



‘Oh Mary!’ Minack Theatre 2026

Bec Applebee is well known for her work with internationally acclaimed companies **Kneehigh Theatre, Wildworks, Golden Tree Productions, Cousin Jack’s, Dalla and the Tosta Band**. She now presents for you ‘Oh Mary!’

‘Oh Mary’ is an original piece devised with an internationally renowned creative team. Including a writer, director, choreographer, musical director, composer, lighting designer technician and a group of 10 musicians.

Bec’s one-woman physical theatre show is based on the incredible life story of Mary Bryant. Born in Fowey, Cornwall in 1765. Mary became a convict, mother and maritime adventurer. This true story is a tale of transportation, love, escape, tragedy and redemption that spanned the world between Cornwall and Australia.

“When I first read about Mary Bryant in Judith Cook’s book **‘To Brave Every Danger’** I was deeply moved by her unbelievable life. I was fascinated and consequently did my own research about her. I had so many questions running about in my head, her story haunted me. On the 20th of May 1786 Mary was found guilty of violent highway robbery and sentenced to death by hanging. No one could have foreseen the unimaginable consequences of her actions. Her life story is one of personal strength, bravery and loss. She is at the heart of one of Maritime’s greatest escapes. I find her story truly inspiring.”

– *Bec Applebee*

Arrival at Botany Bay

Mary - “**A smell of eucalyptus and heat like I never felt before. Cliffs higher than cathedrals, and an army of rocks to welcome us. Great white chalk stacks jutting out, a stubble of green, dried out and thirsty, a few trees as tall as light houses. Not a building, a hut, a tent; nothing. No brass band to welcome us either!**” by Anna Murphy

REVIEWS:

This is pure storytelling; we will go anywhere you take us. Moving and surprising and funny. - *Emma Rice, Emma Rice Company*

One of the most astonishing one woman shows I have ever seen... just plain bloody brilliant. - *Fi Read, The Cornishman*

CAST:

Bec Applebee - Mary Bryant

Bec is a Cornish Bard - Kana Mor (Sea Singing)

She trained at Liverpool Polytechnic and Fool Time Bristol. She has worked locally, nationally and internationally as a performer and project leader with companies **Kneehigh Theatre** ‘The Riot’ by Nick Darke, ‘The Red Shoes’ and more. **Wildworks** - The Three Island Project, I am Kevin and Stranger Beasts. **Miracle Theatre** - Duffy and the Stiltskin, She has long standing relationships with companies **Golden Tree Productions, Cousin Jacks, Scary Little Girls, Hall for Cornwall** and has worked with many more, including the **National Theatre**.

Since becoming a Mum, Bec has produced her own shows and award-winning community projects. These include **Darke Women** celebrating the work of playwright Nick Darke, **The Grand Ball** project with the Five Islands island museum on the Isles of Scilly and **The Story Shelter** with Wild Works.

Bec is a musician who specialises in Cornish Celtic Traditional music. She plays with Nos Lowen bands **Skillywidden** and **Tanek** and as a Duo with Richard Trethewey called **Didjan**. She has recorded 5 albums with Cornish music group **Dalla** and has represented Cornwall on two occasions as a Kernewek singer on international projects **The Tosta Banda** and Lorient Festival’s - **Celtic Odysée**.



CO COLLABORATORS:

Directors - Simon Harvey, Bec Applebee

Simon is the Artistic Director of **o-region** theatre company and a freelance theatre director. He was a long-time Associate with Cornwall's internationally acclaimed Kneehigh Theatre. He was the Co-director of the Olivier Award winning **Pride and Prejudice Sort of** which has toured nationally and internationally.

As Artistic Director of **o-region** he directed shows including **HIRETH, Tre** and **FUP** (originally in co-production with Kneehigh) and reimaged for the Minack in 2023. He recently wrote and directed **WHITE HORSE** in a sell-out run at the Regal Theatre, Redruth.

Other directing credits include Cornwall's longest running Christmas show **Christmas.Time** for Near Ta Theatre and **A Christmas Carol** and **Dracula** for David Mynne.

