



Programme

Hans, the Witch and the Gobbin

A play by Allen Cullen
Directed by Gabriella Guymer-Davies

Barons Court Theatre
21-25 November 2023. 7:30.

Running time:
Act one 1 hours 40 minutes
Act two 45 minutes



BARONS
COURT
THEATRE

Director's foreword

I was given the script of Hans, the Witch and the Gobbin by my first drama teacher, at about ten years old. As far as I remember, she gifted all her students a play as a parting gift before emigrating to New Zealand. She'd written an inscription in the dust jacket, which I treasure.

Every three years or so I'd pick up the fraying pages and be transported to King Rufus's kingdom. I'd kick my ankles at Castor and Senna's deceit, balk and Hans' fate and laugh at the Gobbin before putting it away for another few years.

It's the only play I'd ever thought about directing, although was resolutely an actress with no ambition to cross to the other side.

Yet, when I was told 'no' about a project earlier this year, I revisited my tired old copy of Alan Cullen's play. The idea of directing started to feel less ridiculous. I began broaching the idea with friends and family, and not hearing any gasps of horror, pitched the show to KDC after getting friends together for a script reading in a pub.

Fast forward past months of prep, auditions and weeks of rehearsals. I'm so proud of this show, and it's been a joy to bring it to life.

I just wanted everyone to have fun. Fun for the cast and creatives, fun for you as an audience. I hope you have a big glass of wine. It's cold and dark outside, but let's spend the next few hours escaping to a magical forest.

Gabriella Guymer-Davies

With special thanks to

My board of directors, for your sound advice, critical eye and reassurance: Carl Fletcher, Jess Rodgers, Stephen Reimer and Matt Aldridge. My big brother Jake for the artwork. Lloyd Smith for lighting design and sound. All the team at KDC, especially Saskia Van't Hoff, Matthew, Hugo, Helen, James and Karack. Josie, Andre, Govind, Renata, Sarah for coming to the script reading. Leo for his warm welcome to Barons Court. Everyone who auditioned. Those who lent costumes and props, especially my dad who happened to have divining rods. Friends, family and colleagues. And my mum, Tracy Guymer-Davies, who would have loved this.

Meet the creatives

Gabriella Guymer-Davies **Director**

This is Gabriella's first time directing, after many years of acting. From Norfolk woman to London lass, she's been involved in KDC for a number of years, sharing a stage with James and Sarah. She was a proud cast member of KDC's show Imprints, and was delighted to perform it at the Edinburgh Fringe alongside Freddie. She's loved directing this show, with a huge thanks to the wonderful team and amazing cast. She also enjoys name dropping.



Freddie Wride **Assistant Director**

Freddie had a blast getting to work with the team and cast of this show in what was a first time for fight choreography and assisting. It was a pleasure getting to play and be silly with these people. He hopes you'll have as much fun as he does whenever he sees them perform.

Flick Hemming **Stage manager, sound and lighting**

If Flick could in fact remember if she'd had breakfast this morning, she'd consider it an honour to be a first-Hans witness to the springing to life of this enchantingly bonkers tale. As something witchy this way comes, she encourages you keep the sun on your right, not get too distracted by her debut experience with technical wizardry and follow the hazel twig into this joyful topsy-turvy adventure with Hans, the Witch and the Gobbin and the rest of this stella cast.



Meet the cast



Sarah Beebe

Playing Daisy, a witch

Sarah is a frequent KDC player- most recently appearing with them as Tamora in Titus Andronicus and directing Slither. She would like to claim the cackling is solely a character choice, but would not be able to finish that sentence with a straight face.

Hannah Brown

Playing Gob, a Gobbin

Hannah's lifelong love of cheese and tendency to live under bridges has prepared her perfectly for this role. Her first with KDC and her last until the summer revival of Lord of the Rings where she will be typecast as Gollum.



Theo Tompkins

Playing Hans, a student

While Theo's feelings about things are normally far more nuanced and complex, he's been getting into character as Hans, the soppy single-minded protagonist of the piece. As such, he is simply thrilled to be performing in this show and can't wait for you to see it.

Georgina Whittaker

Playing Scratch, a secretary

After quitting her job as a full time cat whisperer, Georgie has embraced her new acting role of Scratch, the King's super efficient secretary. After this experience she is keen to get back to collecting rain water and staring into the abyss.



Keep meeting the cast



Alice McCartney

Playing Mrs Crabtree, a dowser

Alice is an actor, lawyer, and now also a dowser. Her previous acting credits include a Shakespeare production and a breakfast cereal TV advert. Alice is very excited to be performing with KDC for the first time, and she is now available for water divining on request.



James Cross

Playing Castor, a physician

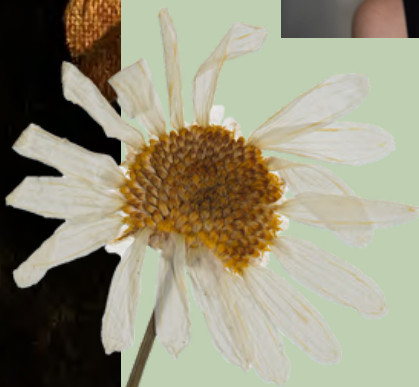
James is delighted to be part of such a fun production with KDC, his second with the company at Barons Court Theatre in the cellar of The Curtain's Up pub. It brings a whole new meaning to the term 'underground sensation'.



Sarah Jost

Playing Queen of the Forest and Voice

Sarah apparated into existence from a burst of glitter one blizzardy Chicago night, a wee British soul on the Southside streets. After years wandering the world a confused amalgam of Rowan Atkinson and Chance the Rapper, she's delighted to have finally apparated appropriately on a leap year in the magical forest of Alan Cullen and Gabriella Guymmer-Davies. When not rehearsing with this adorable cast, Sarah can be found petting dogs in parks and giggling, probably.



More cast



Simon Berry
Playing Sylvester, a swineherd

Simon Berry is a London born thespian. He first found his love for acting at a young age and decided to pursue it as a career. After managing to survive his time in the wilds of Bristol, he now seeks to make his mark upon the world... In time... Maybe next weekend.



Peader Donnelly
Playing Rufus, a king

Peader has been involved with a number of KDC productions, including the Package Deal where he played the role of an East End Gangster called Sammy. This time he will be elevating his station in life as King Rufus.



Dan Struthers
Playing Senna, a physician

After a 7 year hiatus, Dan is looking forward to treading the boards once again. In his spare time he loves visiting the cinema, sitting down with a good book and writing about himself in third person.



Mhairi Boyle
Playing Alicia, a princess

Mhairi never says no to a bit of Musical Theatre and a Disney film, so she is very happy to be ticking playing a princess off her bucket list, alongside this lovely cast. She was however gutted to discover there was no demand to sing in the role.

Now go have an adventure.