



CONN ARTISTS THEATRE COMPANY IN ASSOCIATION
WITH WORTHING THEATRES AND MUSEUM PRESENT

J.M. BARRIE'S
**MARY
ROSE**

MARY ROSE



Marketing Pack

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Conn Artists Theatre Company

An introduction

We are the professional theatre company in residence at the Connaught Theatre in Worthing having been supported by Worthing Theatres since 2013.

We create live theatre that engages audiences; sharing great stories that resonate with timeless, universal themes about the human condition which are socially relevant; often a reimagining or adaptation of a classic or neglected work.

As the only professional touring theatre company based in Worthing we believe the productions we stage are pivotal to the theatrical landscape and culture of our county, and they showcase the amazing work of creative professionals all based in Sussex.

Recently we have been touring the UK premiere of *A Perfect Likeness*; an imagined and revealing encounter between two of the 19th Century's most iconic English authors Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll.

In 2019, we mounted a regional tour of George Eliot's *Silas Marner* adapted by Geoffrey Beevers. Supported by Arts Council England and The George Elliot Fellowship in the writer's bicentenary year the production was highly praised as the company's best work to date by the reviewer from Theatre South East and gained 5 star and 4 star reviews from The Argus, Remote Goat and The Stage. Integral to this tour was the engagement with GCSE students, homeless people and refugees through workshops and outreach sessions.

In 2017 we toured our landmark production of Hilaire Belloc's book *The Four Men* adapted by Ann Feloy and directed by former Artistic Director of the Connaught Theatre, Nick Young. Supported by and working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority and Worthing Museum, the show was a huge hit with regional audiences as the story was all about the Sussex countryside and legends.

Previous productions:

A Perfect Likeness (2021); *Silas Marner* (2019); *The Four Men* (2017); *Courage* (2015); *The Good Doctor* (2014); *The Importance of Being Oscar* (2014); *Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play* (2013)

Marketing & Press Enquiries and Interviews, please contact both:

Stephen Sheldrake, Sheldrake PR - sheldrakepr@gmail.com / M: 07412 23 7772

Ross Muir - Co-Founder & Producer - ross@conn-artists.co.uk / T: 01903 366 825 / M: 07813 275 459

General Contacts:

Ross Muir – Co-founder, Artistic Director, Producer and Actor - ross@conn-artists.co.uk

Matthew Pike – Co-founder, Production and Technical Manager - matt@conn-artists.co.uk

Laura Kimber – Co-founder, Designer and Volunteer Co-ordinator - laura@conn-artists.co.uk

"a riveting example of ensemble theatre at its very best." ★★★★★ (The Argus on *Silas Marner*)

"strong, vivid and emotional story telling." ★★★★★ (Remote Goat on *Silas Marner*)

"This new touring production from Worthing company Conn Artists has made regional theatre feel in ruder health overnight." ★★★★★ (The Stage on *The Four Men*)

Social Media Handles

Facebook: [connartiststheatrecompany](#)

Twitter: [@ConnArtistsCo](#)

Instagram: [@connartiststheatre](#)

Digital Assets

Mary Rose: Teaser Trailer

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/DmEZhe8j2bE>

Mary Rose: Behind The Scenes Video

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/ialPOnsmCTQ>

Mary Rose: mp4 videos (Teaser Trailer and Behind The Scenes), E-flyer, Artwork and Copy

Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ssph63ykknwo8ck/AAAdRNfBIYnGrro_RI2piwfia?dl=0

Mary Rose: Photography / Artwork

<https://bit.ly/ConnArtists>

Press Release Template

Conn Artists revive J.M. Barrie's spellbindingly beautiful ghost story 'Mary Rose'

Conn Artists Theatre Company visits (VENUE NAME) on (DATE) with a fresh and uplifting reimaging of J.M. Barrie's play *Mary Rose* which tours nationwide spring 2022.

The production, which opens at the Connaught Theatre in Worthing before visiting [venue location], tells the story of an old Sussex manor house that is haunted by the ghost of a young woman who once lived there.

Mary Rose is thrillingly revived in the trademark style of Conn Artists Theatre Company following on from their successful tours of *Silas Marner*, *The Four Men* and *A Perfect Likeness*.

