Globe/Nimax); *Wolf Hall Parts 1 & 2* (RSC at the Winter Garden Theatre, NYC); *Wolf Hall, Bring Up the Bodies* (RSC/ Playful); *Lighthearted Intercourse* (Octagon Theatre Bolton); *A Provincial Life* (National Theatre Wales); *Phaedra's Love* (Arcola); *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Liverpool Everyman); *Anthology*; *Pandemic* (Slung Low); *The Fairy Queen* (Opera Comique/Theatre De Caen/ BAM); *The Merchant of Venice*, *Holding Fire!*, *The Revenger's Tragedy* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Easter* (Oxford Stage Company).

**Television credits include:** *The Rotter's Club*, *Land Girls*, *All About Me*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Doctors* (BBC); *Foyle's War*, *Afterlife*, *Emmerdale* (ITV); *Goldplated* (Channel 4); *Heartbeat* (Granada).

**Film credits include:** *The Torment* (Authentic Films).



## HELEN SHEALS

Rita

**For the New Vic:** *The Merry Wives* (Co-Production with Northern Broadsides).

**At the New Vic:** *King Lear* (Northern Broadsides).

**Theatre credits include:** *Judy!* (The Arts Theatre, West End); *Through the Mill* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (Bolton Octagon); *Judy and Liza* (Liverpool Royal Court/UK Tour); *In the Jungle of the Cities* (Arcola); *Quasimodo* (Kings Head Theatre); *Vieux Carre* (Charing Cross Theatre); *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Hull Truck and UK Tour); *One Night in November* (Belgrade, Coventry); *A Taste of Honey* (Salisbury Playhouse); *The Wars of the Roses trilogy* (West Yorkshire Playhouse/Northern Broadsides); *Gutted* (Tristan Bates Theatre); *Macbeth, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Northern Broadsides); *A Taste of Honey, Marat/Sade, Flare Path* (Bristol Old Vic); *Cabaret* (Live Theatre, Newcastle); Regional Premiere/ first UK Tour of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Bristol Old Vic); *Foreign Lands* (New Wolsey, Ipswich); *Confetti* (Oval House/Chelsea Theatre); *The Magic Box* (BAC); *The Fifteen Streets* (York Theatre Royal/UK Tour); *Three Sisters, Julius Caesar, The Churchill Play, Divine Gossip, The Will* (RSC); *St Joan* (Sir Anthony Quayle's Compass Theatre/UK Tour).

**Television credits include:** *Brookside, Court Room, The Hello Girls, Hangar 17, Last Tango in Halifax, Silent Witness, Holby City, Casualty, Doctors, Dalziel and Pascoe, Metrosexuality, Family Affairs, Coronation Street, The Bill, Where the Heart Is, Downton Abbey.*

**Film credits include:** *The Arbiter* (Meteorite Films); *The Licks* (Noel Clarke); *Heterosexuality* (Channel 4 Films); *Jam* (Jam Productions); *S.P.A.G* (Molten Rock Productions).

## COMMUNITY COMPANY



(from L-R); Back Row: **Brenda Hennessey, Hannah Walton**

Front Row: **Marian Williams, Melanie Osbourne, Julia Dale**

## YOUNG COMPANY



(From L-R) Back Row: **Archie Ayre, Zac Oakes, Fred Conway**

Front Row: **Scarlett Nichols, Evangeline Giannitto, Caitlin Smith**

# TCTC GROUP BAND



TCTC Group Band are a Championship Section Brass Band based in Crewe, Cheshire. The bands' musical repertoire is extensive, ranging from the highly technical through popular and modern classics, film and TV music to sublimely traditional and lyrical pieces. We have superb soloists and fabulous music to suit all tastes and tailor our musical programmes for every occasion and audience.



All of the players are amateur in status but professional in standard, many of the players have been in the band since a young age with our longest serving member being Annette Lewis with 34 Years' service followed by several members at well over 20 years' service to the band.

The band enjoyed sponsorship from the Co-Operative movement for many years but from 2018 we are very pleased to be sponsored by The Clinical Trial Company, Ewan Campbell a Director of TCTC Group is also a playing member of the band and has been for many years.

The CLINICAL TRIAL Company Group™ (TCTC Group™) is a privately owned, full-service global Clinical Contract Research Organization providing professional support to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and academic businesses and institutions. The company was incorporated in 2002 as The CLINICAL TRIAL Company™. TCTC Group™ has 7 different divisions each one addressing a different need and offering stand-alone services or full-service trial programmes, which optimise the integration of the client's expertise with our own.

