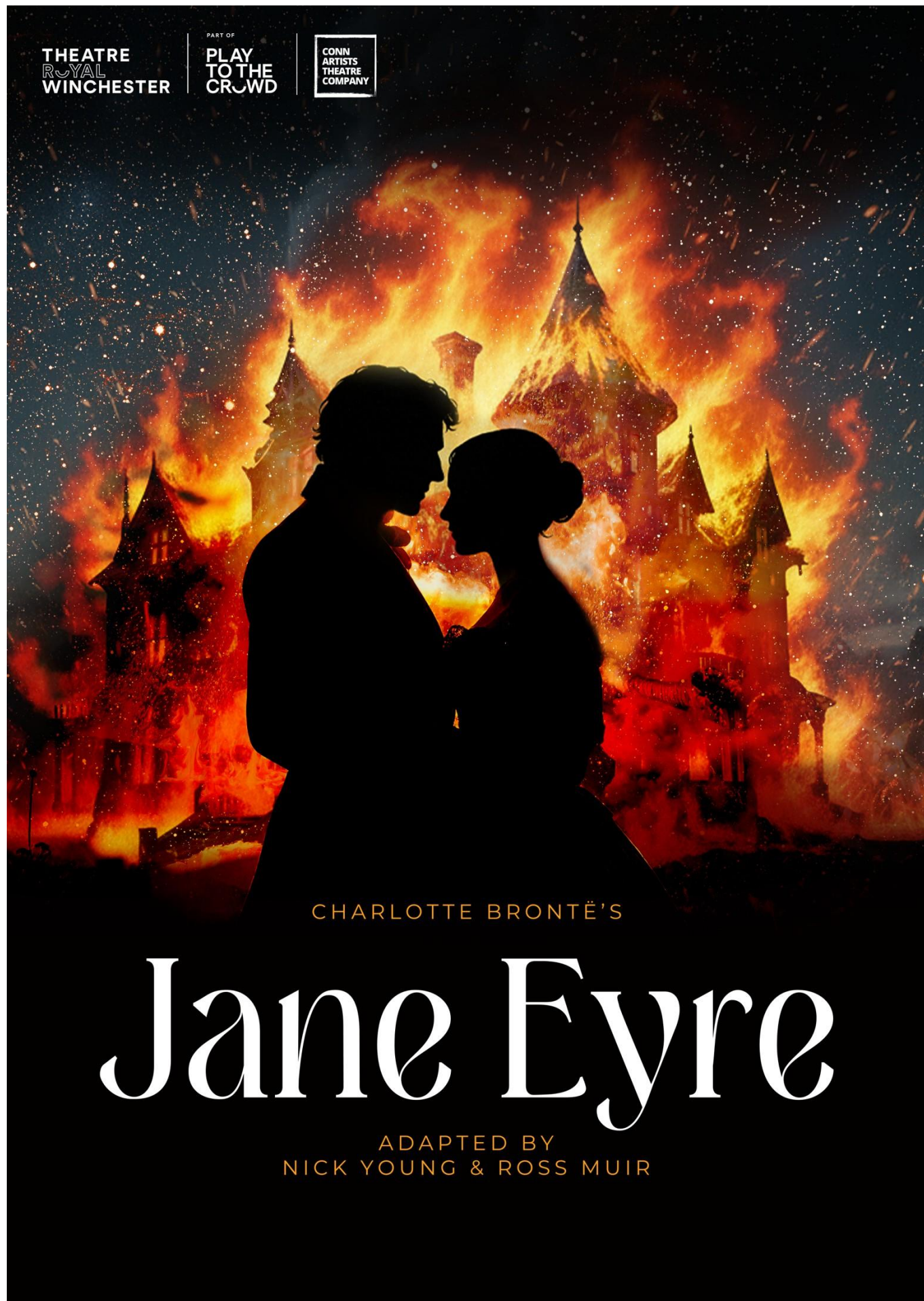


THEATRE
ROYAL
WINCHESTER

PART OF
PLAY
TO THE
CROWD

CONN
ARTISTS
THEATRE
COMPANY



CHARLOTTE BRONTË'S

Jane Eyre

ADAPTED BY
NICK YOUNG & ROSS MUIR

Marketing Pack

Marketing Pack – Contents

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Conn Artists Theatre Company – an introduction

We are the professional theatre company associated with the Connaught Theatre in Worthing having been supported by Worthing Theatres since 2013.

