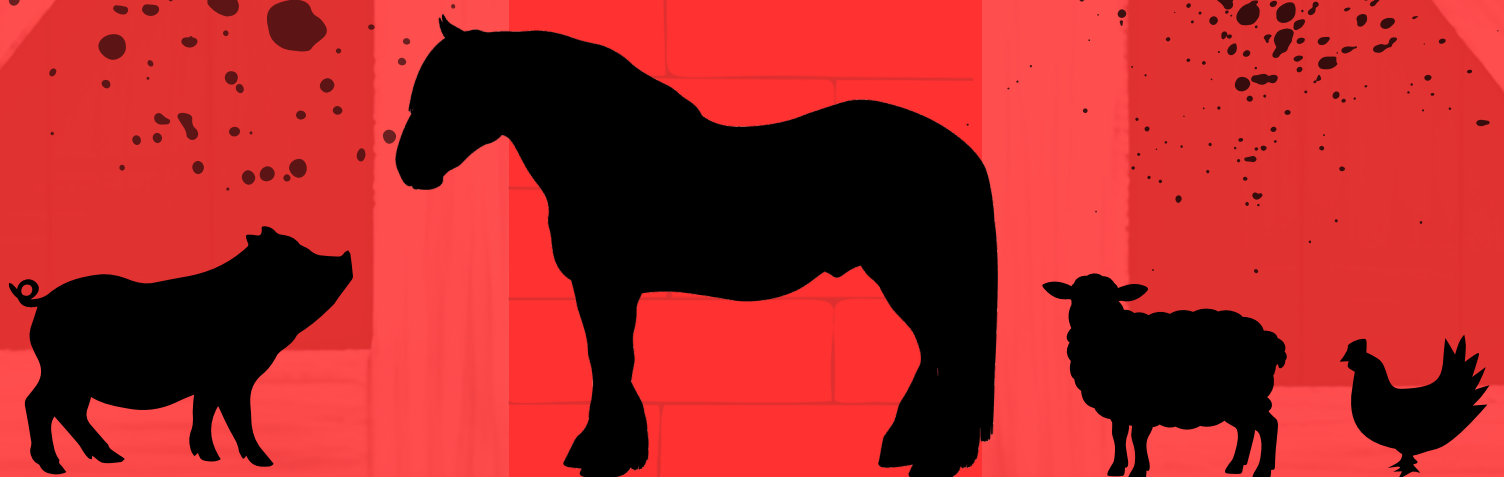




MINACK
THEATRE

ANIMAL FARM

By George Orwell
Adapted by Tatty Hennessy
Presented by the Minack Acting Academy
By arrangement with Nick Hern Books



THE MINACK ACADEMIES

The Minack Academies help young people to develop advanced theatre skills. Specialising in either acting or musical theatre, students spend one day a month working with professional practitioners and learning about careers in the industry.

THE MUSICAL THEATRE ACADEMY

The Musical Theatre Academy members delve into all aspects of musical theatre required to become a 'triple threat' - developing their skill in acting, singing and dancing and learning about the world of professional musical theatre.

THE ACTING ACADEMY

The Acting Academy offers intensive theatre experiences to young people with aspirations for a career in theatre. Students work on performing for both stage and screen and learn about all aspects of the industry through working with a wide range of professionals across the year.

Auditions for the Minack Academies are held in September.
Visit our website for more information.

THIS IS A MINACK EDUCATION PRODUCTION

Rowena Cade created the Minack as a community asset to bring people together for entertainment and creative endeavour. As part of her legacy, we seek to engage as many people as possible in creating theatre through an extensive engagement programme.

We work closely with schools, community groups and individuals to provide arts activities, especially for young people and the socially disadvantaged. This work is funded entirely by income generated from the Minack Theatre as a tourist attraction and performance venue.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been a real privilege to work with the Minack Acting Academy and our amazing production team on Animal Farm. From the first rehearsal, the cast have met this play with insight, energy and a real willingness to collaborate. Our intense rehearsal schedule has asked a great deal of the cast in terms of physical commitment, emotional honesty, and the ability to engage with big ideas about power, injustice and truth. They have met the challenges head on and brought extra value to every stage of the rehearsals and production.