## **Jef Sparkes**

Musical Director and General Manager – TCTC Group Band

[www.tctcgroupband.com](http://www.tctcgroupband.com)  [tctcgroupband](https://www.facebook.com/tctcgroupband)

# CREATIVE TEAM

## PAUL ALLEN

### Adapter

Paul Allen was born in East Kent and brought up in cold country vicarages – singing in church choirs came with the territory – but has lived in Sheffield since getting his first job on the now defunct Morning Telegraph, where he was the first non-national journalist to be named Critic of the Year in the British Press Awards. He has also reviewed for The Guardian, the New Statesman, Country Life and Front Row. In 1981 he began presenting the BBC Radio 4 arts programme *Kaleidoscope*, switching to *Night Waves* on Radio 3 when *Kaleidoscope* was axed. For the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield he has written *Herod the Great*, *Breaking and Entering* and this adaptation of *Brassed Off* which transferred to the National Theatre, plus the *Jokers* trilogy with Rony Robinson. He has also written for theatre companies in Birmingham, York, Derby and London, plus over a dozen radio plays. His biography of *Alan Ayckbourn: Grinning at the Edge* is published by Methuen. His work with Music in the Round includes a script, *Ghost of a Cello*, directed by Peter Cheeseman with the Lindsey String Quartet playing Haydn's Emperor Quartet, and *Intimate Letters* to accompany the Janáček string quartet of the same name with Ensemble 360. For the pianist, teacher and director Joanna MacGregor he has written and narrated *Klever Kaff*, the life story of Kathleen Ferrier, and an illustrated portrait of Paul Robeson for the Bath Festival. As an interviewer he has presented numerous events for the RSC, National Theatre, Off the Shelf Festival

of reading and writing in Sheffield and the Cheltenham Literature Festival.

He has held a fellowship at the University of Warwick and taught dramaturgy at the University of Sheffield, chaired the Arts Council England drama panel and been awarded an honorary doctorate at Sheffield Hallam University.

## MARK HERMAN

### Screenplay

Mark Herman was born in Bridlington in Yorkshire in 1954. He studied at Art College in Hull before first becoming involved in film while studying Graphic Design in Leeds, going on to the National Film School as an animator. The story goes that he was a contemporary of *Wallace & Gromit* creator Nick Park and decided, rather than compete with such a talent, to give up animation completely and move into live action. The graduation film he then created, *See You at Wembley, Frankie Walsh*, won a Student Oscar. He followed this in 1987 with another short film, *Unusual Ground Floor Conversion*, and then, after a period of diversion writing lyrics for the popular 80's band *The Christians*, most notably *Ideal World* and *Hooverville*, he made his feature length debut with the 1992 comedy *Blame it on the Bellboy*, starring Dudley Moore. Not a great critical success, Mark had to wait until 1996 for his first major success, which came in the shape of *Brassed Off*, which he both wrote and directed. Avoiding the pitfalls of sentimentalism, the piece was driven by realistic characterisation and smart dialogue and set in a non-cosmopolitan Britain, which Mark portrays in a sensitive but not overwhelming way. The beautifully shot landscape comes over as more than a backdrop for the action and, featuring a stunning cast including Ewan McGregor, Tara Fitzgerald, Pete Postlethwaite and Stephen Tompkinson, the film was an outstanding success. Next for Mark was a film adaptation

of Jim Cartwright's *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* in 1998, not long after he had offered his sympathy to anyone faced with the challenge of adapting this very dynamic live show for the cinema. However, he rose to the challenge and managed to capture the spirit of the stage production while at the same time creating an original film. In 2000 Mark took Jonathan Tulloch's novel *The Season Ticket*, the story of two teenage boys trying to get enough money together to buy season tickets for Newcastle United and created the film *Purely Belter*. He then wrote and directed *Hope Springs*, starring Colin Firth before, most recently, writing and directing the very successful film adaptation of John Boyne's children's book about the Holocaust, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, with a cast including David Thewlis, Vera Farmiga and Sheila Hancock. Mark is currently developing a series of projects for film and television.