The haunting and, at times, creepy action, is performed with an ensemble cast of five actors and uses some of Barrie's own stage directions as interwoven pieces of narrative accompanied by original music and traditional folk songs.

J.M. Barrie is most famous for having written *Peter Pan or the boy who wouldn't grow-up* which was once a regular feature of the London theatrical scene at Christmas. Barrie was a prolific novelist and playwright of the late Victorian and Edwardian period with other major plays including *The Admirable Crichton*, *Quality Street* and *Dear Brutus*.

Mary Rose was first staged at London's Haymarket Theatre in 1920, written after WWI and the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-20, and is an exploration of love, loss and hope that spans a time period of over 30 years.

Actor and Producer, Ross Muir, says "*Mary Rose doesn't realise her life has past and that she's frozen in time and almost as the opposite to Peter Pan, Barrie is not exploring the adventures of children who disappear off to Neverland so much as the loss that is felt by those of us who have been left behind after they are gone.*"

This adaptation of *Mary Rose* will be directed by Nick Young, whose credits include working with the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he worked alongside distinguished performers such as Dame Helen Mirren and Patrick Stewart.

On *Mary Rose*, Director Nick Young said "*J.M. Barrie is one of the most brilliant writers of stage directions as he understands characters so richly; working from this text has been a really enthralling journey. We chose a story that we wanted to resonate with our audience members, as they are at the heart of the work we do. We've enriched the tale by embedding our own unique spin on the narrative that stays true to the original text whilst exploring feelings that uplift you with hope, as well as tackling some of the darker sides of the piece – we simply can't wait to bring this to theatres across the country.*"

Mary Rose will tour across spring 2022, beginning at the Connaught Theatre in Worthing on 3 March and running nationwide until 30 April. For a full list of tour dates please visit www.conn-artists.co.uk

To purchase tickets at (VENUE NAME) please call (VENUE BOX OFFICE) or visit (VENUE WEBSITE)

ENDS

Mary Rose | Tour Schedule, Spring 2022

Thursday 3 March	19:30	Connaught Theatre, Worthing
Friday 4 March	14:30, 19:30	Connaught Theatre, Worthing
Tuesday 8 March	19:30	The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre, Bordon
Wednesday 9 March	19:30	EM Forster Theatre, Tonbridge
Thursday 10 March	19:30	South Mills Arts, Bishop's Stortford
Friday 11 March	19:30	Theatre Royal, Winchester
Saturday 12 March	14:30, 19:30	Theatre Royal, Winchester
Wednesday 16 March	19:30	The Albany Theatre, Coventry
Thursday 17 March	14:00, 19:30	The Albany Theatre, Coventry
Friday 18 March	19:30	Key Theatre, Peterborough
Saturday 19 March	11:00	Key Theatre, Peterborough
Tuesday 22 March	19:30	Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield
Wednesday 23 March	14:30, 19:30	Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield
Thursday 24 March	19:30	Middlesbrough Theatre
Friday 25 March	19:30	Bradford Playhouse
Saturday 26 March	19:30	The Atkinson, Southport
Wednesday 30 March	19:30	Pavilions Teignmouth
Thursday 31 March	19:30	The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, Havant
Friday 1 April	19:30	Hanger Farm Arts Centre, Totton
Saturday 2 April	19:30	The Lights, Andover
Monday 4 April	20:00	Quay Arts Centre, Isle of Wight
Wednesday 6 April	19:30	Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham
Thursday 7 April	19:30	Alnwick Playhouse
Friday 8 April	19:30	Lichfield Garrick Theatre
Saturday 9 April	14:30, 19:30	Lichfield Garrick Theatre
Tuesday 19 April	19:30	Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Wednesday 20 April	19:30	Castle Theatre, Wellingborough
Thursday 21 April	19:30	Theatre Royal, Margate
Friday 22 April	19:30	Marina Theatre, Lowestoft
Wednesday 27 April	19:30	The Sinden Theatre, Tenterden
Thursday 28 April	19:45	Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell
Saturday 30 April	19:30	Torch Theatre, Milford Haven

