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New Perspectives Theatre Company presents

FARM BOY

BY MICHAEL MORPURGO

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
DANIEL BUCKROYD

DECEMBER 7 - JANUARY 1

E:BILL THEATER B



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Adapted and Directed by

DANIEL BUCKROYD



CAST *(in order of appearance)*

Grandson
RICHARD PRYAL

Grandfather
JOHN WALTERS

COMPANY

Composer
MATT MARKS

Lighting Designer
MARK DYMOCK

Stage Manager/Production Manager
MANDY IVORY-CASTILE

AEA Stage Manager
AMY KASKESKI*

Tractor Construction
TIM BRIERLEY

Tractor Painting
SUSAN WINTERS

Farm Boy runs for 70 minutes without an intermission.

SPECIAL THANKS

Alan Jackson and Ollie Pulter of Set One, Derby.

This production is made possible
with the support of Arts Council England

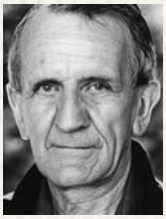
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RICHARD PRYAL

(Grandson)

Richard trained at Central School of Speech and Drama. Theatre credits include Lieutenant Yolland in ***Translations*** (Curve Theatre, Leicester); Ferdinand and Caliban in ***The Tempest*** (Oxford Shakespeare Company); Gratiano in ***The Merchant of Venice*** (Changeling Theatre Company); Karlmann in ***The Ugly One*** (Norwich Theatre Royal); Demetrius in ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***; Orsino in ***Twelfth Night*** (Ken Hill House) and Bajazeth and Lancaster in ***A Devilish Exercise*** (Rose Theatre). Film credits include: Young Eddie in ***In Love with Alma Cogan*** (Capriol Films); Charlie in the award-winning ***Zebra Crossing*** (Crown Films/Exile Media and winner of seven international Film Awards); Nick in ***The Baseline*** (Finelight Films) and Jeremy in ***She Stoops to Conquer***. Television includes ***Murder Rooms*** and ***David Copperfield*** (BBC). Richard also recently completed performance capture for the character of Crom in ***Bloodforge***, a game by Microsoft and Climax Studios. www.twitter.com/richardpryal



JOHN WALTERS

(Grandfather)

John trained at the University of Birmingham and spent many years teaching French before becoming an actor. Theatre includes: Gandalf in ***The Hobbit*** (Vanessa Ford Productions); Malvolio in ***Twelfth Night*** (Open Hand Productions); Inspector Rough in ***Gaslight*** (Middle Ground); Rafe Crompton in ***Spring and Port Wine*** (Newpalm Productions); Ben Weatherstaff in ***The Secret Garden*** (The Tobacco Factory); Kipps in the West End production of ***The Woman in Black***; Leonato in ***Much Ado About Nothing*** (The Tobacco Factory); Arthur Hall in ***Talent*** (Ovation productions) and most recently ***The Farm*** (New Perspectives Theatre Company). Television includes: Ferdinand de Lesseps in ***Panama Canal*** (BBC); Creon in a French version of ***Antigone*** (Direct Entertainment); ***Cold Enough for Snow*** (Greenpoint Films/BBC); ***Darwin*** (WGBH Boston); ***Doctors*** (BBC) and ***The Thieving Headmistress*** (Firefly/BBC). Films include: ***Saving Private Ryan*** (Dreamworks) and ***Ever After*** (20th Century Fox). John also writes and translates. His version of the Marivaux play ***The Game of Love and Chance*** was produced at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton prior to publication by Methuen.

MICHAEL MORPURGO

(Writer)

Michael Morpurgo OBE and former Children's Laureate is one of the UK's best-loved authors and storytellers. He has written over 120 books for which he has won numerous prizes. Many of Michael's books have been adapted for the stage. These include ***Private Peaceful***, ***Kensuke's Kingdom***, ***Why the Whales Came***, ***The Mozart's Question***, ***The Butterfly Lion*** (which New Perspectives toured in 2004) and most notably, the National Theatre's production of ***War Horse***, which reached number one in the Observer's Top Ten Theatre Performances and was awarded the Best Design prize in the Evening Standard Theatre Awards. This production moved to the West End's New London Theatre where it continues, and the Tony award-winning production is currently delighting audiences at Lincoln Center Theaters. The film of ***War Horse*** is due for release in the US on Christmas Day, 2011 and in the UK in January 2012. Michael travels all over the UK and abroad talking to children and telling his stories and encouraging them to tell theirs. He lives in Devon with his wife Clare and has three children and seven grandchildren. Find out more about Michael at www.michaelmorpurgo.com

