

PENTABUS

Press Release
Date: Thur 3 Oct 2019

The Tale of Little Bevan

A new play by Robert Alan Evans

16 October – 1 December 2019

A co-commission with Creative Arts East

Pentabus announces their autumn rural tour of a new play by award-winning playwright Robert Alan Evans

Fresh from his success at the Royal Court with *The Woods*, Pentabus has commissioned award-winning playwright Robert Alan Evans to pen their autumn tour which will visit village halls and studio theatres nationally.

In a peaceful Norfolk village three people are seeking happiness. But as the harvest moon fills and the party begins, ancient forces are brought to life. While Tony and Mike get trapped in the tunnels below the village, Gill's plan for revenge turns extremely nasty.

A darkly comic journey through 24 hours in the life of a village called Little Bevan, this new play by Robert Alan Evans promises live music, storytelling and the spirit of a 10th century saint.

The Tale of Little Bevan has been created in collaboration with village hall promoters and rural communities across Norfolk and Suffolk - listening to their experiences, thoughts and concerns about living in rural villages in the twenty-first century.

Pentabus Artistic Director, Sophie Motley, said:

'We're thrilled to be working with village hall promoters across Norfolk and Suffolk, in collaboration with Robert Alan Evans. Rob has listened, explored and responded to village life in East Anglia with this, funny and engaging romp of a play, exploring loneliness, community and the penchant for mystery evident in many rural communities.'

Cast

Owen Aaronovitch
Annie Grace
Andy Peppiette

Creative Team

Writer: Robert Alan Evans
Director: Sophie Motley

Pentabus Theatre Company The Old School, Bromfield, Shropshire, SY8 2JU
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Charity Number 287909, Company Number 1747169, VAT Number 396137621

Designer: Alyson Cummins

Lighting: James McKenzie

Sound: Little John Nee

Robert Alan Evans (Writer): As writer, theatre includes: *The Woods*, *A Girl in a Car with a Man* (Royal Court); *Crumble's Search for Christmas* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *The River and the Mountain* (LAMDA Long Project); *Little Boxes* (Theatre Centre); *Peter Pan* [adaptation], *The Sleeping Beauties* (Sherman Cymru); *Mikey & Addie* (London 2012 Festival); *The Voice Thief*, *Kes* [adaptation], *Caged*, *Pobby & Dingan*, *Pondlife*, *Kappa* (Catherine Wheels); *Pinocchio* [adaptation] (Northampton Theatre Royal); *Mr Snow*, *The Night Before Christmas* (MacRobert Arts Centre); *Beautiful Cosmos* (Tron). As director, theatre includes: *Crumble's Search for Christmas* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Mr Snow*, *The Night Before Christmas* (MacRobert Arts Centre); *Aruba* (& UK, Ireland & US tours), *Fish Story* (People Can Run); *Naked Neighbour Twitching Blind* (Tramway). As writer/director, dance pieces includes: *Little Red*, *Tiger*, *Tiger Tale* (Barrowland Ballet/Tramway). As writer, radio includes: *The Cracks*. Awards include: CATS Award for Best Production for Children & Young People (*The Voice Thief*); TMA Award for Best Show for Children & Young People (*Pobby & Dingan*); Prix d'Orpheon Award (Simon la Gadouille) Robert is a writer, director and deviser working across the UK. He is currently part of the European PUSH project to experiment with gender and sexuality in work for young people.

All Press Enquiries: Catrin John | Tel: 01584 856564 | Email: catrin@pentabus.co.uk

