



**[NATIONAL
THEATRE
OF SCOTLAND]**

Based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson

KIDNAPPED

A SWASHBUCKLING ROM-COM ADVENTURE

Adapted for the stage by
Isobel McArthur with
Michael John McCarthy

Directed by
Isobel McArthur and **Gareth Nicholls**

Supported by
Sir Ewan and Lady Brown
Chris Grace Hartness

The National Theatre of Scotland is core funded by:
 **Scottish Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Rehearsal photography by Julie Howden.

KIDNAPPED – A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

I don't know who was the first to try it, but somewhere around the 16th century, a craze emerges in English-language literature and drama for big, mad, over-wrought, plot-ruining subtitles. You might know the sort of thing I mean –

The Coxcomb's Revenge - or - *The Most Tragical Historie of The Death of The Fated King Dave, His Men, Courtiers and Little Dog at the Hands of The Evil Sir Rugby Roundabout, One Windy Night in Spring.*

I suppose they were essentially the film-trailers of their day. Each additional clause a jump-cut to another punch in the guts or ear-ringing explosion – in the hope that the audience might sign up for the full experience. Pick up a copy of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* and you'll find something similar on the title page.

Kidnapped - *The Adventures of David Balfour, in the year 1751, How He Was Kidnapped and Cast Away; Spoiler Redacted, Spoiler Redacted, Spoiler Redacted, Now Set Forth by Robert Louis Stevenson With A Preface by Mrs. Stevenson.*

'What's this?!' I thought 'Mrs Stevenson? I wasn't aware there even was a Mrs Stevenson.' But I was pretty confident that not many canonical Victorian authors had their wives writing their published introductions.

I began my research and discovered that Frances Mathilda Van Der Grift Osbourne Stevenson was not only the person who kept Louis (for that was what she called him) alive as he wrote - through her constant medical

and emotional care - but that she was a professional writer herself and active editor and collaborator in the Great Man's process. Indeed, it was Frances' own suggestion to write *Kidnapped*, so fascinated was she by the assassination of Colin The Fox Campbell – a real historical event that had become a veritable True Crime thriller for Victorian Scots who were gleefully speculating about it a century after the fact.

I collected all the letters, reports and photographs I could in order to find out more about this couple's life together. It was a fascinating but fraught, beautifully intimate, authentic and utterly unpopular union. Louis and Frances' relationship did not adhere to the cut-and-dried expectations of marriage at the time. She was older, American, divorced herself, already a mother of three, possessing of great physical and emotional strength - and without doubt was his intellectual equal.

Her own life-story, I discovered, was an adventure as perilous and toilsome as any put down in fiction – and its correspondences with *Kidnapped* were frankly uncanny. It felt only right to present *Kidnapped* alongside her own autobiography. I hope you will enjoy celebrating her contribution to this book, as well as its author's life and other work as she leads us through this compelling examination of identity, exploration, borders, boundaries, love, loss and self-discovery - from her introduction, to her edits, to her turning of the final page.

Isobel McArthur (Writer/Co-Director), March 2023

COMING SOON FROM NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

DEAR BILLY

A love letter to the Big Yin
from the people of Scotland

16 May - 24 June 2023

Touring to Kilmarnock, Edinburgh, Ayr, Dundee, Banchory, East
Kilbride, Hawick, Dumfries, Lyth, Strathpeffer, Nairn, St Andrews,
Cumbernauld, Largs, Dunoon, Perth and Glasgow.



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Protect your loved ains fae the claws o' a beast

2 September - 28 October 2023

Touring to Aberdeen, Glasgow, Stirling, Inverness,
Dundee, Edinburgh, Coventry and Liverpool.

National Theatre of Scotland and Aberdeen Performing Arts in association with Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.



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Aged 14 - 26 years old or on Universal Credit?

Sign up to National Theatre of Scotland's Theatre for a Fiver scheme and get your hands on £5 tickets for almost all of our shows across Scotland.

Once you sign up, you will receive a regular email containing the latest offers and discount codes to access great theatre for only a fiver. Individuals can sign up here: nationaltheatrescotland.com/t4a5

For groups, please contact **0141 227 9483** or email boxoffice@nationaltheatrescotland.com

Theatre for a fiver is extended to all 12 - 26 year olds for *Kidnapped!*
Parents/Guardians can sign up behalf of a young person.
Applies to Scottish Tour Dates Only.



