

Nurse at the Front, the production

Further information about our academic and creative team members, and partnership organisations

Academic and Advisory team members:

Professor Christine Hallett (Nursing History at the University of Manchester) is Chair of the UK Association for the History of Nursing. She is Vice President of the European Association for the History of Nursing and holds Fellowships of both the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal Society for the Arts. Professor Hallett trained as a nurse and health visitor in the 1980s and practised as a community nurse before becoming a lecturer at the University of Manchester in 1993. Her most recent research has focused on the work of nurses during the First World War, and she has authored several books on the subject, including:

- *Containing Trauma: Nursing Work in the First World War* (Manchester University Press, 2009),
- *First World War Nursing: New Perspectives* (with Alison Fell; Routledge, 2013) and
- *Veiled Warriors: Allied Nurses of the First World War* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Professor Alison Fell (Leeds University) has published widely on French and British women and the First World War. In addition to co-editing the recent collection *First World War Nursing: New Perspectives* with Christine Hallett, she has published 5 chapters/articles on First World War nursing:

- "Remembering the First World War Nurse in Britain and France". In: Fell AS; Hallett C eds. *First World War Nursing: New Perspectives*, Routledge, 2013.
- "Nursing the Other: the representation of colonial troops in French and British First World War nursing memoirs" In: Das S ed. *Race, Empire and First World War Writing*, Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp. 158-175.
- "Myth, Countermyth and the Politics of Memory: Vera Brittain and Madeleine Clemenceau Jacquemaire's Interwar Nurse Memoirs" *Synergies* 4, 2011, (La guerre dans l'entre-deux-guerres // The War in the Interwar), pp. 11-24.
- "Fallen Angels? The Red Cross Nurse in French First World War Discourse" In: Allison M; Rocheron Y eds. *The Resilient Female Body: Health and Malaise in Twentieth Century France*, Peter Lang, 2007, pp. 33-48.

Sue Light: costume and setting historical advisor

Sue designed and populated the excellent WW1 nursing websites Scarlet Finders (www.scarletfinders.co.uk/) and Fairest Force (www.fairestforce.co.uk/).

A retired midwife and army nurse, Sue is an expert on the history of nursing, particularly relating to the First World War and she is frequently approached for advice and guidance about the role of nurses by writers, producers and directors involved in WW1 dramatisations.

Sue has given a great deal of invaluable advice and support in creating Edie's website and an appendix by her, 'British Military Nurses in the Great War', was included in the book version *A Nurse at the Front – The First World War Diaries of Sister Edith Appleton*.

Dick Robinson: family advisor

Dick is Edie Appleton's great nephew and the keeper of the diaries. He knew Edie well as a child and stayed at her home at Brighstone in the Isle of Wight many times in the late 1940s and 1950s. It wasn't until 1958 when Edie died and his mother, Liz (Edie's niece), took possession of the diaries that Dick first came across her diaries. This fleeting interest was renewed after Liz's death in 1997 when Dick inherited the diaries but it wasn't until 2008 that he began work to transcribe the diaries (over 100,000 words) and create a website, that latest version of which is at www.anurseatthefront.org.uk.

In 2012 a book version was published in a joint project by Simon and Schuster and the Imperial War museum and details be seen at www.anurseatthefront.org.uk/the-book/. Edie names over 200 individuals in her diaries and one of the best rewards of making them publicly available has been contacts from the descendants of those named – 17 to date.

Dick is currently giving illustrated presentations telling Edie's story with his wife, Lisa, reading selected extracts; details at www.anurseatthefront.org.uk/talks/.

Creative team members:

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm: Writer

Morgan is a playwright and comedy writer. Her play *Belongings* was produced at the Hampstead Theatre and Trafalgar Studios in 2011 to universal acclaim and was shortlisted for The Charles Wintour Most Promising Playwright Award. This was followed by another Hampstead Theatre production, *The Wasp*, in 2015. Other stage work includes commissions for the Old Vic, Clean Break and Firehouse Productions. In 2013 she was chosen as a member of the Soho Six (Soho Theatre). She has co-written several acclaimed immersive stage plays with Katie Lyons, produced by Look Left Look Right, including *You Once Said Yes* and *Once Upon a Christmas*. She was part of the writing team for the Lyric Hammersmith's last three pantomimes and wrote (solo) the Bolton Octagon's Christmas plays for 2013 and 2014.

Her television credits include E4's *School of Comedy* and CBBC's *Hotel Trubble* (with writing trio, the Tripplicate).

More info about Morgan can be found here:

http://www.davidhigham.co.uk/clients/Morgan_Lloyd_Malcolm.htm

Sara Robinson: Producer

Sara Robinson is a producer, coach and facilitator. She has a twenty-five years' experience of working in the creative sector, focusing on community engagement, large scale productions and festivals. For five years she was Director of Ludlow Assembly Rooms arts centre. Current clients include Clore Leadership Programme, HOME in Manchester, Woodhorn Museum Trust, The Arts Fundraising and Philanthropy Programme, Wigmore Hall and the Lancashire Music Hub. Sara recently produced the award winning *Romeo and Juliet* for HOME across three derelict swimming pools in Manchester's Victoria Baths.

