GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

PRESENTS

DAVID COPPERFIELD

BY

CHARLES DICKENS

ADAPTED BY

ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE

WITH

SARAH GOBRAN

AND

MATT PINCHES

DIRECTED BY

ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE

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PRESENTS

DAVID COPPERFIELD

BY CHARLES DICKENS

ADAPTED BY ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE
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DIRECTED BY ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE

— CAST —

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Peggotty, Ham, Mr Creakle, Mr Murdstone, Mr Dick, Mr Micawber, Mr Spenlow, Mr Wickfield, Mrs Steerforth	LUKE BARTON ^
Miss Betsey, Mother, Steerforth, Mrs Micawber, Emily, Uriah Heep, Dora, Mr Peggotty, Agnes	LOUISE BERESFORD
David Copperfield	EDDY PAYNE

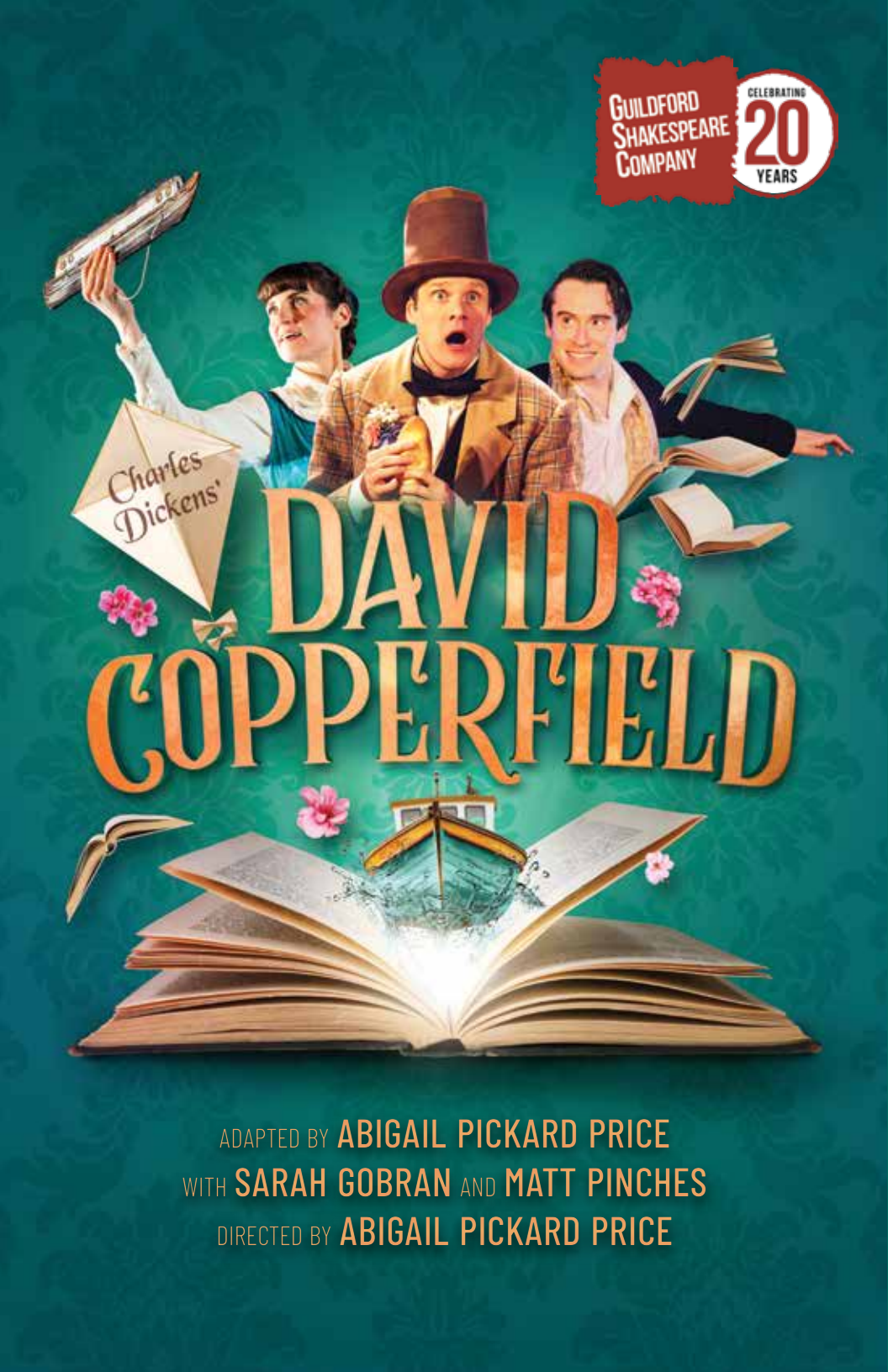
— CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM —

