



Townsend Productions, in association with IBMT Harrogate Theatre, The Place Bedford and Unite the Union, present

***Dare Devil Rides To Jarama* by Neil Gore**

UK Tour: 24th September – 3rd December 2016

London press night: Tuesday 25th October 2016

Harrogate press night: Thursday 29th September 2016

Marking the 80th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, *Dare Devil Rides To Jarama* is a world premiere based on the experiences of The International Brigades during The Spanish Civil War. Looking at the powerful political and economic forces that engulfed 1930s Europe, *Dare Devil Rides to Jarama* follows why so many ordinary people made the extraordinary choice to leave family and livelihoods and fight in a brutal war so far from home.

When Spaniards rose up to resist General Franco's military rebellion in 1936, it was an inspiration to millions of people worldwide. Their heroic struggle alerted the rest of the world to the threat of fascism. *Dare Devil Rides To Jarama* commemorates and celebrates the contribution and sacrifice of the Volunteer International Brigades, including two and a half thousand from Britain and Ireland.

Compelling and humorous, *Dare Devil Rides To Jarama* focuses on the contrasting lives of Clem Beckett, a Lancashire blacksmith and famous star of the speedway track, and Christopher Caudwell, a renowned writer, poet and philosopher. Both men were killed together at Jarama in February 1937, having become friends as members of the British Battalion's machine-gun company.

Through stirring song, poetry and compelling movement and dance, *Dare Devil Rides To Jarama* captures the raw passions and emotions of the time. Musical direction is from acclaimed folk singer and squeeze box player John Kirkpatrick.

The play has a particular resonance in our current climate as it examines how the economic pressures in the 1930s contributed to the rise of xenophobic tendencies throughout Europe and the failure of a unified left to join together to successfully challenge these forces.

Dare Devil Rides To Jarama aims to bring the full story of the compelling dispute to life in this powerful and thought-provoking new play. This production follows Townsend Productions' critically acclaimed *United We Stand*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* and *We Will Be Free*.

Director Louise Townsend comments, *This project is a tremendous opportunity to tell this very intricate and extraordinary story of exceptional people. The challenge is twofold - to do justice to their achievements and to reflect the dense, turbulent political and historical times.*

Writer Neil Gore comments, *The play is an exciting and evocative piece about the incredible contribution made by the volunteers that made up the International Brigades to fight the forces of fascism and to uphold the power of democracy. It is also an important examination of the fascinating and brilliant life of Clem Beckett who achieved so much in such a short time as a top speedway rider and a rider in the Wall of Death around Europe.*

Dare Devil Rides To Jarama will be performed in Jarama in 2017

Notes to Editors

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| Title | <i>Dare Devil Rides To Jarama</i> |
| Running time | 2 hours (including an interval) |
| Notes | Ages 11+ |
| Box Office | Tickets are available from individual theatre box office See http://www.townsendproductions.org.uk/feedback/test . |
| Twitter | @townsendprod, #DareDevil |
| Trailer | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SqGCLotudo |

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| Writer | Neil Gore |
| Director | Louise Townsend |
| Designer | Emily Bestow |
| Lighting Designer | Danniella Beattie |
| Music Director | John Kirkpatrick |

Cast

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| Christopher Caudwell & Harry Pollitt | Neil Gore |
| Clem Beckett | David Heywood |

Performance Dates

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| 24 th September | The Place, Bedford www.theplacebedford.org.uk , 01234 354321 |
| 26 th Sept – 1 st Oct | Harrogate Theatre www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk , 01423 502116 |
| 4 th October | Loganlea Miners Welfare www.loganleamw.org.uk , 01501 763354 |
| 5 th October | North Edinburgh Arts www.northedinburgharts.co.uk , 01313 152151 |
| 6 th – 7 th October | The Lowry, Salford www.thelowry.com , 08432 086000 |
| 8 th October | Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury www.atgtickets.com/shows/aylesbury , 08448 717607 |
| 11 th October | The Guildhall, Derby boxoffice@derby.gov.uk , 01332 255800 |
| 12 th – 15 th October | Oldham Coliseum www.coliseum.org.uk , 01616 242829 |
| 18 th October | Quorn Grange Hotel, Leicestershire www.quorngrangehotel.co.uk , 01509 412167 |

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| 19 th October | Peterborough Trades Council (Venue & box office TBC) |
| 20 th October | Chilwell Arts Centre, Beeston www.chilwellartstheatre.co.uk , 07772 053412 |
| 21 st October | The Lansdown Hall, Stroud www.lansdownhall.org , 01453 767576 |
| 22 nd October | The Seagull, Lowestoft www.theseagull.co.uk , 01502 589726 |
| 24 th – 29 th October | The Bussey Building, Peckham www.clfartcafe.org , 02077 325275 |
| 1 st November | Hertford Theatre www.hertfordtheatre.com , 01992 531500 |
| 2 nd November | Wedgewood Rooms, Southsea www.wedgewood-rooms.co.uk , 02392 863911 |
| 3 rd November | The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington www.theploughartscentre.org.uk , 01805 624624 |
| 4 th November | Dorchester Arts Centre www.dorchesterarts.org.uk , 01305 266926 |
| 5 th November | Bridport Arts Centre www.bridport-arts.com , 01308 424204 |
| 7 th November | Theatre Royal Margate www.theatreroyal-margate.com , 01843 292795 |
| 10 th November | The Civic, Barnsley www.barnsleycivic.co.uk , 01226 327000 |
| 11 th November | Withal Hall, Barnard Castle (Box office details TBC) |
| 12 th November | Cast in Doncaster www.castindoncaster.com , 01302 303959 |

13th November Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
www.theatresevern.co.uk, 01743 281281

14th – 29th November Lantern Theatre, Sheffield
www.lanterntheatre.org.uk, 01142 551776

22nd – 23rd November St Michael's Irish Centre, Liverpool
www.stmichaelsirishcentre.org, 01512 631808

24th – 26th Yorkshire rural touring scheme
www.blaize.uk.net (TBC)

30th November The Place, Bedford
www.theplacebedford.org.uk, 01234 354 321

1st December Square Chapel, Halifax
www.squarechapel.co.uk, 01422 349422

2nd December The Hat Factory, Luton
www.lutonculture.com/hat-factory, 01582 878100

3rd December Ruskin College, Oxford
www.ruskin.ac.uk, 01865 759600

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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