**LOVE AND LONGINGS AT THE MINACK THIS OCTOBER**

The Minack, in association with Ha-Hum-Ah Theatre is staging a co-production of Loveplay by Moira Buffini for two weeks this October.

First produced by the RSC in 2001 as part of its ‘This Other Eden season’, this unusual play poses the eternal question ‘What is love?’ Does human desire change through time? Or are we all endlessly searching for an impossible union somewhere between the physical and the emotional? Moira Buffini’s wryly satirical play charts a chaotic trail of seduction, transaction and romantic aspiration that takes place on a single spot of ground across 2000 years.

Pragmatic, intellectual, occasionally even brutal, these transient sexual encounters are ironically reflected in the fortunes of a patch of scrubland, as it evolves from Roman latrine to sacred cloister and ultimately to the steel and concrete of commercial London.

Director Ben Kernow says, “Loveplay is a challenging piece to stage. It smashes through stage conventions and period styles at a head-spinning pace. One minute we’re in a ruined abbey, the next it’s a Georgian townhouse. But strangely, it all makes sense! We’ll be interweaving the scenes with contemporary love songs, but perhaps not quite as you expect to hear them.

“The play threads a fine line between the tragic and the comic in human relationships. What can be more tragic than an endless cycle of, often unfulfilled, desire continually repackaged in the social conventions of different ages? And at the same time, that’s the perfect recipe for comedy.”

Loveplay is a challenge for the actors too. Ten centuries and over 30 characters will be created in rapid succession by four extremely versatile performers – Dan Bottomley, Elena Valentine, Georgia Nicholson and Liam Jeavons.

Ha-Hum-Ah is a co-operative Cornish theatre company established to enable actors, directors, writers and creatives of all backgrounds to work together in realising and harnessing each other’s creativity.

Loveplay will run from 14 – 23 October at 7pm, with matinees at 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are no performances on Sunday or Monday. The play includes strong language and explicit sexual content and is suitable for adults and mature teenagers only.

For information and to book for all Minack performances, daytime storytelling and visits to the theatre please see our website [www.minack.com](http://www.minack.com).

**<Ends>**

**Notes:**

**Cast and Director details for Loveplay:**

Dan Bottomley

Dan trained at ALRA. Past work with Ha-Hum-Ah includes Grimms’ Fairy Tales in 2018, the recent podcast adaptation of the adaptation It’s Grimm, and A Dickensian Christmas. Theatre includes: Billy in Once (1st UK Tour), Eye of The Storm (Theatr na nÓg/Hong Kong & UK Tour); Moll Flanders (Mercury Theatre); Oberon’s Cure (Rude Mechanicals Theatre Co.); The Ladykillers, Hello, Dolly!, Single Spies, and A Chorus Of Disapproval (Pitlochry Festival Theatre); Pinocchio (Hiccup/Derby Theatre and Leicester Curve); Rudy in The Ballad of Rudy (Goblin); Hamlet (Young Shakespeare Co.); and the nastiest baddies in rock n roll pantos at Theatr Clwyd and City Varieties Music Hall. Audio includes: Fox in Pinocchio (Goblin); The Wizard of Oz, Torchwood: The Conspiracy, Vienna and The New Adventure of Bernice Summerfield (Big Finish). He also has recorded voices for video games including the BAFTA award-winning Divinity: Original Sin 1 and 2, Ryse: Son of Rome, and Seven: The Days Long Gone. Dan also records audiobooks from his home bunker! Composing and writing credits include: The Mouse and the Cactus (Goblin) and the original musical plays The House of Usher (Hope Theatre); and Offie nominated Peter and the Wolf (Goblin, National Tour).

