Iris Theatre's 10th anniversary summer season of promenade theatre will feature new immersive productions of *Macbeth* and *Hansel & Gretel and the Witch Baba Yaga*

David Hywel Baynes returns from the US to star as Macbeth following his Best Actor Offie Award-nominated tour-de-force as *Richard III*

Celebrating its 10-year anniversary this summer, Iris Theatre will present a double bill of Shakespeare and the Brothers Grimm, told in their signature immersive style in St Paul's, the Actors' Church, in the heart of Covent Garden.

2016's summer season was a record-breaking year with nearly 8,000 audience members experiencing Iris's shows. The company also received five Off West End Award Offie nominations, including a finalist spot for *Treasure Islan*d as Best Production for Young People.

Artistic director Daniel Winder will open the 2017 season by directing Shakespeare's ***Macbeth***, a terrifying journey into the mind of a murderer. Inspired by the psychosexual imagery of Hieronymus Bosch, this production will weave its way around the grounds of St Paul's Church; reflecting the play's journey into the twisted mental landscape of Macbeth as he rises to be king.

Returning to Iris Theatre after three years, David Hywel Baynes takes on the title role, following his critically-acclaimed and Offie-nominated performance in the Iris production of *Richard III*.

David Baynes said: "Getting the chance to come back and work on my favourite play with the Iris family was a no-brainer. The environment surrounding Iris during the summer season is like no other. And it's truly an honour to be back in London with them as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. May there be many more to come!"

Winder has also penned the family show, a new adaptation of ***Hansel & Gretel and the Witch Baba Yaga***. Featuring a life-size, edible gingerbread house, this production will follow Hansel and Gretel as they travel deeper and deeper into a dark, forbidding forest. There, in the shadows, you might glimpse a figure in a red hood chased by a wolf, or a witch's hut standing tall on chicken legs; all manner of magical beasts lurk in these woods... Promenading round the grounds of St Paul's Church, this immersive fairytale is guaranteed to fright and delight curious children and adventurous adults alike. Offie-nominated for her production of *Much Ado About Nothing* last year, Amy Draper returns to direct.

Winder said: "This anniversary year promises to be full of witches and wonder, magic and mayhem. Working across the two shows, as writer of one and director of the other, will mean digging deep into the morally ambiguous world of witches; agents of female power pushed to the boundaries of a patriarchal world."

To help celebrate the 10th year, Iris is also welcoming back a number of creatives across the season, including Candida Caldicot (Composer), Benjamin Polya (Lighting Designer), Filipe Gomes (Sound Designer) and Roger Bartlett (Fight Director).

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

Director: Daniel Winder

Wednesday 21 June - Saturday 29 July

Press Night: Wednesday 28 June at 7.30pm

Hansel & Gretel and the Witch Baba Yaga

by Daniel Winder

Director: Amy Draper

3rd Aug - 3rd Sept

Press Night: Tuesday 8 August at 7.00pm

Daniel Winder said: “This anniversary year promises to be full of witches and wonder, magic and mayhem. Working across the two shows, as writer of one and director of the other, will mean digging deep into the morally ambiguous world of witches; agents of female power pushed to the boundaries of a patriarchal world.”

Other casting to be announced.

2016’s summer season saw almost 8,000 audience members experience *Much Ado About Nothing* and T*reasure Island* - which included a full-size galleon that held the entire audience. Working closely with Mousetrap Theatre Projects to widen access to the theatre, Iris also provided placements in design, producing and technical to a host of students studying theatre around the country, with a particular emphasis on female technicians and producers. The 2016 summer repertory season was nominated for five Offies, including *Treasure Island* being shortlisted as Best for Production for Young People (winner TBA 27th February 2017).

Tickets for *Macbeth* and *Hansel & Gretel* are on sale now at www.iristheatre.com.

IRIS THEATRE
Iris Theatre is a dynamic theatre company based at the world-famous St. Paul’s Church in Covent Garden. The company, established in 2007 by Artistic Director Daniel Winder, has a reputation for producing vibrant and accessi-ble site-specific and outdoor theatre, alongside a growing new musical theatre strand. Iris gained full charity status in 2009 with a mission to sup-port the development of the next generation of professional theatre practitioners. Our collaborative approach gives emerging artists the opportunity to create work for a central London venue with a prominent professional profile; wheth-er that is for our outdoor summer season or as part of our Workin Process initiative aimed at developing new musicals. Growing year on year, Iris Theatre is now firmly cemented in its home at St Paul’s. The production year is centred around a two-month long summer season in the award-winning church gardens. Outside the summer season, Iris focuses on de-veloping new musical theatre works, either by providing a platform for new writers to present whole musicals in development, or through one of our concert events focused on new writing. As the company has developed, future opportunities have emerged to take Iris Theatre’s site-specific, immersive and outdoor productions beyond its central London location.

