

THEATRE6 PRESENT

*Jane Austen's*  
**PERSUASION**

ADAPTED BY **STEPHANIE DALE** DIRECTED BY **KATE MCGREGOR**  
MUSIC BY **MARIA HAİK ESCUDERO**



# Jane Austen's PERSUASION

ADAPTED BY **STEPHANIE DALE**

## WELCOME FROM THEATRE6'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, KATE MCGREGOR

Welcome to Theatre6's production of Jane Austen's final novel Persuasion. This brand new adaptation by Stephanie Dale celebrates 200 years since the novel's publication. Opening at the Playground Theatre in London, this production will tour across the country, including two performances at one of the novel's most famous locations – Lyme Regis.

Jane Austen loved the sea, music, nature and her family. She wrote during the Napoleonic Wars and saw two of her brothers become Captains in the Navy. Bath was a place she spent a great deal of time. Her own life was not free of tragedy and heartbreak. What is remarkable about Jane's writing is not only her detailed understanding of her characters, plots, locations and the impact of society and history on people but also her ability to write about the human spirit. In a time where women had very little agency and power in society, she created female protagonists with aspirations, who longed for adventure, who were able to decipher their feelings and analyse their place in a changing world.

On developing this adaptation, Stephanie and I were keen to fully realise Anne's inner voice. We wanted to see what was underneath, to allow Jane's words to be embodied and realised in a theatrical way whilst remaining faithful to this epic love story.

Although this novel is set in 1814-1815, it really is a story that remains utterly timeless. Anne and Wentworth are characters that live within us today. They make decisions they regret, they are flawed, they are faithful and they reach for each other across the oceans as eight years pass. They prove that love lives, regardless of time, place, class or income. It is also one of Jane's darkest novels written at the very end of her life, delving into turbulent emotional depths. Above all else, it is her most moving, her most magical and the most memorable piece of work.

We have used music extensively in this production to bring out Anne's thoughts and enliven the audience's imagination. Our cast of six actor musicians, embody all the characters in the swirling waters of her love for Wentworth and also to capture the real woman sculpted so beautifully by Jane.

We hope you enjoy this inventive reimagining of Jane Austen's finest work. Thank you for supporting the work of Theatre6.

## CAST

Matthew Atkins **Violin**  
SIR WALTER / ADMIRAL CROFT /  
MR HAYTER / BENWICK /  
MR MUSGROVE/MR HAYTER

Ceri-Lyn Cissone **Piano**  
ANNE

Siobhán Gerrard **Flute & Piano**  
HENRIETTA / MRS MUSGROVE /  
MRS CROFT / MRS SMITH /  
SERVANT / DALRYMPLE

Indigo Griffiths **Piano**  
ELIZABETH / LOUISA / MEG

Jason Ryall **Piano**  
WENTWORTH / MR ELLIOT

Lucinda Turner **Clarinet & Piano**  
MARY / MRS CLAY / LADY RUSSELL

*Persuasion debuted at the Playground Theatre on Tuesday 17 April 2018.*

### LATE SUMMER 1814 TO SPRING 1815.

Anne and Wentworth were young and in love. Persuaded by her prosperous and prominent family to refuse Wentworth's proposal, Anne lost the great love of her life. Our play, as in Austen's original story, takes place eight years after these events.

*The performance lasts for approximately 2 hours including an interval.*

## CREATIVE TEAM

Adaptor  
**Stephanie Dale**

Director  
**Kate McGregor**

Music Composer  
**Maria Haïk Escudero**

Designer  
**Charlotte Cooke**

Lighting Designer  
**Sherry Coenen**

Sound Designer  
**Paul Freeman**

Associate Director  
**Marin Leonard**

Production Manager  
**Lucy Barnes**

Technical Stage Manager  
**Benjy Adams**

Assistant Stage Manager/Book Cover  
**Aislinn Jackson**

Wardrobe Mistress  
**Charlotte Cooke**

Producer  
**Dominic Lindesay-Bethune for Theatre6**

Graphic Design  
**Rebecca Pitt Creative**

Theatre6 Accountant  
**Gerard Fergal Keane**

Production Photography  
**Robin Savage**

Theatre6 would like to thank Dressing Rooms 5, Raw PR, Elizabeth Cooke, David Burns, The Playground Theatre, Theatre Delicatessen, Gareth Machin, Kirsten Palmer, Theatre Royal Windsor, the team at Otherplace Productions, The Theatre Chipping Norton, Keith O'Brien, Marine Theatre, Dorchester Arts, The Mill Studio and everyone who has supported this production.

