

Centric presents

# A WORLD BEYOND MAN

Written by  
**STEPHANIE DALE**

Directed by  
**PETER CANN**

Performed by  
**CASSIAN WHEELER**

**A True Story of ice, betrayal  
and determination**

★★★★★ *'It is simply compelling,  
exhausting and chilling... superb.'*

The Good Review



# A WORLD BEYOND MAN



*“Captain Brusilov underestimated the Kara Sea and by October 15th 1912, the Saint Anna had become trapped in the ice. We survived the first winter well but the following summer came and went without any prospect of a thaw. The second winter was brutal and we had to concede we were trapped.”*

Based on a true story *A World Beyond Man* is the tale of Valerian Albanov. His is a saga of determination and betrayal; of man against savage nature.

An intimate telling of an epic story of ice and polar bears, determination and betrayal, adventure and death.

## CREDITS

Written by	Stephanie Dale
Directed by	Peter Cann
Performed by	Cassian Wheeler
Set Design by	Rachel Denning
Music by	Derek Nesbit
Production Management & Lighting Design by	Claire Browne
Produced by	Pippa Frith
Supported by	The Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, originally developed with support from Arts Council England and The Sir Barry Jackson Trust

# ABOUT THE SHOW

*A World Beyond Man* is a thrilling one-man show which takes us on Valerian Albanov's epic journey across the Siberian Arctic. Based on his diaries, it is a story, of desperation, love and determination.

In 1912, the crew set sail on board the *Saint Anna*. The expedition was badly planned and executed, and quickly the ship became locked in the polar ice of the Kara Sea. The crew hunkered down for the winter and hoped for a thaw the following spring.

However, fate worked against them, and through 1913 the sea remained completely frozen. Albanov, as second in command, began to believe the position was hopeless, and decided to leave the ship and attempt to return to civilization on foot. Albanov's aim was to reach Camp Jackson, where he knew previous explorers had left a hut and provisions. In March 1914, Albanov and 13 other crew members set off in a valiant attempt to save their lives.

100 years later, marking that anniversary, *A World Beyond Man* takes us on Albanov's epic journey. It is story of ice and polar bears, determination and betrayal, fear and death.

As the play unfolds the stage changes, using clever set design with a handcrafted feel to transform the space. Using direct-address story-telling, underpinned by a specially designed soundscape, *A World Beyond Man* is an intimate telling of an epic story.

*A World Beyond Man* has previewed at **Wolverhampton Arena**, **mac birmingham** and **Chester Little Theatre** in July 2014, before a run at **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, **Sweet Venues**, in August 2014.



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A World Beyond Man is available for booking for spring 2015. It has been created specifically with minimal technical needs and is suitable to be presented in a range of venues including village and church halls, community centres and other rural touring venues, as well as small scale theatres, studios and arts centres.

**Playing Space:** The show needs a minimum playing space of 4 metres by 2 metres, it can also be configured to play larger spaces

**Sound:** Our soundtrack is played via CD to access to PA system is an advantage

**Lighting:** Our lighting design is simple and we will work with your standard rig. We also use floor lights on stands, so need access to a floor circuit. If you have no lighting provision in your venue please contact the Producer to discuss, as we are able to tour with basic lighting when needed.

**Duration:** A World Beyond Man is a one hour show, straight through with no interval

**Age Suitability:** The show is recommended for 10+, This is due to it being narrative lead



# MARKETING

For presenting partners we provide the following marketing support:

- A pre-agreed quantity of flyers and posters
- Support for e-marketing including e-flyers, images and trailers
- A range of production images
- A meeting with your marketing team (on request) and ongoing dialogue
- Dedicated press release for your performance, along with comprehensive list and links to previous coverage for use online and with social media



# REVIEWS AND AUDIENCE COMMENTS

★★★★★ *'It is simply compelling, exhausting and chilling... superb.'* The Good Review | Read the full review [here](#)

★★★★★ *'An impressive debut production from an exciting new company.'* Broadway Baby

*'exceptional & powerful'* The New Current

*'the most impressive aspect of the evening was the versatility of the actor Cassian Wheeler. He impersonated the roles of the 13 crewmen and Albinov effortlessly'* Ryan Hilback, Native Monster

Recommended as a 'hot tip' by Simon Callow on BBC Radio 2 Arts Programme.

@graerose Expertly wrought tale of survival; the evocative #AWorldBeyondMan

@JennyBOVTS Really, really enjoyed 'A World Beyond Man' at #edfringe. Incredibly powerful, evocative and engaging story of danger & adventure.

@EppHavenHouse Thoroughly enjoyed A World Beyond Man today @centrictheatre . Amazing performance by @CassianWheeler @edfringe excellent writin

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Stephanie Dale:

Stephanie Dale writes for stage, radio and large-scale theatre. Current commissions include: *Passion*; (As One Theatre, touring 2014) and *Alice* (Theatre in the Quarter, Chester, 2014).

Recent work includes: *Chester Mystery Plays*; (Chester Cathedral, June-July 2013), an adaptation of *Moonfleet*; which toured the South West (Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, May – June 2013). *Believe Me* (nominated for the Tinniswood Award 2011, BBC Radio Four, 2011) and *The Witches' Promise* (Birmingham REP @ Weoley Castle Ruins, July 2012).