We create live theatre that engages audiences; sharing great stories that resonate with timeless, universal themes about the human condition which are socially relevant; often a reimagining or adaptation of a classic or neglected work.

Our last major tour was an adaptation of Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd* adapted by Nick Young & Ross Muir which played 55 performances across 42 theatres in Spring 2025.

This followed a successful revival of *The Haunting* by Hugh Janes which played 53 performances and toured to 41 regional theatres from Autumn 2023 to Spring 2024.

From 2021-2023, we toured the UK Premiere of *A Perfect Likeness* by Daniel Rover Singer (founder of the Reduced Shakespeare Company); a new play about an imagined and revealing encounter between two of the 19th Century's most iconic English authors, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll which delighted all audiences who saw it.

In 2022, we toured a revival of J.M. Barrie's ghost play *Mary Rose*, described by a 5-star review from Theatre South East as "*Hauntingly beautiful*". In 2019, we mounted a regional tour of George Eliot's *Silas Marner* adapted by Geoffrey Beevers. Supported by Arts Council England and The George Eliot Fellowship in the writer's bicentenary year the production was highly praised as the company's best work to date and gained 5 star and 4 star reviews from The Argus, Remote Goat and The Stage. Integral to this tour was the engagement with GCSE students, homeless people and refugees through workshops and outreach sessions.

In 2017 we mounted our first tour and landmark production of Hilaire Belloc's book *The Four Men* adapted by Sussex playwright Ann Feloy and directed by former Artistic Director of the Connaught Theatre, Nick Young. Supported by and working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority and Worthing Museum, the show was a huge hit with regional audiences.

Previous productions:

Far from the Madding Crowd (2025) *The Haunting* (2023-2024), *A Perfect Likeness* (2021-2023); *Mary Rose* (2022), *Silas Marner* (2019); *The Four Men* (2017); *Courage* (2015); *The Good Doctor* (2014); *The Importance of Being Oscar* (2014); *Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play* (2013)

Marketing & Press Enquiries and Interviews, please contact:

Ross Muir – Co-founder, Artistic Director, Producer and Actor

E: ross@conn-artists.co.uk

M: 07813 275 459

Other Company Contacts:

Matthew Pike – Co-founder, Production and Technical

Manager E: matt@conn-artists.co.uk

Laura Kimber – Co-founder, Designer and Volunteer Co-ordinator

E: laura@conn-artists.co.uk

Digital Assets



Jane Eyre: **Photography**

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCWnLK>

Jane Eyre: **Artwork**

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2382wnxn8uivj4j5m9dgi/Jane-Eyre_digital-art-work-2026.zip?rlkey=g1h0s8g9xw3kvwn3x4l54k15t&st=jxla63bo&dl=0

Jane Eyre: **Video Interviews (Cast & Director)**

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/z9Uonke5pJg>

Google Drive MP4 download:

📁 ConnArtists_JaneEyreInterviews_v1.mp4

Jane Eyre: **Teaser Trailer**

Available September 2026

Social Media Handles

Facebook: [connartiststheatrecompany](https://www.facebook.com/connartiststheatrecompany)

X: [@ConnArtistsCo](https://twitter.com/ConnArtistsCo)

Instagram: [@connartiststheatre](https://www.instagram.com/connartiststheatre)

Press Release Template

Conn Artists, one of the brightest new lights in Britain's touring theatre, is embarking on a National Tour from September 2026 of *Jane Eyre*. Charlotte Brontë's erotic, gothic masterpiece became the sensation of Victorian England. The story has lost none of its power today. In fact its heroine, with her bravery, love, and conviction is an inspiring role model for young women for all time.

The Company has built a growing reputation for imaginative story-telling, visual flair and great acting performances. Their previous productions have been praised for their energy, clarity and emotionally connecting with their audiences. From her abusive childhood, the horrors of Lowood School and the dark secrets of Thornfield Hall, audiences will join Jane on her journey of hardship, love and self-discovery.