Director & Adapter	ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE ^
Producers	SARAH GOBRAN^ & MATT PINCHES ^
Associate & Movement Director	AMY LAWRENCE ^
Set & Costume Designer	NEIL IRISH ^
Co-Costume Designer	ANETT BLACK ^
Lighting Designer	MARK DYMOCK ^
Sound Designer	MATT EATON ^
Fight Director	PHILIP D'ORLÉANS
Production & Company Stage Manager	HANNAH WALKER ^
Production Stage Manager	MADELEINE BLOSSOM *
Vocal Coach	STERRE MAIER ^
Set Builders	TOM BAUM

Run time: 2 hours, 30 minutes, including an intermission

^ Part of GSC's 2025 ***Pride & Prejudice*** Company

* The Production Stage Manager is a Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



ADAPTED BY **ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE**
WITH **SARAH GOBRAN** AND **MATT PINCHES**
DIRECTED BY **ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE**

INTRODUCTION TO

DAVID COPPERFIELD

Adaptor & Director Abigail Pickard Price shares her thoughts on the origins of this new Dickens adaptation

Dickens draws the most remarkable characters; there are few writers' works from which we remember their characters above all else, but I think he is one of them. From Fagin to the Artful Dodger, Marley to Scrooge, Wilkins Micawber to Uriah Heep, he has created some of the most famous characters in literary history. What a privilege it has been to bring some of these characters to life on stage in ***David Copperfield***. And what an exciting challenge it has been to do so with a cast of three.

From the offset in this adaptation, we wanted the piece to be reverential but playful, capturing the charm of Dickens' book and reflecting the heart of it. The challenge of adapting this epic for only three actors helped serve this, ensuring that we always kept a lightness of touch whilst not shying away from the enormity of David's story.

One of the things that excites me the most about this story is David's imagination: hidden away in a loft in London, he imagines he is Robinson Crusoe, climbing onto the Peggotty's boat, he imagines himself in Aladdin's Palace, the stories go on. His imagination allows us to open up ours, and where is more exciting to do that than in the theatre?!

We're delighted to share that Luke, Louise and Eddy won the Best Ensemble Performance Award at the London Fringe Theatre Awards 25/26 for ***David Copperfield***.

LUKE BARTON
(Peggotty and others)



For GSC: ***Pride and Prejudice*** (Jermyn Street Theatre/59E59 Theaters, NYC). Theater includes: ***Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*** (Salisbury Playhouse/Bolton Octagon); ***The Valley of Fear, Frankenstein, The Sign of Four*** (Blackeyed Theatre/UK Tours); ***The Great Murder Mystery*** (Lost Estate), ***One Man, Two Guvnors*** (New Wolsey, Ipswich/Nuffield, Southampton); ***Busman's Honeymoon, The Unexpected Guest, Spider's Web*** (Mill at Sonning); ***Romeo & Juliet, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry V*** (Merely Theatre/UK Tours); ***That is All You Need to Know*** (Idle Motion/UK Tour), ***Misterman*** (Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse), ***After Three Sisters*** (Living Record Productions/Brockley Jack). TV includes: *Doctors* (BBC). Luke trained at Oxford School of Drama.

