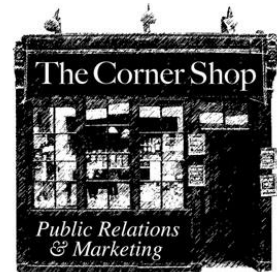


# Press Release

CMP presents the Royal Opera House production of

## The Wind In The Willows

Directed and choreographed by Will Tuckett  
Starring Tony Robinson as Kenneth Grahame  
The Duchess Theatre



- Tony Robinson to star as Kenneth Grahame in *The Wind in the Willows*, his first theatre role for 16 years
- Will Kemp to reprise his role as Ratty
- Full cast announced for Will Tuckett's acclaimed production which transfers to the Duchess Theatre for an eight week Christmas season
- First time a Royal Opera House production transfers commercially into London's West End

Tony Robinson will star as Kenneth Grahame, who narrates the Royal Opera House's production of *The Wind in the Willows*, in the ROH's first commercial transfer to London's West End. This well-loved story is brought to life through song, music, dance and puppetry. The production, directed and choreographed by Will Tuckett, will run at the Duchess Theatre from Wednesday 11 December 2013 - Saturday 1 February 2014.

Tony has enjoyed a long career in television, having presented twenty seasons of Channel 4's archaeology series *Time Team* and played Baldrick in *Blackadder* amongst many other credits. He is an award-winning children's television writer and the author of more than thirty children's books. *The Wind in the Willows* sees Tony return to the stage for the first time since 1997. He has previously appeared in the West End, at Chichester Festival Theatre and the National Theatre, as well as with the RSC. Tony received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2013.

The full cast of *The Wind in the Willows* is also announced today. Will Kemp reprises his role as Ratty. Kemp's extensive dance career has included originating the role of lead swan in Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, as well as appearances at the Royal Opera House in *Peter and the Wolf*, *Pinocchio* and *The Soldier's Tale*. Kemp's acting credits include Nugget in the 2007 West End production of *Equus* opposite Daniel Radcliffe and Mercutio in Tamara Harvey's production of *Romeo and Juliet* at Middle Temple Hall, as well as television roles on *90210* and *New Tricks*. His film credits include *Step Up 2: The Streets*, *Miguel and William* and *Van Helsing*. Completing the woodland quartet, Cris Penfold will play Toad, Christopher Akrill will play Badger and Clemmie Sveaas will play Mole. Other members of the company include: Ewan Wardrop, Paul James Rooney, Kayleigh Gore, Connor Dowling, Kirsty Mather, Anna Martine, Jo Meredith and Aron Wild.

The commercial transfer of *The Wind in the Willows* this December marks a significant first for the Royal Opera House. CMP will be presenting the Royal Opera House production, which is in its tenth anniversary year, for eight weeks at The Duchess Theatre. Tickets are on sale now.

Based on Kenneth Grahame's timeless classic, the adventures of four woodland friends are retold through dance, song, music and puppetry: From a dusty old attic a wonderful tale

unfolds. The peace of the river bank is rocked by a speeding car, a galloping caravan, a racing train and criminal deeds cooked up in the depths of the Wild Wood.

The escapades of the hot-headed Toad and his loyal friends Ratty, Mole and Badger are brought to life in a production that has charmed audiences of all ages. Drawing inspiration from the music of Edwardian composer George Butterworth, the action is set to a score by Martin Ward.

Through Tuckett's choreography, narration written by former Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion and designs by The Quay Brothers and Nicky Gillibrand, Grahame's magical world will be conjured for audiences at the Duchess Theatre this Christmas.

**Recommended for everyone aged 5 and over.**

For further information please contact Charlotte Bayley at The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657 or email [charlotte@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:charlotte@thecornershoppr.com)

**-ENDS-**

## **LISTINGS:**

### **The Wind In The Willows**

Duchess Theatre, 3-5 Catherine St, London WC2B 5LA

**Wednesday 11 December 2013 - Saturday 1 February 2014**

Monday - Saturday evening performances: 7.00pm

Matinee performances: 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 Dec 2013, 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29 January 2014 & 1 February 2014 2.30pm

**Press Night:** Monday 16 December, 7.00pm

[www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk) 020 7304 4000 (no booking fee)

[www.nimaxtheatres.com](http://www.nimaxtheatres.com) 0844 482 9672 (booking fee)