The role of Jane will be played by the sensitive and effervescent Evie Depledge. The emotionally damaged man and Byronic lover she grows to love will be played by Ross Muir, the moving force behind Conn Artists, an actor that has many acclaimed performances to his name including *Macbeth* last year, and the eponymous Silas Marner for Conn Artists. He with Nick Young have created this vibrant, emotional roller coaster version of one of the great romantic stories of all time. Ross has also composed much of the music.

Jane Eyre will be directed by Nick Young in his seventh production for Conn Artists, promising passion, mystery, humour and heart. Speaking about this production, he said: "*Jane Eyre remains astonishingly modern. It is a story about identity, courage and refusing to surrender your sense of self. We want audiences to feel they are inside the story - sharing Jane's fears, hopes and fierce determination.*"

Actor and Producer, Ross Muir, says: "*I love the character of Jane and what she stands for; she has so much integrity and bravely makes difficult choices. Jane Eyre will appeal not only to fans of the novel but to anyone who enjoys an inspiring love-story that offers hope.*"

Conn Artists Theatre Company's tour of *Jane Eyre* is produced in association with Play to the Crowd and opens at Theatre Royal Winchester on 2nd September 2026.

To purchase tickets at (VENUE NAME) please call (VENUE BOX OFFICE) or visit (VENUE WEBSITE)

Tour Dates: Complete listing of venues, dates, and box office information can be found on www.conn-artists.co.uk/tour-dates

ENDS

Box Office Information:

CREATIVES:

Title:	Jane Eyre
Author:	Charlotte Brontë adapted by Nick Young & Ross Muir
Company:	Conn Artists Theatre Company – www.conn-artists.co.uk
Director:	Nick Young
Producer:	Ross Muir
Set Designer:	Laura Kimber
Lighting Designer:	Matthew Pike
Photography/Video:	Christopher Phillips

CAST:

Jane Eyre:	Evie Depledge
Mrs Fairfax:	Janna Fox
Adele:	Erin Maria Walther
Edward Rochester:	Ross Muir
St John Rivers:	Edward Smith

All other parts played by members of the cast

Type of event:	Play (Professional touring production)
Style of work:	Brand new stage adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel performed by an ensemble cast with music and songs.
Description:	Jane Eyre's fight for freedom, happiness and a sense of belonging, blazes from the cruelty of her childhood to the creepy corridors of Thornfield Hall, where she discovers passion, dark secrets, and a love that overcomes every obstacle.
Warnings:	Strobe Lighting, Haze/Smoke, Recorded Gun Shot
Age Suitability:	12+
No. performers:	5
Running time:	Approx 130 minutes plus a 20 minute interval

Selling the Show

Target Audience

- Fans and students of classic English literature and period dramas.
- GCSE/A-Level English Literature and Drama students studying this set text.
- Local book clubs, library groups and members of regional theatre networks.
- Enthusiasts of Victorian history, rural heritage, and Charlotte Brontë's work.
- General audiences who enjoy stories centered on romance, personal resilience, and society.

Key Selling Points:

- *Jane Eyre* is a haunting adaptation of Brontë's novel, exploring a compelling story of resilience, love, and moral choice.
- Features live music and authentic Victorian costumes, creating a rich, immersive experience of 19th-century England.
- Known for past productions like *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Silas Marner* and *Mary Rose*, Conn Artists Theatre Company's adaptations are critically acclaimed and a favourite with audiences across the UK.
- Directed by Nick Young, former RSC and Connaught Theatre director, this production offers a fresh perspective on Brontë's characters and is presented with an ensemble cast of five actors that brings the story to life.
- Post show Q&A's are available upon request with the cast.

