



Contact: Davidson & Choy Publicity | Tim Choy [t.choy@dcpubcity.com](mailto:t.choy@dcpubcity.com)  
Peter Goldman [p.goldman@dcpubcity.com](mailto:p.goldman@dcpubcity.com) | 323 954 7510

Kory Kelly - Director of Marketing at Pasadena Playhouse:

# ***West End Thriller to Arrive in Pasadena Just in Time for Halloween.***

Susan Hill's  
***The Woman in Black***  
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt  
Directed by Robin Herford

**Wednesday, October 17 to Sunday, November 11  
Press Opening: Thursday, October 18**

**Tickets are available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org)**

PASADENA, CA (September 19, 2018) - Pasadena Playhouse, the State Theater of California, presents London's second longest-running West End play ***The Woman in Black***, Wednesday, October 17 through Sunday, November 11. (Press opening is October 18). Over eight million people have lived to tell the tale of one of the most successful - and terrifying - theatre events ever staged. It is coming to rattle audiences in Pasadena just in time for Halloween, with all the stage wizardry that has led audiences in London to shriek in fear for over 28 years.

For this production, director Robin Herford is recreating his original staging for the first time in the United States. Susan Hill's gothic ghost story, adapted for the stage by Stephen Mallatratt, is set in an isolated windswept mansion -- with tragic secrets hidden behind its shuttered windows. There, a young lawyer encounters horrific visions in the house set amidst the eerie marshes and howling winds of England's forbidding North Coast.

He is a man obsessed, believing that his family has been cursed by a ghostly woman in black; he tells his terrifying story to exorcise the fear that grips his soul. It all begins innocently enough, but as he reaches further into his darkest memories, he quickly finds that there is no turning back. With just two actors, ***The Woman in Black*** gives audiences an evening of unremitting drama and sheer theatricality as they are transported into a chilling and ghostly world.

Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman said, "We're very excited to be presenting one of the great international theatrical thrillers -- and just in time for Halloween! This gripping production is a brilliantly successful study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled tension, and we are thrilled to be presenting it as it has been in London for nearly three decades."

London's *The Independent* said of it, "The atmosphere is so charged-up that on more than one occasion the entire audience screamed in terror." The *Daily Mail* called it "A nerve-shredding experience."

Reviewing the West End production this past January, *The Daily Express* said, “As the tale unfolds, it tightens its grip on the spectator like a medieval instrument of torture ... It is all staged impeccably with amazing sound effects and shocks that make you jump out of your seat. But it is the simplicity that impresses. It is profoundly effective, and it will scare the living daylights out of you.”

*The Guardian's* Mark Lawson said, “the great pleasure of the production remains the way in which Mallatratt and the director Robin Herford (who has been in charge of all the play's incarnations) utilise the fears and imagination of the audience, so that, for example, a few glances and hand gestures create out of nothing a dog who is as convincing as animatronics, while a few puffs of stage smoke or a flap of fabric conjure up geographical and physical presences.”

*The Woman in Black* stars Bradley Armacost as Arthur Kipps and Adam Wesley Brown as The Actor.

Susan Hill's novel, *The Woman in Black* was originally published in 1983. Stephen Mallatratt adapted for the stage in 1987 and it was produced as a low-budget holiday show at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, U.K., where Herford was Artistic Director. The play transferred to London's West End in January 1989. If this sounds familiar, this classic chiller was released as a major motion picture starring Daniel Radcliffe in 2012, and is the highest grossing British thriller in 20 years.

Tickets start at \$25 and are available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org), by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. This American premiere production of the original London West End production, is presented by PW Productions and Pemberley Productions.

Premium Packages are also available starting at \$65 - learn about Playhouse hauntings and ghost lore while enjoying a wine on the house. Oct 30-31 only. See *The Woman in Black* followed by a live recording of the podcast *Hollyweird Paranormal* - a podcast about Hollywood True Crime and the Paranormal based out of Los Angeles, CA. Hosts, Tammie Merheb-Chavez and Brice Mitchell Williams, share tales of true crime, the paranormal aftermath of those crimes and other Californian based lore. Episodes air every Sunday on iTunes, Google Play, TuneIn and Stitcher.

