

Trickster

Performance storytelling by Dominic Kelly



'An extraordinary piece of work' 'It's not at all what I expected. You've created a new genre of storytelling'

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK FROM THE STOREY, LANCASTER

'Wickedly Wonderful' **SCANDALNIGHTS, TOM THUMB THEATRE, MARGATE**

'All the feedback from the show has been absolutely glowing. Everybody who was there has said it was amazing' **LITFEST, LANCASTER**

Based in part on fact, in part on legend and in part on the trickster figure of international folklore and myth, Trickster follows the antics of one John Henry Williams – himself based on renowned imposter and criminal Percy Toplis, AKA 'The Monocled Mutineer'. In a stunning piece of composition, Dominic Kelly has used international trickster tales and motifs from Norway, Middle Eastern folktale, German's Till Eulenspiegel and Africa to create an anti-hero from Toplis, leading audiences into an ambiguous empathy and admiration for this villain's unbridled ingenuity and cheek – until, that is, he goes one step too far.

Trickster is perfect for performance for adult storytelling, spoken word and live literature audiences in a wide range of venues, in both performance and non performance spaces. As the piece draws heavily on a well known NW of England legendary figure, it will also have special appeal to audiences in that region – but by no means exclusively.

Trickster is a 3monkeys commission, supported by Arts Council England. It premiered at **the Crick Crack Club, at the Soho Theatre in London**, following a scratch performance at **LitFest Lancaster**.

BIOGRAPHY

DOMINIC KELLY: Dominic is a storyteller with a growing national reputation for his performances in schools, museums, libraries, theatres, on conservation sites, and at major festivals across the UK and beyond. Through flowing narrative, and his dynamic and subtle feel for pace and mood, he draws audiences into traditional stories told for the 21st Century.

Dominic's performances include shows at LitFest, The Royal and Derngate and Tom Thumb Theatre; at London's Barbican, the Soho Theatre, Cheltenham Literature Festival, the Tristan Bates Theatre & the Bargehouse for The Crick Crack Club; at numerous folk, arts and storytelling festivals, and at storytelling clubs across England. Dominic works with LitFest, the Lancaster Literature Festival as performance storytelling programmer and advisor.

Dividing his time between England and Sweden, he has a special interest in the stories and legends of the North West of England, and the relationship between narrative and place. In early 2009 Dominic was awarded the New Directions Commissions by Cambridge Storytelling Festival: 'Crow' was the result. In 2011 he was commissioned by 3monkeys to make 'Trickster'. www.dominickelly.uk.com

AVAILABILITY

Trickster is in permanent repertoire and available throughout 2012 and beyond. **To book contact Kate Norgate at Kate@crickcrackclub.com or 07791 157 437 / Dominic Kelly at info@dominickelly.uk.com or 07758 704 299**

PROGRAMME COPY

15th June, 1910: A red-haired boy leaves school with bigger plans than life down the pit. Schoolmates, teachers, and the local doctor have already fallen foul of his trickery... ahead is fun, fortune and a hundred more serious ruses to try. Little does he know that he'll soon be hunted as the most wanted man in the country...

Delightful and dangerous, hungry for life and never to be trusted: meet charlatan and shapeshifter, John Henry Williams. Hero or thief, soldier or captain, pit boy or rich man – he's all of them and none. With his eye on the main chance, a bag of disguises and always a trick up his sleeve, he'll take you on a rattling trip from pithead, parade ground and mountain hideout to a climax on the lonely roads of Cumberland.

With deviously disguised global trickster tales and real-life story, Storyteller Dominic Kelly embarks on an audacious tale of trickery and deceit; a tale where truth and hearsay, history, folktale and myth flicker like shadows in sunshine. Come journey on a trickster's side of the road...

"A trickster-story show as mercurial in itself, as ambiguous, enjoyable, vital and unsettling in its composition and delivery, as the very tricksters of folktale or myth might have devised"

AUDIENCE MEMBER–LitFest

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Trickster can be performed in performance and non performance venues alike. Production is highly flexible and if any of the requirements below present a problem, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Minimum get-in (prior to house opening): 1 hour

Performance length: 60 mins

Interval: No

Latecomers: Yes

Target audience: Adult: (not suitable for children under 12 years)

Sound: Trickster can be performed acoustically in venues up to about 150 capacity. Please enquire for more details if necessary.

Where possible in performance venues, P.A is required for walk in music provided on CD.

Performance area: minimum dimensions: 5m width, 4m depth, 3m headroom.

Lighting: (for performance venues) There are two lighting states – a preset and a performance state. Performance state is a warm wash centre stage.

Set: Performance to take place in front of black backdrop/tabs if possible.

Performance to take place on black painted floor where possible.

1 high wooden stool

CONTACT

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'The UK's most vivid and exciting Storytelling organisation' Ian Macmillan, The Times