## CAST

### MATTHEW ATKINS



Matthew trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and Birmingham Conservatoire. Theatre includes: Norman/Isaac in Paper Hearts: A High Street Musical (Underbelly/Upstairs At The Gatehouse/First Stage Theatre), Killjoy Silk/Ensemble in UKIP! The Musical (Waterloo East Theatre), Lead Soloist for Aida Cruises Lines (Hamburg School of Entertainment), Storyteller in Story Box (The Lost Theatre), Mr Sanders in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers: UK Tour (Peter Frosdick Productions), Special Guest in The Rocky Horror Show (40th Anniversary Party Production, ATG), and Bernardo/Mousetrap Player in Hamlet (Principal Theatre Company Tour). Musician work includes: Blondel (Union Theatre), Bedding Belle (Roar Edge Productions) and Sweeney Todd (David Adkins Productions). Matthew has also toured throughout Europe and the UK as a folk and classical violinist.

### CERI-LYN CISSONE



Ceri-Lyn trained at The Royal Academy of Music, London and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, sponsored by The John Thaw Trust, an Ian Fleming Award and a BBC Fame Academy Bursary. She was a finalist in the Michael Bryant Award for verse-speaking at The National Theatre. Theatre credits include: Janet in 'The Rocky Horror Show' (European Tour), Anne Page in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre/NYC & LA Transfer), Hermia in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Barbican/LSO & Radio 4 Broadcast),

Kitty in 'Diana of Dobsons' (New Vic), Mary Bailey in 'It's a Wonderful Life' (Scottish Tour), Anne Egerman in 'A Little Night Music', Cecily in 'The Importance of Being Earnest', Miss Dennis in 'Home and Beauty' and Social Worker in 'Lady in the Van' (all for Pitlochry Festival Theatre), rehearsed readings of various new musicals including 'Super Alice Smith' (Trafalgar Studios) and 'Joybubbles' (The Other Palace) She has performed her self-written solo show - 'Unveiled' - both in London and at the STET Theatre, Den Haag.

### SIOBHÁN GERRARD



Siobhán trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Credits include: Present Laughter (Theatre Royal Bath), My Sister Syria (TNT Theatre), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Unicorn Theatre), Spiritualists (Rose Playhouse), Volpone (Jack Studio Theatre), Richard II (Malachite Theatre), A Midsummer Night's Dream, (Malachite Theatre).

### INDIGO GRIFFITHS



Indigo trained at Drama Studio London. Theatre credits include: Tiger Lily in Peter Pan (Theatre Royal Winchester); Juliet in Romeo & Juliet (Shakespeare in the Squares); The Mulatto Girl (Nuffield Southampton Theatres); Ice Bucket (Spotlight Headquarters); The Interrogation of Sandra Bland (Bush Theatre); Grimm: An Untold Tale (Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and Colour in the Darkness (National Portrait Gallery). She is also a Monologue Slam UK finalist. Radio Credits: Firm Voters (The Narrativist)

### JASON RYALL



Jason trained at Drama Centre. His theatre credits include: Nicholas Stamford in Demons (Fleeting Arms), Alex in A Clockwork Orange (The Drama Barn), Waldau in The Smoke of Home (Bloomsbury Theatre), Ferdinand in Heading for Higher Ground (York Theatre Royal), John Brute in The Provoked Wife (Scenic Stage Theatre), Lasalle/Sheriff in Vernon God Little (Platform Theatre), Orsino in Twelfth Night (York Theatre Royal), Alec in Colder Than Here (Platform Theatre), Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet (The Drama Barn), Young Lancelot in The Legend of King Arthur (York Theatre Royal), Stephen Wrayford in Birdsong (The Drama Barn), Frank in Wild East (Platform Theatre). Jason's recent film work includes: Preston in The Mayflower, Charlie in The Best Policy, Ullr in And The Earth Shakes.

### LUCINDA TURNER



Lucinda trained at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art after receiving a BA from Leeds University in English and Theatre Studies. Her theatre credits include Netherbard (Hen & Chicken's Theatre), Happy Yet? (The Courtyard Theatre), No Quarter (The Linbury Studio, LAMDA), The Tempest (LAMDA) and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Holkham Hall). Lucinda played Pepa in Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (LAMDA) and Lucy Westerman in Dracula (The Pleasance Theatre). TV credits: Margaret Baxter in Will (Turner Network TV) and Vanity Fair (ITV)

### STEPHANIE DALE ADAPTOR

Stephanie Dale's theatre credits include The Lost Boy, Limbus, A World Beyond Man, Giants on the Hill, Alice, For the Past 30 Years, Chester Mystery Plays, The Witches Promise and A Time to Keep. Stephanie has written for BBC Radio Four: Believe Me, was nominated for the Tinniswood Award, 2012. Other plays include: Written in the Mist; What is Missing from your Life?; The Wife; First Bite of the Air; What is Missing from your Life/ (The Men). Stephanie has an MA in Playwriting from the University of Birmingham, 1997 and a BA Hons in Theatre and Media Drama. She is a founder member of CENTRIC, a collective of Midlands based practitioners.