Press Quotes:

For Conn Artists previous work:

"Richly inventive adaptation." ★★★★★
(Sussex Express on *Far from the Madding Crowd*)

"Hauntingly beautiful." ★★★★★
(Theatre South East on *Mary Rose*)

"A riveting example of ensemble theatre at its very best." ★★★★★
(The Argus on *Silas Marner*)

"This new touring production from Worthing company Conn Artists has made regional theatre feel in ruder health overnight." ★★★★★
(The Stage on *The Four Men*)

Audience Engagement & Cross-Campaign Suggestions

Digital and Social Media Campaigns

- Share promotional photos, trailers, and teasers on your website and social media channels weekly, creating anticipation and showcasing the main themes.
- Encourage audiences to share their favourite Charlotte Brontë quotes or discuss their own experiences with *Jane Eyre* using a dedicated hashtag, e.g., #JaneEyrePlay.
- Highlight that *Jane Eyre* is a GCSE set text, making it an ideal opportunity for students to experience the text live on stage.
- Schedule pre-show interviews and features with cast members and the director on local radio, newspapers, magazines or online publications.
- Send a targeted e-shot out to your drama season/theatre goers especially those audiences who have seen Conn Artists previous productions at your venue including *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Haunting*, *Mary Rose* and *Silas Marner*.

Cross-Campaign Opportunities

- **Local Book Clubs and Libraries:** Offer group rates for book clubs and libraries, particularly Brontë discussion groups. <https://readinggroups.org/groups>
- **Tourist Engagement:** Connect with local historical societies and regional museums, possibly offering special ticket packages or display options at locations related to Brontë's life or Victorian England.
- **Educational Outreach:** Contact local English departments at universities or colleges, offering discounts for students and encouraging group discussions about Brontë's work.
- **Community Events:** Organize a themed "Victorian Night" in select venues, encouraging audiences to dress in Victorian attire and creating an immersive experience around the play.

Show Copy

SHORT COPY (Brochure) 57 words | 68 words (including press quote)

Jane Eyre's fight for freedom, happiness and a sense of belonging, blazes from the cruelty of her childhood to the creepy corridors of Thornfield Hall, where she discovers passion, dark secrets, and a love that overcomes every obstacle.

Charlotte Brontë's gothic romance is thrillingly brought to life by Conn Artists ensemble cast with original music and songs.

"richly inventive adaptation" ★★★★★

(Sussex Express on *Far from the Madding Crowd*)

LONG COPY (Website) 139 words | 246 words (including press quotes)

Orphaned...Oppressed...Unbreakable.

Jane Eyre's fight for freedom, happiness and a sense of belonging, blazes from the cruelty of her childhood to the creepy corridors of Thornfield Hall, where she discovers passion, dark secrets, and a love that overcomes every obstacle.

Charlotte Brontë's gothic romance, swept against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors, with a haunting atmosphere and unforgettable emotion, tells a story of independence, resilience, and the courage to follow one's heart.

Thrillingly brought to life in a new staging by Conn Artists Theatre Company, following on from their recent adaptation of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, and performed with an ensemble cast of five actors with original music and songs.

The play will be directed by Nick Young (RSC and Connaught Theatre, Worthing).

Jane Eyre is a GCSE set text on AQA, Edexcel, OCR and Eduqas school examination boards.

"Nick Young and Ross Muir have done an excellent job of adapting this play" ★★★★★

(Liberty Nokes, Fairy Powered Productions on *Far from the Madding Crowd*)

"richly inventive adaptation"

(Sussex Express on *Far from the Madding Crowd*)

"a riveting example of ensemble theatre at its very best." ★★★★★

(The Argus on *Silas Marner*)

"strong, vivid and emotional story telling." ★★★★★

(Remote Goat on *Silas Marner*)

"Conn Artists has made regional theatre feel in ruder health overnight." ★★★★★

(The Stage on *The Four Men*)

Suggested Social Media Posts

Please feel free to accompany these posts with the selection of promotional photographs provided.