Cast, Creative Team and Show Information:

CREATIVES:

Show title:	Mary Rose
Credit:	Conn Artists Theatre Company in association with Worthing Theatre & Museum
Writer:	J.M. Barrie
Director:	Nick Young
Producer:	Ross Muir
Designer:	Laura Kimber
Lighting Designer:	Matthew Pike
Original Music:	Ross Muir
Graphic Designer:	Richard Snaith

CAST:

Mary Rose:	Evangeline Duncan
Mrs Otery / Mrs Morland:	Jenny Rowe
Harry / Simon:	Jake Snowdon
Mr Morland:	David Stephens
Mr Amy / Cameron:	Ross Muir

An ensemble company of five actors perform Mary Rose in two acts.

Running Time: 2 hours approx. (plus a 20 minute interval)

Age Guidance: Suitable for adults and young people aged 12+

Show Copy

SHORT COPY (Brochure limited space) – 90 words

An old Sussex manor house for sale is haunted by the ghost of a young woman who once lived there.

37 years earlier a young girl, Mary Rose, went missing on an island in the Outer Hebrides. After a month, she mysteriously returned unaware that she had been away.

As a young married woman she revisits the island and disappears for a second time, only reappearing 23 years later without having aged a day.

A spellbindingly beautiful ghost story about love, loss and hope from the creator of Peter Pan.

MEDIUM COPY (Brochure standard) - 124 words

An old Sussex manor house for sale is haunted by the ghost of a young woman who once lived there.

37 years earlier a young girl, Mary Rose, went missing on an island in the Outer Hebrides. After a month, she mysteriously returned unaware that she had been away.

As a young married woman, she revisits the island with her husband, and disappears again. After 23 years, she reappears, but by now her parents, husband and son have all aged, whilst Mary Rose has remained the same.

In this hauntingly beautiful and witty play, from the creator of Peter Pan, comes an exploration of time, love, loss and hope.

“a riveting example of ensemble theatre at its very best.” ★★★★★ (The Argus on Silas Marner)

LONG COPY (Website) - 297 words (including press quotes)

An old Sussex manor house, standing empty and for sale, is haunted by the ghost of a young woman who once lived there.

37 years earlier, a 12 year old girl by the name of Mary Rose went missing on a small island in the Outer Hebrides whilst on holiday with her parents. After a month, she mysteriously returned unaware that she had been away for any length of time.

Years later, Mary Rose, her new baby son and young husband return to the same island, where she disappears for a second time.

After the passage of 23 years, when her family have come to terms with her loss, she reappears yet again but by now her parents, husband and child have all aged whilst Mary Rose has remained just the same as the day she vanished.

In this hauntingly beautiful and witty play, from the creator of Peter Pan, comes an exploration of time, love and loss. These timeless themes are given a thrilling revival with a fresh treatment in the trademark style of Conn Artists; with an ensemble cast of five actors, and featuring Barrie’s own stage directions as interwoven pieces of narrative, original music and traditional folk songs, all creating what live, modern theatre can do best.

Mary Rose, spanning a period of over 30 years, will leave you spellbound by its mystical nature and moved by its deepest yearnings to be reunited with the ones we love, and offering a message of hope.

“a riveting example of ensemble theatre at its very best.” ★★★★★ (The Argus on Silas Marner)

“strong, vivid and emotional story telling.” ★★★★★ (Remote Goat on Silas Marner)

“This new touring production from Worthing company Conn Artists has made regional theatre feel in ruder health overnight.” ★★★★★ (The Stage on The Four Men)

Selling the show

Target Audience:

Our production is an uplifting, innovative re-imagining of J.M. Barrie's play Mary Rose.