### **Ticket prices:**

**Stalls £42.50, £15**

**Circle £42.50, £29.50, £15**

**Running Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes (including interval)

## **Full performance schedule:**

Wednesday	11-Dec-13		7.00
Thursday	12-Dec-13		7.00
Friday	13-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Saturday	14-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Sunday	15-Dec-13		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>16-Dec-13</b>		<b>Press Night</b>
Tuesday	17-Dec-13		7.00
Wednesday	18-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Thursday	19-Dec-13		7.00
Friday	20-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Saturday	21-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Sunday	22-Dec-13		
Monday	23-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Tuesday	24-Dec-13	2.30	No Show
Wednesday	25-Dec-13	No Show	No Show

Thursday	26-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Friday	27-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Saturday	28-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Sunday	29-Dec-13		
Monday	30-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Tuesday	31-Dec-13	2.30	7.00
Wednesday	01-Jan-14		
Thursday	02-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Friday	03-Jan-14		7.00
Saturday	04-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Sunday	05-Jan-14		
Monday	06-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Tuesday	07-Jan-14		7.00
Wednesday	08-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Thursday	09-Jan-14		7.00
Friday	10-Jan-14		7.00
Saturday	11-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Sunday	12-Jan-14		
Monday	13-Jan-14		7.00
Tuesday	14-Jan-14		7.00
Wednesday	15-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Thursday	16-Jan-14		7.00
Friday	17-Jan-14		7.00
Saturday	18-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Sunday	19-Jan-14		
Monday	20-Jan-14		7.00
Tuesday	21-Jan-14		7.00
Wednesday	22-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Thursday	23-Jan-14		7.00
Friday	24-Jan-14		7.00
Saturday	25-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Sunday	26-Jan-14		
Monday	27-Jan-14		7.00
Tuesday	28-Jan-14		7.00
Wednesday	29-Jan-14	2.30	7.00
Thursday	30-Jan-14		7.00
Friday	31-Jan-14		7.00
Saturday	01-Feb-14	2.30	7.00

**Notes to Editors:**

**Creative Team**

**Choreography** Will Tuckett

**Music** Martin Ward

**Set design** The Quay Brothers

**Costume designs** Nicky Gillibrand

**Lighting design** Warren Letton

**Puppet design** Toby Olié  
**Narration** Andrew Motion

### **About the Royal Opera House, London**

The Royal Opera House presents almost 400 performances at the iconic Covent Garden theatre in London, each year and reaches an audience of more than 650,000. Beyond that, last year, more than 7.5million people enjoyed our work across the globe through our ROH Cinema Season, Royal Ballet Live, Royal Opera Live and other online and interactive projects. The Royal Opera House has a new partnership with Digital Theatre, which allows ROH productions to be accessed on all of Digital Theatre's platforms including its apps for the iPhone, iPad and Samsung Smart TV as well as being available for streaming from the internet. The Royal Opera House also plays a leading role in education, community engagement, skills development, professional training and cultural regeneration in the UK.

### **About Creative Management and Productions (CMP)**

Creative Management and Productions (CMP) are theatre producers Nick Frankfort and Tobias Round. Formed in 2006, the company is committed to commissioning and presenting high quality plays and musicals, as well as delivering management services for a select group of performing arts practitioners and organisations.

Nick Frankfort was formerly Executive Producer of the Donmar Warehouse and has over 20 years of experience in the theatre industry. Tobias Round worked at IMG and Adventures in Motion Pictures before joining the Donmar Warehouse as General Manager in 2003. During this time, plays they produced include *Caligula*, *After Miss Julie*, Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, *A Voyage Round My Father* and *Frost/Nixon* as well as the musicals *Grand Hotel* and *Guys and Dolls*.

CMP's work includes co-producing *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at the Duchess Theatre, commissioning and producing *Swimming with Sharks* starring Matt Smith and Christian Slater at the Vaudeville Theatre, co-producing *Year of the Rat* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, transferring the sell-out Donmar production of *Piaf* (Vaudeville), producing *Three Days of Rain* (Olivier Award nomination) starring James McAvooy, Nigel Harman and Lyndsey Marshal (Apollo), producing the West End Premiere of Douglas Carter Beane's *The Little Dog Laughed* (Garrick, Olivier Award nomination Best New Play) starring Tamsin Greig, Rupert Friend, Gemma Arterton and Harry Lloyd, producing the World Premiere of Sebastian Faulks's *Birdsong*, starring Ben Barnes, directed by Sir Trevor Nunn (Comedy), the revival of Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden* (Harold Pinter) starring Thandie Newton and the West End transfer from Broadway of Roger Rees' one man Shakespeare show *What You Will* (Apollo).

