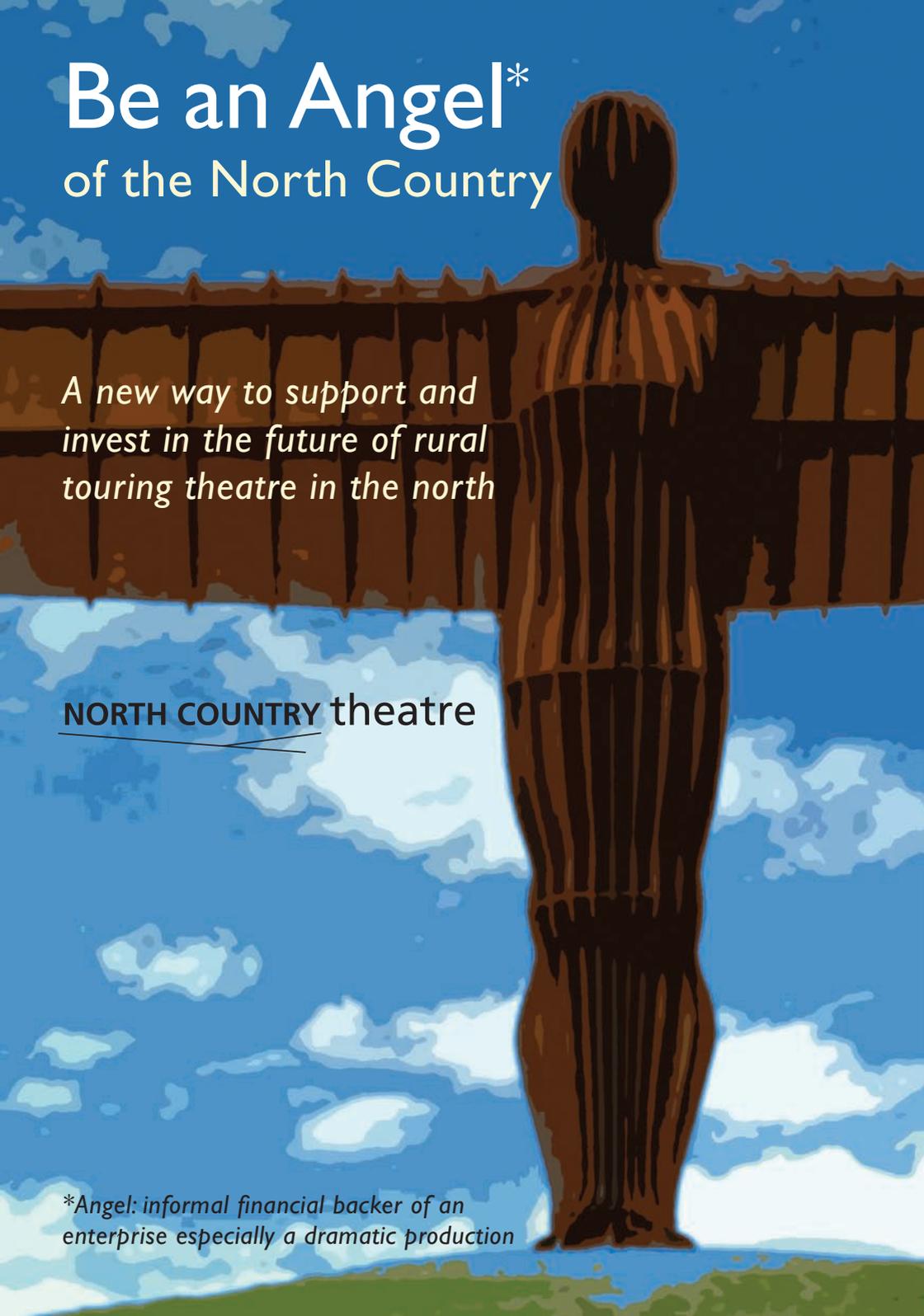


# Be an Angel\* of the North Country

*A new way to support and  
invest in the future of rural  
touring theatre in the north*

NORTH COUNTRY theatre

*\*Angel: informal financial backer of an  
enterprise especially a dramatic production*





# About North Country Theatre

From its base in the market town of Richmond in the Yorkshire Dales, the company has been entertaining audiences from Shropshire to the Scottish Borders since 1995.

For more than 15 years, supported by Arts Council England, North Country Theatre's hilarious ripping yarns, moving historical dramas and educational work have been a vital part of the cultural life of towns and villages in the rural north.

Now you can help to keep this popular company on the road by supporting us directly.

This booklet tells you how...