DANIEL BUCKROYD

(Adapter/Director)

Daniel joined New Perspectives as Artistic Director in 2003, having previously worked as Associate Director of the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton 1996-2003, Artistic Director of Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company 1992-1996, and Education Director of the Haymarket Theatre in Leicester 1988-1992. For New Perspectives, directing includes: ***Lark To Candleford***, ***Dolly***, ***Farm Boy***, ***Those Magnificent Men***, ***The Falling Sky***, ***Faith Healer***, ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***, ***The Farm***, ***In Search of Pontiflunk***, ***The Hired Man*** (which transferred to 59E59 Theaters); ***On Saturdays This Bed is Poland***, ***Saturday Night and Sunday Morning***, ***The Iron Man***, ***The Allotment***, ***Not Now, Bernard and Other Monster Stories***, ***The Evidence***, ***The Ghost Downstairs***, ***The Butterfly Lion*** and ***The Long Way Home***. Other directing includes: the first ever staging of Seamus Heaney's ***Beowulf***; a tour of ***Bill's New Frock*** that included the National's Olivier Theatre, Freddie Jones as Charles Dickens, Yeats' ***King Oedipus***, the original stage production of ***Quadrophenia***, Roger Lloyd Pack in ***The Caretaker***, ***Peter Pan*** at Polka Theatre and currently an adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's ***Friend Or Foe*** for Scamp Theatre and Watford Palace.



FARM BOY CD

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BRiTS OFF BROADWAY

MATT MARKS

(Composer)

Matt studied Creative Arts and Music Composition in Nottingham and Musical Theatre Writing at the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, where he was awarded the Frederic Loewe ASCAP award. He has composed music for many theatre and dance companies internationally and recently composed the score for ***When The Pictures Came***, a collaboration between Terrapin Puppet Theatre, Australia, The Childrens' Art Theatre of China and Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham. Matt is currently developing two musicals; ***The Bridge***, with Hudson-based writer Liv Cummins and ***Giants In The Earth*** with Nottingham-based writer Nick Wood for Oxfordshire Theatre Company. He has also composed for film and television and regularly performs Balkan, Jazz and African music on accordion and keyboards.

MARK DYMOCK

(Lighting Designer)

Mark trained at Croydon College. He regularly collaborates with New Perspectives and has previously lit ***Those Magnificent Men*** (2011), ***Farm Boy*** (2010), ***Wasteland***, ***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight***, ***The Hired Man***, ***Saturday Night and Sunday Morning***, ***The Evidence***, ***The Ghost Downstairs***, ***The Long Way Home*** and ***Last Train to Nibroc***. Recent credits include: ***20,000 Leagues Under The Sea***, ***Wolves of Willoughby Chase*** and ***Alice in Wonderland*** (Nuffield Theatre); ***Bollywood Baraat*** (Art Asia); ***Drowning On Dry Land*** (Jermyn St Theatre); ***Treasure Island*** (Watermill Theatre); ***Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*** (Bermuda City Hall); ***Town*** (Northampton Royal); ***Ladies Day*** (Queen's Theatre); ***The Mystery of the London Eye*** and ***Sleeping Beauty*** (Unicorn Theatre); ***Oliver!*** (Bermuda City Hall); ***Shirley Valentine*** (Royal Court Liverpool) and ***World's End*** (Trafalgar Studios).

MANDY IVORY-CASTILE

(Stage Manager/Production Manager)

Mandy began working at New Perspectives in May 2005, having previously worked for Pleasance Theatre Festival, Edinburgh as Production Manager and formerly Stage Manager of Pleasance Theatre, London. She has also worked extensively throughout the London Fringe. For New Perspectives: ***How Steeple Sinderby Wanders Won the FA Cup*** (2011 and 2006 tours); ***Those Magnificent Men*** (2011 and 2010 tours); ***Lark Rise To Candleford***, ***Dolly***, ***Farm Boy***, ***The Falling Sky***, ***Faith Healer***, ***Wasteland***, ***Sir Gawain and The Green Knight***, ***The Hired Man***, ***The Farm***, ***The Allotment***, ***Saturday Night and Sunday Morning***, ***On Saturday This Bed is Poland***, ***In Search of Pontiflunk***, ***The Iron Man*** and ***Not Now, Bernard***.