### KATE MCGREGOR DIRECTOR

Kate is Artistic Director and founder of award-winning Theatre6 and winner of the Noel Coward Trainee Director Bursary at the Salisbury Playhouse. She is the director of the critically acclaimed UK Tour of Gabriel by Moira Buffini starring Paul McGann and Belinda Lang. She trained at the National Theatre Studio and Drama Studio London. Her credits include Gabriel (UK Tour), The Lost Boy (Theatre in the Quarter), Kinetics (UK tour), Grace: A Youth Musical (New Wimbledon Theatre), Honest (UK tour) Mill on the Floss & Loveplay (Tristan Bates Theatre/Drama Studio London), Richard III & Henry V (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse/Globe Education), Moments (Chichester Festival Theatre), The Water Engine & Mr Happiness (Old Vic Tunnels, Time Out Award nominated), Dracula & Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (London Libraries tours), The Ripple Effect (Richmond Theatre), Never Any Fruit (Pleasance Theatre Studio), The Double & The Devil Is An Ass (White Bear Theatre). Kate is a staff director at Drama Studio London and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

## CREATIVE TEAM

### MARIA HAÏK ESCUDERO COMPOSER

Maria trained at Goldsmiths, receiving her MA in Musical Theatre Composition in 2009. In 2010 she joined Theatre6 as resident composer. With Theatre6, credits include The Double (The White Bear), Beyond Therapy (Hen & Chickens), Mr Happiness & The Water Engine which was nominated for The Off West End Award for Best Actor and was Time Out Critics Choice and more recently Gabriel (UK Tour) starring Paul McGann and Belinda Lang. Other credits include Mary Rose (Jack Studio Theatre and Off West End transfer to Riverside Studios), The Cherry Orchard (Jack Studio Theatre), Nina (Spanish Theatre Company) and Antigone (The Hope Theatre). Musicals include Fidel (Iris theatre), Moments (concert readings at Wimbledon Studio Theatre and Chichester Festival Theatre) Zipporah (George Wood Theatre) and workshop of new musical Mio (Astrid Lindgren). As lyricist Maria collaborated with musician Omar Puente on musical Mi Cubita Bella which was showcased as part of the Hammersmith and Fulham Arts Festival and workshopped by School of Performing Arts, University of Wolverhampton. Maria also composed the jingle for Jessie Cave's The Waiting Room series and scored student horror film Katara for students at Roehampton University. [www.ilovepiano.org](http://www.ilovepiano.org)

### CHARLOTTE COOKE DESIGNER

Whilst studying for her MA at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Charlotte's set design work included: Our Town (Circomedia), I Am The Wind (The Wardrobe Theatre) and costume design for 13 (Tobacco Factory). Since graduating her design work includes The Farm, Team Spirit, The Intereference (New Wimbledon WCTT Young Actors) Punk Rock (Bristol Old Vic – Young Company), Summer school project at Hauser and Wirth (Bristol Old Vic – Young Company), Assistant designer for The Little Mermaid (Theatre Royal Bath The egg) Rum in the Gravy Boat (Fluid Motion Theatre) Harvest (UK Tour) The Bluebird (Butterfly Psyche), Bedlam (Salisbury Playhouse), Puppet making for The Village and the Fairy Tale (The Tobacco Factory Young Theatre Makers), Into the Woods (Merriman Theatre Group), Model Making for Cinderella (International Tour) Babe the sheep pig (Polka Theatre). Previous to her MA Charlotte designed and built sets for Frogs (Hecate Theatre), The Orchid Girl (PirateClown Theatre), Dracula (Open Book Theatre) The Servant of the Seat (Distant Mirror). Film work includes; Prop maker and set dressing on feature films One-Movie (Reel People Films) and Oliver Rocket (Waiting for a Film).

### SHERRY COENEN LIGHTING DESIGNER

Sherry has been lighting shows in the US and UK since graduating with a BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Miami in 2003. Shows include: The Singing Mermaid (Little Angel Theatre), Izindava (UK Tour), This is How We Die (UK Tour), Africarmen (UK Tour),

Cinderella (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch), Skin Tight (Park90), CELL (UK Tour), Conquest of the South Pole (Arcola), These Trees are Made of Blood (Arcola), Brrrr! (UK Tour), 5 Guys Chillin' (Kings Head), Anton Chekhov (Hampstead Theatre).

