

Conrad Nelson

Actor/Director

Born in Liverpool, Conrad Nelson was educated at Wirral Grammar School and graduated with a BA Hons in Performing Arts. As well as working extensively in the industry including at The National Theatre and major UK Repertory and Touring Companies, he continues to work in Television and Film and has considerable experience in radio drama at the BBC.



Conrad has developed a strong reputation as a dramatic composer and written music for over 35 theatre productions, radio and television. His acting career boasts many major roles including *Richard III* and as *Iago* alongside Lenny Henry's *Othello*.

He is the Artist Director of Claybody Theatre a company renowned for their new writing work performed in site specific venues. He runs Claybody with award winning writer, Deborah McAndrew. Conrad is the former Artistic Director of Northern Broadsides - best known for their high quality, national touring productions of Shakespeare and new foreign language adaptations.

Agents

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Credits

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
THE D-ROAD 2019	Claybody Theatre	By Deborah McAndrew <i>Director & Dramaturg</i>
CYRANO DE BERGARAC 2019	St Lawrence Shakespeare Festival Ontario	<i>Director</i>

Production	Company	Notes
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING 2019	International Shakespeare Festival Neuss / Northern Broadsides	<i>Director</i>
BRASSED OFF 2019	New Vic Theatre	<i>Director</i>
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING 2019	Northern Broadsides / New Vic Theatre	<i>Director & Composer</i>
HOT LANE 2018	Claybody Theatre	By Deborah McAndrew <i>Director & Dramaturg</i>
THEY DON'T PAY? WE WON'T PAY! 2018	York Theatre Royal / Northern Broadsides	<i>Director</i>
HARD TIMES 2018	Northern Broadsides	<i>Director</i>
ANNA OF THE FIVE TOWNS 2017	New Vic Theatre	<i>Director</i>
RICHARD III 2017	Hull Truck Theatre	<i>Associate director & composer</i>
DIRTY LAUNDRY 2017	Claybody Theatre	<i>Director</i>
CYRANO DE BERGERAC 2017	New Vic Theatre / Northern Broadsides	<i>Director & Composer</i>
THE WINTER'S TALE 2015	Northern Broadsides National Tour	<i>Director, Composer & Actor (Leontes)</i>
DIGGING IN 2015	Claybody Theatre	By Deborah McAndrew <i>Director</i>
KING LEAR 2015	Northern Broadsides National Tour	<i>Associate director & composer</i>
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER 2014	Northern Broadsides National Tour	<i>Director & Composer</i>
I DON'T WANT TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE 2014	New Vic Theatre	By Bob Eaton <i>Director</i>
UGLY DUCK 2013	Claybody Theatre	By Deborah McAndrew <i>Director</i>
THE GRAND GESTURE 2013	Harrogate Theatres	Adapted by Deborah McAndrew from Nikolai Erdman's 'The Suicide' <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>

Production	Company	Notes
A GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR 2012	Northern Broadsides / Harrogate Theatres	Adapted by Deborah McAndrew <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>
BALLROOM BLITZ 2012	Hull Truck Theatre Company	By Dave Windass <i>Director & Dramaturg</i>
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST 2012	Northern Broadsides	<i>Associate director & composer</i>
BROKEN TIME 2011	Three Stones Media	By Mick Martin <i>Director & Dramaturg</i>
HAMLET 2011	New Vic Theatre / Northern Broadsides	By William Shakespeare <i>Director, Editor & Composer</i>
1984 2010	Dukes Theatre Lancaster / Northern Broadsides	Adapted by Nick Lane <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>
THE CANTERBURY TALES 2010	Northern Broadsides / New Vic Theatre	A new adaptation by Mike Poulton <i>Director & Composer</i>
STRANGE VOYAGES 2010	The Victoria Hall	By Chris Monks <i>Director</i>
OTHELLO 2009	Sonia Friedman West End/ West Yorkshire Playhouse/ Northern Broadsides	By William Shakespeare <i>Associate Director, Actor & Composer</i>
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST 2008	Northern Broadsides	Adapted by Deborah McAndrew <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>
AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER 2008	Reveal Theatre Company	<i>Director</i>
VACUUM 2008	Esk Valley Theatre	<i>Director & Composer</i>
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2007	Octagon Theatre Bolton	A new adaptation by Neil Duffield <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>
LISA'S SEX STRIKE 2007	Northern Broadsides / Octagon Theatre Bolton	A new adaptation of Lysistrata by Blake Morrison <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>
THE TEMPEST 2007	New Vic Theatre / Northern Broadsides	By William Shakespeare <i>Associate Director & Composer</i>
OLEANNA 2006	New Vic Theatre	By David Mamet <i>Director</i>
THE TEMPEST 2007	Northern Broadsides	<i>Associate director & composer</i>
VACUUM 2007	Northern Broadsides	By Deborah McAndrew <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>