The production will engage the following audiences:

- Traditional theatre-goers who like period dramas, ghost stories, thrillers, story-telling and live music.
- Literary fans of J.M. Barrie including anyone fascinated by his masterpiece Peter Pan. Therefore, book clubs and reading groups should be targeted and members of societies or fellowships of the author.
- Bereavement groups/organisations: As the play's dominant theme is about loss, we would like to reach out to anyone who has recently experienced bereavement and/or is suffering from grief; including that caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our production is cathartic and contains a hopeful message; and by echoing our own unresolved losses the ghost of our heroine actually becomes a catalyst for healing
- Utilising data provided by The Audience Agency, the production will engage audiences from four main Audience Spectrum segments including Commuterland Culture Buffs "with a leaning towards heritage and more classical offerings", Dormitory Dependables "who have a preference for the popular and more traditional", Trips and Treats who like "familiar drama" and Home and Heritage "a more mature group that is generally conservative in their tastes".

Selling Points:

- Mary Rose is a piece of theatre with absolute relevance and responds to the challenges that people are facing today. Written in 1920 not only after WWI but in the wake of the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-20 in which 20-50 million people died worldwide, the significance in relation to the social impact of Covid-19 could not be more profound.
- The Guardian theatre critic Michael Billington remarked on 3rd August 2020 in his Forgotten Plays series that "the play is due for rediscovery...I suspect today the concept of The Island That Likes to Be Visited...would still act as a potent symbol for death."
- The production is directed by Nick Young former RSC and Connaught Theatre director.
- Entertaining, evocative and highly engaging piece of theatre, with live music, performed in Conn Artists trademark ensemble style.
- Post show Q&A's are available upon request: the audience can be invited to discuss the play's themes during a post-show Q&A led by the cast.

Engaging Audiences & Cross-Campaign Suggestions

- Utilise the **promotional photographs** and **video trailers** of the show and rehearsals (links supplied at the front of this pack) to be used for all social media channels, press releases, magazine features, cinema trailer, foyer display screens and websites.
- Liaise and co-ordinate with us about the right press and social media campaign for your audiences including arranging pre-show interviews/features with the Director and Cast. Meanwhile, this pack contains a **press release template** and **suggested social media posts**.
- Co-ordinate a **targeted e-shot/mail-out campaign** to your drama season/theatre-goers especially to those audiences who have seen our previous shows at your venue including A Perfect Likeness, Silas Marner, and The Four Men.
- Co-ordinate a **targeted e-shot/mail-out and Facebook** campaign to all local writer and book groups. Consider doing a special ticket offer for them in exchange for inclusion in their **network newsletters** and **website/Facebook event listings**.
- AtaLoss.org has a search engine to find bereavement support groups and services across the UK and a list of Facebook Covid-19 support groups.
 - You might consider contacting people you know who are associated with the following groups:
 - Local bereavement organisations
 - Local church groups
 - Local doctor's surgeries/grief support groups
 - Facebook support groups set up during Covid-19
 - Death cafes
 - Local NHS Head of Communications to promote the play with a special ticket offer exclusively for NHS workers.
- *Outreach and contact the Head of Wellbeing at your County Council in order to identify other groups to reach out to in your area to engage them with an inspiring and uplifting piece of theatre.*

NB – This should include the offer of a limited number of free tickets to be given to selected charities and specially reduced tickets for certain underprivileged groups to be able to attend.

If you feel a bespoke ticket offer could benefit a particular group then please get in touch with Ross Muir (Producer) directly to discuss options.
- Look at tying in with any local **tourist attraction or connection** to J.M. Barrie (if there is one) in your surrounding area.
- Organise a **library display** and maybe factor in a **lunch-time talk** about J.M. Barrie led by a local enthusiast in exchange for offering them a couple of comps i.e. a teacher, librarian, local writer etc.
- If your venue is a **cinema** as well as a theatre; **consider a one-off screening of Peter Pan that's been adapted to film or The Admirable Crichton (1957 film starring Kenneth More) for your Monday matinee/Silver screen audience** in the lead up to our production to get people in the mood and generate a renewed interest in the writer. **Exit-flyer** the audience with our show leaflets as they leave the cinema.

Education & Outreach

We engage with students, disadvantaged groups and charities where we can on tour; including working previously with Turning Tides homeless charity in Worthing and St Francis Employability Support in Coventry on our tour of *Silas Marner*.

We will work with any venue that has an Education & Outreach officer or simply expresses an interest for us to engage with any local group they have external links with via a workshop or outreach session.

