

From Cowshed to Catalogue:
Pentabus Theatre Company Archives
Celebrating 40 years of rural theatre

Rachael Griffin, Managing Director



About Us

Our vision is to be the nation's rural theatre company.

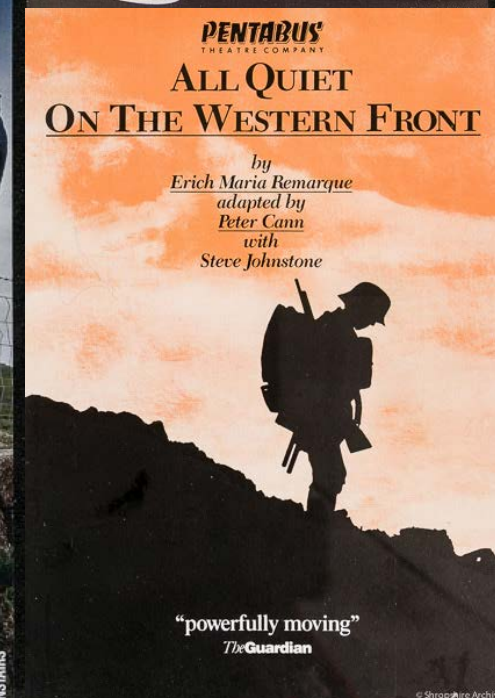
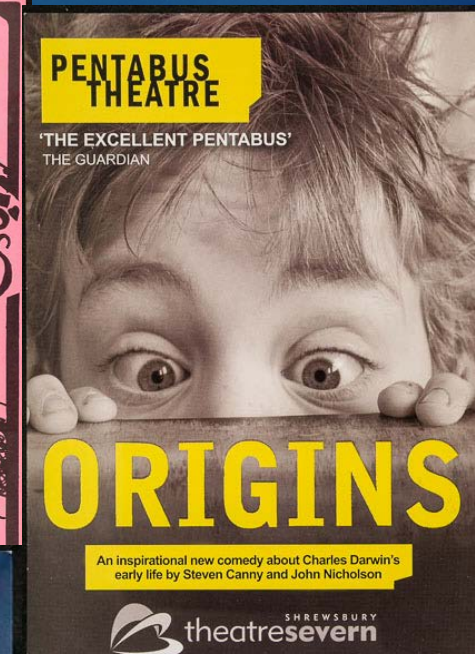
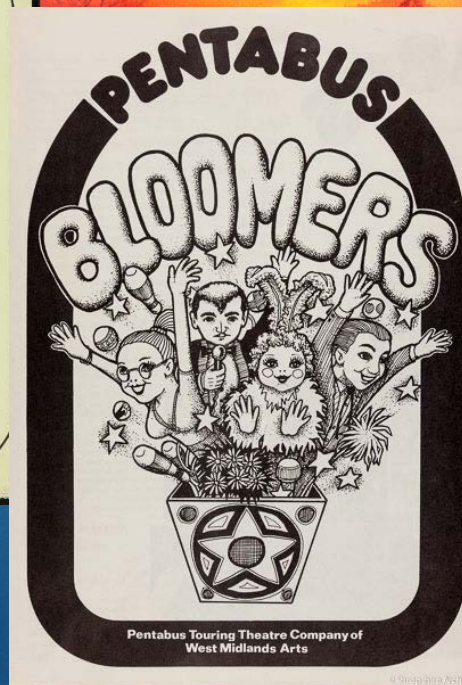
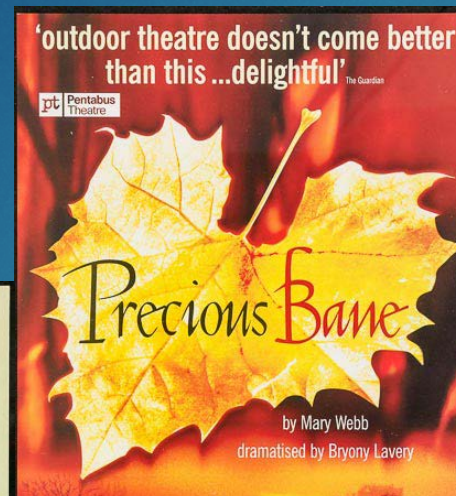
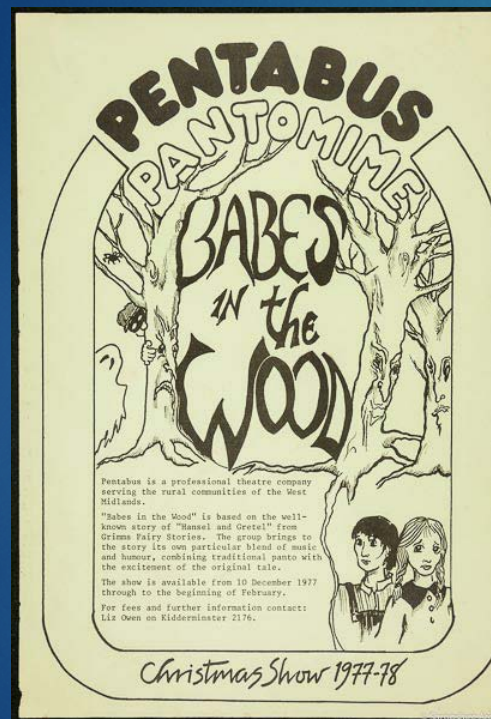
Our mission is to develop and produce quality new theatre about the contemporary rural world. To tour the country with plays that have local impact and national resonance. To turn up in peoples' village halls, theatres and digital backyards, connecting audiences nationwide.