### PAUL FREEMAN SOUND DESIGNER

Paul Freeman trained at the London College of Communication in Sound Arts and Design. He has twice been nominated for Best Sound Designer at the OffWestEnd awards for The Win Bin and Lovesong Of The Electric Bear, which went on to win Best Sound Design at the 2016 OffWestEnd awards. Paul is a founding member of sound art collective Gwaith Sŵn and presents and produces their monthly Sonic Darts radio show on Resonance FM. Paul's Sound Design credits include Foul Pages (Hope Theatre), The Host (The Yard), Executioner Number One (Soho Theatre), Her Aching Heart (Hope Theatre), Oyster Boy (UK Tour), The Last Winter (Purple Mountain Theatre), The Reluctant Fundamentalist (Finborough), Steel Magnolias (Hope Theatre), Eigengrau (King's Head), Rounds (Southwark Playhouse), Antigone (Hope Theatre), The Win Bin (Old Red Lion), Lovesong Of The Electric Bear (Hope Theatre), Reflected Back Into Space (Science Gallery London) and Wedlock (V&A Museum).

### MARTIN LEONARD ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Martin graduated from Birkbeck with an MFA in Theatre Directing in 2016. He is a stage director for Shakespeare Schools Festival and is an associate director for the Descent New Writing Initiative, based at Rich Mix in London. He is also the co-founder of Vault Festival, an annual arts festival in the tunnels underneath Waterloo Station. Assistant director credits include: Boudica (Shakespeare's Globe), Gabriel (Theatre 6 - on tour), All the Angels (Shakespeare's Globe), Kes, Transform: Wanted, Great Expectations and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Vernon God Little and 13 (ArtsEducational School). Director credits include: Dis/Connect and Rats Nests (Vault Festival), Fitting Room (Southwark Playhouse), Feckless (Rich Mix), Imaginary Playtime (LIT Theatre), The Visit (Greenwood Theatre). Co-director credits include: Pizzeria dall'Opera (Bush Theatre) and The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Old Anatomy Lecture Theatre).

### LUCY BARNES PRODUCTION MANAGER

Having received a Diploma in Art and Design from Ravensbourne College Lucy decided to follow a path towards theatre, graduating from Rose Bruford College with a degree in Theatre Stage management. This progressed into a career in theatre and drama school education spanning 15 years, in which she had the opportunity to work in theatres such as The National, The Lyceum, Greenwich and various fringe venues as well as teaching at Rose Bruford College. After many years of working in this area, and having the

opportunity to work with some incredible artists such as Brian Cox, Fiona Shaw, Alan Rickman and Jeremy Irons. Lucy now spends her time working as production manager in theatre and working in both motion capture and animation.

### BENJY ADAMS TECHNICAL STAGE MANAGER

Benjy is a technician, performer, and musician, originally from sunny Essex. Specialising in comedy, including Limmy: Live! (Hammersmith Apollo), No Such Thing As A Fish (Lyric Theatre), Hardeep Singh-Kohli (BBC Radio 4), Romesh Ranganathan (Waterloo East), The Boy With Tape On His Face (The Long Room). Believing the importance of being on both sides of the stage, Benjy takes pride in the close relationships he has with the companies he works with, being heavily involved in the writing and development process of many comedy shows, and both teching and performing in them.

### AISLINN JACKSON ASM BOOK COVER

Aislinn's credits include Ken (Bunker), Ink (Duke of York's), Queen Anne (RSC/Haymarket), Dead Funny (Vaudeville), The Libertine (Haymarket), Space2Create (National Theatre), You Me Bum Bum Train (West End), Labyrinth (Almeida).

### THEATRE6 PRODUCER

The Artistic Director of Theatre6 is Kate McGregor, and the Executive Producer is Dominic Lindesay-Bethune. Persuasion has been produced by Dominic Lindesay-Bethune for Theatre6. Theatre6 is a multiple award winning theatre company, founded in 2009. Accolades include The Evening Standard Best Musical Award 2014 as co-producer on the West End transfer of Kander and Ebb's The Scottsboro Boys, Stage One Start Up Award 2017 for the UK Tour of Gabriel by Moira Buffini, starring Belinda Lang and Paul McGann, Time Out's Top 5 Shows in London for David Mamet's The Water Engine and Mr Happiness, which also received nominations for Time Out's Show of the Year 2011, and Off West End Awards Best Actor in a Play 2011. Theatre6 productions have been described as "truly stunning" Salisbury Journal reviewing Honest, "Out of this world" The Observer on The Scottsboro Boys, and the Water Engine reviewed as "an inventive, vital piece of theatre". Musicals include co-producer of The Scottsboro Boys and Moments at Chichester Festival Theatre. Plays include the UK Tour of Honest by Alice Nicholas, Shiver, Chasing the Dream in the Least Harmful Way, co-producer of site specific Dracula, UK and international tour of Midnight, When Trumpets Cry, a new adaptation of Dostoevsky's The Double, the UK premiere of Christopher Durang's Beyond Therapy, Tatchell, Shortstuff, Bender and Laundry as the four plays that made up the WET Rep Season, of which Tatchell toured to Oxford and Planting David, Super Situation, Glitch, Almost Nothing and Birthday as part of the Best of Festivals 2010 season.