

The Romany Theatre Company presents a co-production with the **New Wolsey Theatre,**
Ipswich, Reading Rep and Nick Thompson Productions
National Tour Spring 2018

CARMEN THE GYPSY



Wife. Lover. Goddess. Whore.

"I love her in this role - the heat and passion are easy, but [Candis] Nergaard lights up the uncertain corners of Carmen's personality... A vital element is Allum's magnificent original music..."

Moira Petty - The Stage

Writer, Director & Composer – Dan Allum
Music Arranger – Candida Caldicot
Movement Director – Sarah Dowling

OUTLINE PROMOTIONAL PACK

Based on the story of a 19th Century fictionalized icon, this is a contemporary story set among British Gypsy Traveller community. It is written, directed and performed by members of the Romany Gypsy culture and features original Gypsy music and songs.

Company information The Romany Theatre Company (RTC) is run by a Romany Gypsy and its work is rooted in Romany people, their culture, and their centuries old struggle for equality. RTC has created original work and performed regionally and nationally for the last thirteen years. They have produced drama productions in association with the BBC and nurtured new Romany Gypsy talent who have gone on to work in Theatre, Radio, TV and Film for organisations including the Royal Opera House, Endemol, the Royal Court, Bristol Old Vic, the Tricycle, Soho Theatre, the Arvon Foundation, and Universal Studios. They have also collaborated with international artists from Europe, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States of America.

BBC Radio Drama In 2014 Romany Gypsy Dan Allum adapted the Prosper Mérimée novella, Carmen (and wrote the soundtrack) into a 5-part musical drama for BBC Radio 4. His adaptation differed from both Mérimée's novella and Bizet's later opera by following Carmen's personal journey rather than the conventional non-Gypsy male protagonist, Don Jose. This re-visioning added fresh vibrancy and verve to a classic and several scenes were performed at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden during a Welcome Performances event. Now Dan is adapting the radio drama to the stage.

Research & Development Initially Romany Theatre ran a weeklong research and development workshop at their partner venue, the Cambridge Junction, in January 2017, which culminated in two industry 'Sharing' performances in Cambridge and London. Representatives from the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, Reading Rep and Nick Thompson Productions were in the audience and subsequently agreed to co-produce the forthcoming National Tour.

The National Theatre: *Carmen the Gypsy* was developed with the support of The National Theatre

MEDIA

Link to video: 5-minute showreel recorded at the London industry "Sharing" in January 2017:

<https://vimeo.com/208056968>

Link to video: 7-minutes showreel including interviews with cast & creative:

<https://vimeo.com/207789484>

Link to studio recordings of 5 songs from the show:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-875661450/sets/carmen-the-gypsy/s-3PtmS>

CREATIVES

DAN ALLUM - Writer/director/composer: Is Artistic Director of the Romany Theatre Company. He has worked with the Royal Court Theatre, developed original TV drama series with the BBC and ITV Studios as Writer & Creator, and his radio plays have been shortlisted for the BBC's Imison and Audio Drama Awards.

CANDIDA CALDICOT - Music Arranger: (RSC, St James, English Touring Theatre plus The Sound of Music and The Wizard of Oz at the Palladium, and La Cage Aux Folles at the Playhouse.

SARAH DOWLING - Movement Director: (Royal Opera House, Punchdrunk, National Theatre) Recently choreographed My Brilliant Friend (directed my Melly Still) at The Rose Theatre, Kingston.

Details

Venue size: mid-scale

Company Size: 5 Actors (3M, 2F), 1 Production Stage Manager

Running Time: 2 Hours (including Interval)

Marketing Support: A5 Fliers, A4 Posters (quantities to be specified upon booking), digital press packs. Additional custom artwork can be supplied upon request.

Financial Arrangements: Fee - TBC

Age: 12+ (contains some adult themes and swearing)



CARMEN - VICTIM OR SCANDALOUS PREDATOR? **CARMEN – THE GYPSY** IS BASED ON THE STORY OF "CARMEN" BY PROSPER MERIMEE, BUT WE EXPLORE CARMEN THE WOMAN, AND THROUGH HER EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY DISCOVER THE HUMAN BEING BEHIND THE ICON

The Story Carmen is in the midst of a shuffle at an illegal Gypsy cage-fighting event when she is arrested by undercover police officer, Don Jose. With no other way out Carmen seduces him, persuading him to let her go. Don Jose is suspended but his infatuation with Carmen leads him to join the Gypsy cage-fighting gang where he discovers she is married to the brutal Garcia, head of the gang. Rivalry grows and Don Jose kills Garcia, taking his place as head of the gang and Carmen's husband. But Carmen resents his possessiveness and leaves him for a handsome cage-fighting champion. Don Jose's world crumbles and in an obsessive, jealous rage he begs her to forsake other men. When she refuses he pulls a knife and kills her.

Press for Romany Theatre Company's previous shows:

'There's a brooding, bloody power in Dan Allum's three-hander about Gypsy life, using music and ritual to hypnotic effect'

Lyn Gardner – The Guardian

'This production is not just pure theatre. There is an intelligent blend of ballet and song which, along with the Romany music, take us into the mystical world that surrounds this people.'

Wilf Arasaratnam – What's On Stage

'...These pagan trappings – of blood and earth and sorcery carry an unnerving, visceral charge onstage.'

Matt Trueman – Timeout

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