- Why Archive?
- Who Cares?
- The Project
- Access
- Relevance
- Outcomes
- Ripple Effect



Why Archive?



Who Cares?



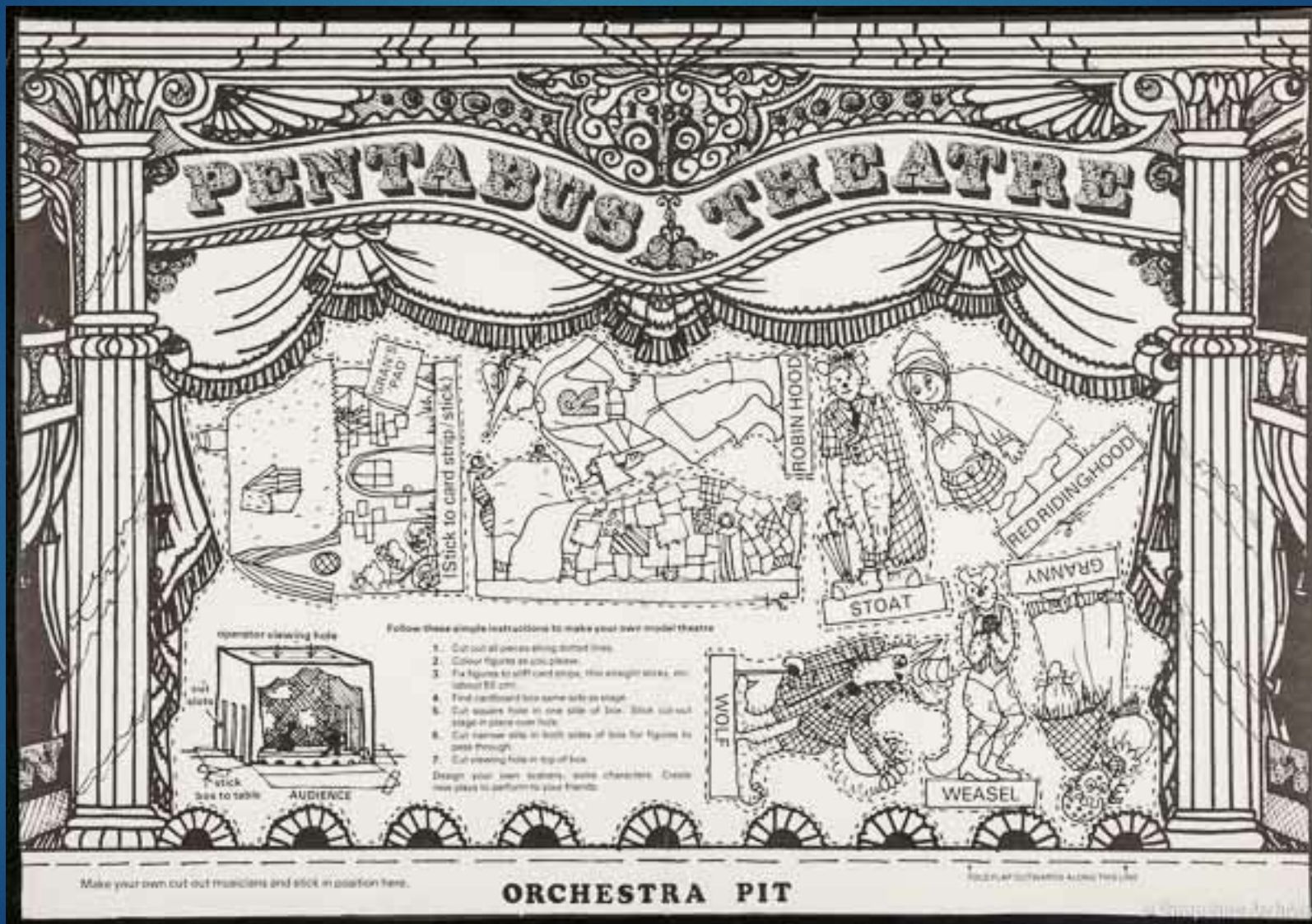
The Project had 3 key strands:

- Sourcing new material
- Archiving and cataloguing the collection
- Volunteering

We worked in partnership with Shropshire Council's Archive Service and Senior Archivist Sal Mager, as well as Pentabus and Shropshire Council archive volunteers



New Material



Archiving and cataloguing the Collection

Catalogue

- [-] X8872: PENTABUS COLLECTION (1973-2014)
 - + X8872/1: Business records (1974-2014)
 - [-] X8872/2: Show records (1974-2012)
 - + X8872/2/1: Magic Map, Lost in London and Working Out the End (Aug - Nov 1974)
 - + X8872/2/2: The Charlie Chaplin Show and Bloomers with The Terry Bull C...
 - + X8872/2/3: A Cottage in the Country, Heads and Tales (1976)
 - + X8872/2/4: Dr Klaw's Amazing Medicine Show and Komic Kuts (1977)
 - + X8872/2/5: Babes in the Wood (Dec 1977- Feb 1978)
 - + X8872/2/6: Schools Out (Sep - Oct 1978)
 - + X8872/2/7: Rubbisch yn Latwegia (1978)
 - + X8872/2/8: The Knave of Hearts (Dec 1978 - Feb 1979)
 - + X8872/2/9: One Over the Eight (1979)
 - + X8872/2/10: The Last Straw Show (1979)

<http://search.shropshirehistory.org.uk/>



Discovering
Shropshire's
History

Search Our Collections

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Senior Archivist Sal stated of her time with us:

"It's been a delight working with Pentabus to help bring this fascinating collection to life.

The project will, I hope, not only ensure the long-term preservation of this unique record spanning 40 years of Pentabus, but also help to generate interest in its potential to throw new light on the development of the performing arts in this period."