**ABOUT THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE** -- The Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for 100 years to experience bold and important theater. It is one of the most prolific theaters in American history with a legacy of profound theatrical impact and courageous new work. In 1937, the Playhouse was officially recognized as the State Theater of California for its contribution and commitment to the dramatic arts. Today it continues that tradition of excellence under the helm of producing artistic director Danny Feldman. Dedicated to enriching lives through theater, community programs and learning initiatives, Pasadena Playhouse is a living force in the community.

## Calendar Listing for *The Woman in Black*

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the novel by Susan Hill

Directed by Robin Herford

Venue: The Pasadena Playhouse, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Dates: Wednesday, October 17 to Sunday, November 11

Tuesdays (October 30 and November 6 only) at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets Prices start at \$25

**Premium Package**

See *The Woman in Black* followed by a live recording of the podcast *Hollyweird Paranormal*. Learn about Playhouse hauntings and ghost lore while enjoying a wine on the house. Oct 30-31. Packages start at \$65.

Online -- PasadenaPlayhouse.org

By phone -- 626-356-7529

In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

**Information:** For more information on all productions at Pasadena Playhouse visit PasadenaPlayhouse.org.

For audiences ages 12+

Performance time: 2 hours, including one 15-minute intermission

**Description:** Witness Susan Hill's acclaimed ghost story that has kept London's West End on the edge of its seat for the past 28 years! A man obsessed, believing his family has been cursed by a ghostly woman in black, tells his terrifying story to exorcise the fear that grips his soul. It all begins innocently enough, but as he reaches further into his darkest memories, he quickly finds that there is no turning back.

## Biographies

One of the most popular actors in the Chicago theatre community, multiple Jeff Award winner **Bradley Armacost's** theater credits include *The Madness of George III*, *Cymbeline*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Comedy of Errors*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Timon of Athens* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Chicago Boys*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Oedipus Complex*, *Zoo Story*, *A Christmas Carol* and *A Touch of the Poet* (Goodman Theatre); *Seafarer*, *Maria Arndt*, *Playboy of the Western World* and *Faith Healer* (Steppenwolf). He is an Artistic Associate with Provision Theatre. He was the narrator for *The Rite of Spring* and *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (Chicago Symphony Orchestra). Television and film credits include *Empire*, *Untouchables*, *Early Edition*, *Missing Persons*, *Angel Street*, *Repetition*, *The Company*, *Eight Men Out*, *Backwoods* and *Barbershop II*.

**Adam Wesley Brown** is a highly acclaimed actor based in Chicago, having trained at The School at Steppenwolf, The Theatre School at DePaul University, Commonwealth Theatre Company's Walden Theatre Programs and Shakespeare Intensive. His theatre credits include several television, film, Broadway and other stage roles including, *Widows* (Steve McQueen, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox), *Macbeth* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Faustus* (Theatre Wit), *Shakespeare in a Brave New World* (New Globe Benefit NYU), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Folger Shakespeare Library), *The Book of Joseph* (World Premiere - Chicago Shakespeare Theatre) and more. Brown was the winner of The English Speaking Union's National Shakespeare Competition and has been nominated for several Best Actor awards including the Helen Hayes and Joseph Jefferson, to name a few.

**Robin Herford** (Director) read Philosophy and English at St. Andrews University and trained as an actor at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Much of his early career was involved with Alan Ayckbourn and the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. Joining the company in 1976 as an actor, he was appointed Associate Director in 1979 and was Artistic Director from 1986 to 1988. Robin has appeared in the original production of more Ayckbourn plays than any other actor, from *Ten Times Table* in 1977 to *Henceforward...* in 1987 and including the monster 16-play two-hander *Intimate Exchanges*. He came to London with *Season's Greetings* and Suburban *Strains* (Roundhouse), *Intimate Exchanges* (Ambassadors) and *Henceforward...* (Vaudeville).