## CONRAD NELSON

### Director

**For The New Vic:** *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Cyrano*, *Hamlet*, *Canterbury Tales*, and *An August Bank Holiday Lark* (co-pro with Northern Broadsides). *Anna of the Five Towns*, *Oleanna*, *I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire* (Director), *Oliver*, *Talking Heads*, *Amadeus* (Actor)

Conrad's career spans over twenty-five years and boasts a vast body of work as director, actor and composer. He has recently stepped down as Artistic Director of Northern Broadsides and runs Claybody Theatre with Deborah McAndrew here in Stoke-on-Trent. He is delighted to be returning to the New Vic to direct *Brassed Off*.

**For Northern Broadsides:** the gothic melodrama *The Bells*, Blake Morrison's *Lisa's Sex Strike*, George Orwell's *1984*, adapted by Nick Lane, *Government Inspector* and *The Grand Gesture*. *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The*

*Winter's Tale*, *Hard Times* and Dario's Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and *They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay!* both adapted by Deborah McAndrew.

**Other directing work includes:** *A Christmas Carol* for the Octagon Theatre, *Vacuum* for Esk Valley Theatre, *Broken Time* for Three Stones Media, and *Ballroom Blitz* for Hull Truck.

**Other theatre includes:** The Royal National Theatre, The New Vic, Octagon Theatre Bolton, Lyric Hammersmith, Young Vic, Leicester Haymarket and touring with companies including Cheek by Jowl and Renaissance.

**TV:** *Apparitions*, *Coronation Street*, *Without Motive*, *Waterloo Road* and *Only Fools and Horses*.

**Radio:** *A Kind of Loving*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Yerma*, *Silas Marner*, *Reeds in the Wind*, *Nosferatu* and *Stone*.

**Films include:** *Dancin' Thru the Dark* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

## LIS EVANS

### Designer

**As Resident Designer for the New Vic, Lis has designed over 120 productions including:** *Much Ado About Nothing* (Northern Broadsides co production, and International tour); Costume for *The Wind in the Willows*, *Treasure Island*, *Astley's Astounding Adventures*, Set and Costume designs for *Playhouse Creatures*, *The Pitmen Painters*, *Around The World In 80 Days* (2017 co-production with Kenny Wax Family Entertainment, Simon Friend and Royal Exchange – winner of the Cameo Page to Stage Award); *Dial M for Murder*, *Cyrano* (co-production with Northern Broadsides), *The Snow Queen* (winner of UK Theatre Award for Best Show for Children and Young People); *The Mountaintop*, *Talent*, *Diana of Dobson's*, *Robin Hood & Marian*, *The Hoard*

*Festival, Dracula, Merry Wives, Around The World In Eighty Days* (2014 co-production with the Royal Exchange; 2013); *I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire!*, *An August Bank Holiday Lark, The Hundred and One Dalmatians, Stones in His Pockets, Talking Heads, A Christmas Carol, Proof, Spring and Port Wine.*

**Other theatre credits include:** *The Canterbury Tales, Merry Wives, Romeo and Juliet, Vacuum, The Tempest* (Northern Broadsides UK and China Tour) and design, painting and making various productions in Nottingham, Manchester, Bradford, Edinburgh and London

Lis has contributed to the National Life Stories collection for the British Library's sound archive.

Costume drawings from various New Vic Productions are currently on display on the New Vic Front-of-House lampshades.

## DANIELLA BEATTIE

### Lighting Designer

**As resident Lighting Designer at the New Vic, productions include:** *Much Ado About Nothing, The Wind in the Willows, Astley's Astounding Adventures, Table, Votes for Women, Treasure Island, The Pitmen Painters, Dial M for Murder, The Snow Queen* (winner of UK Theatre Award for Best Show for Children and Young People); *Peter Pan in Scarlet* (co-production with Oxford Playhouse); *The Mountaintop, Diana of Dobson's, Kiss Me Quickstep* (co-production with Oldham Coliseum); *Tale Trail to Robin Hood & Marian, Robin Hood & Marian, Seeing the Lights, the Hoard Festival, Dracula, Bell, Book and Candle, The Borrowers, Ghosts, Inherit the Wind, The Hundred and One Dalmatians, Gaslight, Stones in His Pockets, Blonde Bombshells* (co-production with Oldham Coliseum); *Thrill of Love* (co-production with St James Theatre); *A Fine Bright Day Today* and *Alfie* (co-production with Stephen Joseph

Theatre and Oldham Coliseum); *The Wicked Lady* (Best Lighting Design at the 2009 TMA Awards).