Interactive wrap-around workshops led by members of the *Mary Rose* acting company are available for schools and colleges upon request. These workshops explore the themes within the play in a practical way with students looking at and discussing key scenes.

Post-show discussions are also available upon request with some venues on the tour having already scheduled these in after specific performances.

All workshop or outreach sessions are considered and priced on a case by case basis subject to time, availability of a suitable space for it to take place, participant numbers and duration.

Whilst *Mary Rose* is not a syllabus set text; we feel it would make a perfect educational trip for Drama and English students.

Suggested Social Media Posts

Please feel free to accompany these posts with the selection of promotional photographs provided.

1)

Facebook (invitation to join CONN ARTISTS on MARY ROSE)

Join Conn Artists Theatre Company as they return for their Spring 2022 regional tour of J.M. Barrie's *Mary Rose*. A spellbindingly beautiful ghost story about time, love, loss and hope from the creator of *Peter Pan*. These themes are given a thrilling revival in the trademark style of Conn Artists; with an ensemble cast of five actors, and featuring some of Barrie's own stage directions as interwoven pieces of narrative, original music and a bold reimagining of the set design, all creating what modern theatre does best. *Mary Rose*, spanning a period of over 30 years, will leave you spellbound by its mystical nature and moved by its deepest yearnings to be reunited with the ones we love.

Twitter (condensed version of the above)

Conn Artists return this Spring 2022 with a regional theatre tour J.M. Barrie's spellbindingly beautiful ghost story *Mary Rose*. Check out their tour dates: www.conn-artists.co.uk/tour-dates

2)

Facebook (Director's quote)

*"J.M. Barrie is one of the most brilliant writers of stage directions as he understands characters so richly; working from this text has been a really enthralling journey. We chose a story that we wanted to resonate with our audience members, as they are at the heart of the work we do. We've enriched the tale by embedding our own unique spin on the narrative that stays true to the original text whilst exploring feelings that uplift you with hope, as well as tackling some of the darker sides of the piece – we simply can't wait to bring *Mary Rose* to theatres across the country."* – Nick Young.

Twitter (condensed version of the above)

[Adapting & Directing *Mary Rose*] *"We've enriched the tale by embedding our own unique spin on the narrative that stays true to the original text whilst exploring feelings that uplift you with hope – we simply can't wait to bring *Mary Rose* to theatres across the country."* – Nick Young.

3)

Facebook (Reviews)

Praise for Conn Artists previous productions:

“a riveting example of ensemble theatre at its very best.”

(The Argus, Brighton on Silas Marner)

★★★★★

“It is, in my opinion, the company’s best work to date, not only did I leave feeling inspired, it also left me feeling very proud to see such fantastic work created in Worthing.”

(Theatre South East on Silas Marner)

★★★★★

“strong, vivid and emotional story telling.”

(Remote Goat on Silas Marner)

★★★★★

“This new touring production from Worthing company Conn Artists has made regional theatre feel in ruder health overnight.”

(The Stage on The Four Men)

★★★★★



NICK YOUNG – Director

At Oxford Nick read English and directed numerous shows, including the famous Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor Dr Faustus, when he was the student director to Professor Nevill Coghill.

He joined the RSC as a trainee director and worked with actors such as Dame Helen Mirren and Patrick Stewart. He became Artistic Director of the world-famous Ludlow Festival, staging epic Shakespeare in the Castle, which he nearly burnt down in an over-ambitious flaming battle scene in King Lear! For ten years he was the Artistic Director of the Connaught Theatre, Worthing where he had enormous fun creating and inspiring ensemble companies and directing musicals, premieres, classics, thrillers and farces. Christopher Biggins, Dora Bryan, and Arthur Askey were some of the famous names that worked with Nick.

In 1983 he formed Rainbow Theatre and wrote and directed its repertoire; which subsequently has gone onto become one of the most popular Theatre-in-Education companies touring to schools in the South East.

In 1999, he founded Rainbow Shakespeare with his wife Alex, creating exciting open-air Shakespeare for family audiences. In 2017, Conn Artists were delighted to welcome Nick back to the Connaught Theatre after several years by inviting him to direct The Four Men which was followed by repeat invitations to direct Silas Marner in 2019 and A Perfect Likeness in 2021.



