



Dogwood Productions

No Finer Life

August 2017 Newsletter

We had fantastic start to the summer with a sold out tour that stretched from Inkberrow in Worcestershire to Chaffcombe in Somerset, taking in the wonderful church in Stroud and the extraordinary location of the Yeo Valley HQ. Thank you to the organisers of those events and the many people who came to see us.

Well, it's perhaps not on quite the scale of Dr Who, but we have our own important news about our cast. Our first Elizabeth Henderson, Roberta Bellekom, is leaving us to tour nationally in a new show based on one of David Walliams' children's' book. The show will be visiting some of the country's largest theatres for more than a year and we'll let you have the details in our next newsletter. We're going to miss her and our audiences clearly loved her too, but it gives us the opportunity to bring some new thinking to the production and rehearsals are already under way. So without further to do, please welcome our new Elizabeth, Rebecca Bailey.



Rebecca trained at the Birmingham School of Acting and her theatre work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Courtyard Theatre, London), *With a Clock in Mind* (Troubadour Theatre, London), *An Impossible Dream of Life* (Hôtel Teatro) and *The Snow Dog* (Edinburgh Pleasance). She has also toured extensively with the leading theatre company for young people, Full House, and starred in the 2013 movie *I'm Still Here* and she can also be seen in *The Smoke*, *Man in The Mirror* and the sci-fi movie, *Embrace Eternity*. She also pops up in commercials for Birdseye and Age UK!

Whilst the show will remain largely the same, we're also delighted to welcome Jame Le Lacheur who will direct the Autumn version and promises to bring in some new touches. James has just finished a year in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Palace Theatre) and he has also appeared in *James and the Giant Peach* (Colchester Mercury Theatre), and *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare's Globe). He can currently be seen in the forthcoming film *All the Money in the World*, directed by Ridley Scott, and more than a dozen shorts, music videos and commercials. He has directed for his own company, Fast Parson Theatre, Emotion Pictures Theatre's *Last Petal Falling* and the upcoming feature film *Still Love*.



We are really looking forward to being on the road with them both at the end of the summer when we set off once more. The details of the performances follow...

Wednesday 20th September **The Dugdale Arts Centre**
39, London Rd, London, Enfield EN2 6DS

An excursion to North London to this bustling centre, which also includes a museum, art gallery and cafe. Please note that this is a matinee performance, starting at 2.30. The centre is well served by buses and the Overground. More details at www.dugdalecentre.co.uk

Saturday 23rd September

Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0BD



This historic stately home, now an events and conference centre, is having a celebration of Autumn Fruits and have invited us to perform in the grounds, though safely in a marquee. They're also offering a combined ticket that includes one of their famous cream teas and, of course, there's the chance to wander the beautiful grounds. It should be a lovely day out.

www.missendenabbey.co.uk/events/

Sunday 24th September

Cowfold, Near Horsham

If we're not over filled with cream teas from yesterday, then our diets will be finally beaten into submission as we're part of the Horsham Food & Drink Festival. We're out of the town centre in the village of Cowfold. To mark the occasion the ticket price tonight includes a free bottle of Silly Moo Cider (www.trenchmore.co.uk/cowfold-cider/)

Monday 25th September

Plumpton College, Lewes
Ditchling Road, Lewes BN7 3AE

We continue to head south and are guests at this college, which is one of the leading providers of courses related to the land... all rather appropriate given the story of our show. Although we hope we'll meet plenty of the next generation of farmers, the show is, of course, open to the public.

Thursday 28th September

The Spread Eagle Hotel,
Midhurst GU29 9NH

The tour is taking us to some amazing locations and none more so than tonight when we're performing in The Jacobean Hall at this historic hotel. The ticket price includes a two-course supper, though there will be a limited number of show only tickets.

More details and tickets from www.hshotels.co.uk/spread-eagle



Saturday 30th September

Ardeley Village Hall, Ardeley, Nr. Stevenage G2 7AQ



This should be another splendid day out! There's an Apple Day celebration at Church Farm, including talks and farm walks, ending with a barbecue. Our show is early evening at 6.15 and after Graham's talk there's cheese and pud at the local village pub. The village hall looks beautiful and there can't be that many with a thatched roof. Booking and more details of the day at www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk.

Monday 2nd October

Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Rd., Sherborne DT9 3NL

One of the play's key themes is the relationship we have with the land. This isn't about maintaining old ways for the sake of it, but about respecting the countryside and farming in a sustainable way. We're very pleased to be working with the The Campaign to Protect Rural England and this date is sponsored by them with more to come in 2018. More details on their work can be found at www.dorset-cpre.org.uk/CPREDorsetSherborneGroup.html

Every performance will be followed by an after-show discussion with Graham Harvey

No Finer Life Autumn Tour

Details at www.nofinerlife.co.uk/tour-dates

Future Gazing

We're well into planning our New Year Tour for 2018. Actually, it starts in February and should take in places as far apart as Cornwall and Cumbria. In between tours we will be busy. Our theatre company was set up to create new drama, particularly that which looked at issues about rural Britain. Graham is busy writing our next show, one that is set very much in the present day and we hope to have details of that in our next newsletter in September.

In the meantime, have a good summer and we hope to see you, your families and friends in the not too distant future.

Kind Regards,
Rebecca, Alastair, James & Graham