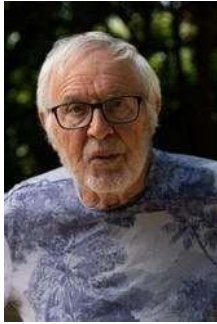
Facebook/Instagram

- “Conn Artists Theatre Company presents *Jane Eyre* – a powerful story of resilience, love and independence. Join us for an unforgettable theatrical experience! [\[Ticket Link\]](#)”
- “Orphaned. Oppressed. Unbreakable. *Jane Eyre* comes to the stage in a haunting new adaptation. Book now. [\[Ticket Link\]](#)” [\[Image of Jane Eyre\]](#)
- *Jane Eyre* on stage – ideal for students and theatre lovers alike. [\[Ticket Link\]](#)”

X

- “Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* comes to life on stage this Autumn/Spring. Follow our heroine as she navigates love and independence! #JaneEyrePlay [\[Link\]](#)”
 - “One woman. One choice. What will Jane Eyre sacrifice - and what will she never surrender? Find out this Autumn! #JaneEyrePlay [\[Link\]](#)”
-

The Production Team & Cast



NICK YOUNG – Adapter & Director

Nick got the directing bug when he used to invite another 5-year-old from school to come and watch his puppet shows, staged in an old empty wireless. He launched his first company, Rafter Players, modestly, with a production of *Hamlet*, staged in a Victorian attic. Over the next ten years the company grew, touring its productions throughout Scandinavia and Russia – as well as Brixton!

At Oxford he read English (very occasionally) and directed numerous shows, including the famous Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor *Dr Faustus*, when he was the student director to Professor Nevill Coghill. He joined the RSC as a trainee director and worked with actors such as Dame Helen Mirren and Patrick Stewart.

For three years he was the director of the world-famous Ludlow Festival, staging epic Shakespeare in the Castle. For ten years he was the Artistic Director of the Connaught Theatre, Worthing where he had enormous fun creating ensemble companies and directing musicals, premieres, classics, thrillers and farces.

He formed Rainbow Theatre in 1983 to inspire children with drama, and writing and directing its repertoire. Over the past twenty years Rainbow Shakespeare, the company that he formed with his wife Alex, has been creating exciting Shakespeare for family audiences in Worthing, London and France.

Nick has directed several productions for Conn Artists, and is excited to be working on their new adaptation of *Far from the Madding Crowd*, which opens at Theatre Royal Winchester.



ROSS MUIR – Adapter, Producer and as Edward Rochester

Ross trained at Guildford School of Acting and graduated with a BA First Class Honours in Theatre.

London appearances as an actor include the Almeida Theatre, Arts Theatre and New Players Theatre. National tours in the UK and Germany include *Figaro-the play*, *Black Comedy*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *The Caretaker*.

Ross became a major performer with Rainbow Theatre in schools where he first met Nick; and went onto play Hamlet, Macbeth, Leontes in *The Winter's Tale*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, among many leading roles with Rainbow Shakespeare over the past 20 years.

Ross co-founded Conn Artists in 2013 and has produced all of their shows to date. As an actor for the company, he enjoyed playing the title role in *Silas Marner* in 2019, and Hilaire Belloc in *The Four Men* in 2017. He also starred as Lewis Carroll opposite David Stephens as Charles Dickens in the acclaimed UK Premiere of Daniel Rover Singer's play *A Perfect Likeness* which toured 2021 – 2023. Ross and David then reunited in Hugh Janes' *The Haunting* 2023-2024.

More recently, Ross played William Boldwood in the company's new stage adaptation and UK tour of *Far from the Madding Crowd* 2025.



EVIE DEPLEDGE – Jane Eyre

Evie trained with the New Zealand National Youth Theatre Company. She went on to advance both her stage and screen skills while attending a course abroad at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts.

Since moving to London in 2025, Evie has been focusing especially on honing her love of classical theatre, which she has harboured since performing as Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Most recently, she performed as Juliet in Bowler Crab Theatre Company's touring production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Her other stage credits include Rose in *Brighton Rock* (Tower Theatre), Rosie in *The Things I Know To Be True* (Howick Little Theatre), Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* and several short plays with Stray Theatre Company.



JANNA FOX – Mrs. Reed/Mrs. Fairfax/Blanche Ingram/Bertha

Originally from Leeds, Janna trained at Drama Studio. She has performed Off Broadway, in the West End and toured nationally. She was recently nominated for an Off West End Award for her performance as Nurse Darroll in *The Daughter of Time* at the Charing Cross Theatre last year.

Janna is a strong Mezzo Soprano, actor-musician and multi-disciplined performer with a flair for accents. She narrates and produces audiobooks from her spare room in Hove.

