

THE BOOK OF DARKNESS & LIGHT
in association with LITTLEMIGHTY presents

SHIVERS

By Adam Z. Robinson



TOUR PACK

WHAT'S THE SHOW ABOUT?

A trio of delightfully thrilling ghost stories, set to the haunting sounds of the violin.

THE BOOK of Darkness & Light contains within it some of the most chilling tales ever told. Supernatural mysteries stir from its pages.

You feel a prickle on your neck. Your blood stills. A monstrous *thing* creeps in the shadows. Is it all in your mind? Tricks of the light? Or something far more sinister?

One thing is for certain: these stories will give you shivers.

After two national tours of their first show, entitled *The Book of Darkness & Light*, writer/performer Adam Z Robinson and musician Ben Styles return with three all-new tales of terror.

Shivers is a co-production with Square Chapel Arts Centre Halifax, Harrogate Theatres and LittleMighty.

“The music heightens the suspense in the room as Robinson draws the audience into his narrative web.”

STAGETALK MAGAZINE ON
THE BOOK OF DARKNESS & LIGHT



WHAT'S IT LIKE FOR THE AUDIENCE?

FEATURING original stories reminiscent of the ghost story greats, M.R. James, E. Nesbit and Charles Dickens, *Shivers* is a riveting and creepy storytelling experience. Combining elements of gothic horror and traditional storytelling, the show is as intimate and cosy as it is hair-raising.

THE STORYTELLER weaves three spooky and spellbinding tales as **THE MUSICIAN** creates the perfect ghostly atmosphere with a specially composed violin soundtrack. The tales are filled with terrifying folklore, ancient superstition and contemporary hauntings... with a few surprises along the way.

In **THE NEW PRIEST OF BLACK PINES** a doctor visits a remote isle to treat her sick brother, only to discover that ancient and barbaric rituals are still being practised.

In **DEAD AIR** a young man calls a late-night radio station to disclose a family secret that has haunted him for a decade.

A HORROR IN PORCELAIN tells the story of a wealthy and eccentric millionaire who sends his assistant to collect a notorious antique doll with a strange and horrifying history.

Using a combination of the live violin score, recorded voices and eerie sound effects, the show transports audiences to fearful isles, creepy living rooms, haunted radio stations and decrepit mansions. It's like being pulled into the pages of your favourite gothic novel or scary movie.

“Stunningly scary stories... unmissable.”

GREAT BRITISH GHOSTS
ON THE BOOK OF
DARKNESS & LIGHT

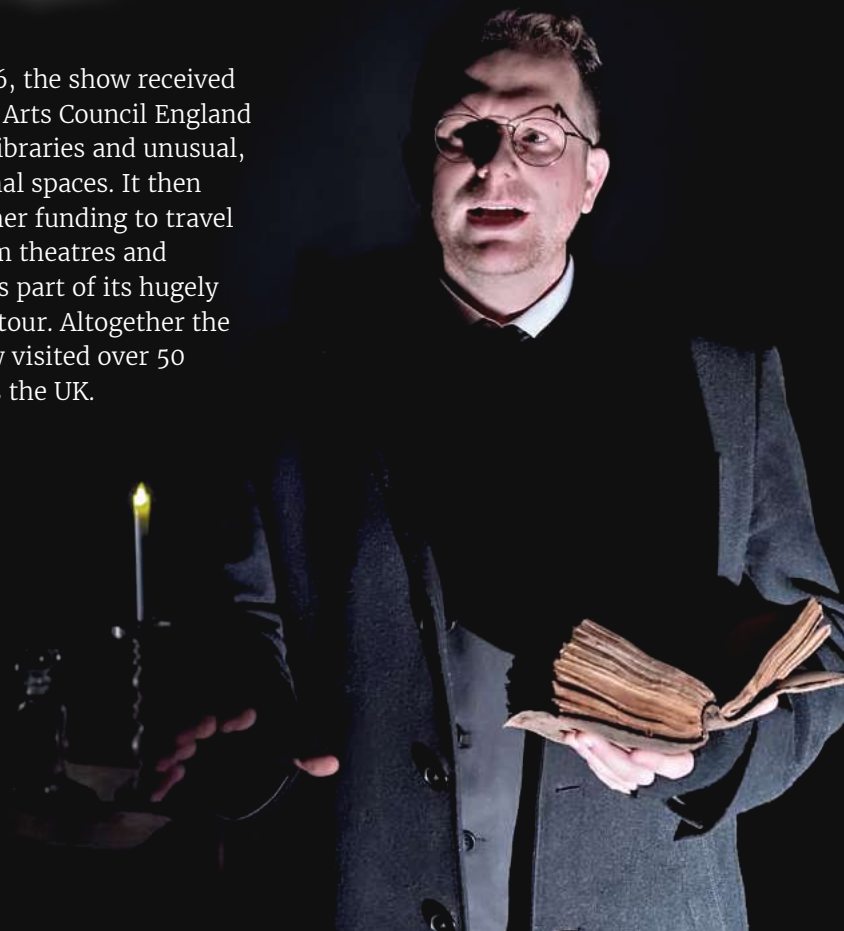
WHAT IS THE BOOK OF DARKNESS & LIGHT?