## Touring Productions

Artistic Director Nobby Dimon has created and written over 20 new plays. These range from adaptations of well known novels such as *The Lost World*, and the Olivier award winning *The 39 Steps*, modern classics such as J. L. Carr's *A Month in the Country* to specially researched original pieces such as *Home on the Range* telling the epic story of daleswomen on the Oregon Trail. We have more in the pipeline we'd like to do.

## Community Plays

He has also written and directed three large scale community plays where professional actors work with large casts of local people on a play with special local resonance ~ *The Passion Plays*, *Mak the Sheepstealer* with its 'flash mob heavenly choir' and *Last Dance of a Dalesman* about the end of lead mining. We have an idea for a new community play based on the *Burning of Bartle and Reeth Bartle Fair*.



## Educational and Site Specific Work

Each year the company also works with about 800 primary school children at places like Fountains Abbey and Hall and The Dales Countryside Museum. Children in rural schools need theatre and drama just as much as those in urban areas.

We have also created site specific interpretations for visitors to sites like Rievaulx Abbey and Brodsworth Hall, Lindisfarne and Richmond Castle helping to bring history and landscape alive and contributing to the tourist economy.

Media Partner

**Darlington & Stockton Times**

Andy Thursfield, an enthusiastic supporter of the company, designed and produced the artwork for this prospectus free of charge and the Friends of North Country Theatre paid for the printing.

# How you can keep the show on the road

Many people have asked how they can help North Country Theatre to continue to produce its much valued programme of work now that it no longer has the regular support of Arts Council England. Below we have listed a number of options. Have a read, make your choices, fill in the form on the next page and send it back to us with your offers of help.



## Be an ANGEL

North Country Angels pledge to donate a minimum of £100 a year for the next three years. By knowing what money will be coming in, on top of the earned income, we will be able to budget sensibly and plan productions and educational work to suit. Just 400 angels could replace all our lost arts council funding.

## A Host of Angels

A group of friends or colleagues, a school, a parish council, or a village hall committee can buy into the scheme as a group.

Angels will be credited on our website and in programmes (unless you prefer not) and receive our newsletters and information, and receive an annual "report" from the Artistic Director.

## Become a Commercial or Private SPONSOR

Between 5,000 – 8,000 people enjoy a North Country production each year or are involved with our education work for the National Trust and English Heritage. By sponsoring a tour or an individual performance you could get your or your company's name in front of one of the most discerning audiences in the country ~ on posters, in programmes ~ even on occasion mentioned in a show! You could also sponsor an actor, or offer to pay the fuel and servicing costs of the van.

## Make a DONATION

If you are not able to make a regular commitment but want to contribute to North Country's work then a donation is most welcome. Maybe you could ask for donations to North Country Theatre, instead of gifts, to celebrate a special anniversary or would like to make a bequest in memory of someone.

*"I am a regular theatre and opera goer and used to live in London but I have never been so entertained as I have by North Country Theatre productions. I think the company is unique which is why I set up a monthly subscription two years ago and encourage other people to do so."* Peter Dean, Ripon

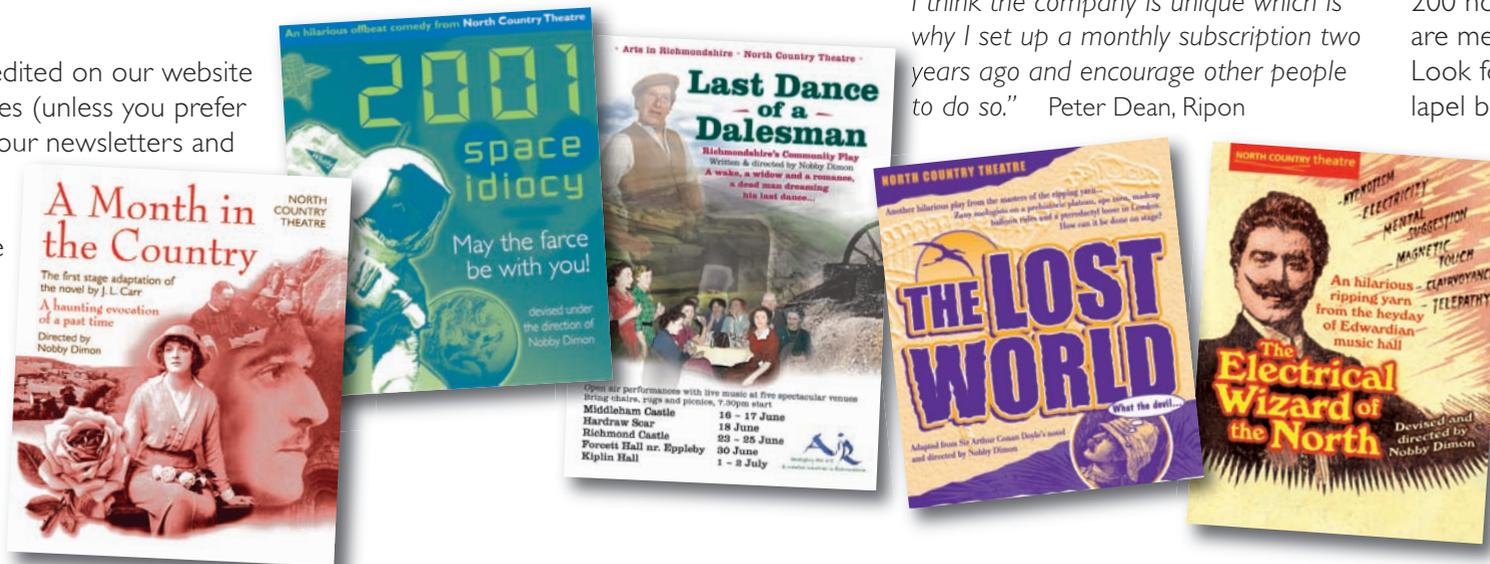
## Join the FRIENDS of North Country Theatre