Credits include Sian in *Brighton Storeys*; Lenora in *The Inside Man*; Nurse Darroll in *The Daughter of Time*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, Miss Prism in *Th'Importance of Bein' Earnest*, Ruth in *Rising Damp*, Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*, Sussie in *African Gothic*, Karen in *Red Sea Fish* and Maddy Burns in *Blind*.

She has played multiple characters and instruments in a variety of original musicals including "Louisa" and "Treasure Island" for Pleasure Dome Theatre Company and "The Grit and of Life" for Widgeon Theatre Boat.



ERIN MARIA WALTHER – Bessie/Helen/Adele/Diana

Erin Maria Walther is a native Bostonian who made the move to the UK, where she trained at the Guildford School of Acting (BA Acting).

Theatre includes: Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* (UK tour), Snowball/Others in *Animal Farm* (European tour), Jane in *The Pudding Club* (Hen & Chickens Theatre), Emily in *Copperfield* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse), and Alex in *Alex Getting Better* (UK premier).

Film and TV includes: voicing series regular Drea in *Lego City: No Limits*, Lizzie in *Remi Milligan: Lost Director*, Cath in *Tea with Friends*, and *After the Hunt* (Amazon MGM). She can also be seen opposite Eva Longoria in a commercial campaign

Voice includes: *The Shadow Road* audiobook for Bloomsbury Publishing, *Summer Skies over Starr's Fall* audiobook for Boldwood, Anna of Cleves in *Lost Tapes of History*, and voice doubling for Elle Fanning for *Coach* pitches.

Erin would like to thank Conn Artists, and as always, her mom for absolutely everything.



EDWARD SMITH – Mr.Brockelhurst/Mason/Lord Ingram/St John

This is Edward's debut tour with Conn Artists Theatre Company. Edward trained as an Actor at Bath Spa University and has appeared in supporting and lead roles in Off-West End theatres and festivals such as the Edinburgh Fringe and the South London Theatre.

His recent theatre roles include John Brooke, in *Little Women: The Musical*, James, in *James and the Giant Peach*, Rupert in *NSFW*, Jean-Michel, in *Cinderella: The Musical*, & Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in *Hamlet: Into the Manosphere*.

He is very excited to be a part of this ambitious tour and bring this iconic story to life.



LAURA KIMBER – Set Design and Costume

Laura studied at Northbrook College, Worthing, from 2001 to 2004. In that time she gained an HND in Technical Theatre, specialising in Prop Making, Set Design and Construction. She then carried onto achieve a BA (Hons) in Theatre Arts, specialising in Set, Props, Costume Design and construction.

After graduating, she worked for Worthing Theatres for nearly 18 years in various departments including; Front of House; as Box Office Supervisor and Venue Hire Manager. She loves to visit the Theatres and support their cultural programme.

Laura is proud to be a part of the Conn Artists Theatre Company. She has been the Designer for all of their productions since she had an interesting conversation with Ross, which led to forming the company and eventually their first production *Vintage Hitchcock* in November of 2013. With each show she feels she is progressing and finding a greater love of Costume Design and shopping.



MATTHEW PIKE – Production Manager / Lighting Designer

Matthew graduated from Northbrook College with a BA in Theatre Arts specialising in Production Management, Lighting Design and Stage Management. Matthew is Technical Manager for Worthing Theatres and Museum and working alongside the technical team looks after all the technical needs for the 4 venues in Worthing.

Matthew works as a freelance lighting designer and has worked with a number of companies in the Worthing area. Most recent of these was designing for BROS Musical Productions in Bognor Regis on their production of *Sister Act*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. He has also designed for CAOS Musical Productions on *Half a Sixpence* and worked with the Arundel Players on productions of *Chess*, *Little Voice* and *25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee*. Matthew has designed for Worthing Musical Theatre Company for many years and has designed for their productions of *Bad Girls the Musical*, *The Sound of Music*, *Into the Woods*, *Legally Blonde* and *Hairspray*.

Alongside Ross and Laura, Matthew is proud to be a founding member of Conn Artists Theatre Company and has worked on every production the company has produced.

