

Matinee & Evening Programme

Making Headlines

Cornwall Secondary Drama Showcase 2016

New writing, new talent, inspired by the past.



Hall For Cornwall Monday
1st February 2016



Introduction

Welcome to the 7th Secondary Drama Showcase which is a glorious opportunity to share and celebrate the creativity and energy that resides in Drama Departments across the county on the Hall For Cornwall stage.

This year is even more special as a collaboration with the Cornwall Record Office has enabled us to commission four new plays especially for this event for young performers and inspired by their heritage. Most of the young people have had a chance to visit the archive and strong room, to handle some very old and precious documents including those that inspired their plays.

We are very grateful to the staff at Cornwall Record Office, in particular Chloe Phillips, for making us so welcome and for sharing this rich resource with both the writers and the students. It has been a delight to work with such talented playwrights including Charlotte Bister and Daniel Richards, Jethro Compton, Ellen Moule and Elaine Ruth White. They have all created work that is thoughtful, playful and responded brilliantly to the brief 'write a 10 minute piece for a cast of 10 to 20 performers'. We know that drama teachers and students have responded with enormous imagination to the plays and we hope that you as an audience will respond with due enthusiasm to these 'World Premiers'.

Amanda Harris, KEAP & Michael White, Hall For Cornwall

Production Team

For Kernow Education Arts Partnership (KEAP):

Producer: Amanda Harris,

Production Assistants: Emma Mansfield & Stephanie Clemens, Jenima Taylor & Lydia

For Hall For Cornwall:

Producer: Michael White. Production Managers: Isobel King & Dave Hunter.

Stage Manager: Chris Alexander

And a big thank you to the fabulous back stage and technical team

For Cornwall Record Office:

Chloe Phillips & Tamsin Mallett

Photography

Sean Hurlock Photography www.seanburlockphotography.com

We would like to thank to all the teachers and students for their creativity and commitment to make this happen.

The Cornwall Drama Advisory Group



The Archives and Cornish Studies Service

The writers of the plays in this year's Drama Showcase were inspired by a visit to Cornwall Record Office in Truro, which is home to thousands of fascinating documents, maps and photographs. The writers heard tales of great Cornish people and events, all connected to the collections which are held in seven secure strongrooms that the writers were also able to tour.

The Record Office and its sister service, the Cornish Studies Library, are both free to use and open to the public. Researchers visit from all over the world to discover more about their ancestors, the local area, or to find out more about a wide range of themes, including fishing, culture, literature, farming and mining: the Hard Rock mining collections are even Designated as being internationally significant.

Anyone can visit and explore the collections: you can gaze at an 18th century map, marvel at the signature of your great-great-grandfather or compare fantastic photos with familiar areas today. The choice is yours! All the information you need about using the service can be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/cro.

Kresen Kernow

Due to open in 2018, Kresen Kernow will be an exemplary modern archive and library space, bringing together the world's largest collection of manuscripts, books and documents related to Cornwall for the first time. It will unite the collections and services of Cornwall Record Office, the Cornish Studies Library and the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Records. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cornwall Council, it will provide a bespoke building, excellent digital facilities, dynamic volunteering opportunities and a diverse range of events, exhibitions and activities which will improve access and attract wider audiences to celebrate and share in Cornwall's rich and distinct history. The building will feature varied and engaging exhibition spaces, as well as learning rooms, reading rooms and comfortable research areas. Kresen Kernow will also safeguard the historic Redruth Brewery building at the heart of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Find out more by visiting www.cornwall.gov.uk/kresenkernow.

The Writers & The Plays

Those in Peril

By Jethro Compton

Writer and theatre producer

www.jethrocomptonltd.co.uk

The story that inspired *Those in Peril* was an event that changed legal precedent, both maritime and on land. The events that took place put an end to the previously accepted 'custom of the sea' and garnered attention from the nation due to the brutality and gore contained within the story. Without giving too much away, the document contained in Cornwall Record Office gives an idea of what occurred after the events depicted in the play.

As the play is only ten minutes long, I chose to focus on the more exciting events that took place, and have omitted the legal aspects of the story - though if they are of interest then you can read all about what befell the crew of the *Mignonette*, both at sea and on land. The piece is written entirely in iambic pentameter. I chose to use this form as it offers such flexibility to the groups performing the story, who vary enormously, giving them the bare bones from which they have gone on to create their performances. Just as a presentation of an extract of Shakespeare will differ entirely based on the director or ensemble's interpretation, so too I hope will the performances of each of the three groups who are staging *Those in Peril* today.