Some of the cast have met Animal Farm at school where it is often taught as a classic text; in rehearsal it has felt anything but distant. It's story of hope, change, corruption and control feels startlingly current, and our young performers have connected to it with clarity and conviction. They have asked difficult questions, challenged assumptions, and worked together to create a piece that is both playful and political.

The strength of this production lies in its ensemble. Every performer has helped shape the world of the farm, and every voice has mattered in the room. That shared spirit has been one of the most rewarding parts of the process.

JOHN BROLLY, JULY 2026

THE CAST



AOIFE LODER

This is my seventh production with the Minack Theatre and my third as part of the Acting Academy. I've been acting since I was eight years old, and some of my favourite productions have been The Railway Children (2018) and The Light Burns Blue (2022). Animal Farm has been such a fun experience, and I've loved playing Benjamin. It's been an unforgettable production, and I've made so many wonderful memories along the way.

You can catch me again at the Minack this summer, playing Carrie in Goodnight Mister Tom!



ASHA ROBINSON

Animal Farm is Asha's second play with the Minack Acting Academy, following her role as Li'l Martin in last year's Pearl O Wisdom. She loves to play characters with real depth, especially if they have a comic edge. Asha also greatly enjoys musical theatre with recent roles as Wednesday in Addams Family (Karnon Kidz) and Bridget in Bring it On (Boom Theatre). George Orwell is one of Asha's favourite authors and being part of bringing such a relevant story to life is a true delight.



DYLAN TAYLOR-BENNETT

During my four years in the Minack Acting Academy, I have played many fun roles all of which I have enjoyed greatly. Some of my particular favourites include Albert Sandwich in Carrie's War as the cast were such a joy to work with, as well as Brit in We Will Rock You. It was great fun getting lifted up, rockstar style! I have loved working on Animal Farm as it is delightfully creepy, and it has been a real pleasure being part of the comical pigeon duo. My main interests are acting, writing music, animating and eating pasta, so in the future I would love to continue all of these.



FRIEDA WILLS-MCNEILL

My name is Frida Wills-McNeill and I am 14 years old . I have been a member of the Minack Academy for 1 year, and this is my first time performing on the Minack stage. However, I have always loved performing. My favourite character I have played was Tabitha/Maddy in No Angel by John Welsh with the Tolman Theatre Company. I have enjoyed seeing the development of Animal Farm and experiencing a professional rehearsal environment. In the future I would like to continue performing on other stages further afield and explore film and camera performance.

THE CAST



GEORGIA CADDIS

I joined the Academy last September and have loved every minute of being part of the group. One of the highlights was the storytelling at Christmas when a small group of us performed for those who were visiting the theatre. One of my favourite roles outside of the academy was playing Bertha in a school production of Jane Eyre also playing the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland with a small physical theatre group called The Silver Apples. Animal Farm is my first production with the Minack Academy and I have loved being part of the team, and playing Blue/Farmer Jones. I would love to pursue acting in the future. Well done to all the Animal Farm crew, I'm so proud of us!



IRIS KIRWAN

My name is Iris Kirwan and I am 11 years old. I have been in the Minack Academy for 1 year, Animal Farm is my first performance with them. However, I have been performing at the Minack since the age of 8. My favourite performance was when I played Nick in Carrie's War, closely followed by the role of Matilda. During the creation of Animal Farm, I have absolutely loved the rehearsal process and getting to know my fellow cast members. My future aspirations, I wish to pursue a career in acting and I hope to perform many more times here at this wonderful theatre.



JESSICA BAILEY

Hi I'm Jessica! I've been in the Minack Academies for 3 years. Some of my favourite roles include Roxie in Chicago, Youth Ensemble in HfC's pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, and now playing the role of Clara in Animal Farm. I'm so grateful to have had the chance to be directed by and work with such talented, wonderful people and grow as a performer during my time with Animal Farm. In the future, I would love to go to drama school, particularly for musical theatre, and become a professional performer.