The Friends is a separate supporters organisation with an annual subscription of £25 per household. The money raised through the annual subscription, fundraising events and legacies has bought equipment, sponsored a young actor in his first job and helped to buy our new specially adapted van.

Friends enjoy newsletters, invitations to theatre related talks and special events and opening nights. Currently over 200 households are members. Look for the little lapel badges!



It is likely that the Friends will provide a contribution to the core funding of North Country in the future, as well as continuing to support specific funding requests.



# How will we use your support?



## Over the next 3 years, with your help we can:

- Create two new touring productions for village halls across the region. (One a new comedy thriller based on the crime fiction of Yorkshire writer J. S. Fletcher)
- Commission and produce another Community Play for Richmondshire to be performed in 2013 with the participation of 100 volunteers
- Bring history alive for more than 2000 primary school children in site specific dramas and school visits
- Help the North to celebrate the return of the Lindisfarne Gospels by designing and facilitating labyrinth walks for English Heritage which explore Celtic/Anglo-Saxon art and culture

### and here are some typical costs...

- Actors – it costs about £7,500 to employ each actor for a tour
- The van costs about £3,500 a year to fuel and keep on the road
- Set designs, making and materials cost about £4000
- Props & costumes –making and hire & other production costs £2000

**North Country Theatre** is a not-for-profit company run by a volunteer board. It is registered as a company limited by guarantee but not as a charity. It has only one full time employee, a part time office manager, and an office in Richmond.

© 01748 825288 office@northcountrytheatre.com  
3 Rosemary Lane Richmond DL10 4DP www.northcountrytheatre.com

A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales no: 3271588

**Help to make something worthwhile happen in your community ~ be an Angel of the North Country**

Fundraising is being co-ordinated by board member Gillian Howells, if you wish to discuss any of these options or have other suggestions please contact her on 01748 825362 or gillian@gillianhowells.co.uk

Please fill in the form and return it to  
North Country Theatre, First Floor Offices, 3 Rosemary Lane, Richmond DL10 4DP

I / we would like to become an Angel investing  
£ ..... each month / quarter / year and have set up a standing order  
starting from ..... for at least ..... years  
e.g. £9 a month for three years

I / we would like to know more about sponsorship

I / we would like to make a donation of £ .....

### Your contact details here:

name .....

address .....

.....

.....

phone .....

email .....

I have used electronic banking

I enclose a cheque made payable to North Country Theatre

### Our bank details for setting up your standing order and for electronic banking:

Yorkshire Bank, 1 Market Place, Richmond DL10 4HX

Sort code: 05 – 07 – 12

Account no: 39492035

Account name: North Country Theatre

I / We would like to join the Friends of North Country Theatre

[annual subscription is £25 per household we will send your details on to the Friends Membership Secretary]

*“This may be small-scale theatre in rural venues, but there is certainly nothing small-scale about the talent and ambition which goes to make up North Country Theatre, nor about their ability to deliver a great night out.”* Lancaster Guardian



Hannay pulls it off!

Did you know that North Country Theatre were the originators of a stage adaptation of *The 39 Steps* which has gone on to be an award-winning West End and Broadway hit? Versions of the play can now be seen from Vancouver to Vietnam, Malmo to Melbourne. You could have seen it first in a village hall in North Yorkshire!

**By helping the company to create new drama you could be in at the beginning of a similar story.**