ROSS MUIR – Producer and as Mr Amy / Cameron

Ross trained at Guildford School of Acting and graduated with a BA First Class Honours in Theatre.

London appearances as an actor include the Almeida Theatre, Arts Theatre and New Players Theatre. Alongside national tours in the UK and Germany with productions of Figaro-the play, Black Comedy, The Real Inspector Hound and The Caretaker, Ross has performed regularly with Worthing's Rainbow Shakespeare with highlights including the roles of Hamlet, Leontes in The Winter's Tale, Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing and Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

As a founder of Conn Artists he has produced all of their shows to date. He directed the company's debut production Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play in 2013 and a revival of Neil Simon's The Good Doctor in 2014. As an actor, he has starred as Lewis Carroll in Conn Artists UK premier of A Perfect Likeness; the title role in the company's 2019 tour of Silas Marner, and as Myself in The Four Men tour in 2017. Ross has also performed two one-man shows for Conn Artists as J.M. Barrie in Courage, and received a standing ovation for his performance in The Importance of Being Oscar.



LAURA KIMBER – Designer

Laura studied at Northbrook College, Worthing, from 2001 to 2004. In that time she gained an HND in Technical Theatre, specialising in Prop Making, Set Design and Construction. She then carried on to achieve a BA (Hons) in Theatre Arts, specialising in Set, Props, Costume Design and construction.

After graduating, she worked for Worthing Theatres for nearly 18 years in various departments including; Front of House; as Box Office Supervisor and Venue Hire Manager. She loves to visit the Theatres and support their cultural programme.

Laura is proud to be a part of the Conn Artists Theatre Company. She has been the Designer for all of their productions since she had an interesting conversation with Ross, which led to forming the company and eventually their first production Vintage Hitchcock in November of 2013. With each show she feels she is progressing and finding a greater love of Costume Design and shopping.



MATTHEW PIKE – Production Stage Manager / Lighting Designer

Matthew graduated from Northbrook College with a BA in Theatre Arts specialising in Production Management, Lighting Design and Stage Management. Matthew is Technical Manager for Worthing Theatres and Museum and working alongside the technical team looks after all the technical needs for the 4 venues in Worthing.

Matthew works as a freelance lighting designer and has worked with a number of companies in the Worthing area. Most recent of these was designing for BROS Musical Productions in Bognor Regis on their production of Sister Act, Little Shop of Horrors and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. He has also designed for CAOS Musical Productions on Half a Sixpence and worked with the Arundel Players on productions of Chess, Little Voice and 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee. Matthew has designed for Worthing Musical Theatre Company for many years and has designed for their productions of Bad Girls the Musical, The Sound of Music, Into the Woods, Legally Blonde and Hairspray.

Alongside Ross and Laura, Matthew is proud to be a founding member of Conn Artists Theatre Company and has worked on every production the company has produced. Matthew has enjoyed touring with The Four Men in autumn 2017 and Silas Marner in autumn 2019 and hopes to see the company go from strength to strength.

**EVANGELINE DUNCAN** as Mary Rose

Evangeline's debut with Conn Artists Theatre Company was as Eppie in *Silas Marner*. She returns at the company's invitation to play *Mary Rose*.

Evangeline gained a Masters in Acting from East 15 Acting School in 2017 and previously trained at Fontainebleau School of Acting in France. Theatre credits include *Grumpy Old Scrooge*, *The Jungle Book* (Rage Arts Theatre Company, Regional Tours); *Eavesdropping Again* (Angel Theatre Company, Barons Court Theatre); *Pride & Prejudice* (Tread The Boards Theatre Company, The Attic Theatre). Film credits include: *Sow Wild Oats* (Short, dir. Pedro Gonçalves); *Stuck* (Short, dir. Brianna Ferguson); *The End* (Short, dir. Eduardo Chapero-Jackson, Winner of Short Films: Best Director at Málaga Spanish Film Festival). Her most recent play, "It's a Playception", was co-written by Evangeline and performed with fellow writer at The Hope Theatre.

