KIRSTIE DAVIS

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A dynamic and highly creative professional Theatre Director and Producer with extensive experience in theatre management and creating new work.

Freelance Theatre Director 2016 to Present Day

A Christmas Carol by Alan Pollock, The Albany, Coventry

The Rise and Fall of Vinnie and Paul by Neil Bastian, The Glitch, London
"*Gripping, haunting, clever and emotional*"- Adventures in Theatreland

The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary by John Nicholson, Southwark Playhouse
"Punchy, memorable and creatively genius" –West End Best Friend (5 stars)

The Bear Who Went to War by Alan Pollock, The Albany, Coventry

Inspired by Holst- 3 new plays by Neil Walden, Cathie Rolinson & Jacob Woods, Cheltenham Everyman and Playhouse

Alice in Wonderland by Andrew Pollard, The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster in Williamson Park
"*An indefatigable ensemble delivers director Kirstie Davis' production to child-delighting effect*."- The Guardian (4 stars)

Elves and the Shoemaker by Joyce Branagh North West/East tour

Tom's Midnight Garden by David Woods, The Minack Theatre
"*Tom's Midnight Garden delivered both drama and plenty of sweet, tender moments...a memorable performance*"- The Falmouth Packet

The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary by John Nicholson, The Minack Theatre
"This is a brilliant, very, very funny production, with a stellar cast of four playing multiple roles, and I reckon it will be one of the best of the season"- The Cornishman

Ladies That Dig by Joyce Branagh, North West/East Tour
"Kirstie Davis directs in the spirit of someone who says in the programme, "This year I am going to plant Hope" – The Reviews Hub , Doncaster

Robin Hood by Andrew Pollard, The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster
"*An excellently performed piece that had an audience of adults and children alike booing, cheering and laughing as one"*- SCAN

The Girl on the Train by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Able, The Barn Theatre
"A Thriller that has you feeling breathless" Theatre&Tonic

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Russ Tunney, The Minack Theatre
"a quirky jumble of a gothic fairy tale, with a howlingly crazy sense of humour" The Cornishman

Ladies That Bus by Joyce Branagh, in collaboration with The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster,
'a jewellery box of a production'- British Theatre Guide

The Snow Queen by Robert Marsden, ABP, National tour

Daddy Long legs by Paul Gordon and John Caird, The Barn Theatre
'*a gorgeous little chamber piece put together skilfully by director Kirstie Davis*' The Stage

Kiss me Quickstep by Amanda Whittington, The Queens Theatre, Hornchurch, New Wolsey Theatre, Theatr Clwyd
'*Ingeniously staged, bittersweet exploration of the ballroom scene...pretty close to perfect'* The Stage

Enclosure by Martin Lytton, Cheltenham Everyman
'There are strong performances by all the actors directed by Kirstie Davis' British Theatre Guide

Peter Pan by Robert Marsden, Selladoor Worldwide at Blackpool Winter Gardens
'visually impressive' The Stage

Sherlock Holmes and the Crimson Cobbles by Toby Hulse, Chipping Norton Theatre and on tour
'charming telling of the Sherlock Holmes tale...a daft and playful exploration' The Oxford Times

Be my Baby by Amanda Whittington, national tour with Brooke Vincent and Ruth Madoc
'Brooke Vincent is blessed with that extraordinary gift of oozing star quality' Manchester Evening News

Drama Schools and University work 2016 to Present Day

Jekyll and Hyde by Neil Bartlett, Birmingham Conservatoire- Acting
Wuthering Heights by Emma Rice, Drama Studio London
Newton Park by Oscar Blustin, Bath Spa Productions
Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris , Birmingham Conservatoire- Acting
Masterpieces by Sarah Daniels, Birmingham Conservatoire-Acting
The Gut Girls by Sarah Daniels, Bath Spa Productions
The Watsons by Laura Wade, East 15
Pool, No Water by Mark Ravenhill, Bath Spa Productions
Mary Shelley by Helen Edmundson, Birmingham Conservatoire- Acting
Musical Theatre Showcase, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (filmed)
Spokesong by Stewart Parker, Birmingham Conservatoire-Acting at The Crescent Theatre
Love and Information by Caryl Churchill, East 15