LOUISE BERESFORD
(Miss Betsey and others)



Theater includes: ***Bedroom Farce*** (Eastbourne Theatre UK Tour), ***PA(Rental)*** (Criterion Theatre), ***Magic Goes Wrong*** (Apollo Theatre); ***Present Laughter, Noises Off*** (Frinton Theatre); **Victim** (Soho Theatre), ***Behold the Monkey Jesus*** (Jack Studio Theatre), ***Thirsty*** (Vaults/Park Theatre), ***Hummingbird*** (Vault festival), ***The Fairytale Revolution*** (Theatre503/Live-Streamed), ***Feed*** (UK tour), ***Wendy's Awfully Big Adventure*** (Theatre503), ***SORRY*** (Edinburgh Festival). Film includes: *Frostlands* (Hexagon Pictures), *Elle* (Blackdragon Films), *Castoffs* (Little Dot). After training at Mountview, Louise wrote and performed as part of comedy troupe Lead Pencil, where she developed several critically acclaimed shows at the Edinburgh Festival and appeared on BBC Radio 4, Comedy Central, and Funny or Die.

EDDY PAYNE
(David Copperfield)



For GSC: ***Richard II, The Two Noble Kinsman; Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet*** (both in collaboration with Orange Tree Theatre). Other theater includes: ***Pinocchio*** (Watermill Theatre); ***Little Women, Romeo & Juliet, Stig of the Dump*** (Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre); ***Little Faith, The Witches, The Battle for Neverland*** (Ruined Theatre); ***Fighting Irish*** (Belgrade Theatre), ***Oliver Twist!*** (Storyhouse); ***Great Expectations, The Macbeths*** (Rotherhithe Playhouse), ***Macbeth*** (Young Shakespeare Company), ***Fanatical*** (The Playground Theatre), ***Baby Come Back*** (Leicester Square Theatre), ***Wondergirl*** (Pleasance Theatre). Eddy trained at Mountview.

ABIGAIL PICKARD PRICE
(Adaptor & Director)

Abigail is an award-winning freelance director; between 2017 and 2025 she was associate director of The Watermill. Her credits as a director include: ***The Comedy of Errors*** (The Orange Tree), ***Jack and Sarah*** (The Mill at Sonning), ***Pride and Prejudice*** (Guildford Shakespeare Company), ***Three Hens*** (Reading Rep & The Watermill); ***Macbeth, Our Man in Havana, Just So, The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Prince and the Pauper, Burke and Hare*** (The Watermill); ***Burke and Hare*** (New Wolsey, Jermyn Street Theatre), ***Sophia*** (film-theater hybrid), ***Pen Pals*** (Rural Arts). Numerous productions for drama schools and work as assistant and associate director.

AMY LAWRENCE
(Movement & Associate Director)

Amy is thrilled to be back with Guildford Shakespeare Company again for the return of ***David Copperfield***. Credits include: ***Jack and Sarah*** (The Mill at Sonning), ***Love's Labours Lost*** (LAMDA); ***The Little Mermaid, Our House, A Man of No Importance*** (Mountview); ***Vivaldi's Four Seasons*** (Latitude Festival), ***In PerSUEt*** (The Other Palace), ***Pinocchio*** (Chichester Festival Theatre), ***Uncle Vanya*** (Old Red Lion), ***A Doll's House*** (Greenwich Theatre), ***The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*** (Finborough Theatre), ***Lysistrata*** (UK tour), ***The Tempest*** (The Cockpit), ***Blood Wedding*** (UK tour). Amy teaches dance and actor movement at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Mountview and Trinity Laban.

NEIL IRISH
(Set & Costume Designer)

Neil trained in Birmingham and later at The Slade School of Art UCL London. He had designed over thirty productions for Guildford Shakespeare Company. Neil has designed projects for many opera, theater, and dance companies in the UK, as well as productions in Italy, New Zealand, Cyprus, Turkey, Ireland, France, Germany, Czech Republic, and Hong Kong. Neil designed the acclaimed production of ***Woyzeck*** at St Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn. Also, two Handel operas ***Amadigi*** and ***Rodelinda*** for Brooklyn Academy of Music New York. He has worked in both set and costume departments for BBC TV.

