

FESTIVAL 2022 – ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT LISTINGS

THE TAXIDERMIST'S DAUGHTER

Adapted for the stage by **Kate Mosse**

FESTIVAL THEATRE

8 – 30 April 2022

Tickets: from £10

Performance Times:

19 April at 7pm

8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 April
at 7.30pm

14, 16, 20, 23, 28, 30 April at 2.30pm

Pre-Show Talk Mon 18 April, 5.45pm, **Post-Show Talk** Tue 26 April

Theatre Day Thu 28 April, 10.30am

Audio-described performances: Fri 29 Apr at 7.30pm & Sat 30 April at
2.30pm (preceded by Touch Tour)

Captioned Performance: Thu 28 April at 7.30pm

1912. In the isolated Blackthorn House on Sussex's Fishbourne Marshes, Connie Gifford lives with her father. His Museum of Avian Taxidermy was once legendary, but since its closure Gifford has become a broken man, taking refuge in the bottle.

Robbed of her childhood memories by a mysterious accident, Connie is haunted by fitful glimpses of her past. A strange woman has been seen in the graveyard; and a few miles away, at Chichester's Graylingwell Asylum, two female patients have, inexplicably, disappeared.

As a major storm hits the Sussex landscape, old wounds are about to be opened as one woman, intent on revenge, attempts to liberate another from the horrifying crimes of the past.

The Taxidermist's Daughter is a thrilling Gothic mystery set in and around historic Chichester. This world premiere is written by Cicestrian Kate Mosse, based on her best-selling novel.

Kate Mosse's novels include The Languedoc Trilogy (*Labyrinth*, *Sepulchre* and *Citadel*) and her new historical series, *The Burning Chambers*. She is Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Professor in Contemporary Fiction and Creative Writing at the University of Chichester.

Sponsored by **Seaward Properties**

WORLD PREMIERE

OUR GENERATION

A new play by **Alecky Blythe**

A co-production with the **National Theatre**

MINERVA THEATRE

22 April – 14 May 2022

Tickets: Previews and Press Night from £21 (22 – 26 April)

Other performances from £29

Performance Times:

22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30 April, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 May at 6.30pm

28 April, 4 & 12 May at 2pm

30 April, 7 & 14 May at 12.30pm

Pre-Show Talk Wed 27 April 5pm, **Post-Show Talk** Thu 5 May

Audio-described performances: Fri 13 May at 6.30pm & Sat 14 May at 12.30pm (preceded by Touch Tour)

Captioned at seat: Tue 10 May at 6.30pm

Running Time approx. 4 hours with 2 intervals

Alecky Blythe's engrossing new verbatim play tells the stories of a generation. Created from five years of interviews with 12 young people from all four corners of the UK, *Our Generation* is a captivating portrait of their teenage years as they journey into adulthood.

Often too extraordinary to be fiction, this funny and moving play is for anyone who is - or has ever been - a teenager.

Daniel Evans directs this co-production with the National Theatre, which runs at the Minerva Theatre immediately following its London premiere.

Alecky Blythe's acclaimed verbatim musical *London Road* premiered at the National Theatre in 2011 and she later adapted it for the 2015 feature film. Her other work includes *Little Revolution* (Almeida Theatre) and *The Riots: In Their Own Words* for BBC2.

The cast is **Dee Ahluwalia, Joe Bolland, Anna Burnett, Anushka Chakravarti, Debbie Chazen, Gavi Singh Chera, Rachelle Diedericks, Hasan Dixon, Hélder Fernandes, Sarita Gabony, Conor Gormally, Alex Jarrett, Callum Mardy, Poppy Shepherd** and **Stephanie Street** who returns to Chichester where she played Diana Ingram in *Quiz* in 2017.

Our Generation will be Daniel Evans's directorial debut at the National Theatre; as an actor, his work there included *Cardiff East, Peter Pan, Troilus and Cressida, Candide* and *The Merchant of Venice*. He is Artistic Director of Chichester Festival Theatre, where his productions include *South Pacific, This Is My Family, Quiz* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

THE SOUTHBURY CHILD

A new play by **Stephen Beresford**

A co-production with **The Bridge Theatre**

13 – 25 June 2022

FESTIVAL THEATRE

On sale February 2022

Raffish, urbane and frequently drunk, David Highland has kept a grip on his remote coastal parish through a combination of disordered charm and high-handed determination.

But when his faith impels him to take a hard line with a bereaved parishioner, he finds himself dangerously isolated from public opinion. As his own family begins to fracture and his marriage falls apart, David must face a future that threatens to extinguish not only his position in the town, but everything he stands for.

Stephen Beresford's darkly comic new play is an exploration of family and community, the savage divisions of contemporary society and the rituals that punctuate our lives. His work includes *The Last of the Haussmans* at the National Theatre, an adaptation of Bergman's *Fanny & Alexander* (Old Vic) and the BAFTA-winning film *Pride*.

Triple Olivier Award-winner **Alex Jennings** returns to Chichester to lead the cast. *The Southbury Child* reunites him with Nicholas Hytner who has previously directed him in *Hymn* and *Cocktail Sticks*, *Collaborators*, *The Habit of Art*, *The Alchemist* and *The Winter's Tale* (all at the National Theatre) amongst others. His many other credits range from *My Fair Lady* to *Stuff Happens* and *Hansard* at the NT, as well as *Hamlet* for the RSC. His screen work includes *The Crown*, *The Lady in the Van*, *The Queen*, *Victoria*, *A Very English Scandal* and *Small Axe: Mangrove*.

Nicholas Hytner also makes a welcome return to Chichester, where he previously directed *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1985). Director of the National

Theatre from 2003-215, he is Co-Founder of The Bridge Theatre where his recent work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Beat The Devil*, *Bach & Sons* and the forthcoming *The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage* and *Straight Line Crazy*.

The production will be designed by **Mark Thompson**, with lighting by **Max Narula**, sound by **George Dennis** and casting by **Robert Sterne**.

**Rodgers & Hammerstein's
SOUTH PACIFIC**

Music by **Richard Rodgers**

Lyrics by **Oscar Hammerstein II**

Book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan

Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Tales of the South Pacific* by James A. Michener

Daniel Evans's exhilarating, critically-acclaimed Festival 2021 production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, will open at **Manchester Opera House** (16 – 23 July) before a strictly limited **London** season at **Sadler's Wells** from 27 July – 28 August (Press Night: 4 August). Friends of CFT will be able to benefit from Priority Booking at Sadler's Wells online.