The Gut Girls by Sarah Daniels, Arts University Bournemouth
The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht, Birmingham Conservatoire-Acting (Live Stream)
Love and Information by Caryl Churchill, Bath Spa Productions (filmed at The Rondo Theatre)
Platform Showcase, East 15 (filmed)
Hard Times by Stephen Jeffreys, Arts University Bournemouth (filmed)
Lie with me by Kaite O'Reilly, Birmingham Conservatoire- Acting (online)
Heathers The Musical by Laurence O'Keefe at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
Grimm Tales by Tim Supple and Carol Ann Duffy, Bath Spa Productions at The Egg Theatre
Spring Awakening by Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
The Canterbury Tales by Jon Hartoch, Bristol Old Vic's Theatre School's West Country Tour
The Art of Success by Nick Dear, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker, Bath Spa Productions
Parlour Games by James Hartnell and Trenches by Richard Vincent, Mountview at the Bridewell Theatre
Pride and Prejudice by Jon Jory, Birmingham Conservatoire- Acting
The Visit by Frederick Durrenmatt, Arts University Bournemouth
Lie with me by Kaite O'Reilly, LAMDA- the long project
The Ash Girl by Timberlake Wertenbaker, Arts University Bournemouth
Invisible by Tena Stivicic, Drama Studio London at Tristan Bates Theatre
Ciphers by Dawn King, Birmingham Conservatoire- Acting at The Old Rep

FOREST FORGE THEATRE COMPANY CEO/ Artistic Director 2009-2016

- **Led strategic planning and advocacy of the company**
- **Financial planning and budgeting, including the business plan**
- **Instigated new administrative and marketing approaches**
- **Liaised with stakeholders and sourcing new funding opportunities**
- **Directed and produced all the touring productions**
- **Commissioned new plays relevant to the audience**
- **Established links with co-producers**
- **Created a new, innovative Creative Learning programme**

Upbeat by Deborah Gearing
'The mesmeric effect is powerful and thought-provoking' FTR

Leaves on a Line by Dinos Aristidou '
rewarding, uplifting and satisfying' The Stage

Stardust by Russ Tunney
'*Intimate recreation of a massive classic which succeeds on a grand scale'* The Stage

Hansel and Gretel by David Haworth (in collaboration with Poole Lighthouse)
'My 4 year old was mesmerised' Audience Blog

Shot at Dawn by John Foster (in collaboration with Bournemouth Arts Festival)
'Kirstie Davis' outstanding direction used the chamber to its full potential' Bournemouth Echo

Woman of Flowers by Kaite O'Reilly
'*Powerful, striking and unique in many ways'* The Stage

Battle Lines by David Haworth
'*Bursts with drama, fun, energy and imagination'* audience blog

Anne of Green Gables by Russ Tunney
'*Rural professional theatre at its very best'* The Stage

Free Folk by Gary Owen (national retour)
'*This New Forest- based company continues to impress'* The Stage

The Boy at the Edge of the Room by Richard Conlon
'A striking achievement, rich in detail and visual imagery that leaves the audience confronted by a disturbing and touching ending' RemoteGoat.co.uk

Midnight is a Place by Russ Tunney (In co-production with Nuffield Theatre)
'*for sheer entertainment and real quality acting this is a real masterpiece'* The Stage

Bloom by Dinos Aristidou
'*Thought provoking and laced with pleasant surprises'* The Stage

The Phoenix and the Carpet by Russ Tunney (in co-production with Nuffield Theatre)
'It seems incredible there is just a cast of five - such is the impact' The Stage

The World Outside and Born by David Lane
'Only those with hearts of stone would emerge not feeling closer to nature' The Stage

Peeling by Kaite O'Reilly
'what an extraordinary play! This is what I want from theatre' audience blog

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Russ Tunney (in co-production with Nuffield Theatre)
'*Davis weaves it all into a glorious snuggle down and enjoy Christmas present of a production that will charm children and adults alike'* The Stage

