

DorchesterARTS



Angel Exit Theatre



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Present



The Ballad of Martha Brown

Workshop Pack

Available alongside the tour May - June 2014

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ABOUT ANGEL EXIT THEATRE

Formed in 2001 by graduates of the prestigious Ecole Lecoq and co-directed by Tamsin Fessey and Lynne Forbes, Angel Exit Theatre is an ensemble of performers with a shared passion for dynamic physical theatre and ensemble storytelling. Angel Exit Theatre are resident company at Lighthouse, Poole's centre for the Arts and Dorchester Arts.

The Ballad of Martha Brown is Angel Exit's seventh full scale touring show. Our two most recent shows were *Moonfleet* based on Falkner's novel about smugglers in Dorset in the 18th century, and *The Secret Garden*, which was based on the novel by Hodgson Burnett in which Mary Lennox comes of age as she discovers a magical garden. Previous to that we created *The Black Curtain*, which was an original film noir thriller. Although our work has drawn on varied inspirations, what our shows have in common is a strong emphasis on storytelling through physical ensemble theatre, using the European traditions of clown, chorus, melodrama and buffoonery.

***“There is so much vivid theatricality and inventiveness at work here that I am already looking forward to its next show.” Lyn Gardner,
The Guardian***

"Theatrical invention is everywhere... visually exciting throughout...a life-changing adventure story" The Stage

***“Angel Exit are consummate storytellers who have created a magical mesmerising production.
Highly recommended.” British Theatre Guide***



www.angelexit.co.uk

To see video trailers of our previous work:
www.youtube.com/user/angelexitheatre

ABOUT THE BALLAD OF MARTHA BROWN

The Ballad of Martha Brown is a brand new show, devised by the company and written by the directors Tamsin Fessey and Lynne Forbes. It is performed by an ensemble of five. The show features an original score and live music by Tom Ball and the design is by Sarah Dicks who has been working with students at Arts University Bournemouth to create stunning costumes.

The show has been developed through a long process of research and development, followed by a collaborative writing process.

Expect the unexpected in Angel Exit's latest original drama based on the life and times of Martha Brown, the last woman publicly hanged in Dorset.

1856. A tale of jealousy and passion. An ordinary woman and her ordinary husband, a hatchet grabbed in haste, a murder, a wrongly accused horse, a black silk dress, the hangman from London and the mob at the hang-fair who gawp in glee.

Presented in the company's rich visual style, blending storytelling and striking physicality, this show is spliced through with wicked humour, an original score and macabre songs as a grim chorus of hollow-eyed storytellers invite you into their mysterious world where reality and fantasy blur as the events of Martha's life are played out under the constant stare of the gallows above.

Standing close to the gallows, on that fateful day, was a young Thomas Hardy, who later recalled:

“I remember what a fine figure she showed against the sky as she hung in the misty rain and how the tight black silk gown set off her shape as she wheeled half round and back.”



ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

Angel Exit are running a series of workshops alongside the tour of *The Ballad of Martha Brown*. Workshops can be held in schools or colleges or in some cases, at the theatre space. Angel Exit workshops are suitable for all school levels, university students and community groups. The Artistic Directors of Angel Exit can also be booked for seminars on aspects of running a company. Angel Exit will tailor each workshop package to the individual group, and special requests can be accommodated. The workshops will usually be focused on physical and ensemble theatre and to tie in with *The Ballad of Martha Brown* we will also be exploring Brechtian theatre techniques. We hope that the workshops will inspire a new relationship and a deeper understanding of the show, as well as giving an insight into how we create work.

Angel Exit is devoted to the educational aspect of its work, believing that continuous training is essential to our own and other performers' creative development, and trusting that theatre has a unique way of encouraging people to work together which is beneficial and rewarding in all aspects of life.

Workshops are always run by at least two members of the company. Angel Exit's ensemble members are CRB checked, experienced workshop leaders and between them have many years of teaching and facilitating experience.

"There are so many applications for the exercises that I watched and I know that your work will inspire many ideas" Chair of Governors- Wey Valley School

"It was really fantastic, and gave me a lot more creative ideas. The best workshop I have ever been to." Student from Commonweal School, Swindon



Example workshops:

Ensemble and Chorus work

Using a variety of complicity exercises, we look at different ways in which a chorus may be used to support storytelling. Suitable for all levels.

Devising / Adapting

Using text, memories, pictures or music as a stimulus, we use different exercises to work towards the creation of effective dramatic scenes.



Brecht and Devising

We used several different exercises to give this show a Brechtian feel, here we explore how using Brechtian theatre techniques can help to generate devised material and give it a fresh slant. Aimed at GCSE and A-level students



Introduction to physical theatre

As it says! A playful look at ways to prioritise the physical and visual over the verbal.

Group numbers: 30 participants maximum (unless by prior arrangement)

Requirements: A clear space with non-carpeted floor, and a height of at least 2.5 m is preferred. Participants should wear movement clothes if possible.

Cost:

Full day of workshops: £300-£400 (depending on number of facilitators required)

Half day workshop: £200

Price for longer/shorter workshops negotiable.

To book a workshop:

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