Fearful Privations on the High Seas.

A BOY KILLED AND EATEN.

THE SURVIVORS AT FALMOUTH.

A most terrible story of privation and suffering at sea has been related by the three survivors of the yacht "Mignonette," who were landed at this port on Saturday last from the German brigantine Montezuma, of Hamburg. The three men are respectively named Thomas Dudley, Edward Brooks, and Edwin Stephens. Dudley, who is a native of Colchester, is 32 years of age, and previously to taking command of the "Mignonette," had been in charge of the steam yacht "Myrtle," which Sir C. Strickland had engaged for a Mediterranean cruise, he was well-known in the neighbourhood of Ipswich as a skillful seaman; Stephens is a native of Southampton, and is 37 years old; and Brooks is of Brightlingsea, and about the same age. Dudley and Stephens are married men with families; Brooks is single. These three men, together with a lad named Richard Parker, 19 years old, and belonging to Southampton, were engaged to take out the yacht "Mignonette," to Sydney, N.S.W., for a gentleman named Henry J. Want. She was of yawl rig, 52 feet in length, 12 feet 4 inches beam, 32 tons burthen, and she was built in 1867 by Mr. E. Aldous, of Brightlingsea.

FOUNDERING OF THE YACHT.

The "Mignonette" left Southampton on the 19th

Summary Convictions Act, 11 & 12 Vict., c. 43.

No.

DDX 517/30

Summons of a Witness.

CORNWALL,

(TO WIT.)

To Robert Gandy, Chairman of the Collector
of H. M. Customs, Falmouth,
in the said County.

WHEREAS, Information and Complaint were made before one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in and for the said Borough of Falmouth, on the 25th day of July 1884, at the sea being subjects of our Lady the Queen, feloniously, wilfully, and of their malice aforethought did kill and murder one Richard Parker -

and it hath been made to appear to me that you are likely to give material evidence on behalf of the Prosecution in this behalf; these are therefore to require you to be and appear on Thursday the 18th day of September, instant at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the Town Hall, in the Borough of Falmouth before such Justices of the Peace for the said Borough as may then be there, to testify what you shall know concerning the matter of the said complaint.

Given under my Hand and Seal, this 17th day of September in the year of our Lord, 1884, at Falmouth, in the County aforesaid.

By R. H. H. H. H.

The Walk

by Ellen Moule

A single postcard of an old Cornish fisherwoman was the starting point for my play...



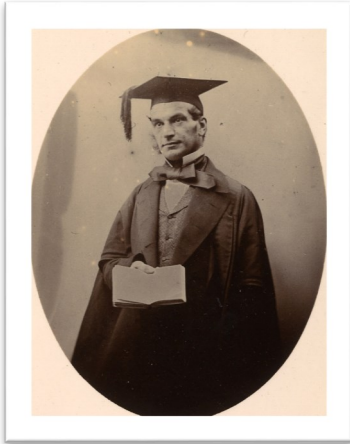
Mary Kelynack of Hewlyn, who at 80 years of age, walked to London to see the Queen

... A postcard of Mary Kelynack, a minor celebrity of her day, a woman who walked to London to meet the Queen. I looked over many other manuscripts in the archive, such as letters from a Camborne miner Richard Scoble, who moved to America to make his fortune, documents on Mary Bryant, one of the first women to be deported to Australia, the story of Real Del Monte, 'Little Cornwall' in Mexico, where pasties are a delicacy even today. But I kept being drawn back to Mary and her story - her shrewd face staring back at me from the postcard I'd found. Her simple, yet endearing tale had to be told. Who was this woman who walked to see the Great Exhibition in 1851? Why did she do it and what happened to her afterwards? I started the writing of my play with no ideas of what I would write about and so was able to explore the Cornish archives with a completely open mind as to what stories I might find. I was overwhelmed by how many people's stories there were to tell. I was drawn to the story of Mary Kelynack, an old woman who walked to London to meet the Queen because her story was simple, yet endearing and I felt, if written right, was something the students performing the piece, could connect with easily.

My starting point was Cornwall's Record Office but I also explored the story using the Cornish Studies Library, Penwith Parish Records and through first hand conversations with relatives of Mary. Once I'd compiled as much of the factual evidence about Mary as I could I began the process of bringing Mary alive, via storytelling, characterisation and words.