JOE BAILEY

Hello I'm Joe. I've been training with the Minack Acting Academy for the past year. This is my first show with the Minack so I am very excited and happy to be a part of it. I am really enjoying the opportunity of playing Boxer as it has been a very fun challenge of acting the character, but also I've found it a very interesting challenge with his physicality. The thing that I have enjoyed most about Animal Farm has been working with a great group of people, getting to know many new faces over the year and getting closer through the show, as well as how playing Boxer has helped develop me as an actor.

THE CAST



LEVAN DOVE

Levan has been part of the Acting Academy for 2 years and has loved every opportunity to perform. His favourite role so far has been Bertie, Carrie's son in Carrie's War. For this production of Animal Farm, he has especially enjoyed playing a pigeon—mainly because he loves pigeons! When he's not on stage, Levan dreams of one day becoming the lead guitarist in a rock band.



LUCY BEASLEY

Hi I'm Lucy! I've been training with the Minack Acting Academy for 4 years. My favourite roles I've played at the Minack have to include Hattie in Tom's Midnight Garden and Haemon in Antigone. Also I am absolutely loving having the opportunity to play a very different type of role in Squealer. The thing that I have enjoyed most about Animal Farm is getting to work with such a wonderful bunch of people who are not only brilliant actors but also brilliant people. In the future, I would love to go to drama school so that I can pursue a career in acting.



MABEL CHEYNE

Hello, I'm Mabel. I've only been with the Minack Acting Academy for a year now, and I am loving all of the new opportunities in Animal Farm. I have enjoyed working with an amazing cast, they are brilliant actors and amazing people. I would like to continue with drama in the future and hopefully stay in the Academy as it is a wonderful community and a great bunch of actors.



MARTHA GILL

My favourite part of Animal Farm has been getting to work with this amazing group of people to create a show with such a strong and poignant message. Playing Napoleon has been both challenging and satisfying - getting to portray a character with such relevance to today's political landscape. This show has by far been the highlight of my 3 years in the Acting Academy. Although I am not pursuing acting as a career, the Academy has taught me so much and I'm really going to miss it in September as this is my final year. I hope to work in humanitarian aid or geopolitics but I will undoubtedly keep acting as a hobby at university and into the far, far future.

THE CAST



After having auditioned for a couple of years, I gained a spot in the Acting Academy when I was 14 and have now participated for two years! Of all time, my favourite role I've played has either been the Sultan in Aladdin or Nutmeg in Animal Farm! My favourite part of Animal Farm is without a doubt the cast - everyone is so incredible and I am so proud to be able to work with them. In the future, I am looking to a career in Law, however I would love to be able to eventually diverge back into acting!

MEGHAN BRIDGES



My name is Millie Hawley, I am 16 years old. This is my first year with the Minack Academy, but I have previously performed on the Minack stage. However, my favourite role I have played was Trinculo in The Tempest with the Hall for Cornwall. During the rehearsal process of Animal Farm, I have really enjoyed learning about the history of the play and experimenting with movement and animalistic characterisation. In the future, I would like to pursue a career of acting and improve my performance skills.

MILLIE HAWLEY



I have been a part of the Minack Acting Academy for 4 years, playing Agatha in Light Burns Blue (2024) and Pearl in Pearl O'Wisdom (2025). Being part of the Animal Farm cast has been an incredible experience, everyone has been so supportive and we have created such a tight knit company that will be hard to say goodbye. This is my final year in the Academy and I hope to pursue a career in acting, applying to drama schools for 2027. The Minack has given me incredible opportunities and support, including projects outside the Academy to expand my understanding of the industry.

MIRANDA MIDDLEMISS-FROST



This is my first year in the Academy, and I have loved every second. My favourite role I have played is Mollie in Animal Farm. I like her attitude and her loyalty to her close friends. What I enjoyed most about this play was taking it out on the stage for the first time and seeing it all come together. My future aspirations after finishing school/education is to travel around Iceland and to become an actress in the West End.