While Artistic Director at Scarborough, he commissioned and directed Stephen Mallatratt's phenomenally successful adaptation of *The Woman in Black*, which has been running in the West End for 25 years and has completed 12 national tours. He always personally directs every recast and has also directed productions of the play abroad: in Tokyo (in Japanese!), America, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. Herford's other London productions include *The Glory of The Garden*, (Duke of Yorks), *Rough Justice* (Apollo), *Joking Apart* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Greenwich) and *The Secret of Sherlock Holmes* (Duchess)

**Susan Hill** (Novella Writer) Novelist, children's writer, and Playwright Susan (Elizabeth) Hill published her first novel, *The Enclosure*, in 1961. Since then she has won a Somerset Maugham Award for *I'm the King of the Castle* (1970); the Whitbread Novel Award for *The Bird of Night* (1972); and the Mail on Sunday/John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for *The Albatross* (1971), a collection of short stories. Since then she has written many other novels including *Strange Meeting* (1971), set during the First World War; *In the Springtime of the Year* (1974); *The Woman in Black* (1983); *Air and Angels* (1991); *The Mist in the Mirror* (1992); *The Service of Clouds* (1998); and *Mrs de Winter* (1999), a sequel to Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. *The Woman in Black* (1983), a Victorian ghost story, was successfully adapted for stage and television and is one of Susan Hill's most commercial successes. Her recent novels include the series of Simon Serrailer crime novels and various further ghost stories.

**Stephen Mallatratt** (Playwright/ Adaptor) Stephen Mallatratt was a renowned English playwright, screenwriter, and actor, whose works are enjoyed by millions of people. As an actor in the company at Stephen Joseph Theatre, he took leading roles in the premieres of Alan Ayckbourn productions such as *Absent Friends* (as John, 1974), *The Breadwinners* (as Patrick, 1974), *Confusions* (1974) and *Bedroom Farce* (as Nick, 1975), as well as in plays by other writers. Ayckbourn also gave him the chance to develop his own writing talents, and directed Mallatratt's plays *An Englishman's Home* (1975), *The Chimes* (1975) and *Mother Country* (1976) at the Library Theatre. Mallatratt joined *Coronation Street's* scriptwriting team (1985-96, 1999) and was responsible for 115 scripts, admired for his ability to write believable stories for well-developed characters. He is best known for his adaption of Susan Hill's *A Woman in Black*. Mallatratt turned this simple story into an atmospheric chiller that has gripped audiences at the Fortune Theatre in Covent Garden for many years.

**PW Productions** is one of the West End's most prolific and significant theatre producers, responsible for some of the most successful theatre productions in British theatre over the past 30 years. They specialize in high-quality production, management and bookkeeping/accountancy services for first-class plays and musicals in the West End, on tour throughout the UK and (given enough notice) throughout the world. They have acted as General Managers, Bookkeepers and Accountants to more than 300 productions in London and throughout the UK.

Founded in 2013, **Pemberley Productions** is a production company specializing in producing overseas tours and new commercial productions in the UK and USA. Led by Producers Tim Smith and Andy Hamingson, Pemberley Productions work has included: Co-producing a European tour of The Public Theater's *Apple Family Plays* by Richard Nelson in the U.K., Germany and Austria; Two US tours of Filter Theatre's *Twelfth Night*; Producing Paterson Joseph's new play *Sancho* on tour in the UK and USA including performances at BAM, The Kennedy Center and Chicago Shakespeare Theater; An Irish tour of the American Players Theatre production of *In Acting Shakespeare*, written and performed by James DeVita; the USA tour of the acclaimed Georgian Ensemble: Ensemble Basianil; the Irish tour of Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful*, adapted and directed by Simon Reade. Follow Pemberley Productions on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PemberleyProductions/>