Sara is also the national peer-learning Director of the Creative People and Places Programme, an England wide Arts Council initiative to engage more people in the arts in areas where cultural activity is sparse.

She was in the first cohort of Clore Fellows, and is Chair of Hebden Bridge Arts Festival.

Dani Parr: Director

Dani Parr is a theatre director specialising in creating work for children and young people and site specific shows with a community focus.

She was Associate Director at Royal & Derngate Theatres, Northampton for 11 years, where she directed over 30 plays, and led a programme of innovative creative projects for all ages.

Dani recently directed *I Believe in Unicorns* for Wizard Presents, which had a successful run at the Vaudeville Theatre in the West End, won an Argus Angel award at Brighton Festival and is now touring nationally. She also recently co-directed *Moominsummer Madness*, a co-production between Polka Theatre, Royal & Derngate and Little Angel Theatre. She won two awards for *Flathampton* at Brighton Festival 2013: the Argus Angel award for artistic innovation; and the Latest award for Best Children's Event. She programmed the *Take Off Festival 2013*, an international festival of theatre work for children and young people, based in Durham; and she directed *Dream Space* for Shakespeare's Globe, a family version of *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Dani is currently a Senior Lecturer in Acting and Drama at Northampton University, and is directing several shows currently including a show for Theatre Hullabaloo and Theatre by the Lake in Keswick called *Bear and Butterfly*; and a show called *Blockbuster* with Frank Wurzinger and Bob Karper.

Kate Bunce: Designer

Kate trained at Birmingham Institute of Art and Design - MA Scenography, BA Hons Theatre Design (1st). Designs include 'Wish Wash', 'Mini break', 'Knitwits', 'What makes us Tick?', 'Where's the Bear?' (large multi-sensory, interactive installation plays for young audiences) 'Smashed Eggs', 'Starseeker' (Northampton Royal and Derngate). 'Wizard of Oz', 'The Glee Club' (New Vic Theatre). 'White Open Spaces', 'Strawberry Fields', 'Silent Engine', 'Smashed Eggs', 'Precious Bane' (Pentabus Theatre). 'The Borrowers', 'Pinocchio', 'Pandora's Box', 'The Little Mermaid', 'Four Seasons' (MAC) 'Transmissions', 'Caribbean Kitchen', 'Nativity' (Birmingham Rep) Kate has also worked as assistant designer or prop maker for The National Theatre, Birmingham Rep. Almeida, BBC, Oily Cart, RSC, Young Vic, The Lion King. She has also worked as a design lecturer for The Royal College of Art, Central School of Speech and Drama and held teaching roles with Punchdrunk and Classical Opera. Current work includes design for 'Wizard presents' production of Michael Morpurgo's 'I believe in Unicorns' and design consultancy for Birdsnest theatre.

The Unthanks

There are no easy one-liners to capture who or what The Unthanks are.

You might find them singing in a Tyneside folk club one night, and playing to 2000 Londoners the next, having performed to a primary school in the afternoon. You might find them collaborating with Adrian Utley (Portishead) one moment, and writing the score to an archive film about shipyards the next. Or visiting Africa with Damon Albarn, Flea and Joan As Policewoman and then presenting a TV programme for BBC4 about traditional dance. Rubbing shoulders with Robert Plant, Adele, Elbow and Radiohead at the Mercurys, or in a bunkhouse on the coastline of Northumberland cooking for 50 fans on one of their residential singing weekends. Running singing sessions in the back of a pub on a Monday before heading off to tour America or Australia on the Tuesday. Signing licensing deals with EMI while continuing to record vocals in broom cupboards under the stairs. Spending 9-5 managing their own careers without agents or labels, and heading down the studio in the evening to write scores for a project with a symphony orchestra. Collaborating with Orbital while championing songs from the folk club floor singers of the North East and re-presenting them to anyone who wants to listen. You'll find them played by the folk show on BBC Radio 2, but equally by cutting edge BBC6 Music, Radio 3 and Radio 1 DJs. You might find them on the cover of a folk magazine like fRoots or in the pages of NME. Definable only by their restless eccentricity, there are no easy one-liners to capture who or what The

Unthanks are, or much point in guessing what they'll do next.

This goes part way to explaining the depth and breadth of their many notable fans - Martin Freeman, Elvis Costello, Robert Wyatt, Ben Folds, Ryan Adams, Rosanne Cash, Dawn French, Paul Morley, Al Murray, Ewan McGregor and Nick Hornby, to name a few.