MOLLY MADDERN

THE CAST



Hi, I'm Talitha! This has been my first year with the Acting Academy, and Minty has been my favourite role to work on so far. My favourite part of working in this production has been getting to know the wonderful community here at the Minack and in the Academy. Moving forwards, I hope to continue training with the Academy, to later pursue a career in stage acting.

TALITHA PRICE



CAST LIST

Benjamin, donkey

Aoife Loder

Snowball, pig

Asha Robinson

Milo, pigeon

Dylan Taylor-Bennett

Newsreader

Frieda Wills-McNeill

Farmer Jones and Blue, dog

Georgia Caddis

Minimus, pig

Iris Kirwan

Clara, hen

Jessica Bailey

Boxer, horse

Joe Bailey

Milo, pigeon

Levan Dove

Squealer, pig

Lucy Beasley

Newsreader

Mabel Cheyne

Napoleon, pig

Martha Gill

Nutmeg, pig

Meghan Bridges

Farmer Pilkington and Old Major, pig

Millie Hawley

Clover, horse

Miranda Middlemiss Frost

Mollie, horse

Molly Maddern

Minty, sheep

Talitha Price

THE TEAM

Director

John Brolly

Assistant Director

Connie Crosby

Producer

Millie Jones

Set and Costume Design

Marion Harrison

Sound Design

Justin Roberts

Technical Team

Simon Hutchings
Fin Stephens
Lucy Gaskell (on tour)

Stage Manager

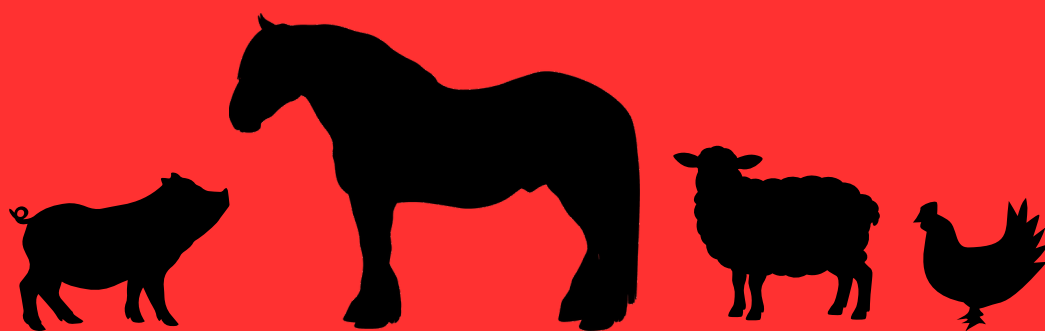
Yasmin Baird

Creative Consultant

Helen Blight

Chaperone

Kat Loder



ANIMAL FARM

2026 TOUR

15 JULY - Minack Theatre, Porthcurno

16 JULY - Minack Theatre, Porthcurno

17 JULY - Minack Theatre, Porthcurno

22 JULY - Penlee Park, Penzance

23 JULY - Sterts, Liskeard

24 JULY - Trevow Chapel, Helston

28 JULY - Cardinham Woods, Bodmin

29 JULY - King Arthur's Great Halls, Tintagel

30 JULY - Castle Lawn, Bude

31 JULY - Eco Park, Porthtowan

Link to venues and tickets [HERE](#)

A Minack Theatre Production
17 August – 1 September



Goodnight Mister Tom

Adapted from the book by

Michelle Magorian

A play by

David Wood



01736 810181
minack.com

Investing in the future

When you visit the Minack or come to see a show, you're not just having a great time, you are also helping other people to enjoy the thrill of live performance.

Your ticket purchase enables us to give back to the community in West Cornwall, through our Taking Part outreach programme.

Our Taking Part team work with local schools, community and social care groups, individuals and families, providing access to creative arts training, activities and opportunities.

Some of our Minack Academy members and other participants in Taking Part will be performing or working backstage in Goodnight Mister Tom.

We couldn't do it without you!

Find out more about Taking Part on the Minack website