

## **REBEL ANGEL**

**By Angus Graham-Campbell**

### **MARKETING COPY AND PRESS**

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Young Keats is a major poet in waiting. Meanwhile, he is training to become a London surgeon in the brutal times when body snatchers were at work and anesthetics had not yet come into medical practice.

A play that gives you a first look into Keats' young life, suitable for English Romantics, literature fanatics, children, adults and your local poetry club. Rebel Angel takes its viewers on a journey of John Keats and his pursuit of self-discovery.

Previously heard on BBC Radio 4, directed by Richard Wortley, with a cast including Kim Wall, Jane Whittenshaw, David Timson, Geoffrey Whitehead, Gavin Muir, Paul Jenkins, Jonathan Newman, Melanie Hudson, Ian Masters and Alison Reid.



*Photo Credit: William Hilton*

Rebel Angel is commissioned by The Keats Shelley Memorial Association and developed with support from the Old Operating Theatre Museum in London.

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## About 'Rebel Angel'

'Rebel Angel' is a site-specific production expressly created to be experienced in the evocative and atmospheric ambience of the Old Operating Theatre at St Thomas's Hospital, London. Indeed, the play opens with a challenging re-enactment of a pre-anesthesia amputation. The play explores the circumstances that led the young John Keats to abandon a promising career in medicine and surgery to become one of the most loved and acclaimed of English poets. As he was becoming increasingly horrified by the blundering of his supervisor 'Butcher' Lucas and the nightmare of dealing with the macabre body snatchers, so he was falling under the spell of his mentor Charles Cowden Clarke, the admiration of his new girl friends and the encouragement of poets Leigh Hunt and Shelley. Despite the opposition of his stern guardian Mr. Abbey, he was inspired by poetry and the mesmerizing acting of Edmund Kean to try to emulate his hero Shakespeare.

The play is presented in the well of the old theatre where the operations were performed while the audience will stand or sit on the tiers originally occupied by the watching (and frequently fainting) medical students. This is an extraordinary opportunity to share in the events of almost exactly 200 years ago in a unique setting identical to one in which Keats worked and operated in.

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## About The Old Operating Theatre

The Old Operating Theatre Museum is the oldest in Europe and found in a unique space in the Herb Garret of St Thomas Church, which was once part of old St Thomas Hospital. The building itself remained in use for many years and was known as 'The Operating Theatre of Old St Thomas' Hospital'. Following the departure of the hospital, the theatre remained in tack, however was 15 feet below ground level. After its current refurbishment, The Old Operating Theatre will reopen its doors to the public this summer, August 2017.

*Photo Credit: The Old Operating Theatre*



## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

**Venue:** Old Operating Theatre Musuem and Herb Garret

**Address:** 9a St Thomas Street, London, SE1 9RY

### **Dates/Times:**

Previews	Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 September	7pm	
Press night	Thursday 21 September	7pm	
Gala night	Friday 22 September	6.30pm	
Performances	Saturday 23 September	7pm	
	Monday 25 September	7pm	
	Tuesday 26 September	7pm	
	Wednesday 27 September (Schools matinee)	3pm	
	Wednesday 27 September	7pm	
	Thursday 28 September	7pm	
		<i>(British Sign Language interpreted performance)</i>	
	Friday 29 September	7pm	
	Saturday 30 September	7pm	
	Monday 2 October	7pm	
	Tuesday 3 October	7pm	
	Wednesday 4 October (Schools matinee)	3pm	
	Wednesday 4 October	7pm	
	Thursday 5 October	7pm	
	Friday 6 October	7pm	
		<i>(British Sign Language interpreted performance)</i>	
Saturday 7 October	7pm		

### **Travel information:**

The Museum is located in central London, in the historic Borough of Southwark, on the same street as the Shard, just south of London Bridge, and opposite minute walk from London Bridge Underground Station, Borough Market and Southwark Cathedral and a few minutes walk from the rebuilt Globe Theatre, Tower Bridge, HMS Belfast, the Clink Prison and other major attractions.

**Underground connections:** Northern and Jubilee lines (London Bridge)

**Mainline Rail connections:** London Bridge.

**Buses:** Bus station and taxis in concourse at London Bridge Station: 17, 21, 35, 40, 43, 47, 48, 133, 141, 149, 343, 381, 521, RV1

**Coaches:** are usually able to stop briefly in St Thomas's Street for set-down.

**Parking:** Union Car Parks, 53 Southwark St, London, SE1 1RU, 020 7378 6639 Union Car Parks, 70-78 St. Thomas St, London, SE1 3QU, 020 7378 9749 Euro Car Parks, 10 Tooley St, London, SE1 2PF, 020 7378 114

## **Tickets:**

Available at Eventbrite: Rebel Angel

Previews: <https://rebelangelpreview.eventbrite.co.uk>

Performances: <https://rebelangel.eventbrite.co.uk>

Schools matinees: <https://rebelangelschools.eventbrite.co.uk>

## **Angus Graham-Campbell**

Angus Graham-Campbell is a playwright, director, academic and teacher of English, Creative Writing and Drama. He is an English graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, and he has taught at Repton, Sevenoaks, Eton, St Paul's School, New Hampshire, USA and Shore School, Australia. He is a Trustee of the Keats House and Museum in Rome, and of Keats' and Shelley's graves, and he edited The Keats-Shelley Review for twelve years and he has written widely on the Romantic poets. Two of his plays about the poets have been given site-specific productions in Rome and Hampstead and recently he produced a candlelit celebration of the Romantic poets in the Soane Museum, London. 'Rebel Angel' in its original format was commissioned for radio by the BBC to celebrate the bicentenary of Keats' birth and was directed by Richard Wortley and featured Julian Rhind-Tutt as the poet. Angus has written about 30 plays, many of which have been produced on BBC radio. Directing highlights at the Edinburgh Festival have included directing Tom Hiddleston in 'Journey's End' and Eddie Redmayne in 'Cabaret'. His own play 'From Morning Sun Till Dine' with Perrier Award winner Will Adamsdale transferred to the Plesance in London, while Ian Shaw and Sam West created the parts for radio. Other established actors that Angus has directed or written for include Douglas Hodge, Damian Lewis, Will Keen, Nigel Havers, Nyasha Hatendi, Ollie Dimsdale, Scott Handy and Dominic West. He has directed over 60 plays across the whole theatrical spectrum, and was a co-winner of a Digital Dance Award for his contribution writing and co-directing the innovative dance piece 'The Other Telling' with dancers Neil Fisher and Uni Krishna and composer Glen Perrin. He enjoys creating site specific drama and has directed plays in cellars and castle battlements, in domestic settings and art galleries and in the Keats' Houses in Rome and Hampstead. Outside the theatre and seminar room, Angus is a keen supporter of sport, particularly cricket and football (St Johnstone and Fulham), and he has recently collaborated on two football books: 'Underdogs' by National Theatre playwright, Keith Dewhurst, and 'the Ten Football Matches that Changed the World' by former Scottish Labour leader, Jim Murphy.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS PLEASE CONTACT:**

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