

The Long Lane Theatre Company presents

THE GIANT KILLERS

When the Battlefield's a Football
Pitch, Everyone is Equal



Worthy of a Hampden roar!

Edinburgh Guide



A tear-jerking underdog story,
told with a deftness of touch.

The List



*A new play by Andrew
and Eve Pearson-Wright*



British Theatre Guide



The Reviews Hub



One4 review

AVAILABLE TO TOUR FROM SUMMER 2018

www.longlanetc.com

The Long Lane Theatre Company presents

THE GIANT KILLERS

The inspiring true story of football's greatest underdogs.

Set in the early years of Association Football, *The Giant Killers* follows a ragtag bunch of Lancashire mill workers who defied all odds to become the first working-class team in the country to play in the FA Cup.

Left tired and despondent from the cotton famine of the 1870s, this small group of northern lads found pride and hope in a game that up until then had been reserved for the upper classes.

Darwen FC rose up against prevailing social prejudice and the might of the Football Association, to earn a place in history as the first real

'giant-killers' in English football, and take on the "poshest team of all" – The Old Etonians.

Scoring a massive moral victory for all working class people, the team proved that passion and spirit is worth more than wealth and privilege. When the Battlefield is the football pitch, everyone is equal.

The Giant Killers is an absorbing, heartfelt story of a town that came together to achieve the impossible and win the respect of the nation. A rip-roaring evening out, whether you know the off-side rule or not!

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

110 minutes (45 mins each half with an interval of 20 minutes).

Recommended Age 12+

Contains moderate swearing and one scene that some may consider distressing for those under the age of 14.

No haze or flashing lights.

*Fancy a team of
working men beating a
team of Gentleman!*



Fascinating. Absorbing.
One4 review



High quality theatre.
Edge of the seat stuff.
Edinburgh Guide



Enthrals from start to finish. A real
belter – and not just for footie fans.
The Reviews Hub



A remarkable and entertaining show
British Theatre Guide



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION



CREATIVE TEAM

Written by Andrew Pearson-Wright and Eve Pearson-Wright

Directed by Andrew Pearson-Wright

Set Design: Justin Williams Theatrical Design.

Lighting Design: Anna Sbokou

Sound Design: Benjamin Winter

Movement Director: Hannah Grainger Gibbs

Costume Design: Long Lane Theatre Company

Originally directed by Natalie-Anne Downs; and performed by Eve Pearson-Wright (Lucy Kirkham), Neil Andrew (Robert "Bobby" Kirkham), Tim Barrow (James Ashton / Lord Kinniard) and Jimmy Riani-Carter (Billy Walsh / Fergus Sutter).

BASIC TECHNICAL INFORMATION

A full technical rider available on request

Length: 90mins / 110 minutes with interval

Playing Space: 6m x 4m minimum (no rake).

Minimum Height 3m

Get-in: 3 hours

Get-Out: 2 hours

Parking: Access for 1 standard transit van.

No. of shows per day: 1

Backline Requirements: Basic PA
(for playback)

Touring Company of 5 (4 performers;
1 technician)

TO BOOK & FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call Andrew Pearson-Wright: +44 (0)7789 277995

Or email Long Lane Theatre Company on: theatre@longlanetc.com | www.longlanetc.com

ABOUT THE GIANT KILLERS:

POSITIONING STATEMENTS

- A True Story
- Fast-paced, immersive
- High Production Values
- Great storytelling
- Sincere & Relevant
- Socially & politically engaging
- Bitter-sweet, heartfelt
- A Tear-jerking underdog story – a real David & Goliath tale
- Funny
- First-rate acting
- No experience of football necessary!

IN THE STANDS: TARGET AUDIENCES

- Theatre lovers / Dinner & A Show
- Fringe Theatre goers / culture-vultures
- Those interested in social & cultural history
- Families with young adults (Age 14+)
- Students and young people
- Fans of films like *Brassed off*, *The Full Monty*, *Billy Elliot*

One of the best reviewed shows at The Fringe 2017, *The Giant Killers* performed to standing ovations throughout its 3-week run.





MARKETING SUPPORT

Long Lane Theatre Company guarantees significant marketing support to host venues, bookers and promoters, providing an up-to-date marketing support and media content pack comprising high-resolution images, video footage and Print artwork, if required. We will work with you to devise a fully integrated promotional campaign in order to maximize audience reach; including targeted social media activity

Outreach & Accompanying Offers

We offer a range of enrichment activities, workshops and events for various ages and around different themes to accompany presentation of *The Giant Killers* at your venue. These include:

- Question & Answer sessions / Post-show Talks
- Social history Discussions
- Storytelling workshops

We are happy to work with you and neighbouring organizations and schools to deliver versions of the above to broaden reach and engagement. We will also consider delivering any of our drama/performance-based skills sessions to local audiences, community groups and schools if and where it fits into your L&P programme. We also propose working with local football associations and amateur clubs in ways that might allow for group-based ticketing offers that support audience reach.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Long Lane Theatre Company was initially set up by founders Eve Pearson-Wright and Andrew Wright to support the delivery of their now much in-demand schools-based theatre productions, drama workshops and creative learning programmes.