**JENNY ROWE** as Mrs Otery / Mrs Morland

An actor, writer and improviser, Jenny trained at ACT Brighton. Theatre work includes *Clean* (Best New Play, 2019 Brighton Fringe), *Somewhere in England* (multiple roles including, the Bedford prophetess Mabel Barltrop), *Seven Studies in Salesmanship* (The Foundry Group), *Grandma in George's Marvellous Medicine* (88 London Road), *Mistress Quickly* in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (BOAT), and *God in The Lad Himself* (Rialto, Brighton). During the 2020 lockdowns, she played Poin in *The Show Must Go Online's Henry IV Pt2*, and *Claudette* in *The Provok'd Wife* (FourTails Theatre).

She was inspired to write her solo show, *Tiptree: No One Else's Damn Secret But My Own*, when she discovered that the name of her jam-making hometown had been used to create a male pseudonym: that of American science-fiction writer James Tiptree Jr.

Jenny teaches and performs with the improvised comedy companies *The Maydays* (Happily Never After/Confessions) and *Impromptu Shakespeare*.

**JAKE SNOWDON** as Harry / Simon

Jake is a versatile actor-musician who trained at the Guildford School of Acting and has a BA in Music from Southampton University where he trained as a tenor singer and multi-instrumentalist. Mary Rose is Jake's third outing with Conn Artists having toured with them in previous productions, *The Four Men* and *Silas Marner*.

Other credits include PHA's production of *Cinderella* (Worthing Pavilion Theatre) as an ugly sister; *Moment of Grace* (Pleasance Theatre, Islington), STEM Theatre's tour of *Ophelia: Madness in Blue* and he worked for composer Andrew Fisher in a cast recording of *Gabriel* and workshop performances of *Billy Bow* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton) and *The Weird World of William Willow* (Clapham Omnibus Theatre).

In concert his professional engagements include soloist work for Witt Studio, Handel's *Messiah* with St Michael the Archangel, Southampton and a world premiere of Michael Finnissy's completion of Mozart's *Requiem*.

He is also currently featuring in Different Theatre's production of *The Little Prince*.

**DAVID STEPHENS** as Mr Morland

David trained at ArtsEd London and graduated with a BA first class honours degree in theatre.

Favourite Theatre Credits include: Pierre in Florian Zeller's *The Mother*, Oliver in *Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons*, Roland in *Constellation*, Tom in *Old Fools* and the poet Edward Thomas in *The Dark Earth* and *The Light Sky*.

David has toured with Conn Artists previously as Grizzlebeard in *The Four Men* and Squire Cass/Mr Macey in *Silas Marner* and most recently as Charles Dickens in *A Perfect Likeness*. His national touring work also includes *The Embalmer* for The Almeida Theatre and *A Good Jew* for Something Underground Theatre co.

David's performance work includes Theatre in Education, appearances in short films and for BBC Radio, appearances as Hillaire Belloc (performing the great man's poetry, prose and songs in his home village of Shipley, working with virtuoso violinist Andrew Bernardi and Belloc's Grandson Charles Eustace) and is lucky enough to have performed at Shakespeare's Globe.

David also writes and performs his own stories and plays and his one man show *Pulling Up The Drawbridge* received great critical acclaim at The Brighton Festival.

About the author – J.M. Barrie

Cast between the shadow of a dead brother and a boy who wouldn't grow up, J.M. Barrie's life is the classic rags to riches story. Born in Kirriemuir on 9th May 1860 ninth of ten children to handloom weaver David Barrie and his wife Margaret Ogilvy, he was the youngest son of three. From humble beginnings David and Margaret had greater ambitions for their brood. Barrie's eldest brother Alec graduated from Aberdeen University, becoming teacher then schools inspector. Barrie lodged with his brother while studying at Glasgow Academy (1868-71) and Dumfries Academy (1873-78).

Barrie's other brother David, destined for the ministry, died following a skating accident in 1867, just before his fourteenth birthday. Margaret never recovered from the tragedy which perhaps inevitably impacted on the seven year old Jamie. The Barrie family ties were close and his mother exerted a powerful hold over him throughout his life. Their relationship is explored through *Margaret Ogilvy* (1896). Ostensibly a biography, like all Barrie's work, it displays elements of the fictionalising that invades and characterises his writing.