Sound design includes: Fox, and Talk Radio (Old Red Lion) for which he was nominated for an Off West End award. Screen credits include Mike Leigh's feature film Peterloo. Dan can’t wait to brave the elements at the Minack this autumn.

www.danbottomley.co.uk

@DanBottomley (Twitter)

Elena Valentine

This is Elena’s Minack debut, and marks her second collaboration with Ha-Hum-Ah Theatre after voicing Gretel in It’s Grimm during lockdown this year. Elena spent the best part of two years pre-lockdown getting thrown around as Sandra in The Play that Goes Wrong, first on tour around the UK then in London’s West End. Other theatre credits include: Mina in Dracula (Resorts World Theatre Singapore, Ewing Entertainment) and the immersive Gatecrash (Zest, UK tour & Lyric Hammersmith). TV credits include: Catherine Howard in Henry VIII and his Six Wives (Channel 5/Oxford Film & Television) and The Marshlands (Rogue Land Films). Audio includes: The Mouse and the Cactus (Goblin); It’s Grimm (Ha-Hum-Ah), Offie nominated Talk Radio, and Fox (Old Red Lion); and the audiobook Not Quite a Superhero (Audible). Elena trained at ALRA in London and is very excited to be making her Minack debut.

@\_ElenaValentine (Twitter)

Georgia Nicholson

Georgia hails from the North East and trained at The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts. Credits include- Inspector George Gently (BBC), The Cinder Path (Ion Productions) Aladdin (Whitley Bay Playhouse), The Lambton Worm (Customs House), The Pillory (Southwark Playhouse), The Dolly Mixtures (2016 and subsequent revival in 2019 for Customs House), Carnivores (Southwark Playhouse), My Uncle Freddie (Customs House), The Numbered Streets (Pack it In Productions), Beauty and the Beast (Customs House), Wild Boar (Southwark Playhouse), as well as JC Penney’s Spring Trends fashion campaign in the US. Before lockdown Georgia was in rehearsals for Hetty Feather at the Minack and is absolutely thrilled to be back on this beautiful stage once more. Having previously worked with Ha Hum Hah Theatre back in 2013 on A Dickensian Christmas, Georgia was delighted to have worked on their recent musical podcast ‘It’s Grimm’ during the height of lockdown. Georgia wishes to thank you all for coming to see the show and for supporting the arts during this most difficult of times.

Liam Jeavons

Originally from Birmingham, Liam Jeavons trained at The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA), where he graduated in 2012.

Since then Liam has worked across Theatre, TV, and Film, as well as performing on the Stand Up Comedy Circuit. He’s delighted to be joining the cast of Loveplay and to be performing at the Minack Theatre. Theatre Credits: Mischief Theatres The Comedy About A Bank Robbery (West End & UK Tour); Where Yow Frum (Birmingham Rep); Potted Panto (Garrick Theatre); The 39 Steps (Lyric Theatre Belfast); Accidental Brummie (The Birmingham Rep); Primetime (The Royal Court); Owen Wingrave (Aldeburgh Music Festival); Threeway (Old Red Lion); Around The world in 80 days (Vienna’s English Theatre) Film & Television: Goodnight Sweetheart (BBC); WPC 56 (BBC); The Library (Independent Film); Father Brown (BBC); A Stolen Moment (Independent Film); Doctors (BBC)

Ben Kernow (director)

Ben trained as an actor at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA) graduating in 2013. As an actor he has worked with companies including Miracle Theatre, Frinton Repertory Theatre, Quirk Theatre, as well as the Minack Theatre, where he recently appeared in their production of Marie Jones’ Stones in His Pockets. He’s excited to be making his Minack directorial debut with Loveplay. He Founded Ha-Hum-Ah Theatre in 2018, and the company has based themselves in Ben’s home of North Cornwall. Directing credits include Oh No It Isn’t!, A Dickensian Christmas & Grimms’ Fairy Tales (Ha-Hum-Ah Theatre), Careless Talk (Canal Cafe Theatre) & Border Control (Old Red Lion Theatre) When not acting on the stage or screen himself he is never far away from the scene be it directing or writing. When he's not doing that he can be found in his small vineyard tending to his vines.

**Things may seem a little different**

To ensure the safety and comfort of our audience, performers and staff, performances this summer will be a little different. Performances will start at 7pm (3pm matinees), and there will be no intervals. The running time for shows will be no more than 100 minutes.

We will play to a reduced audience capacity to enable social distancing, and all performances will be ‘relaxed’, meaning audience members are welcome to move from their seats during the performance to visit the toilets or purchase takeaway drinks and snacks. Audience members are requested to wear a face-covering if they leave their seat during the performance.

Our performers are all professional artists and where appropriate will be sharing a ‘bubble’ for the duration of the production.

**--**

**For further information, high-res images and interview requests please contact: Vanessa Jackson, 07828 044563; vanessa@minack.com**