

# Third Party

Third Party Productions Ltd. is a UK and International touring theatre company currently based in Hastings and beginning its twelfth year of performances in theatres, arts centres, village halls, outdoor spaces and festivals; producing thirteen times and giving over 750 performances.

The company was formed in 1993 by a company of actors who had previously worked with The Medieval Players – a skills based company specialising in pre-Shakespearian theatre.

Together with director Ben Benison [of ground breaking 1960s improvisational company Theatre Machine], their early productions of Shakespeare sought to find a concise and visually explicit form of story telling which would unburden the plays from the weight of tradition. The plays were realised with a clear stage and a minimum of paraphernalia, highly demanding of the actor

The economy of means required by the style and scale of the operation produced an inventiveness which became a hallmark of the company's work - Filling the stage instead with ideas and expectation.

“Original, vital, relevant, entertaining”

“Energising, Enriching Theatre” Irish Times

The company is run by two actor / managers, Nick Collett and Anthony Gleave and the acting company is made from a rolling ensemble of performers with an easy familiarity with Elizabethan text and a great propensity for having fun.

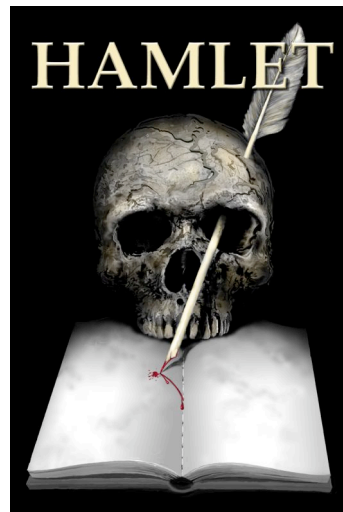
“A bunch of mad, bad and dangerous to know traveling players ... Third Party are the most exciting and refreshing interpreters of Shakespeare working in Britain today” Nick Jones [independent arts consultant]



John Wright has been working with Third Party since 1998 providing an unparalleled insight into the subversion of expectation. Deconstructing and reimagining of some of our favourite classic texts We're looking for a theatrical structure satisfying and meaningful to a modern audience.

JOHN WRIGHT is an multi award-winning director of theatre. He is a co-founder and an Artistic Director of TOLD BY AN IDIOT. In 1980, he co-founded TRESTLE THEATRE COMPANY, where he co directed most of their repertoire until 1992. John has directed THIRD PARTY in 'Hamlet', 'The Changeling', 'Richard III - To Hell on a Handcart' and 'The Tragical History of Dr FAUSTUS - A Damned Fine Play'. We have tried to put on a play not to pay homage to spectacular literature. Hamlet was written as a play and plays are made to be watched

"This was different. This was brilliant" ... Superbly directed by John Wright, this production has te freshness, zest, immediacy and vitality of a master. This gem of a small scale touring company bring Shakespeare to life."  
Cumberland News



"With seven actors, thoughtfully few props and blood red fabric, the tempo rich and comically imbued, Third Party lays out the tragic core of the Danish family drama. It is brought to an end by the laughing death of Hamlet. With this one laugh, the bitter sentence is pure horror. Not 'third', but rather 'first quality'."  
West Deutsche Zeitung.

With our production of 'Richard III – To Hell on a Handcart', in order to facilitate an open air performance we extended the role of the image system in the story-telling process. Imagery, both of design and action is made attractive to the passing eye and give the onlooker immediate access to the narrative force.

“...there is enough dynamism, intelligence and unbridled glee on stage to ensure any audience a night of deliciously dangerous, testing theatre.”