Box Office Information

Running Time: 70 mins plus an interval | Recommended for ages 12+

For Full booking details for all venues – www.pentabus.co.uk

Wednesday 16 October | 7.30pm | Pentabus Theatre, Bromfield | Shropshire

Thursday 17 October | 7.30pm | Pentabus Theatre, Bromfield | Shropshire

Friday 18 October | 7.30pm | All Stretton Village Hall | Shropshire

Saturday 19 October | 7.30pm | Quatt Village Hall | Shropshire

Tuesday 22 October | 7.30pm | The Courtyard, Hereford | Herefordshire

Friday 25 October | 7.30pm | Edgton Village Hall with Lydbury North | Shropshire

Saturday 26 October | 7.30pm | Culmington Village Hall | Shropshire

Sunday 27 October | 7.30pm | Clun Memorial Hall | Shropshire

Tuesday 29 October | 7.30pm | Ketteringham Village Hall | Norfolk

Wednesday 30 October | 7.30pm | Wortwell Community Centre | Norfolk

Thursday 31 October | 7.30pm | Westacre Theatre | Norfolk

Thursday 07 November | 7.30pm | Barnacle Village Hall | Warwickshire

Friday 08 November | 7.30pm | Spring Arts Centre | Derbyshire

Saturday 09 November | 7.30pm | Great Longstone Village Hall | Derbyshire

Sunday 10 November | 7.30pm | Bishampton Village Hall | Worcestershire

Wednesday 13 November | 7pm | Kingston on Soar Village Hall | Nottinghamshire

Thursday 14 November | 7.30pm | Ropsley Village Hall | Worcestershire

Friday 15 November | 8pm | Ombersley Memorial Hall | Worcestershire

Saturday 16 November | 7.45pm | Allington Village Hall | Lincolnshire

Sunday 17 November | 7.30pm | Dunston Village Hall | Lincolnshire

Wednesday 20 November | 7.45pm | Salisbury Playhouse | Dorset
Friday 22 November | 7.30pm | Halstock Village Hall | Dorset
Saturday 23 November | 7.30pm | Briantspuddle Village Hall | Dorset
Sunday 24 November | 7.30pm | Child Okeford Village Hall | Dorset

Wednesday 27 November | 7.30pm | The Market Theatre, Ledbury | Herefordshire
Thursday 28 November | 7.30pm | Vowchurch & Turnastone Village Hall | Herefordshire
Friday 29 November | 7.30pm | Clive Hall, Moreton Say | Shropshire
Saturday 30 November | 8pm | Ludlow Assembly Rooms | Shropshire

pentabus.co.uk

Twitter: @pentabustheatre | Facebook: Pentabus Theatre | Instagram: pentabustheatrecompany
#pentabus #thetaleoflittlebevan #littlebevan

Notes to Editors

About Pentabus:

'Pentabus is probably one of the most important theatre companies in the country, where it has led, other new writing theatres – such as the Royal Court – have followed' The Telegraph

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company. We are the only professional theatre company in the UK whose vision is singularly rural. We tour new plays about the contemporary rural world to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres, telling stories with local relevance, plus national and international impact. We believe that every person living in an isolated rural community has a right to exceptional theatre. We are based on a farm in Shropshire, and to date all of our work has been made here. It then tours village halls and theatres locally and nationally. Over four and a half decades we've produced 171 new plays, reached over 550,000 audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award for our show about racism, a Fringe First for our play about climate change and were the first to live stream from a village hall. We have hosted a writer in residence since 2014 and they have gone on to be commissioned by the Royal Court, Birmingham Rep, Royal Welsh College and the Bush.

We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 25 and Pentabus Young Company is our new initiative offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Group, which has been running for five years. Previous participants of the Young Writers' Group have had their work presented at Ludlow Fringe, Latitude Festival and Hereford Courtyard. It is a springboard into further study and the arts industry, with over 50% of our Young Writers going on to be published and professional writers.

About Creative Arts East:

Creative Arts East is an arts and community development charity that has been operating for 25 years, and is committed to bringing the very best arts and cultural activities to rural and/or under-engaged audiences across Norfolk, Suffolk and the wider eastern region. We aim to use the transformative power of the arts to fight rural and social isolation; increase enjoyment, skills, health and wellbeing; broaden horizons and ambitions; and make a positive difference to the lives of people living in rural communities.

- We support an average of **600** rural and community led arts events each year.
- We engage over **30,000** audience members and participants in arts activity each year.
- We work in partnership with over 500 volunteers.

We achieve this by helping people access and engage with high-quality arts experiences, including live performances, cinema screenings, creative workshops and training sessions. For more information on the different schemes and projects we run throughout the Eastern region, please visit www.creativeartseast.co.uk

Pentabus would like to thank all our supporters including:

