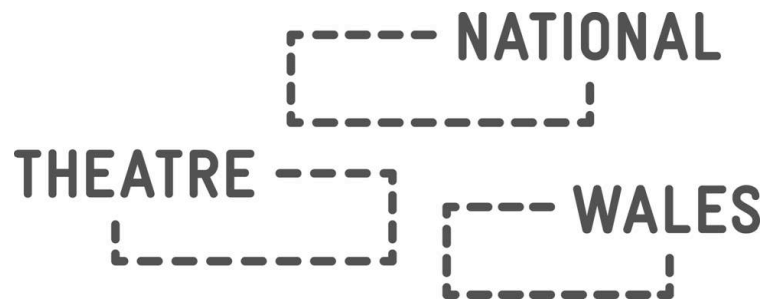


Media Release



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AWARD-WINNING MUSIC THEATRE DUO DAFYDD JAMES & BEN LEWIS BRING A TOUCH OF THE OCCULT TO WALES' VILLAGE HALLS



For the second production in their second year - and its very first musical - National Theatre Wales will tour village halls across the country, with a surreal and immersive music theatre piece - *The Village Social*. This show is co-created by the award-winning Dafydd James and Ben Lewis, the duo behind the Edinburgh Fringe cult hit *My Name Is Sue*, winner of the Total Theatre Award for Music and Theatre 2009.

For more information about *The Village Social* or National Theatre Wales,
contact Catrin Rogers: 029 20 353 070 / 07540 686 725 /
catrinrogers@nationaltheatrewales.org

Loosely inspired by Euripides' *The Bacchae*, and described by its creators as 'The Vicar of Dibley meets The Wicker Man', the *The Village Social* tells the story of an apparently innocent and genteel community fundraising evening that soon descends into hysteria and debauchery. This warped and wickedly funny piece will be performed in village halls across Wales, bringing with it a village social like no other.

The evening's delights include entry into the raffle, a refreshment of your choice and a depraved orgy of blood.

John McGrath, National Theatre Wales' Artistic Director, said: "Dafydd James is one of the most exciting Welsh theatre artists of his generation - he combines a unique sense of humour with extraordinary musical talent. Director and co-writer Ben Lewis has already proved himself an extraordinary talent too, especially in his work with *Inspector Sands*. I am thrilled that they will be creating National Theatre Wales' first musical for us."

Dafydd James trained at the London International School of Performing Arts (LISPA) and is a composer, writer and performer. *My Name is Sue*, which he performed and co-created with Ben Lewis, won the Total Theatre Award for Music and Theatre 2009. Recently he has translated *Spring Awakening* for Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru. His critically acclaimed play *Llwyth* will be co-produced by Sherman Cymru and Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru as part of this year's British Council Showcase, at the Edinburgh Festival. He is also developing the screenplay. *The Hunting of the Snark*, one of his first theatrical scores, won the Cameron Mackintosh Award.

Ben Lewis is a writer, director and performer, and trained at LAMDA. He co-created and directed *My Name Is Sue* (Soho Theatre/touring, Total Theatre Award 2009) with Dafydd James. He is co-Artistic Director of *Inspector Sands*, and co-created its shows, *If That's All There Is* (EIF Award 2009) and *Hysteria* (Total Theatre Award 2006), which have toured extensively, most recently to *Brits Off Broadway 2010*. *If That's All There Is* will also be performed at this year's Edinburgh Festival. The company is currently developing its third show, *Mass Observation* (working title) with support from the Southbank Centre, the National Theatre Studio and the Almeida. Ben has also written two plays for BBC Radio 4; *Blue Sky Thinking* and *Tiny*.

Carys Eleri's theatre credits include: *Romeo a Juliet*, *Plas Drycin*, *Hen Rebel*, and *Tŷ Bernarda Alba* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru). Television credits include: *Pobol y Cwm* (BBC Wales). Film credits include: *Merlin and the War of the Dragons*.