### **Other theatre credits include:**

*Ramshackle House* (Upswing); *Girls, Girls, Girls* (Potboiler); *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists, We Are the Lions Mr Manager, Dare Devil Rides to Jarama and Rouse, Ye Women!* (Townsend Productions); *Peter Pan* (Halifax Victoria Theatre); *Man Up, The Voyages, You Are Here* (Restoke); *Cyrano* (co-production with the New Vic); *Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest* (Northern Broadsides); *Extra Yarn* (Filament).

Daniella trained in theatre design and technology at Bretton Hall (University of Leeds).

## REBEKAH HUGHES

### Musical Supervisor

Rebekah is very happy to return after enjoying many successful co-productions with the New Vic and Northern Broadsides. She has been resident MD of Mikron Theatre Company since 2002.

**Other MD credits include:** *Aladdin, Jack And The Beanstalk, The Ruck, Cinderella* (Lawrence Batley Theatre); *Frankenstein* (Living Spit/Salisbury Playhouse); *Digging In* (Claybody Theatre); *Mother Goose, Dick Whittington & His Cat* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Much Ado About Nothing, They Don't Pay? We Won't Pay, Hard Times, Cyrano, The Winters Tale, She Stoops To Conquer, The Grand Gesture, A Government Inspector, Hamlet, Canterbury Tales, Heidi, Lisa's Sex Strike* (Northern Broadsides); *Les Misérables – Schools Edition* (Bradford Playhouse); *Broken Time* (Three Stones Media); *Oliver Twist* (Bolton Octagon).

Alongside running her own music service, BH Music Transcription, she also gigs regularly with swing trio, The Gelatos; MD's and accompanies her own choirs, Artful Voices

and Artful Voices Youth Choir; composes and arranges original material for Theatre Tots in London and is an Associate Artist with Manchester based Artful Playground.

## **JAMES EARLS-DAVIS** Sound Designer

**As resident Sound Designer for the New Vic, productions include:**

*Intemperance, Much Ado About Nothing, The Wind In The Willows, Astley's Astounding Adventures* (co-designed with Alex Day); *Educating Rita, The Pitmen Painters, Around The World In 80 Days* (2017 co-production with Kenny Wax Family Entertainment, Simon Friend and Royal Exchange – winner of the Cameo Page to Stage Award); *Anna of the Five Towns, Dial M for Murder, The Snow Queen* (Winner of UK Theatre Award for Best Show for Children and Young People – co-designed with Alex Day); *The Kitchen Sink, Peter Pan in Scarlet* (co-production with Oxford Playhouse, co-designed with Alex Day); *Kiss Me Quickstep* (co-production with Oldham Coliseum, co-designed with Alex Day); *Robin Hood & Marian, Dracula* (co-designed with Alex Day); *Seeing the Lights, The Hoard Festival, The Ladykillers.*

**Original music includes:** *Bell, Book and Candle, The Thrill of Love, Gaslight, Proof, Desire Under the Elms, Copenhagen, Blue/Orange, Misery, Dealer's Choice, Romeo and Juliet, Broken Glass* (solo); *Talking Heads, Smoke, Once We Were Mothers, Kes, All That Trouble That We Had* (with Russell Gregory); *The Wicked Lady, Romeo and Juliet* and *A Fine Bright Day Today* (with Sue Moffat).

**Sound design and/or original music includes:** *Play* (B-Arts); *Devotion* (Potboiler Theatre Co); *The Game* (Northern BroadSides); *A Number* (Library Theatre, Manchester); *These Four Streets* (Birmingham Repertory); *Rebecca, Frozen* (Theatre by the Lake, Keswick); *King Macbeth, Silent Anger, Homefront, Sticks and Stones* (Reveal Theatre

Co); *Twelfth Night* (Belgrade, Coventry).

## **ANJI CARROLL CDG** Casting Associate

Over 50 plays for the New Vic including *Around The World In 80 Days*, – winner of the Cameo Page to Stage Award at New Vic, Royal Exchange, UK Tour, New York and Florida, Produced by Kenny Wax Family Entertainment. *The Snow Queen* (winner of UK Theatre Award, Best Show for Children and Young People); *The 39 Steps* and *Astley's Astounding Adventures*.