From Cornwall to the Cosmos

By Charlotte Bister & Daniel Richards
Co-Artistic Directors of 'Owydyado Theatre
www.owydyado.co.uk



Perhaps the most surprising thing about John Couch Adams for us was that we had never heard of him! Now, we realise that we should all be celebrating him as a wonderfully clever and interesting Cornish person. The idea that a boy from a small and poor farming family in a remote part of 19th century Cornwall could gain such an extraordinary mathematical brain fascinated us.

The information we found on him at the Cornwall Record Office as well as in the books *Voyager in Time and Space* and *The Neptune File* taught us that he was not just a wonderful scientist but also a kind, gentle and funny man. Portraying all that we wanted to about John Couch Adams in just 10 minutes meant writing a play which runs at a pace as fast as the mind of the man himself. We hope that *From Cornwall to the Cosmos* does him justice and shows that it doesn't matter what your background is or where you are from, we all have the power to become bigger than the sum of our parts.

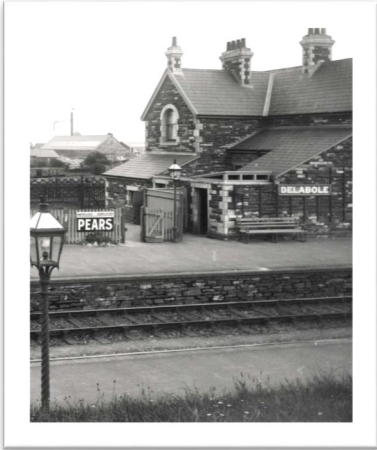
Pieces of Pears

By Elaine Ruth White

Writer and artistic director

Cake Productions

<https://cakeproductions.wordpress.com/>



When I was commissioned to write a 10-minute play inspired by an artefact from the Cornish Records Office linked to a Cornish explorer or inventor and to be performed by as many as 20 drama students from local schools, I knew I was up for quite a challenge. During preliminary research, I learned of Andrew Pears, who'd invented Pears soap.

I was surprised to discover Andrew was Cornish, and apart from archive staff, no one I spoke to knew this either. Furthermore, there was virtually no information in the Record Office about Andrew. I found a photograph of a Pears advertisement on Delabole railway station and eventually found his baptism record. Only by going to The National Archives and the archivist at Unilever, Port Sunlight, did I start to unearth more of the story - a story that was both light and incredibly dark.

Matinee Performance 2pm (No interval) In Order of Appearance

The Walk - Callington Community College

Callington Community College's Year 10 Drama GCSE students have created the world of 'The Walk' through using physical theatre and creating their own music. These students have been very much involved in the shaping and direction of this piece.

Cast: Megan Baylis, Luke Bunkum, Harriet Chorlton, Bethany Colman, Grace Dave, Isobel Hake, Oscar Haynes, Harvey James, Caitlin Lamley, Paige Langley, Oliver Noy Scott, Niamb Pinbey, Lola Springbett, Cheyenne Taylor, Finley Taylor, Kane Thomas, Isaac Thompson, Harry Tredinnick and Bailey Waters. *Special Mention: Harvey James, Original music/ acoustic guitar. Director: Debs Kemp.*

From Cornwall to the Cosmos - St Ives

The year 10 Drama students decided to approach the script with an open mind. We have created 'proper Cornish' characters based on personal family and friends. Our ensemble performance incorporates humour, physical theatre and is delivered in a naturalistic style. The students have thoroughly enjoyed creating, learning about history and about their own culture.

Cast:

Thomas Adams- Lulu Godfrey
Tabitha Adams- Rebecca Hughes
James Challis- Courtney Wood
Richarda Airy- Anila Leibing
Le Verrier- Owen Hart

Mr Pease- Daisy-May Mitchell
Young Pease and messenger- Kira Lomas
George Airy- Lilly Mae Lander
Reporter and Official- Chrissie Hook

Ensemble- Year 10 Drama St Ives: Ross Johnson, Owen Hart, Lulu Godfrey, Daisy-May Mitchell, Rebecca Hughes Courtney Wood, Lilly-Mae Lander, Anila Leibing, Kira Lomas and Chrissie Hook. Director: Kirsty Smith

Pieces of Pears - Looe Community Academy

LCAD (Looe Community Academy Drama) have found it a very interesting process bringing 'Pieces of Pears' to the stage. From excitedly reading the brand new 'hot off the press' script, to getting to discuss its actual genesis and the ideas behind it with the writer herself Elaine Ruth-White, to researching Andrew Pears and his soap and finally deciding how we wanted to stage the play and tackle the ideas it raised. We have chosen to bring our traditional style of ensemble work, multi-roling and body propping andadd in a few raised eyebrows, where appropriate.