Rebecca Harries' television credits include: *Belonging* and *The Bench* (BBC Wales); *Con Passionate* (Apollo); *Teulu* (Boomerang); *Darllen 'Da Fi*, *Pentre Bach* and *Caffi Sali Malie* (Sianco); *Labordy 04321* (Cwmni Da); and *Outside The Rules* (BBC).

Darren Lawrence's theatre credits include: *The Passion* (National Theatre Wales/Wildworks); *Romeo & Juliet* (Mokitagrit); *Elegies For Angels Punks*, *Raging Queens With Black Box*, and *The Beach* (Cockpit Theatre); *Dick Whittington* (Leeds City Varieties); *Erogenous Zones*, *Saturday Night Forever*, and *All's Fair* (Sherman Theatre); *Butterflies Are Free* (The Mermaid); *Nothing To Pay* (Thin Language Theatre Company); and *The Marriage* (Three Legged Company). Television credits include:

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Days That Shook The World, Broken Glass, Lipstick On Your Collar (BBC); and *Nuts & Bolts* (HTV Wales). Radio credits include: *On The Throne* (BBC Radio 4).

Gwydion Rhys' theatre credits include: *Fresh Apples/Fale Surion* (Cwmni'r Fran Wen); *Cwrw, Chips A Darlith Deg* (Arad Goch); *Iesu* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru); *Farewell Fair Cruelty, A Simple Twist Of Fate*, and *Woyzeck* (whilst training at Trinity College). Musical Credits include: *Clymau* and *Heb Ei Fai* (whilst training at Trinity College). Television credits include: *Zanzibar* and *Marcaroni A'r Lwli Lw* (S4C).

Sue Roderick's theatre credits include: *Servant of Two Masters* (Wales Theatre Company); *3 Minute Hamlet* (Looking Glass Theatre); *Granny Annie* (Grass Roots); *How the Other Half Loves, SAP*, and *Under Milk Wood* (Welsh Drama Company); and the pantomimes *Cinderella* and *The Wizard of Oz* (New Theatre, Cardiff). Television credits include: *Ista'nbwyl, Caerdydd, Pobol Y Cwm, Licyris Olsorts* and *Dinas* (S4C); *Streets of Gold, Trip Trap, Oliver's Travel, The Life of Eliza, Casualty, The Lifeboat, Selected Exits* and *Penny For Your Dreams* (BBC); *Mortimer's Law, Satellite City*, and *The Max Boyce Show* (BBC Wales); *A Mind To Kill, The Committee* and *To Each His Own* (HTV); *The Bill, Coronation Street, End of Season* and *Shelley* (ITV); *The Angry Earth* (Channel 4). Film credits include: *Patagonia, Twin Town, Morphine & Dolly Mixtures, Rebecca's Daughter* and *Hedd Wyn*. Radio credits include: *Tree of Liberty* (BBC Wales), *Burnt* (BBC Radio 4) and *Born in Rhydney* (BBC Radio Wales).

Oliver Wood's theatre credits include: *A Good Night Out In The Valleys* (National Theatre Wales); *Sunflowered, Desire Lines, Shadow Of A Boy, Waves In The Chatroom* and *Speakeasy* (Sherman Cymru); *Cinderella* (Torch Theatre); *Fiddler On The Roof* (Aberystwyth Arts Centre); *Sleeping Beauty* (New Wolsey Theatre); *Electricity* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *The Merchant Of Venice, Twelfth Night, Cymbeline* (New Theatre, Cardiff); *The Owl Service* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth) and *Romeo and Juliet* (English Touring Theatre). Television credits include: *Crash, Belonging* and *High Hopes* (BBC Wales); and *Green Green Grass* (BBC). Film credits include *London Boulevard* (G K Films) to be released in 2010. Radio credits include *Pavement Stars, Truth Or Dare, Running Away With The Hairdresser* and *Steel Stitches* (Radio 4).

The Village Social is produced with the support of the Arts Council of Wales' Night Out scheme (see Editors' Notes), and with Pontio at Mynydd Llandegai Village Hall.