For the Record by Joyce Branagh
'*a superbly conceived and very well performed piece...an inspired idea'* The Stage

Free Folk by Gary Owen
'*Kirstie Davis' sensitive and intelligent production... a real play for today'* Salisbury Journal

Ashputtel by David Haworth
'yet another triumph for the highly acclaimed Forest Forge' The Stage

Around The World in 80 Days by Toby Hulse
'perfect timing & slick direction in the safe hands of Kirstie Davis' Salisbury Journal

CHELTENHAM EVERYMAN **2007-2009**
Associate Director

- **Programmed visiting work into the studio**
- **Head of Education, planning and strategy**
- **Ran Writer's Lab to develop new writing and mentor regional artists**
- **Directed productions in the Everyman Studio**

WATFORD PALACE THEATRE **2001-2007**
Acting Artistic Director / Associate Director

- **As Acting Artistic Director led the company and programmed 2006-7 season**
- **As Associate Director created the new education programme**
- **Developed a programme of touring work going into Schools and Studios and secured tender from Hertfordshire County Council**
- **Developed and Directed site-specific productions during the theatre's closure**
- **Directed main-house productions in 600 seater auditorium**

Top Girls by Caryl Churchill
'*Rachel Saunders shines as Marlene'* The Stage

The Daughter-in-Law by DH Lawrence
'Kirstie Davis paces things to perfection' London Evening Standard

The Beauty Queen of Leenane by Martin McDonagh
'*The drama builds to a dramatic climax that is unforgettably poignant'* The British Theatre Guide

Fear & Misery in the Third Reich by Bertolt Brecht
'Fast- paced, energetic and memorable' Watford Observer

Mother Courage & Her Children by Bertolt Brecht
'Emotional and stunning' Watford Observer

The Crucible in History adapted from the play by Arthur Miller
'Don't miss this powerful production' Watford Observer

Ring Road Tales by Anna Reynolds
'a real community event' Watford Observer

The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht
'tactile and kaleidoscopic...wonderful' Watford Observer

LYRIC THEATRE, Hammersmith Acting Head of Education 2000-2001

- **Head of the Education Department**
- **Planned and led on the Children's Theatre Festival**
- **Programmed visiting work into the studio**
- **Produced the tour of David Almond's Wild Girl, Wild Boy**

SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE, Youth Theatre Director 1998-2000

- **Produced and Directed the residential summer schools in front of the**
- **cathedral and 10 studio and main-house productions**
- **Developed the new writing programme in the studio**

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, London Literary Manager 1997-1998

- **Initiated the new writing programme**
- **Assisted on the opening production of The Wood Demon**

DRAMA DEVELOPMENT, KENYA, Director and Workshop Leader 1995-1996

- **Set up international strand of LAMDA**
- **Directed workshops and productions throughout Kenya**

CELTIC PRODUCTIONS, Artistic Director 1992-1994

- **Set up a production company to bring Irish, Scottish and Welsh plays to London**
- **Secured Sir Anthony Hopkins as Patron**
- **Directed the first production of Old Friends by Mark Jenkins**

INTERNATIONAL WORK 1994-1997

Hamlet, White Horse Theatre Company, Germany
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw, Theatre from Oxford (European tour)
A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney, Nairobi, Kenya
As You Like It, Appel Farm Arts & Music Center, USA
The Tree That Holds Up The Sky by Noel Greig, Appel Farm Arts and Music Center, USA
Rainbow's Ending by Noel Greig, Appel Farm Arts & Music Center, USA
Dream Date by Kevin Dowsett, Appel Farm Arts & Music Center, USA

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- University College of Ripon and York St John's BA degree in English, Drama, Film & Television
- Cleeve Comprehensive, Cheltenham 6 O levels, 3 A Levels

COURSES/DEVELOPMENT

- Creativity Works: Digital Tools and Techniques for Artists and Creatives
- TMA Managing Multiple Priorities Course
- ITC courses: Motivating Your Workforce, Appraisal Training, Leading in Difficult Times, Leaders and Finance, HR and management training and Business Plan development.

REFERENCES ON REQUEST