The Giant Killers is the company's first self-written stage theatre production, which premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017 to sell-out performances. It earned a position as one of the best reviewed shows of the festival that year.

We provide LAMDA-accredited courses in Acting, Musical Theatre and Public Speaking for schools and private companies across the UK, as well as after-school drama clubs, and a series of Masterclasses for the Pauline Quirke Academy. Long Lane offer sessions focused on

engaging young people through drama and performance in key texts, including the popular 'Accessing Shakespeare' and 'The Magical World of Roald Dahl' for delivery at various levels. We also have longer abridged performance packages (from 45 – 60 minutes) for up to 100 students (levels KS3-5) with special Q&As based around core curriculum texts, including *An Inspector Calls* and *Of Mice and Men*.

Visit www.longlanetc.com for more details.

BIOGRAPHIES

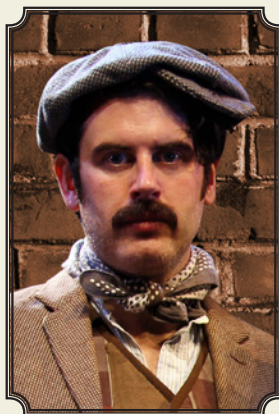


**Eve Pearson-Wright
(Company Director)**

Eve started her performance career at the age of 12, appearing in TV commercials, magazines and large commercial concerts – including Bryan Adams’ 18 ‘*Til I Die*’ tour. She went to study drama at Mountview Academy, and within a year of graduating in 2006, was starring in the West-end production *The Mousetrap*, where she met her now-husband and Long Lane Theatre co-director Andrew Wright.

Other theatre highlights include: *Aliens Love Underpants* (West End & International tour); *Get Lost* (Australian tour); *Before the night is Through* (original musical cast). Film credits include: *Fallen Soldiers*; Nollywood film *Assassins Practice*; and award-winning thriller *The Sky in Bloom*. TV work includes: *Dream Demons* (Sky); *Nurses who Kill* (Sky); *Stalkers who Kill* (Sky) as well as numerous commercials and music videos.

2018 also sees her directorial debut with *The Changing Rooms* for National Theatre Connections at The Arts Depot in North Finchley.



**Andrew Pearson-Wright
(Company Director)**

Andrew trained at The Drama Centre London (UAL), graduating in 2003. His Theatre credits include national tours of the plays *That’s Love*, *Death and The Maiden* and *Haunting Julia*. He has worked extensively at The Mill at Sonning Theatre and appeared in numerous plays in London and Edinburgh. He toured Europe with the WWII play *Secret Weapons* and appeared in *The Mousetrap* (West End). Television credits include *The Bill* (ITV), *Knife Edge* (Sky One), *Doctors on Death Row* (Sky) and various commercials and short films. *The Giant Killers* is the second play Andrew has co-written; his first being *Inherent*, written with the actor Adam Newsome and performed at The Arts Depot in 2011.

Before acting Andrew pursued a football career playing in his youth for Luton Town and Stevenage Borough.

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE TO SAY



The Reviews Hub

From the opening moments this is a work of quality - writing and acting. A story of community and family underpins the whole thing. There's a wonderfully three-dimensional female lead, foul-mouthed, spirited, independent and the match of any of the men. The four-strong cast is impeccable and the writing and delivery builds excitement, creates pathos and enthral from start to finish.



British Theatre Guide

This is a remarkable and entertaining show that you don't even have to be interested in football to enjoy



One4 review

You don't have to like football to appreciate this crowd-pleasing play as the social history of the period is fascinating and the inequality felt at home is equally reflected on the pitch. The action moves along briskly [and] I quickly became absorbed.



Edinburgh Guide

A wonderful dramatization of a true-life David and Goliath set up! A tragi-comedy that deals with socio-political issues of the time, [with] a fantastic script and tremendous performances from the entire troupe. Its re-enactment of the games is transporting, edge-of-the-seat stuff - even for someone who doesn't know the offside rule!

High quality theatre [...] worthy of a Hampden roar!



The List

A Tear-jerking sporting underdog story[about] a small group fighting hard for something larger than themselves. Eve Pearson Wright's performance as quick-witted and determined club secretary Lucy is a particular highlight. *The Giant Killers* proves that, if told with a deftness of touch, there is still mileage in a tear-jerking underdog story.