Wordsmith - Anna Maria Murphy

Anna Maria is mostly a writer, and has worked with amongst others **Kneehigh Theatre**, 'Red Shoes' and 'Tristan & Ysult' amongst a few, **Cscape dance, Stuff and Nonsense, O-region, BBC Radio 4** including Curious Under the Stars series, Rosie's Beauty, The Severn Serpent, & Scummow. She was artistic director of **The Writers Block** and still keeps her hand in.

Composer - Neil Davey

Musician and composer Neil Davey and his brothers effectively sparked the current great revival of Cornish traditional music. He later co-founded the acclaimed band **Dalla** and the **Nos Lowen** movement, both of which greatly helped shape and popularise this tradition. Many of his compositions have quickly found their way into the repertoires of musicians both here and abroad. He has performed throughout the world, and in 2011 he became a bard of the Cornish Gorseth in recognition of services to Cornish music, taking the bardic name 'Gov Tonyow' (Tune Smith). Neil's composition 'Mary's Waltz', a central theme in the 'Oh Mary' soundtrack, is also dedicated to his mother Mary Davey, a mandolin player herself and someone who has been on her own remarkable voyage now for very nearly 100 years!

Musical Direction & Production - Jim Carey, Bec Applebee.

Jim Carey has written and arranged, produced, directed and performed music for events, film and theatre including **Kneehigh, Miracle, The National Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse, The Eden Project, Wild Works, Golden Tree, C-Scape Dance co, Hall for Cornwall** and has lead or been part of many other bands and music projects. eg. **Riots and Lobsters, Bragatanga, Bombrassa, Jaclarabag, Skillywidden**. He is regarded as being a major part of the Cornish music culture. Check out jimcarey1.bandcamp.com

Lighting design and technician - Lucy Gaskell.

Prior to 35 years of lighting shows in the wilds of Kernow, Lucy trained as a lighting designer in South London. That was back in the days of free higher education, cultural dreams and CCT Profile lights so hot you could fry an egg on them. And make toast. Having focused quite a few she has no discernible fingerprints left. It's inconvenient for trying to log on to a laptop these days but could yet prove handy for a life of crime. Well... 'tis tough times. Nobody even wears bonnets anymore. Feel free to leave your DOB, mother's maiden name and fingerprints at the tech control room door.

Choreography - Helen Tiplady.

Helen has worked at the **Hall for Cornwall** since 2016. As the Deputy Creative Director she leads the **Get Creative & Husa teams**. She develops and delivers all the outreach, education and community strategies, including the flagship youth theatre & dance programmes, the large-scale **Partner Schools Programme** and the **Royal Shakespeare Company Associate Schools Programme**. She leads the **Husa Artist Development** team and manages the **Husa Workspace**. Currently Helen is developing the **HFC's Ticket Bank** to support people to attend the theatre for the first time. Helen produces work for **Cornwall Playhouse Productions**, including last years 2025 pantomime Aladdin. Prior to her role at HFC, Helen has had a varied twenty five year career in the Arts Sector, starting out as a performer then diversifying into choreography, teaching, producing, project management and business consultancy. Helen is passionate about developing the next generation of theatre and dance makers. Helen is a mum, a blue drinks consumer, a Take That fan, a workaholic control freak (and not always in that exact order!)

Soundtrack - recorded with musicians from the bands Dalla & Radjel

Dalla - "Innovation... energy... multi-instrumentalist virtuosity... a rich aural tapestry that would awaken the dead. Sublime" (Rock 'n' Reel).

Bec Applebee, Hillary Coleman, Neil Davey, Jen Kessell, Steven Hunt.

Radjel - "The darkest secret of Cornish music".

Jim Carey, Will Coleman, Roger Luxton, Colin Seddon, John Webb, Francis Webb.

MAKERS :

Set - Sean Donahoe, David Applebee (Dad)

Props - David Applebee, Alice King

Costume - Tracey Stevens, Genevieve Cox

Publicity Photography - Steve Tanner, Christine Bradshaw Photography, Cosmic Exposure



THANKS

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