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CAST

Malcolm Cumming (he/him)	Alan Breck Stewart
Christina Gordon (she/her)	Bloody Karen, Ensemble
Kim Ismay (she/her)	Frances
Danielle Jam (she/her)	Jannet Clouston, Ensemble
Fatima Jawara (she/her)	Ebenezer, Ensemble
Ryan J MacKay (he/him)	Davie Balfour
Grant O'Rourke (any pronouns)	Captain Hoseason, Ensemble
David Rankine (he/him)	Toothless Nigel, Ensemble
Isaac Savage (he/him)	Performing Musical Director
Karen Young (she/her)	Cluny McPherson, Ensemble

CREATIVE TEAM

Emily Jane Boyle (she/her)	Movement Director
Isla Cowan (she/her)	Associate Director
Zofia Chamienia (she/her)	Illustrator
Amy Cheskin (she/them)	BSL Performance Interpreter
Sarah Forrester (she/her)	BSL Performance Interpreter
Clare Hibberd (she/her)	Sound Designer
Michael Howell (he/him)	Casting Director
Marie-Gabrielle Koumenda (she/her)	Music and Sound Trainee
Claire Llewellyn (she/her)	Fight Director
Isobel McArthur (she/her)	Co-Writer/Director
Michael John McCarthy (he/him)	Co-Writer/Composer/Music Supervisor
Gareth Nicholls (he/him)	Co-Director/Dramaturg
Ben Ormerod (he/him)	Lighting Designer
Anna Orton (she/her)	Set and Costume Designer
Yedsy (he/him)	Onstage Graphics
Tim Reid (he/him)	Video Designer
Alasdair Whyte (he/him)	Gaelic Consultant

PRODUCTION TEAM

Emma Campbell (she/her)	Lighting Technician
Yvonne Carruthers (she/her)	Stage Manager
Sophie Ferguson (she/her)	Costume Supervisor
Naomi Hoolahan (she/her)	Company Manager
Gavin Johnston (he/him)	Production Manager
Maciej Kopka (he/him)	Production Sound Engineer
Fraser Mackie (he/him)	Sound Technician
Keir Martin (he/him)	Sound Supervisor
Nicky McKean (she/her)	Costume Technician
Fraser Milroy (he/him)	Sound Technician
Iain Ramponi	Stage Supervisor
Jonny Reed (he/him)	Lighting Supervisor
Andy Reid (he/him)	Video Supervisor (tour)
Valerie Rickis (she/her)	Assistant Stage Manager
Caitlin Riddell (they/them)	Rehearsal ASM (Placement)
Christiane Stewart	Wardrobe Technician
Judy Stewart (she/her)	Deputy Stage Manager
Ellie Thompson (she/her)	Video Supervisor (rehearsals and opening)
Kathryn Weaving (she/her)	Wardrobe Supervisor
Nadene Wheatley (she/her)	Lighting Programmer

ACCESS

Glenda Carson (she/her)	Captioner
Christopher McKiddie (he/him)	Audio Describer
Evie Waddell	Gaelic BSL Consultant

ABOUT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

National Theatre of Scotland is a Theatre Without Walls. We don't have our own venue. Instead, we bring theatre to you. From the biggest stages to the smallest community halls, we showcase Scottish culture at home and around the world. We have performed in airports and tower blocks, submarines and swimming pools, telling stories in ways you have never seen before.

We want to bring the joy of theatre to everyone. Since we were founded in 2006, we have produced hundreds of shows and toured all over the world. We strive to amplify the voices that need to be heard, tell the stories that need to be told and take work to wherever audiences are to be found.

Jackie Wylie (she/her) Artistic Director & Chief Executive
Brenna Hobson (she/her) Executive Director
Jane Spiers (she/her) Chair

To find out about the full team at National Theatre of Scotland please visit: nationaltheatrescotland.com/about/who-we-are/our-people or follow us on:



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Did you know the National Theatre of Scotland is a registered charity? To do what we do, we need your support!

Our wonderful donors and supporters have helped us nurture and develop the careers of hundreds of actors, playwrights, designers and directors and create extraordinary work to tour across Scotland and beyond.

We aim to break down the walls that prevent people from engaging with our work, whether economic, cultural or physical. Each year we develop projects with young people to build confidence and transform lives.

There are so many ways you can support and be part of our work to create inclusive, vital and dynamic theatre.

To find out more drop an email to our Development Director, Stella.Litchfield@nationaltheatrescotland.com

We would love to hear from you!



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nationaltheatrescotland.com/support
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THE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Robin Taylor, Raw Material, Jim Richardson, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Scottish Opera, Dr Michael Peter, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee Rep, Citizens Theatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Perth Theatre, The Traverse, Elizabeth Millbank Turner, Reuben Joseph, Tyler Collins, Tara McGirr, Ali Watt & Dylan Wood, Martha Steed and Kirsty Glover, Jason Dailly, Tyler Ness, Frike Limited, All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre. And a special thanks to Tunnock's for their delicious confectionary.