ANETT BLACK
(Co-Costume Designer)

Anett has been working with GSC since 2014, on over 25 productions. Other design credits include: ***The Lonely Londoner*** (Kiln); ***The Rivals, Twelfth Night, Treasure Island, She Stoops to Conquer*** (Orange Tree Theatre); ***The Quest*** (London Youth Opera); ***The Waves, Your Unfaithfully, The Tempest, Love All, Something in the Air*** (Jermyn Street Theatre); ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** (Trafalgar Studios); ***Zoomie Girl*** (London Youth Opera); ***Pippin, 9-5, Hair, First Lady Suite*** (Bellairs Theatre GSA); ***Jekyll and Hyde, Pygmalion*** (European Arts - Italian tour); ***Trials of Oscar Wilde*** (Theatre Royal Windsor); ***Bacchae, Antigone*** (Actors of Dionysus); ***The Promise*** (Elizabeth Hall London).

MARK DYMOCK
(Lighting Designer)

This is Mark's fifteenth show for GSC. Other credits include: ***Once the Musical*** (first national tour), ***TONY! The Tony Blair Rock Opera*** (Harry Hill and Stephen Brown), ***The Standard Short Long Drop*** (nominated for Offie Best Lighting Design - The Vanguard, Camden), ***Clybourne Park*** (first national tour), ***Return to the Forbidden Planet*** (25th Anniversary tour), ***Don't Look Now*** (nominated for Offie Best Lighting Design - Queen's Theatre), ***Betty Blue Eyes*** (first national tour), Dell Computers Gala (Buenos Aires), working with Willy Russell on ***Educating Rita, Breezeblock Park*** (Liverpool Playhouse), ***Shirley Valentine*** (Royal Court Liverpool); ***Farm Boy, The Hired Man, Kissing Sid James*** (59E59 Theaters, New York).

MATT EATON
(Sound Designer)

Recent theater includes: ***Dick Whittington*** (Oxford Playhouse), ***The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*** (UK tour), ***Frankenstein*** (GSC), ***Mrs Dalloway*** (London Library). Matt is an Off-West Award winner of Best Sound Design for GSC's ***All's Well That Ends Well*** (2020), composer/sound designer for ***Everything I See I Swallow*** (Edinburgh Fringe First winner 2019), and sound designer for Andrea Asaaf's ***Eleven Reflections on September***, (Best Experimental Feature Film winner, Silk Road Awards, Cannes 2021. He is founder of the collective Pram, creators of cross-platform productions *Shadow Shows* (Edinburgh International Film Festival), *The Photophonic Experiment*, and numerous album releases on Domino Records.

PHILIP D'ORLÉANS

(Fight Director)

Theater: ***Siegfried*** (Royal Opera House), ***Manningtree Witches*** (Mercury Theatre), ***Private Lives*** (Royal Exchange), ***Merry Wives of Windsor*** (RSC), ***Death on the Nile*** (national tour), ***Three Musketeers*** (New Vic Theatre), ***Murder on the Orient Express*** (China tour), ***Romeo & Juliet*** (Guildford Shakespeare Company), ***Once on this Island*** (Regent's Park Theatre), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Shakespeare's Globe), ***Shakespeare In Love*** (National Theatre of Norway), ***Simon Boccanegra*** (Greek National Opera), ***Romeo & Juliette*** (Korean National Opera). Film: *King Arthur: Legend Of The Sword* (Warner Bros), *Pan* (Warner Bros). TV: *Lockwood & Co.* (Netflix). Philip is an Equity Fight Director, a BASSC fight examiner and teaches at RADA.

HANNAH WALKER

(Production & Company Stage Manager)

Trained: East 15 Acting School. Hannah started full time with GSC in June 2022. GSC credits: ***David Copperfield*** (UK tour); ***Frankenstein, The Comedy of Errors & A Company of Rascals, Pride and Prejudice*** (UK tour and 59E59), ***The Housetrap, Romeo and Juliet, Boeing Boeing Gone, Henry V, The Canterbury Tales, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, She Stoops To Conquer,*** and ***Tales from Hans Christian Andersen.*** Other credits include: ***Shelia's Island*** (UK tour); ***The Snow Queen, Hound of the Baskervilles, Maggie and Ted*** (Yvonne Arnaud Theatre); ***Arabian Nights, Trap, The Laramie Project*** (The Mill Studio, Guildford).