**Other theatre credits include:** *The Worst Witch* – Royal & Derngate, Northampton, which after a successful UK tour is transferring to the West End this summer. *The Man Without A Past, The Giant Jam Sandwich, Harvest, The Lovesong of Alfred J Hitchcock*, and others (New Perspectives); *Pinocchio* (Birmingham Old Rep); *The Wizard of Oz* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre); *The Jungle Book* (Northampton and UK Tour); *Before The Party, Echo's End, Aladdin* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Judgement Day* (The Print Room); *Precious Little Talent* (Best Play at the London Theatre Festival Awards 2011 – Trafalgar Studios); *Richard III, Macbeth, Othello* (Ludlow Festival); Seasons for the Northcott Theatre Exeter and Bristol Old Vic including *Henry IV Parts One and Two, The Notebook of Trigorin, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Antigone, The Beggar's Opera, A Chorus of Disapproval, Betrayal* (Bristol Old Vic).

**Television credits include:** BBC2's comedy drama series *The Cup, The Bill* (over 50 episodes); *The Sarah Jane Adventures* – *Invasion of the Bane*, two series of *London's Burning* (32 episodes); *The Knock* (4 x 90-minute episodes).

**Other credits include:** feature film *Papadopoulos & Sons, West Is West, Mrs Ratcliffe's Revolution, Out of Depth, The Jolly Boys' Last Stand*, drama-documentary: *Curiosity – What Sank Titanic?., Mayday, Joan of Arc.*

**Radio credits include:** BBC Radio 4 political drama series *Number 10*.

Anji is a member of the Casting Directors' Guild of Great Britain and BAFTA.

## PHILIP D'ORLÉANS

### Fight Director

**For the New Vic:** *Treasure Island, Dial M For Murder, Much Ado About Nothing, Cyrano and Hamlet* (co-productions with Northern Broadsides); *Kiss Me Quickstep, Robin Hood and Marian, Gaslight, The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd, The Ladykillers, Far From The Madding Crowd, The Rivals, Bleak House, Humble Boy.*

Philip is an Equity Registered Fight Director, and a fight examiner for the BASSC. He teaches at RADA and Drama Studio London.

**Other theatre includes:** *Agreed* (Glyndebourne); *Simon Boccanegra* (Greek National Opera); *Merry Wives Of Windsor, King Lear* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Andrea Chenier, Simon Boccanegra* (Royal Opera House); *Lion In Winter, Jekyll & Hyde* (Frankfurt English Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* (Theatre Royal, Stratford East); *The Outsider* (Print Room); *Romeo & Juliette* (Korea National Opera); *Titus Andronicus* (RSC/Barbican); *They Don't Pay, We Won't Pay, Brighton Rock* (Theatre Royal York); *The Kite Runner* (Wyndham's Theatre); *Cabaret* (National Tour); *Alzira, Macbeth 1847* (Buxton Opera Festival); *Robin Hood, Kindertransport, Our Country's Good* (Nottingham Playhouse); *King Lear* (Northern Broadsides); *Treasure Island, Robin Hood* (Duke's Theatre); *Great Expectations* (National Tour); *The Ladykillers* (Hull Truck Theatre); *Grapes of Wrath, Dedication* (Nuffield Southampton); *Corpse, Hamlet* (Vienna English Theatre); *Fox On The Fairway* (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch); *Faustus* (Creation Theatre Oslo).

**Film credits include:** *King Arthur: Legend*

*Of The Sword* (Warner Bros); *Pan* (Warner Bros); *The Knife That Killed Me* (Universal Pictures); *Dark Signal* (Racing Snake Prods).

## ANNA POOLE

### Assistant Director

Anna is currently the New Vic resident Assistant Director.

She has previously been a Theatr lolo Platform Artist, a Birmingham Rep Foundry Artist, an Emerging Director at National Theatre Wales, Youth and Community Associate at Sherman Theatre and a Jerwood Assistant Director at the Young Vic.

### As resident Assistant Director for the New Vic productions include:

*Intemperance, The 39 Steps, The Wind In The Willows, Astley's Astounding Adventures and Queens of the Coal Age.*

### Other Assistant Director credits

**include:** *Trying it On* (China Plate); *Wings* (Young Vic); *We're Here* (National Theatre, NTW & Volcano Theatre); *Bordergame* (NTW); *Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco* (Waking Exploits); *Last Christmas* (Dirty Protest).