Stephanie teaches Applied Drama at Loughborough University, Writing and Devising at Birmingham School of Acting and is a visiting tutor on the Mphil in Playwriting at the University of Birmingham.

Stephanie has facilitated playwriting workshops in over 500 schools, colleges and universities and has facilitated over 50 pieces of community based theatre projects. She has also written four large- scale plays for schools.

[stephaniedale.org](http://stephaniedale.org)

## Peter Cann:

Peter Cann is a director and writer who works across opera, theatre and radio. He is a former Artistic Director of Pentabus Theatre and an Associate Artist with O Teatro Do Montemuro in Portugal.

In 2013 he directed *Troy Story* an opera based on The Illiad and The Odyssey for The Orchestra Of the Swan. This had 4 professional singers and a chorus of 150 children and was staged in Stratford Civic Hall and Birmingham's Town Hall. For Talking Birds he directed *The Trade In Lunacy* in Coventry's Shop Front Theatre and *Taking Flight* in Millenium Place Coventry. His collaborations with Stephanie dale include *The Witches Promise* for Birmingham Rep and *Mary Mcarthur* for Birmingham Actors' Theatre.

He is an experienced director of one person shows which have included national tours of an adaptation of *All Quiet On The Western Front* and Therese Collin's play about dyslexia: *A Play On Words* for InTransit Theatre.

## Cassian Wheeler:

Cassian studied Theology at Durham University. He acted in many student productions, including performances at the Cambridge Fringe festival and the Edinburgh Fringe festival (three years running).

Recent productions: *Chester Mystery Plays* (June - July 2013) at Chester Cathedral, playing several roles including King Melchior and Peter the Apostle; subsequently took over the role of Jesus when the production transferred to Liverpool Anglican Cathedral (October 2013). Other notable productions include: *Fake* - a new work premiered at the Chester Literature Festival, 2007; and productions with Hydra Theatre Company, Chester (founder member) - *Not About Heroes* (1997), *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* (1998) and *Our Country's Good* (2002).

He is also an experienced violinist, and plays with the Chester Philharmonic Orchestra. More recently he has tried playing a Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, which he inherited from his father.

## Rachel Denning:

Rachel Denning trained as a Theatre Designer at Nottingham Trent University and has worked primarily in professional theatre as a Designer and maker with a focus on Construction and a passion for live performance.

As well as theatrical stage, her work specialises in site specific performance and work in Education. With a key interest in enabling young people to design their own environments, bringing theatre and inspiring surroundings to their schools.

Always looking to build on diverse experience, Rachel has worked extensively in all types of live Art, from Carnival to Event and wedding design, touring children's theatre to TV set construction.

Current projects include Design Assistance in Children's TV and work for the Sochi Winter Paralympics Opening Ceremony.

## Derek Nesbit:

Derek Nisbet specialises in creating music for unusual situations. He has composed music to mark the decommissioning of a hospital (*Three Doctors*), for a tight-rope walk on millennium eve (*Tightrope Prelude*), for theatre in an underground car-park (*Wanderlust*) and a livestock market (*The Last Lot*).

He is best known as composer and film-maker with the acclaimed Talking Birds, a company of artists whose aim is to perpetrate astonishing acts of transformation, and

for whom he has written over 20 theatre scores. He has worked with leading aerial, dance and theatre companies including *Ockham's Razor*, *Foursight Theatre*, *Lisa Torun Dance Co*, *Blue Eyed Soul* and *Macnas*.

Derek's work has been performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London (*2 letters* for orchestra and film with London Musici), the Lilian Bayliss Theatre at Sadler's Wells (*Triptych*, *Catch*), the Linbury Studio at the Royal Opera House (*Arc*), Battersea Arts Centre (*Intimate History* and *Joy-ridden*), Malmö Palladium, Sweden (*See-saw*), the Festival of New European Theatre, Moscow (*Intimate History*), the Galway Festival, Ireland (*Mysteries 2003*) and the National Theatre Watch This Space Festival, London (*The Whale*).

His music has been heard on BBC Radio 3's Late Junction, and commissions for BBC Radio 4 have included the afternoon plays *The Balloonists* and *Messages from a Submariner* and the series *Dr Pfeffer's Lonely Hearts Club*.

## **Claire Browne:**

Claire studied at Nottingham Trent University, was born in Suffolk and is now based in Birmingham. Claire works as a designer and Production Manager for traditional and non traditional theatre makers. These include devising companies such as Untied Artists and Temple Theatre, but also has worked as designer for York Theatre Royal and others.

She is a highly experienced Production Manager, and has worked with companies such as *Black Country Touring*, *509 Arts*, *Jane Packman Company* and Untied Artists.

## **Pippa Frith:**

Pippa Frith is an Independent Producer based in Birmingham. She works with a range of artists and partners to make creative projects happen.

She is long-term Producer to solo maker Francesca Millican-Slater, producing hit show *Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs*, and new works *The Forensics of a Flat* and *My Dearest Girls*. In spring 2014 she produced HOAX in association with Manchester Royal Exchange. She was co-producer for international collective Babakas on their debut show *Our Fathers*. She is a co-director of the regional scratch platform *PILOT Nights*.

[www.pippadoesproducing.wordpress.com](http://www.pippadoesproducing.wordpress.com)

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