ARCHIVES MUSEUMS LOCAL HISTORY ARCHAEOLOGY MAP IMAGE CLOUD OPEN DATA

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Volunteers



Volunteer Mike has said of his time with the project:

'it's been fascinating and fun to see the past 40 years come to life, and frustrating to encounter the gaps. Its gratifying when some of those gaps are filled, definitely not 'shooting the past' - hopefully a net with more threads than holes! I feel very privileged to have been involved

- Physical collection at Shropshire Archives
- Online catalogue via Shropshire Archives
- Past productions section of Pentabus website
- Universities made aware of collection
- Local press release

Access



In This Place



In This Place by Lydia Adetunji and



Tour Dates

Pentabus Theatre Company's ground-breaking production In This Place enjoyed a sell-out success in September 2013.

Written by Lydia Adetunji and Frances Brett, walkers and theatre-goers from across the county and beyond donned boots, audio headsets (and anoraks!) and headed off from The Bog Centre near the Stiperstones, to enjoy a walking adventure with stunning Shropshire views. The audio theatre adventure was experienced by over 500 audience members and ran at at 97% capacity. Over 25% of all audiences were new not only to Pentabus but to theatre going in general.

Audience member Fiona Gomersall from Shropshire Wildlife Trust (and one of the original contributors for the interviews that inspired the show) described In This Place as *"beautiful, evocative, haunting and wistful – and it's so great to see such an impressive range of ages and ethnicities in the audience."*

Follow links to the right to find out more about the show and its team.

Creative

Find out some more about the creative people behind In This Place

Writer

Find out some more about the writer of In This Place

Cast

Find out some more about the cast of In This Place



Look differently. Hear differently. Be In This Place.

A walking adventure in the Shropshire Hills

This project from acclaimed Pentabus Theatre offered a thrilling new way to explore the Shropshire Hills. Experienced through headphones whilst following a circular walk from the Bog Visitor Centre, the new play immersed audiences into a world of stories and events connected to the landscape, a compelling and inspiring experience about what shapes our relationship to where we are.

As walkers moved through landscapes ranging from open fields with vast skies, dappled woodland and stoney outcrops coloured with purple heather and winberries, they experienced the call of the curlew, the tinkle of tea cups and the clatter of horses' hooves as a soundscape backdrop to the narrative. The stories were brought to life by a cast of 12 professional actors (with Olivier and Carlton Hobbs winners amongst them).

Relevance



Pentabus

@PentabusTheatre

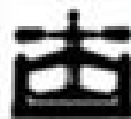


Following

Today's [#throwbackthursday](#) One Over The Eight from [@pentabustheatre](#) in 1979 [#Pentabusat40](#)



© Shropshire Archives



BAC @_BusinessArch

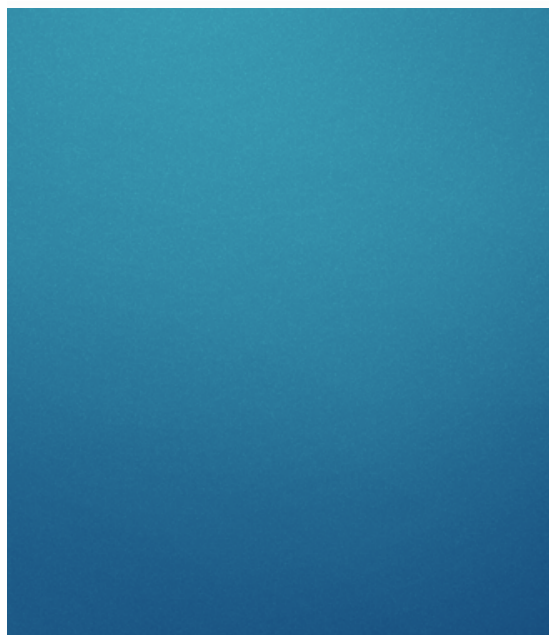
4d

[#BACcatgrant](#) makes a difference! Page from [@PentabusTheatre](#) Annual Report.