AMY KASKESKI

(AEA Stage Manager)

Stage Manager/ASM Credits: ***Ghostlight*** (NYMF) ***My Wonderful Day***, ***Liberty The Musical***, ***Terre Haute***, ***Freshly Tossed***, ***Spin***, ***The Hired Man***, ***Damascus***, ***Roller Derby***, ***U.S Drag***, ***Blue Roads***, ***Snapshots***, ***Guilty***, ***Bloodties*** and ***This Won't Take Long***. Wardrobe Credits: ***Avenue Q*** (Sub), ***Anything Goes*** (Dayworker), ***666***, ***The Flying Karamazov Brothers***, ***Naked Boys Singing!***, ***The Toxic Avenger*** (NYC), ***Rock Of Ages*** (Off Broadway), ***My First Time***, ***Two Rooms***, ***Bash'd A Gay Rap Opera***, ***Bill W. And Dr. Bob***, ***Drumstruck***, ***How To Save The World And Find True Love In 90 Mins...*** among others.

ABOUT NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE COMPANY

New Perspectives exists to create an inspiring, popular and critically-acclaimed programme of touring theatre that touches the lives of individuals and communities in the rural East Midlands and reaches out to new audiences through regular national and occasional international touring. This performance follows in the footsteps of over 110 New Perspectives productions created over the past 39 years. 2012 marks our 40th Anniversary and we continue to tour our work to villages, towns and cities across the UK. ***Farm Boy*** began its life touring schools in the East Midlands before becoming an Edinburgh Festival Fringe sell-out in 2010, and then undertaking a hugely successful UK tour in a co-production with Scamp Theatre. Other recent successes include ***The Hired Man*** (2007/08 UK tour, followed by Brits off Broadway 2008); ***Lark Rise to Candleford*** (2011 UK tour) and ***Those Magnificent Men*** (UK tour in 2010 and again in 2011 and a run at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011). In April 2012 we are delighted to be presenting a new production of ***The Butterfly Lion***, another Michael Morpurgo story, in a co-production with Curve Theatre, Leicester and Derby Theatre.

For more information about New Perspectives Theatre Company visit www.newperspectives.co.uk

FARM BOY
FOLLOWING *WAR HORSE*

In a way of course, ***Farm Boy*** is a sequel to ***War Horse***, but it isn't really. The idea for the story came from its illustrator, Michael Foreman - the illustrator now of 25 of my stories. We work together very closely, Michael is a writer himself as well as one of our greatest illustrators, and he's full of ideas. It was his idea that we might work together on a story about the years just after the First World War, when the tractor replaced the horse on the farm, probably the greatest revolution in agriculture in a thousand years or more. *"You live in deepest Devon, you live on a farm, you work on a farm, you could do it."*



It was a wonderful notion but I struggled at first to make the story work. Then I remembered that many children had written to me over the years asking me to write a sequel to ***War Horse***. They wanted to know, they said, what happened to Joey when he came back to Devon with Albert, back to the farm where they worked, after the war was over in 1918. I'd write back and tell them I didn't write sequels, which was true - once I've finished a story I never liked to revisit it - and that anyway it would be better if they were to make up a story of their own. Now here was Michael suggesting I should write a story about a tractor replacing a horse on a farm. All right, I thought, just this once I will do a sequel, but not a conventional sequel. I will write one in which the original story appears again but in a slightly different way, a different sort of sequel. The more I thought about it, the more I found I had to discover what did happen to Joey after the war,



and Albert too, indeed to the village itself and to farming too. I decided though to take it from the perspective of a grandson, a city boy visiting his grandfather, an old Devon farmer. The young lad takes to farming, loves working with his grandpa - this part of the story inspired no doubt by the experience of the city children who visit the farm where we live. My wife Clare set up Farms for City Children 35 years ago, a charity that has enabled 80,000 city children now to spend a week of their primary school year living and working on the farm. They stay for a week and become proper farmers. So we knew something of how city children take to farming life!



Anyway this young city lad comes across an old tractor moldering away in a shed and adores it and wants to know all about it. The story of ***Farm Boy*** is the story his grandfather tells him of how that tractor came to the farm, of how the old farm horse Joey is replaced; Joey the war horse his father Albert brought back from the front after the First World War. So not a sequel to ***War Horse***, just another book, another way of telling the tale.

Michael Morpurgo

BRITS OFF BROADWAY

NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE COMPANY

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Associate Director TILLY BRANSON

Production photography by ROBERT DAY

Illustrations by MICHAEL FOREMAN

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