DANIEL WINDER
Over the past 10 years, since graduating from Drama Centre, London, Dan has built Iris Theatre. Each year Daniel directs at least one of the main summer shows as well as, for the last four years, writing the family shows. He also provides dramaturgical to all of Iris Theatre’s Shakespeare projects. Beyond Iris Theatre Dan has worked on new writing pro-jects with Theatre503 and First Draft Theatre as well as directing a panto at the Castle in Wellingborough. He has also worked with the Circus Space to undertake an Arts Council funded research and development process into a circus, dance and theatre piece called Circuit.

AMY DRAPER
Upcoming: *Mother Courage* (Fourth Monkey 2nd year show), These Trees are Made of Blood (Arcola), and The Light Project (R&D at the RSC). Recent work includes Much Ado about Nothing (Iris Theatre, Covent Garden – 5 Off-West End Award nominations, including Best Direc-tor); The Tempest, Macbeth, These Trees are Made of Blood, Usagi Yojimbo and Sunday Morning at the Cen-tre of the World (Southwark Playhouse); Life on the Re-frigerator Door (Yard Theatre); The Door (Park Theatre) and Angel Cake (Camden People’s Theatre). She often makes new work and has shown work-in-progress at Mini VAULT Festival, BAC, Ovalhouse, Plat-form, and Shoreditch Town Hall. In 2015 she was Assistant Director on The Famous Victories of Henry V (RSC) and in 2016 assisted on Comus (Shakespeare’s Globe). She works as a freelance practitioner for the RSC Education Department and in 2016 was an NT Connections Director.

DAVID HYWEL BAYNES
David was born and raised in London, England and moved to New York City in 2010. He trained at two prestigious drama schools in London studying at LAMDA at aged 18 on their one year Foundation Course and then, aged 21 he studied at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art (now Royal Central School of Speech and Drama) for a further 3 years. Since leaving school he has constantly been trying to perfect his craft and has found his greatest passion in the works of Shakespeare playing roles such as Brutus, Puck, Macduff and Richard III for which he received a nomination as Best Actor at the 2014 Off-West End awards. David is an Artistic Associate of Covent Garden based Iris Theatre Company, original member of Passion in Practice Shake-speare Company.

ST PAUL’S CHURCH, COVENT GARDEN
St Paul’s Church, affectionately known as the Actors’ Church, is located in the heart of Covent Garden. The build-ing, designed by Inigo Jones in 1633 has had a strong as-sociation with London’s theatre land throughout history and boasts award-winning gardens. Strong advocates for the arts, Rev. Simon Grigg presides over the grounds today, still a working church building. As well as playing home to Iris Theatre, St Paul’s Church birthed the Orchestra of St Paul’s and regularly hosts a range of concerts, plays and other performances yearly.

Previous Praise for Iris Theatre

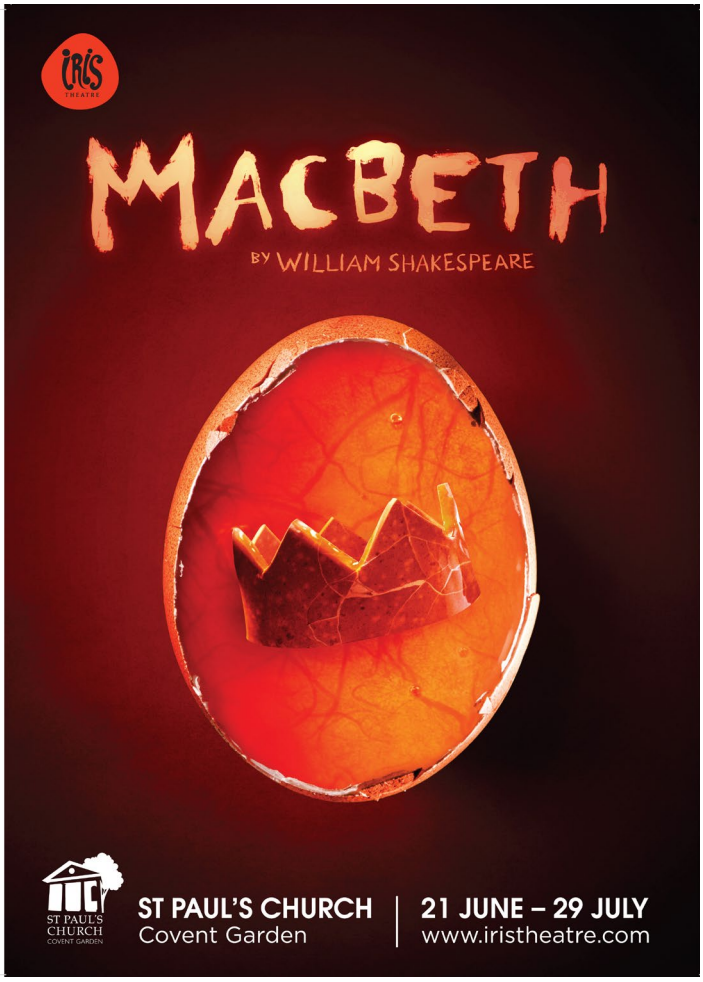
★★★★★ “Feel’s like you’ve stepped into a different world”
Everything Theatre on *Treasure Island* (2016)