Colin Firth was recently added to that list when he personally invited The Unthanks to perform at a theatre show alongside himself, Keira Knightley, Sir Ben Kingsley, Sir Ian McKellan, Kelly MacDonald and Laura Marling. The televised event called The People Speak was a celebration of those in history who have spoken up and made a difference, as a reminder in our times of apathy that we all have a voice.

There is a socially conscious heart to much of The Unthanks' work. The Unthanks see folk music less as a style of music and more as an oral history that offers perspective on our own time. Their approach to storytelling straddles the complex relationship between modernism and learning from the past.

Staunch traditionalism and sonic adventure may seem like polar opposites, yet they are easy bedfellows in the gentle hands of The Unthanks.

Nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and the only British folk representation in The Guardian's and Uncut's best albums of last decade (worldwide, all genres), The Unthanks is a family affair for Tyneside sisters Rachel and Becky Unthank, with Rachel married to pianist, producer, arranger and composer, Adrian McNally. Even though McNally has scored symphony scale arrangements for The Unthanks, all three are musically untrained, and put their collective musical vocabulary down to the music they grew up listening to, rather than playing, for which both McNally and the Unthank sisters have parents to thank for. Using the traditional and folk music of the North East of England as a starting point, the influence of Steve Reich, Miles Davis, Sufjan Stevens, Robert Wyatt, Antony & The Johnsons, King Crimson and Tom Waits can be heard in the band's 7 albums to date.

In 2012, The Unthanks released 3 project albums in 12 months, under the banner 'Diversions' - a reimagining of the work of Robert Wyatt and Antony Hegarty, an orchestral scale adventure with National Champions Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band, and a live soundtrack to a film about the shipbuilding industry. Since then, they have been quietly working on an ambitious 8th album, due in early 2015, but have also found time to collaborate with Orbital, Sting, Adrian Utley (Portishead), Martin Green (Lau), Martin Hayes, The Voice Squad, Charles Hazlewood, The Moulettes and German composer Werner Cee.

Suzy Davies: Choir Director

I'm a Welsh-born Composer/Lyricist/Musical Director, now based in North London. I'm co-founder and Artistic Director of The Kaos Organisation, a Community Arts company specialising in the creation and production of new music, theatre and visual artworks. I've composed and conducted projects for many companies including Kazzum, Little Angel Theatre, the National Youth Theatre and the Old Vic. I also facilitate singing workshops for corporate organisations including BDO LLP, PwC and CloudSense. I love exploring and experimenting with diverse musical styles and traditions, from folk to funk, Bhangra to punk. A selection of my cross-curricular songs is published by A & C Black

(acblack.com/songsheets). I've always been passionate about vocal harmonies and I direct and perform with several bands and choirs, including The Kaos Signing Choir for Deaf & Hearing Children, who sang and signed the National Anthem at the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics (www.thekaos.org). The choir's recent performances include the O2 and the Royal Albert Hall as part of TEDMED 2014. I've worked on several projects for Old Vic New Voices, including 'Somme Theatre – On The Middle Day' and 'Epidemic' – an award-winning, large-scale community musical staged at the Old Vic Tunnels in 2012. I'm about to start working on a new musical for the inspirational women's theatre company, Clean Break with acclaimed writer Morgan Lloyd Malcolm. I firmly believe that anyone can sing. If someone says they can't, you can usually trace it back to a single incident (usually in childhood) when somebody (usually a dispiriting music teacher) told them they couldn't. You might not be able to satisfy the likes of Simon Cowell, but then again, do you really want to? After all, if everybody sang the same we'd get tired of listening to each other!

Lucy Hind: Choreographer <http://www.lucyhind.co.uk>

Lucy trained in choreography, mime and physical theatre at Rhodes University, South Africa and went on to perform with the celebrated First Physical Theatre Company.

Since arriving in the UK she has worked as Movement Director and Performer in many acclaimed British theatres including the Almeida, Barbican, Lowry, Sheffield Crucible, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Bath Theatre Royal. Lucy is a member of the award winning Slung Low theatre company and a selector for the National Student Drama Festival.

She is currently Movement Director on *The Merchant Of Venice* with Jonathan Munby at The Globe Theatre and *The Effect* for Sheffield Theatres, both opening this year.

Lucy's choreography for television includes the Cbeebies pantomime, *Peter Pan* and the award-winning writer Russell T Davies' series *Banana*, which will air on E4 later this year.

Key partnership organisations:

The Royal Exchange Theatre is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for theatre, new writing and creative participation in the UK and cultural centre for Manchester and the region. <http://www.royalexchange.co.uk/about-us>

The Royal and Derngate Theatre is a regional producing and presenting house based in Northampton, with a focus on making and touring theatre across the UK, to the National Theatre, the West End and on Broadway. They also run an extensive creative programme children, young people and schools. <http://www.royalndderngate.co.uk/aboutus/TheOrganisation/RoyalDerngateasProducers/?view=Standard>