Cast: Student Leader of LCAD & 14 year old Andrew: Freya Saddler

21 year old Andrew: Larissa Reilly

Advertising Executive: George Ingham

Solicitor's Clerk: Robyn Smith

Meg: Jo Winnet

Sarah Bernhart/ Andrew's Mother:

Chorus roles: Giorgia Calcagni

46 year old Andrew: Mia Rowe

Solicitor: Rebecca Jeavons

Tabloid News Editor: Melissa Coton

Grace: Anna Graham-Jones

Eleanor Morozow

Teacher Director: Mrs C Turon

The Walk - Mullion School

"What an inventive project! To be matched up with a writer and wait to see what the script would bring! In our version of Mary Kelynack we found a conflict between would be directors which we hope is apparent. There has been some licence taken with what the Great Exhibition would be like. Being Cornish it's easy not to conform!"

Cast: Charlotte Douglas, Hannah Brown, Bronwen Cox, Eden Fornear, Sarah Morton Grace Sherratt Josie Lovekin Ned Ratcliffe, Sam Meriden, Rosie Dorrell, Isaac Davis, Hannah Griffiths, Ruari McDonald, Ciaran Blakely Lassalle and Jamison Boll. Music arranged by Sam Meriden, Staff Team Acting - Ben Merritt, Staff Team Coffin - Martin Wren, Staff Team Advice on Song - Kathleen Morrison

From Cornwall to the Cosmos - Humphry Davy

The Year 9 drama group from Humphry Davy School presents 'From Cornwall to the Cosmos'. The group used the experience at the Cornwall Record Office visit to their fabulous archives to inform the development of the piece.

The cast play multiple roles and include: Jude Bates, Jasmin Begum, Keely Burt, Ellie Fearn, Caden Gall, Ellis Gambrell, Minnie Gregory, Evan Hall, Grace Harvey, Loulee Hocking-Corn, Zoe Jehu, Tatiana Klamar, Ben Lewis, Lauren Martin, Megan McClary, Ewan McMullen, Aidan Mooney, Emma Netley Reseigh, Chloe Prowse, Rosie Quinn, Elsa Rainbow, Jodie Reynolds, Bethany Sedgeman, Ruby Spry, Jamie Sumsion, Dominik Tokarski, Patrick Toraskar and Jessica Tyler. Teacher Director Rebecca Stuteby

Evening Performance In Order of Appearance

Those in Peril - Bodmin College

Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts boys present 'Those in Peril' by Jethro Compton. Will the crew of the Mignonette survive the perils of the sea?

Cast: Brad Follen, Cadan Hawke, Jamie Tysom, Euan Silburn, Caleb Sillence, Callum Blight, David Hoskin and Ryan Nash. Technician: Ashley Williams-Parr

From Cornwall to the Cosmos - St Ives School

We are a new inexperienced GCSE Drama group. We are really looking forward to seeing the work of all you other Cornish Schools! We have used this amazing script to learn about ensemble and physical theatre and John Couch Adams. For some, this is our first experience of performing to an audience. Bring it on!

Cast: Magdalene Berg, Alexander Dellamuro, Joe Dobson, Danielle English, Skye Farrell-Brown, Leo Fox-Williams, Ethan Grice-Peck, Billy Hook, Eve Johnson-Climer, Emilie Leach, Alfie Paxton, Jade Peters, Zoe Pugh, Elis Richards, Daniel Roach, Harvey Saralis Wheatley, Oliver Thomas, Maia Uys, Grace Vickery, Isla Grace Webster and Emily Wedge. Teacher Director Jilly Hellerman

Pieces of Pears - Pool Academy

Performed by a small class about to embark on the journey of studying GCSE Drama, Pieces of Pears is a short, snappy, episodic performance, showing events in the making of Pear's soap - and the reactions when its ingredients are changed. We have deliberately kept everything simple, as we felt that we were storytellers and not 'characters'. Pool Academy hopes that you enjoy the performance.

Cast: Pasco Davey, Leah George, Amber Gibson, Lewis Gillard, Holly Heath, Ruby Mayne, Caitlin Meek, Ethan Pascoe, Tegan Pedley, Candiece James, Georgina Sturgess, Kira Visick and Reece Watkins. Director: Jamie Best.