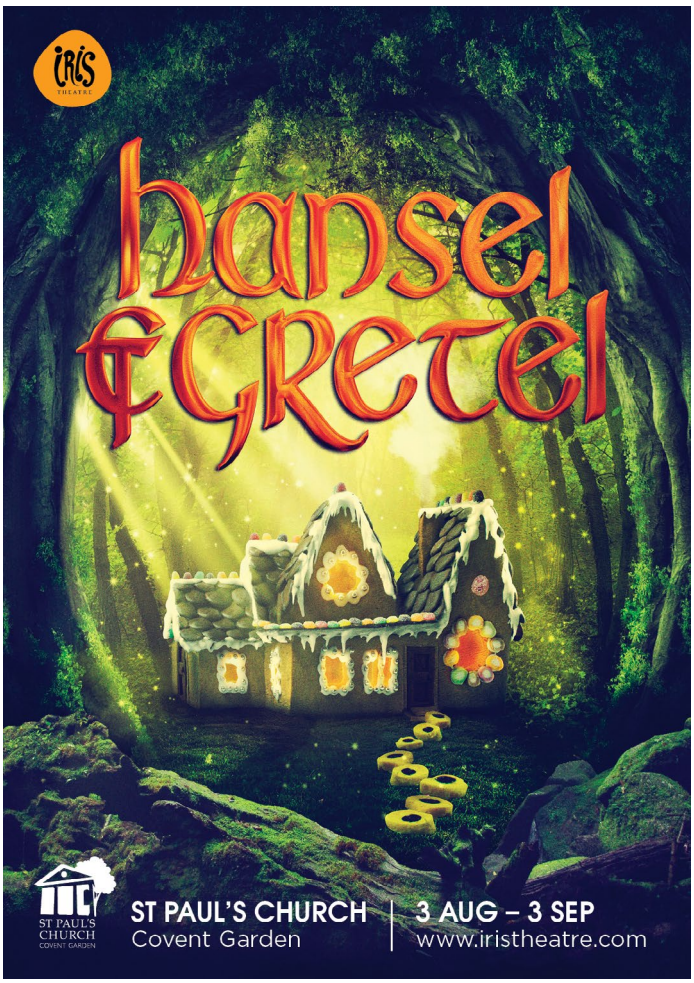
★★★★ “Fizzing with intense energy, David Hywel Baynes shines in the title role”
Plays to See, *Richard III* (2014)

★★★★ “Daniel Winder’s finely pitched show”
Time Out, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (2011)

★★★★★ “A vibrant, delightful promenade performance…that’ll bring sunshine to your evening”
TheatreBubble, *Much Ado About Nothing* (2016), directed by Amy Draper

★★★★★ “It makes adults feel young again, getting swept away with the child like charm of Pinocchio”
Grumpy Gay Critic, *Pinocchio* (2015)





Iris Theatre presents
MACBETH
by William Shakespeare
Director: Daniel Winder

St Paul's Church
Bedford St, Covent Garden
WC2E 9ED
21 June - 29 July
7:30pm + matinees, 2:30pm
Previews: 21– 27 June
Press Night: 28 June at 7.30pm

TICKETS
£18 Full Price (£14 concs.)
2 hours including interval

Iris Theatre presents
HANSEL & GRETEL
by Daniel Winder
Director: Amy Draper

St Paul's Church
Bedford St, Covent Garden
WC2E 9ED
3rd Aug - 3rd Sept
7:00pm + matinees, 2:30pm
Previews: 3 – 7 August
Press Night: 8 August at 7.00pm

TICKETS
£18 Full Price (£14 concs.)
2 hours including interval

iristheatre.com · @IrisTheatre
Tickets available online

TICKETS NOW
ON-SALE

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CELEBRATING IRIS THEATRE 10 YEARS