From his earliest days Barrie was intrigued by the power of stories. His mother told him tales of her childhood, which he acted out as 'plays' in the wash-house attached to the Kirriemuir home. But it was Dumfries which gave Barrie his first taste of the theatre. It exerted a magical pull. He wrote his first play *Bandalero the Bandit* while a student at Dumfries.

Without a bursary, the reluctant Jamie studied at Edinburgh University (1878-1882) funded by his family. Graduating and determined to be a writer, his younger sister saw an advert for a job on the *Nottingham Journal*. He was barely qualified, but he got it, working hard there for nearly two years. But his eyes were always set on London. Arriving there in 1885, his ensuing success was more down to years of relentless determined hard work than good luck. When *A Man's Single* (1888) and *The Greenwood Hat* (1930) tell of these years.

The breakthrough came in 1885 when *Auld Licht Idylls* (1888) was published to great acclaim. It was swiftly followed by *A Window in Thrums* (1889) and Barrie, not yet thirty, became very rich.

Success allowed Barrie to flirt once more with his first love, the theatre. After cutting his teeth with Ibsen's *Ghost* (1891) *Walker, London* (1892) met with wide popular acclaim. Barrie cast his future wife Mary Ansell in it. They married in 1894 but divorced in 1909.

Best known for light, humorous drama, Barrie's plays are far from being frothy or trivial even when the subject matter suggests that. On stage he put London society under the microscope as firmly as he did Kirriemuir in his 'Thrums' prose works.

His recognised 'genius' was being able to reach popular and intellectual audiences while being stylistically experimental, as seen in *Sentimental Tommy* (1896), its sequel *Tommy and Grizel* (1900) and *The Little White Bird* (1902).

The Admirable Crichton and *Quality Street* (1902) established his theatrical reputation. Today *Peter Pan* (1904) is his best known work, but Barrie should no more be judged by it than we would judge Shakespeare by *Julius Caesar* alone.

Barrie did not deal in definitives as the tension between acting and 'real life' found in his writing reveals. His thematic concerns include relationships between the sexes, the generations and the classes and the complex question of personal identity over time.

On stage, *What Every Woman Knows* (1908) was followed during the war years by a string of shorter plays and *Dear Brutus* (1917). The First World War had a devastating personal effect on Barrie, as for so many others. The four plays collated into *Echoes of the War* (1918) nevertheless show a

combination of poignancy and humour.

Awarded a Baronetcy in 1913 and the Order of Merit in 1922, latterly he was much in demand for speeches. As an elder statesman of the theatre and through the creation of 'McConnachie', we can see him as performer in another context.

In his sixties, Barrie's output slowed dramatically. *Mary Rose* (1920) was his last successful play and the novella *Farewell, Miss Julie Logan* (1931) his last prose work. Both explore the role of the supernatural in our lives, a concern also found in *Dear Brutus*.

His final play *The Boy David* (1936) was perhaps the work of an ailing mind and spirit. He died on 19th June 1937. No biography can do justice to the depth and complexity of his mind or his work – to engage with Barrie's work is to be charmed, confused and amused and amazed in equal measure.

Cally Phillips

Box Office and Front of House information

CREATIVES:

Show title:	Mary Rose
Credit:	Conn Artists Theatre Company in association with Worthing Theatre & Museum
Writer:	J.M. Barrie
Director:	Nick Young
Producer:	Ross Muir
Designer:	Laura Kimber
Lighting Designer:	Matthew Pike
Original Music:	Ross Muir
Graphic Designer:	Richard Snaith

CAST:

Mary Rose:	Evangeline Duncan
Mrs Otery / Mrs Morland:	Jenny Rowe
Harry / Simon:	Jake Snowdon
Mr Morland:	David Stephens
Mr Amy / Cameron:	Ross Muir

An ensemble company of five actors perform Mary Rose in two acts.

Running Time: 2 hours approx. (plus a 20 minute interval)

Age Guidance: Suitable for adults and young people aged 12+