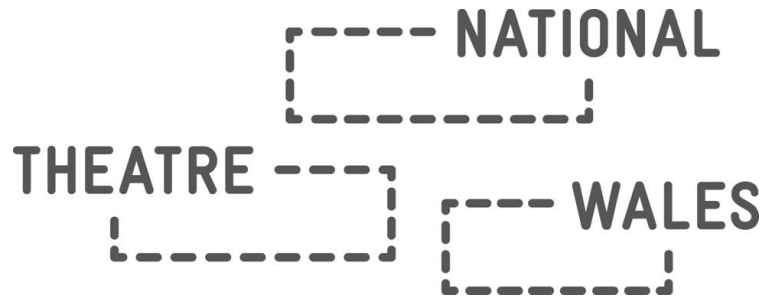


Media Release  
4 March 2010



### **SHELF LIFE**

In partnership with Volcano Theatre and Welsh National Opera

Directed by Paul Davies and Catherine Bennett

Designed by Paul Clay

Music by Peter Swaffer Reynolds

6 - 25 April 2010, Press Night 8<sup>th</sup> April

Old Library, Swansea

**Three of Wales' most exciting companies and a team of internationally acclaimed artists join forces for a unique multi-sensory experience**

The second show of National Theatre Wales' inaugural season will see them combine with Volcano Theatre Company and Welsh National Opera (WNO) as singers, dancers and a cast of remarkable characters take over a Victorian former library.

*Shelf Life* is an extraordinary theatrical adventure exploring a magical building at the heart of Swansea's history.

Enter the outer courtyard, labyrinthine stacks and circular reading room of the Old Library in Alexandra Road, Swansea. The last books were cleared out and the doors closed to the public at the end of 2007. Now, like ghosts, we can browse the shelves once more, and even poke our noses in to places where once only librarians could be found.

Brace yourself for surprises and strange occurrences, singing librarians, extraordinary dancers, and for a little more noise and disruption than is usually allowed.

*Shelf Life* is a National Theatre Wales / Volcano Theatre Company / Welsh National Opera co-production featuring a specially-formed community choir. It is produced in partnership with Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea Metropolitan University and Grwp Gwalia Cyf.

Full cast: Nigel Barrett, Gerard Bell, Lindsey Butcher, Theo Clinkard, Jane Guernier and Anna Bjerre Larsen (full biogs below)

**Volcano** is an internationally renowned touring company based in Swansea which has produced over 25 shows, using a powerful physical style coupled with visual impact and innovative use of text.

For more information about Shelf Life, National Theatre Wales, or any of its forthcoming shows, contact Stephen Pidcock at The Cornershop PR:  
020 7494 3665 / [stephen@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:stephen@thecornershoppr.com)

WNO MAX is a community initiative from **Welsh National Opera**. Unique to WNO, this new initiative takes a diverse and integrated programme of performances and projects beyond the main stage. Through its education and outreach work, MAX aims to maximise the company's resources and create new opportunities for the ensemble and for the communities it reaches.

**Paul Davies** is artistic director of Volcano, and one of the founding members. He has performed in many of their shows, written three plays and directed a number of others. He has also directed work in Montreal and Croatia and taught in numerous academies around the world.

**Nigel Barrett** is a Cardiff-born actor who works regularly at the National Theatre in London and is an Associate Artist with Shunt. With George Tomlinson and Louise Mari he has been creating arresting performances which take place, unannounced, amongst people drinking late at night in the Shunt lounge and in other unsuspecting crowds.

**Gerard Bell** has a range of work with such innovative companies as Pina Bausch, Stan's Café, PunchDrunk and David Gale to his credit, and has recently appeared in Chris Goode's acclaimed King Pelican at the Theatre Royal Plymouth.

**Catherine Bennett** is a Volcano Associate Artist. She trained at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance and has worked with Matthew Hawkins Fresh Dances Group, Random Dance Company, Houston Grand Opera and English National Opera, Siobhan Davies, Carol Brown Dances and Walker Dance Park Music. She recently directed her first short film, Witness, and has devised and performed in three Volcano shows.

**Paul Clay** is a visual artist whose work spans many different fields and an award winning theatre designer whose projects include the set for the Pulitzer prize winning Broadway Musical Rent, 1997.

**Peter Swaffer Reynolds** is a multi-instrumental composer who has worked with circus, silent movies, theatre, dance, and site-specific events since the mid-1980s. In 1995 he collaborated for the first time with NoFit State Circus and has been their composer-in-residence ever since. He has worked with the WNO on various projects, the most recent being 'Hillside Boxing'.

**Lindsey Butcher** has worked with many dance companies and choreographers as both an independent dancer and aerialist, including Extemporary Dance Theatre, Darshan Singh Bhuller, Siobhan Davies (Bank project) and The Royal, Royal Danish and English National Operas. Lindsey also regularly choreographs for The Dream Engine, most recently for the FA Cup Final and Muse's tour.

**Theo Clinkard** is a Brighton-based dance artist. As well as working with many of the UK's leading choreographers, including Siobhan Davies, Matthew Bourne, and Wayne McGregor, he has also choreographed for Kylie Minogue and danced in pop promos for Lily Allen, The Kills, and Lulu. He is a founding member of Probe dance company,

**Jane Guernier** has worked extensively with Told By An Idiot theatre company, in such productions as *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Little Fantasy* and *An Evening With the Bondress*,

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while her other credits include *Senora Carrar's Rifles* (Young Vic) and *The Unconquered* (Traverse, Scarborough, London).

**Anna Bjerre Larsen** has worked with choreographers and companies including Arts Alliance, Aletta Collins, Gary Clarke's Pit Fleur Company, State of Flux, Tom Roden, Jan De Schynkel and Cher Geurtze. She has recently been working as assistant choreographer and dancer for Malmo Opera.

## **LISTINGS INFO**

### **SHELF LIFE**

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**Directed by Paul Davies and Catherine Bennett**

**Designed by Paul Clay**

**Music by Peter Swaffer Reynolds**

**6 - 25 April 2010**

**Tue & Wed, 7pm**

**Thur - Sat, 7pm & 8.30pm**

**Sun, 3pm & 4.30pm**

**Press Night 8 April**

**Old Library**

**Alexandra Road**

**Swansea, SA1 5DU**

**Tickets from £7.00**

**Booking Opens Fri 6 Nov 2009**

**Taliesin Arts Centre**

**Tel. 01792 602 060**

National Theatre Wales creates invigorating theatre in the English language, rooted in Wales, with an international reach.

For more information on National Theatre Wales' shows visit: [www.nationaltheatrewales.org](http://www.nationaltheatrewales.org)

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