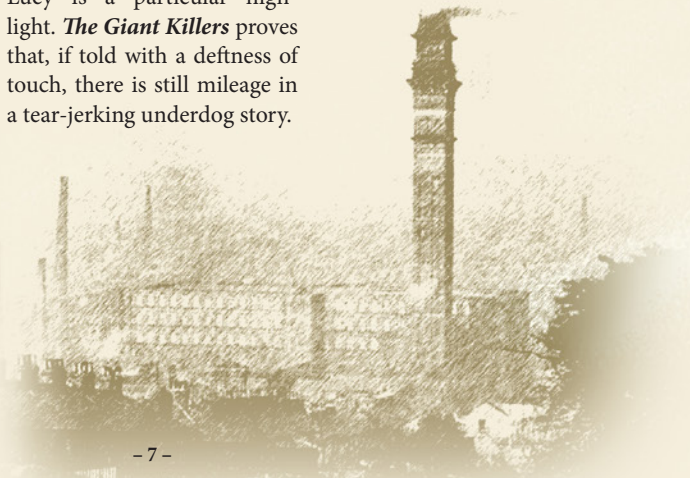


Three weeks

The human heart and soul of the story takes centre stage here. I am not a fan of football, but for 75 minutes I was part of the crowd, feeling every triumph and tragedy with a true fan's intensity.

Fringe Review

Part social history, part football narrative, we are taken on an action-packed, tightly scripted and choreographed emotional roller-coaster of a journey. Direction is tight and assured and the acting is universally top-drawer, capturing the adrenalin, ecstasy, anguish, anger, frustration and, occasionally, sadness and disappointment of the lives and loves of those involved in pursuing the seemingly impossible dream of unseating the establishment.



WHAT AUDIENCES HAVE TO SAY:

Peter Louch: A 5-star, all round brilliant performance: well written, very educational in a very entertaining way.

Barclay Low: A marvellous, gripping story - superbly enacted. You do not need to be a football fan to appreciate the play as there is so much more to it. Social history movingly told. Highly recommended.

Maggie Mackenzie: This show is a definite 'must-see'. Such a well-written true-life story. The four characters were so believable [and] the whole play was mesmerising.

Evie Starr: Absolutely loved this! Such a wonderful, enthralling story. Superb acting. I was so gripped and moved.

Deborah Helm: A gripping story even for the non-football fan. Well written, moving, exciting, and very well acted.

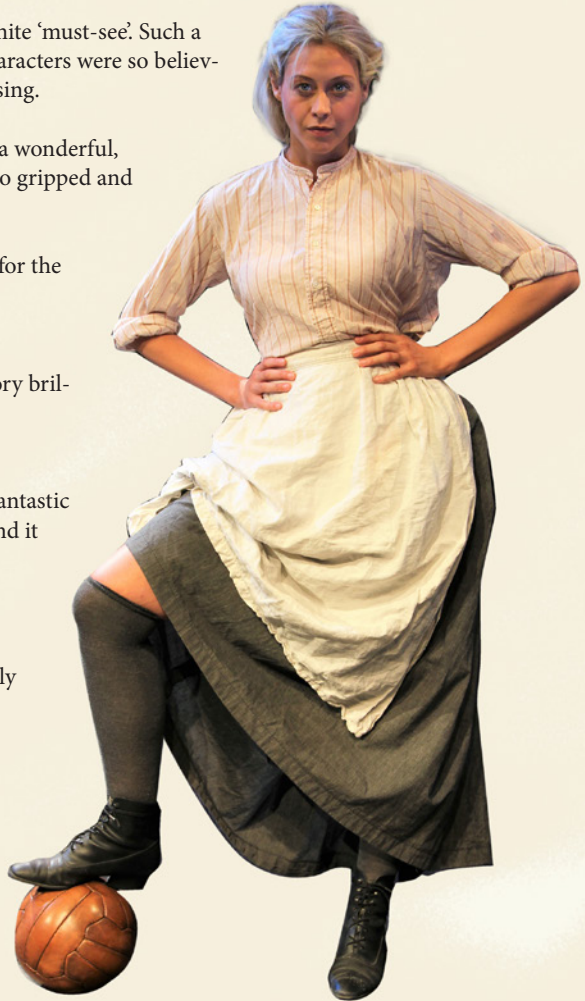
Brian Haimbach: This is a beautiful story brilliantly told. A MUST SEE!

Siobhan Buckley: Wonderful show! Absolutely loved it. Fantastic acting and production. Can't recommend it highly enough.

John Dewhurst: What a treat! You need not be even slightly interested in football, to be richly entertained by this brilliant quartet of actors who tell a great story.

Teddingtonian: The most engaging play we saw all festival. It features a love story, a tragedy, a David vs Goliath battle against the odds, the fight against social inequity, and yes, a bit of football. And it's supremely moving.

Frank Parisi: Everything was superb: the stage; the pace of the plot; the lovable characters; the quick changes in character; the graphic descriptions of the games; the choreography - everything was first rate.





WHERE TO FIND US

 @LongLaneTheatre

 Long Lane Theatre Company

#GiantKillers

www.longlanetc.com

For Booking & further information:

Tel: 07789277995

Email: theatre@longlanetc.com