### **About Sir Tony Robinson**

Tony presented twenty seasons of Channel 4's archaeology series *Time Team*, and played Baldrick in *Blackadder*. He devised and wrote four series of the BBC's *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men* in which he played the Sheriff of Nottingham, made two series of *The Worst Jobs In History* and an acclaimed documentary about the elderly entitled *Me and My Mum*.

After training at the Central School of Speech and Drama, spending several years in repertory theatre and working for two years as a theatre director, Tony appeared onstage at Chichester Festival Theatre, the RSC and the National Theatre. West End theatre credits include: *Stop The World I Want To Get Off* at the Queens, *Stephen D* and *Once Upon A Time* at the Duke of York's, *The Beggar's Opera* at the Apollo, *Follow The Star* at The Westminster, *The Apple Cart* at The Saville, *Piaf* at The Piccadilly and *Oresteia* at the National.

He has made TV documentaries on a host of different subjects including the Da Vinci Code, the British legal system, the Peasants' Revolt, the Roman Emperors, Macbeth, Robin Hood, the geology of the U.K, the Blitz, the London Olympics, right-wing Christian fundamentalism, the paranormal and the impact of climate change on ancient civilisations. He has extensively toured his one-man stage show *Tony Robinson's Cunning Night Out*, including a series of sell-out performances at the Edinburgh Festival.

As a children's television writer he has won two RTS awards, a BAFTA and the International Prix Jeunesse. His children's work includes Central TV's *Fat Tulip's Garden*, a thirteen-part BBC series based on Homer's

Iliad and Odyssey called *Odysseus - the Greatest Hero of Them All*, and twenty six episodes of his Old Testament series *Blood and Honey*.

He has written thirty children's books, including *Tony Robinson's Kings and Queens*, *The Worst Children's Jobs in History* (Winner of the Blue Peter Book of the Year), and its sequel *Bad Kid*. His latest series of children's books for Macmillan is called *Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders*. Six have so far been published, including the *Ancient Greeks*, *Egyptians*, *Romans*, *British Empire*, *Funny Inventions* and *World War II*. *World War I* will be published this November. He has also written several books for adults, his latest being *Tony Robinson's History of Australia* for Penguin, Australia.

He has recorded the audio version of all 40 of Terry Pratchett's novels, and in 2010 on Terry's behalf gave the BBC1 Dibleby lecture on assisted death. He is currently working on a second series of *Tony Robinson's Walks Through History* for Channel 4, as well as on four new *Time Team* documentaries.

#### **About Will Tuckett, Choreographer & Director**

Will Tuckett is an award-winning choreographer, dancer and director. He was a member of The Royal Ballet 1990-2005, with whom he is now a Guest Principal Character Artist. His work as a choreographer and director includes *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Soldier's Tale*, *Timecode*, *Pinocchio*, *The Thief of Baghdad*, *Faeries*, *Into the Woods* and *Pleasure's Progress* (ROH2), *The Seven Deadly Sins*, *Diana and Actaeon* in *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012*, (Royal Ballet), *West Side Story* (Sage, Gateshead), *The Canterville Ghost* (ENB), *Hansel and Gretel* (Ilford Arts Festival), movement and puppet direction on *The Orphan of Zhao* (RSC), as well as projects for the Brighton Festival, Latitude Festival, Dance Umbrella, the Almeida Theatre and in Europe, the USA, Japan and China. He has choreographed widely for film and television, was Creative Associate for ROH2 and was the Clore Dance Fellow 2008-10.

#### **About *The Wind in the Willows***

Will Tuckett's production of *The Wind in the Willows* is in its tenth year. It was the first Christmas show ever commissioned for the Linbury Studio Theatre. The original run was for just nine performances; over three further revivals it has now played a total of over 100 sell-out performances in London. The production has also played to audiences in Salford and Cumbria. This production of *The Wind in the Willows* features additional puppet design by Toby Olié whose previous work includes *The Cheshire Cat* in The Royal Ballet's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and the National Theatre's *War Horse*.