**Directing credits include:** *Opera Scenes Project* (RWCMD); *Five Plays: Wings/Signs* (Young Vic); *Zero For The Young Dudes, The Government Inspector* (Sherman Theatre); *Dare to Reimagine* (Park & Dare Theatre); *Lady Lust* (Birmingham Rep); *The Drowned Girl, NSFW* (Chapter Arts Centre); *Blud* (The Other Room).

# IN REHEARSAL

Pictures by Andrew Billington  
and New Vic.



# IN REHEARSAL

Pictures by Andrew Billington  
and New Vic.



# THEATRE CAFÉ

We are open throughout the day serving wholesome homemade food in a relaxing setting with a warm welcome.

10.00am – 3.30pm

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Our menu for our next show is:

## THE STRANGE UNDOING OF PRUDENCIA HART

*Soup of the day*

*Scottish whisky burger  
with potato wedges*

*Veggie whisky burger  
with potato wedges*

We also have a wide selection of quiches and salads available.

Home-made food at value-for-money prices.

*Wherever possible, the New Vic uses local produce and ingredients.*

Reserve your evening table by calling **01782 717962**  
ext **325** or email [catering@newvictheatre.org.uk](mailto:catering@newvictheatre.org.uk)

## The Bar

12.00pm – 2.00pm

5.30pm – 11.00pm

### Avoid the queues...

You can pre-order your interval drinks at our bar using the slips provided and avoid the rush!

What's more, as our auditorium is licenced, you can take drinks into the show with you.

## Sweets & Ices

Located in the downstairs foyer opposite the Box Office.

Tableware made in Stoke-on-Trent and kindly supplied by Dudson



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our Patrons and those  
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Achieving all the New Vic's work would simply not be possible without the fantastic support of audience members who choose to become Patrons. New Vic Patrons support us with monthly or annual donations that fund our creative work as well as community and education projects that help some of the most vulnerable people in our area. This work is specialist and intensive, if we are to continue to invest in theatre-making and our pioneering work with local people we need your support.



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Deputy Front-of-House Manager  
Front-of-House Assistant  
Duty Manager  
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Assistant Bar Manager  
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Head of Housekeeping  
Cleaners

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The New Vic Theatre operates thanks to a unique partnership between Arts Council England, Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Charity Registration number: 253242  
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**Stoke-on-Trent**

## PLEASE NOTE



The Front-of-House Manager is on duty throughout the performance. Please ask if you require assistance.



For copyright reasons, taking photographs or making sound recordings is not allowed.



All smoke effects in New Vic productions are safe and non-toxic.



Should you need to leave the auditorium during the performance, you may be asked to wait until a suitable break before you can be readmitted.



Remember to silence mobile phones and digital devices.



There is no smoking in the building. Under the no smoking legislation, where the artistic integrity of a performance makes it appropriate, actors may be permitted to smoke on stage.



If crossing the stage area, please exercise extreme caution as trip hazards may be present.

## ACCESS

The New Vic welcomes all customers and is committed to providing access to the arts for all. Currently this service includes:



**Free parking** available close to the theatre entrance for Blue Badge holders (reserve a space with our Box Office).



**Baby-changing** facilities available. You are welcome to breastfeed in any of our Front-of-House areas. If you would like a private space, please speak to our Box Office Team.



**Automatic doors** and level access into the foyer, ramped access to the auditorium on the ground floor and lift access to the first floor.



**Assistance Dogs** are welcome, and water will be provided. If you wish to take your dog into the auditorium, please let Box Office know when booking.



**Wheelchair spaces** available on both the ground and first floor. Disabled toilets available on both levels of the theatre.



**Balcony Seating**  
Please note: our balcony seating is accessible by stairs only, is approximately 30ft above the main stage and is not recommended for very young children and those with mobility concerns.



**Induction Loop** (not available for amplified performances and an infra-red assisted hearing system.)

If you wish to make use of any of these services, please inform the Box Office at time of booking. For more information on the above facilities, please contact [dsunnuck@newvictheatre.org.uk](mailto:dsunnuck@newvictheatre.org.uk)

# NEW VIC BUSINESS FRIENDS



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The **STRANGE** Undoing

**OF**

**PRUDENCIA  
HART**

By David Greig

**FRI 28 JUNE – SAT 13 JULY**

**Box Office: 01782 717962 [newvictheatre.org.uk](http://newvictheatre.org.uk)**



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The New Vic Theatre operates thanks to a unique partnership between Arts Council England, Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

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