According to the legend, there was once a book of stories so strange and horrifying that it had to be buried. Hidden. Laid to rest. Where nobody would find it again...

THE COMPANY takes its name from its first show, *The Book of Darkness & Light*, created by writer Adam Z. Robinson and musician Ben Styles.

Originally conceived for Light Night Leeds, 2015, the premise was simple: original, gothic tales told live to the sounds of the violin. At that first event, over 1,500 people came to see and listen to a ghost story told in the beautiful, atmospheric surroundings of Leeds' oldest church.

In June 2016, the show received funding from Arts Council England for a tour to libraries and unusual, non-traditional spaces. It then received further funding to travel to mainstream theatres and arts centres as part of its hugely popular 2017 tour. Altogether the show has now visited over 50 venues across the UK.



WHO'S INVOLVED?

ADAM Z. ROBINSON

Writer & Performer

Adam recently worked on Odd Doll Puppet Theatre's *Seaside Terror*, which has been called "brilliantly tongue in cheek" (*Always Time for Theatre*), and is currently a writer for Common Chorus Theatre's *A Wind of Change*, which will premier in 2018. His play *Conscientious* toured nationally in 2014 and was directed by Alex Chisholm (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Freedom Studios). His short film *The Split* starred Edward Hogg (*Taboo, Indian Summers*). It has screened at several international film festivals including the Manchester Film Festival, Berlin's 'British Shorts' festival, the Cambridge Film Festival and the London Short Film Festival. With Nick Coupe he co-wrote and co-directed the short film *Go On, My Son*, which was supported by Roundhouse, London. He is currently writing a new show which he will perform himself, called *This Storm is What We Call Progress*.

BEN STYLES

Composer & Performer

Ben has been playing music since the age of 7. While at university, he found a violin in a friend's attic and set himself the challenge of teaching himself to play it. Within a year he had joined a band, *Backyards*. They played the BBC Introducing stages at Leeds and Reading Festival and released *If You're Scared, Underbank Hall* and *Goodhart's Law*. Ben's first theatre collaboration was *The Book of Darkness & Light*, composing an original score and performing live at each of the venues.

DICK BONHAM

Dramaturg

Dick has an ongoing partnership with Daniel Bye, recently directing the Fringe First Award winning *Going Viral*, as well as previous pieces *The Price of Everything* and *How to Occupy An Oil Rig*. Other projects include Matthew Bellwood's *An Icy Man*, which premiered at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and Emma Decent's *Beyond Dreams of Aberystwyth* (The Lowry, Salford Quays and touring). He wrote and directed *We Can Be Heroes*, which toured nationally in 2015. He is currently developing his own show *Thinner Blood* with York Theatre Royal and is writing *If I Say Jump* for Common Chorus Theatre.