-LISTINGS INFORMATION-

**National Theatre Wales presents
THE VILLAGE SOCIAL
Created by Dafydd James and Ben Lewis**

Director: Ben Lewis

Musical Director: Dafydd James

Designer: Cai Dyfan

Cast includes: Carys Eleri, Rebecca Harries, Darren Lawrence, Gwydion Rhys, Sue Roderick, and Oliver Wood

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Dates & Venues

OCTOBER 2011

Thurs 20th & Fri 21st October, 7.30pm
Rudry Parish Hall, Rudry, Caerphilly,
CF83 3DF
Tel: 029 2088 2091

Sat 22nd October, 7.30pm
Glasbury Arts, Glasbury Village Hall,
Hampton Rd, Glasbury, Powys, HR3 5LU
Tel: 01497 847 426

Tues 25th October, 7.30pm
Soar Centre, jct Tylacelyn
Rd/Penygraig Rd,
Penygraig, Tonypany, RCT, CF40 1JZ
Tel: 01443 420 870

Wed 26th October, 7.30pm
Neath Little Theatre, Westernmoor Rd,
Neath, Neath Port Talbot, SA11 1BQ
Tel: 01639 643 462

Thurs 27th October, 7.30pm
Newport Memorial Hall, West St,
Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 0TF
Tel: 07772 004 218

Fri Oct 28th October, 7.30pm
Aberaeron Memorial Hall, South Rd,
Aberaeron, Ceredigion, SA46 0DP
Tel: 01545 574 934

Sat 29th October, 7.30pm
Llangwm Village Hall, Pill Parks Rd,
Llangwm, Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire, SA62 4HR
Tel: 01437 899 966

NOVEMBER 2011

Wed 2nd November, 7.30pm
Dragon Theatre, Jubilee Rd, Barmouth,
Gwynedd, LL42 1EF
Tel: 01341 281 697

Thurs 3rd November, 7.30pm
Criccieth Memorial Hall, Criccieth,
Gwynedd, LL52 0HB
Tel: 01766 523 672

Fri 4th November, 7.30pm
Edith Banks Memorial Hall, High St,
Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6BQ
Tel: 07736 625 853

Sat 5th November, 7.30pm
Mynydd Llandegai Village Hall, Mynydd
Llandegai, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 4LQ
Tel: 01248 605 437

Tues 8th November, 7.30pm
Nazareth Community Centre, Thomas
St, Abertridwr, Caerphilly, CF83 4AX
Tel: 07534 776 822

Wed 9th November, 7.30pm
Cefneithin & Foelgastell Welfare Hall,
Heol y Parc, Cefneithin, Llanelli,
Carms, SA14 7AN
Tel: 07403 859 841

Thur 10th November, 7.30pm
Llandinam Village Hall, Llandinam,
Powys, SY17 5BY
Tel: 01686 688 902

Fri 11th November, 7.30pm
Dolau Community Hall, Dolau,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5TW
Tel: 01597 851 427

Sat 12th November, 7.30pm
Llansilin Memorial Hall, Llansilin,
Powys, SY10 7QB
Tel: 01691 791 626

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Tickets go on sale 5th September 2011

More information about the village halls will become available on nationaltheatrewales.org

Recommended age range: 15+

Tag: #ntw15

Press Night: Friday 21st October, at Rudry Village Hall, Caerphilly

-NOTES TO EDITORS-

National Theatre Wales was launched in November 2009, and creates invigorating theatre in the English language, rooted in Wales, with an international reach.

The establishment of an English-language national theatre for Wales was a commitment in the Welsh Assembly Government's One Wales programme for government. The Welsh Assembly Government and the Arts Council of Wales are supporting National Theatre Wales.

Night Out is an Arts Council of Wales scheme working in partnership with local authorities to help put great shows into community halls. For more information on how it works and some of the great tours you could book, contact www.nightout.org.uk

For more information on National Theatre Wales' shows, visit: nationaltheatrewales.org