pic.twitter.com/XI5dAnMmsi



Details



Theresa Heskins @Theresa... 6d

[@PentabusTheatre](#): oh, those posters on the right bring back such fond memories.

pic.twitter.com/4ngXPearQ0



View

Outcomes

Discovered:

- 150 shows, 47 writers, 350 venues visited, over 1,000 performances and still counting...
- Our touring history – mapped in detail show by show
- Connections to old Pentabus company members
- 5 volunteers contributing over 250 hours to the project

Created:

- A physical archive collection
- An online archive record on Shropshire Archives website
- A past productions part of our website

Outcomes

Delivered:

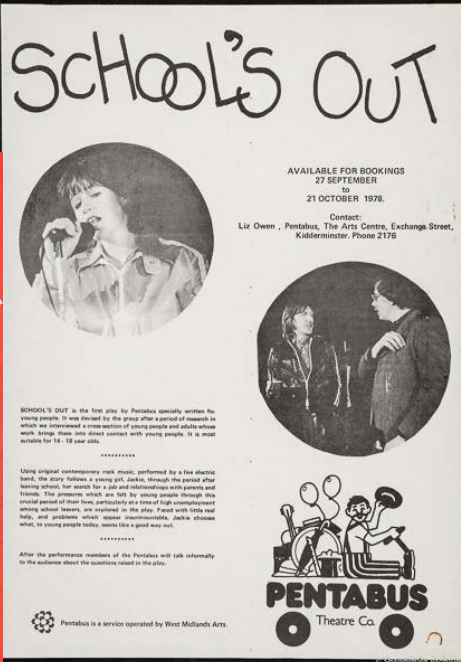
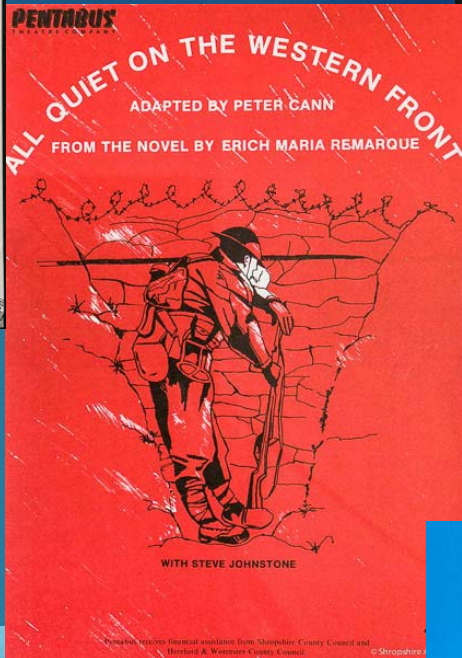
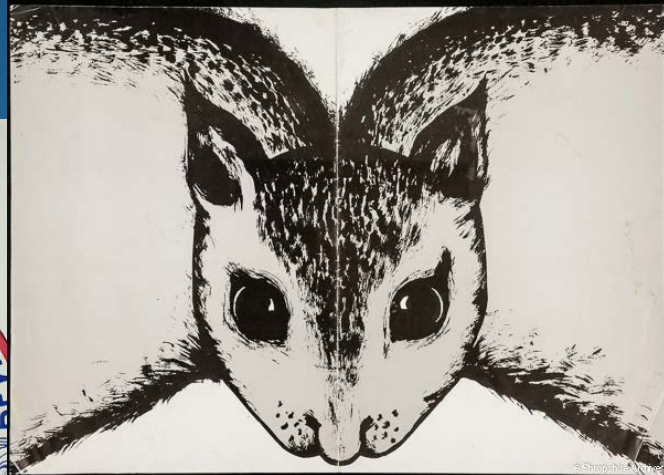
- An archive talk at Shropshire Archives
- A 40th birthday party
- A 40th profile raising leaflet

Legacy:

- University connections
- Interviews and company history
- Still plugging the gaps....

Ripple Effect





Questions?