MADELEINE BLOSSOM

(Production Stage Manager)

Madeleine Blossom is a New York-based AEA stage manager and actor originally from Southern California. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Drew University and is so excited to be back for her fourth season of Brits Off Broadway! A big thanks to Melissa and everyone at 59E59, and a special shout out to her Mama Blossom and her partner Nathan for both of their unconditional love and support. Off Broadway: ***Pride and Prejudice*** (Guildford Shakespeare Company,) ***The Last Laugh*** (Sheffield/Evolution Productions), ***Appraisal*** (Twilight Theatre Co.), ***Watson: The Final Problem*** (Twilight Theatre Co.), ***Lorenzo*** (Soho Theatre), ***The Greatest Hits Down Route 66*** (New Light Theater Project), ***Cassie and the Lights*** (Patch of Blue), ***Being Mr. Wickham*** (Original Theatre), and ***According to the Chorus*** (NLTP.)

www.MadeleineBlossom.com
@StageStruck13

This production features the following music:

Nane Tsokha – Fuli Tschai

Artist: Barcelona Gipsy balKan Orchestra

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Block, Ernest: Concerto Grosso No. 1: I. Prelude. Allegro energico e pesante

Performed by Lin, Jenny – piano, South West German Radio Kaiserslautern Orchestra and Stárek, Jiří – Conductor

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GUILDFORD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY



King Lear 2015, Brian Blessed as *King Lear*



Love's Labour's Lost 2018



A Midsummer Night's Dream 2022

Founded in 2006, Guildford Shakespeare Company celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2026. Now one of the UK's leading independent theatre companies, GSC is acclaimed for its imaginative use of spaces, ambitious immersive productions, and life-changing Creative Learning programmes. It is still lead by its original co-founders, Sarah & Matt.

"We wanted to offer audiences a new way of engaging with Shakespeare, and with theatre in general. Over the last 20 years this single objective to challenge and positively change people's perception of theatre and Shakespeare has remained unchanged.

During this time we've staged 69 productions (***David*** is no. 69), including 27 different Shakespeare plays. We've also commissioned and premiered 14 brand new plays, in venues ranging from castles to a jumbo jet. These two decades have brought us many wonderful memories. To experience an idea grow into the organisation it is today is very special: most recently, to be nominated in the prestigious New York Drama Desk Awards for ***Pride & Prejudice*** was a huge honour.

Off-stage, the genuinely life-changing work delivered by our Creative Learning Department is a constant source of pride. The majority of this work seeks to promote social inclusion and access across our community.

Each year GSC delivers over 29,000 engagement opportunities, with more than 22,000 funded-to-access for communities facing barriers to the arts. These include provision for young carers, SEND participants, people living with poor mental health, isolated adults, and pupils in less advantaged schools. 2025 saw the launch of our pioneering knife crime awareness programme, Put Up Your Swords, based on ***Romeo & Juliet***, which is expanding to include more schools this Fall.

We're thrilled to be back with 59E59 Theaters and their audiences in our 20th Anniversary Year, and look forward to sharing ***David Copperfield*** with you."

GSC is based in Guildford, Surrey, 35 miles from Central London, at the foot of the Surrey Hills.

guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

@GuildfordBard @guildfordshakespeare

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CURATOR'S NOTE

We're delighted to welcome our friends from Guildford Shakespeare Company back this year. It would take far more space than I have here to fully capture the depth of their talent, imagination, and generosity of spirit. Time and again, they've demonstrated a remarkable ability to work with inventive economy, giving rise to wildly comical and moving adaptations.

In bringing Dickens' story to life, they strike a careful balance—making it vivid and accessible for contemporary audiences while preserving the language, heart, and brilliance that have made it an enduring classic. We're proud to share their artistry with you once again—here's hoping it lingers with you long after the curtain falls.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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ELYSABETH KLEINHANS

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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.