ALY HOWE

Lighting & Technical Design

Aly's credits include *Big Society* (2012) and *The Damned United* (2017 Tour) for Red Ladder Theatre Company. She also works and tours with a number of LittleMighty associate companies such as Lunabug, Odd Doll, Most Wanted, Sometimes We Play, Common Chorus and Testament.

LITTLEMIGHTY

Producer

LittleMighty is an independent producer based in Leeds that works nationally with remarkable artists to make brilliant theatre happen. Their recent successes include Silent Uproar's Fringe First Award-winning *A Super Happy Story (About Feeling Super Sad)* at the Edinburgh Fringe; Unfolding Theatre's *Putting the Band Back Together* (The Journal Culture Awards: Best Performance); and Testament's *Blake Remixed* (co-production with West Yorkshire Playhouse).



WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

SHIVERS is a fun, thrilling and exciting experience. It appeals to anyone who likes good ghost stories, scary movies or gothic novels. It's also great for people who love detective fiction or TV mysteries.

As the stories in the show are brand new, audiences do not need to have seen *The Book of Darkness & Light* to thoroughly enjoy *Shivers*. But, those who have seen the first show will love coming back for more!

Key Target Audiences

- Fans of classic English ghost stories, gothic literature, including library and bookshop users
- Previous audiences for theatrically rich storytelling (Daniel Bye, Daniel Kitson, Nunkie Productions)
- Fans of gothic-tinged comedy shows on TV and stage (*Inside No 9*, *Kill the Beast*, *Sherlock*)
- The show very often plays to audiences with where families of up to three generations are present – all of whom love the show!
- Mature themes mean the show is suitable for ages 14+

Selling Points

- A thrilling, chilling evening
- Perfect seasonal show for autumn, winter, Halloween, Christmas
- Beautiful live music score – appealing to live music fans
- Attracts non-regular theatre goers
- Ghost stories and live music



PRAISE FOR THE BOOK OF DARKNESS & LIGHT

“...spine-tingling tales of ghostly madness.”

THE CULTURE VULTURE

“I was completely immersed in the atmosphere... all kinds of spooky.”

BLOG.LOVEMIDDLESBROUGH.COM

“A gripping, ghostly tale.”

LEEDS LIVING

“...boy, what a production. Styles played the violin with breathtaking beauty throughout the performance... Robinson's recital was flawless ... I doubt I will see an act to top this one... The production was remarkable.”

ANDYBACKHOUSE.BLOG

AUDIENCES HAVE CALLED THE BOOK OF DARKNESS & LIGHT

“The best piece of theatre I've seen in years.”

“Eerily spooky, tales beautifully told.”

“Innovative. Brilliant storytelling.”

“Absolutely gripping.”

“Incredibly atmospheric.”

“Creepy, captivating tales.”

“Extraordinary experience.”

“Well-crafted storytelling, timing and execution drew us into the stories. A highly absorbing evening.”

AND

“What a night. One of the best things I've seen.”

HOW DO I BOOK THE SHOW FOR MY VENUE?

To book *Shivers* for your venue contact Dick Bonham of LittleMighty to discuss a date and financial package:

E dick@littlemighty.co.uk
T 07956 573 679
www.littlemighty.co.uk

WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS?

Full technical specification will be made available in advance of the tour.

Company

2 performers with 3 on the road.

Minimum playing space

4m x 3m

Running Time

1 hour 40 minutes, including 20 minute interval

Get-in

Minimum 4 hours

Get-out

1 hour following performance

Sound

Please provide a PA suitable for the venue. Inputs should also include a CD player in a stereo channel OR an aux cable for a laptop, through which SFX will be played (provided by the company). We require onstage 13 amp sockets for amp and violin pedals.

Lighting

Full design available on request. Pre-rig of general cover if available.

Extras

Haze machine where available. If further costs are involved, please discuss with the company.



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