Those in Peril - Penrice Academy

*Twenty of Penrice's gifted and talented students will take to the stage to show an adaptation of the script *Those in Peril*. Students have been using the script as well as a variety of stimuli to produce something original and fresh. This piece will include a captivating fusion of movement and speech to show a story with dark connotations throughout.*

Cast: *Annie Brown, Oliver Pearce, Erik Morris, Louis Taplin, Amelia Blondean, Owen Thomas, Isabella Roberts, Daisy Devlin, Elizabeth Wood, Rhyanna Friday, Isabella-Skye Taylor, Ruan Olsen, Cameron Kearns, Peter Pascoe, David Bristow, Liam Hayes and Jack Lemin.*
Directed by Kate Stockmans

INTERVAL

The Walk - Treviglas college

Directed by Mr. Sam Colborne, this year's performance from Treviglas includes Year 10 and 11 GCSE drama students. The two groups rehearsed separately at first, then together in the final rehearsals before performance. The group enjoyed the challenge of an ensemble piece, and of bringing narration to life, seeking to tell the wonderful story of the eccentric Mary Kelynack in a dynamic visually interesting way. Treviglas is a Royal Shakespeare Company 'Hub School'. Treviglas students will be performing in the National Theatre Connections 500 project later this year.

Cast: *Jade Geeson, Jennifer Golland, Lea Hubtegge, Pacey Jackson, Tyler McEwan, Josh Pearson, Jack Rivers, Summer Rose, Cai Taylor, Charley Van Koutrik, Ryan Bonner, Ebony Brooks, Caitlyn Dowie, Bobby Eyles, Megan Forrest, Charlotte Francis, Kyle Gregory, Ellie Maisey, Fenn Mason, Callum Philp, Samuel Pritchard, Ciaran Pudner, Esther Squance, Bryony Twinney and Robert Williams.*

Those in Peril - Redruth School

The Year 10 GCSE drama students have been working towards the play 'Those in Peril'. The story is taken from the story of Britain's last trial for cannibalism at sea - The story of the Mignonette. The play meets 4 men aboard the Mignonette that hits a heavy storm, the men evacuate to the lifeboat and are saved.until they are left stranded on the open sea with few supplies. As times ticks on the men become weaker and more paranoid and turn on each other. Who will survive? Who will be the victim?

*Director : Helen McGovern, Assistant director: Rosie Reeve,
Lighting: Bethany Yarde- Dent, Sound – Emily Yarde-Dent*

Cast: *Abi Beard, Iona Beniston, Rose Bray, Tegan Carpenter, Iona Chipman, Abi Downie, Jade Exell, Lexus Glanville, Jasmin Hooper, Nikita Jobling, Alex Johns, Alice Mills, Elisha Murray, Kira Orchard, Gemma Plummeridge, Megan Richardson, Owen Roberts, Ben Simons, Tyler Smith, Elisha Spargo, Ellie-Mae Thompson and Lizzy Tranah.*

From Cornwall to the Cosmos - Richard Lander

Our performers are all members of the year 7 and 8 Drama club at Richard Lander School. This started off as a lunchtime club with three year 9 subject leaders running the sessions. Drama club has been a great success as students make new friends and learn new skills through improvisation and role play. This became the perfect group for the Showcase performance. The students were very excited to have a script written especially for them! We decided to present our work as an ensemble so the part of John Couch Adams is shared – look out for his green scarf!

Cast: *Saskia Adie, Kaithyn Altass, Tiegan Bartlam, Anna Browning, Freya Burrell, Isabella Connell, Isaac Feldman, Tehya Holcroft, Freddie Houghton, Amber Ings, Olivia Lyndsay, Charlotte Marples, Sian McDermott, Cairven Pascoe, Maia Pery, Neya Sabetian, Caitlin Shaw, Molly Short, Billy Tunicliffe, Jennifer Upton, Callum Williams.
Director / teacher Lucy Charlston*

IMAGE CREDITS

For archive images Cornwall Record Office
2015 Secondary Drama Images Sean Hurlock
www.seanhurlockphotography.com

Front Penrice Academy/Inside Monster Theatre/ Back Treviglas School





HFC
HALL FOR CORNWALL

 heritage
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LOTTERY FUNDED

**kresen
kernow**


CORNWALL
COUNCIL

KEAP
kernow education arts partnership