TIME OUT

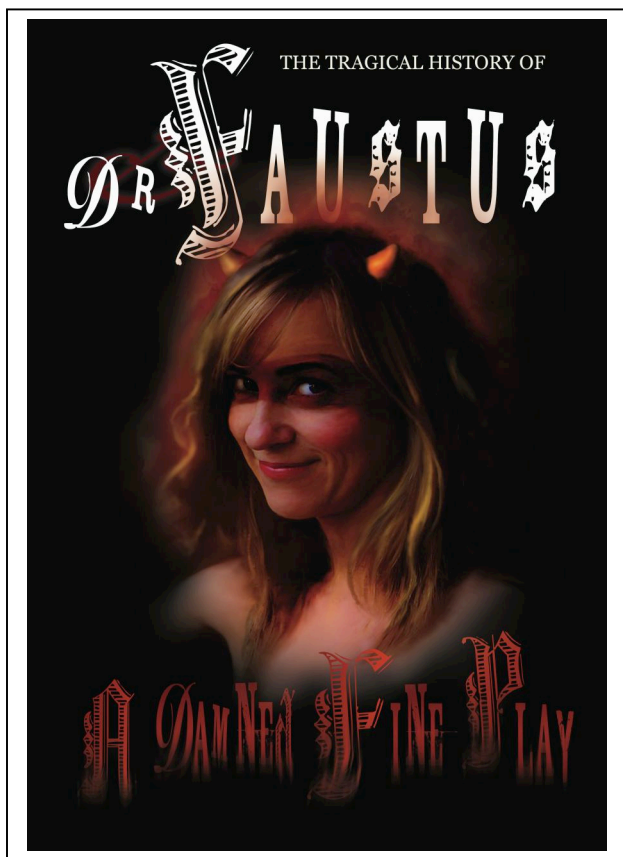


In 2006 with support from the Arts Council we were able to develop our version of Marlowe's 'The Tragicall History of Dr Faustus – A Damned Fine Play'.

The Faustus story, already old and in various forms before Marlowe got his hands on it, brings with it a long tradition of storytelling and use of puppets which we tap into with this highly entertaining version of the play. Fast moving, full of surprises, shot through with effective plot moving popular forms: Dance & song, live music; even a touch of ventriloquism as Faustus is mocked by his own image parodying his speech to Helen of Troy while a blues-singing Lucifer riffs on the soul of a man.

Our devised scenes move through the full arc of Faustus' story; there is some of the most popular dramatic verse ever written in this play and we've found some splendid comedy to go with it.

And If you don't laugh, I'll buy you a pint.



“Faustus was, as was Richard III - To Hell on a Handcart, what rural touring should be! Well made, directed, performed, and creatively produced with real quirky surprises which thrill and engage but are reverent to the script. An extremely entertaining piece of work that pushes boundaries with style and convention in the treatment of classical material without alienating.”

Claire Smith,  
Cheshire Arts  
Service.

“Ballsy, devil may care .. boldness at its best” TIME OUT

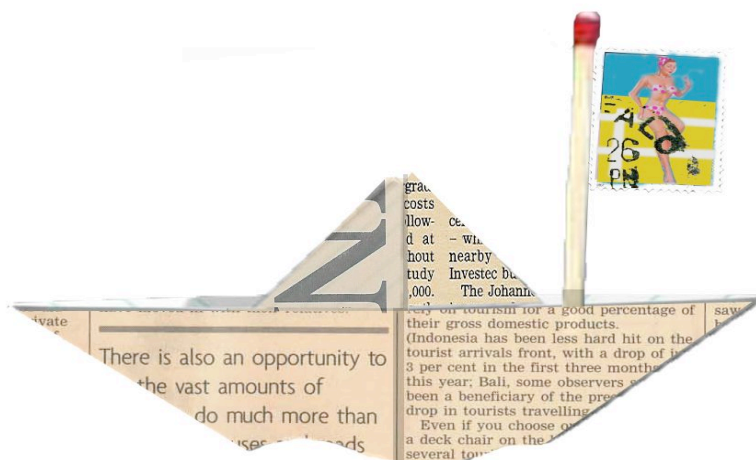
We have support from The Scottish Arts Council to tour to fragile community venues in the Highlands and Islands and from Southern and South East Arts to present the work in our own region.

In the summer of 2008 we will once again be performing outdoors at Sout coast venues with:

“ The Fair Maid of the  
~~West~~ South East ”

by Thomas Heywood

A Tale of DERRING-DO upon  
The high seas.



[www.thirdparty.org.uk](http://www.thirdparty.org.uk)