Production	Company	Notes
THE BELLS 2005	Northern Broadsides	Adapted by Deborah McAndrew <i>Director, Dramaturg & Composer</i>
KING JOHN/MERRY WIVES 2001	Northern Broadsides	By William Shakespeare <i>Co-director & Composer</i>

Composer

Production	Company	Notes
DIANA OF DOBSON'S 2016	New Vic Theatre	
HOUSE OF BERNADA ALBA 2014	BBC Radio 4	
THE GRAND GESTURE 2013	Northern Broadsides	
A GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR 2012	Northern Broadsides	
HIGHER 2012	Incidental / BBC Radio 4 Drama	
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST 2012	Northern Broadsides	Plus additional promotional video
THE LANTERN 2011	Big Red Studio / Arts Council England	Animation commission
WE ARE THREE SISTERS 2011	Northern Broadsides	Plus additional promotional video
GARGANTUA AND PANAGRUEL 2011	Incidental / BBC Radio 4 Drama	
HAMLET 2011	Northern Broadsides	Plus additional promotional video
DAVID COPPERFIELD 2010	Octagon Theatre Bolton	
1984 2010	Northern Broadsides / New Vic Theatre	
THE CANTERBURY TALES 2010	New Vic Theatre / Northern Broadsides	
OLIVER TWIST 2009	Octagon Theatre Bolton	
OTHELLO 2009	Sonia Friedman West End/ West Yorkshire Playhouse/ Northern Broadsides	

Production	Company	Notes
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST	Northern Broadsides	
2008		

Additional information

REVIEWS

CYRANO

"It's a production which supplies all the expected braggadocio and swagger, but nonetheless displays a nose for the unexpected." (***The Guardian***)

THE WINTER'S TALE

"Conrad Nelson's powerful performance as Leontes is matched in the mastery and magic realism of his direction" (***The Stage***)

THE TEMPEST

"Northern Broadsides' latest production leaves no doubt that The Tempest is a rollicking jazz musical. The musical arrangements of Conrad Nelson have become Northern Broadsides' secret weapon." (***The Guardian***)

HAMLET

"Conrad Nelson's production is as physically and spiritually exhilarating as a cross between Alton Towers' wildest ride and Mozart's Requiem. An atmospheric battlements opening, shifts startlingly to the court where dinner-suited Claudius tinkles a piano while Ophelia in a flouncy frock belts out a big-band-style number and Gertrude shimmies in hip-hugging satin. It's the first of many shocks that jolt the play free from the weight of its past ...daringly theatrical and heartbreakingly human." (***The Observer***)

"This is a high-energy, absorbing production of which the Bard himself would have been proud." (***The Stage***)

"...shot through with new ideas, new observations, new thoughts and it's not to be missed." (***BBC Radio***)

THE CANTERBURY TALES

"Nelson's direction is awe inspiring. He moves his sixteen players like a chess grandmaster.. Wonderful stuff. We see the stories flow by and are delighted by them, the ensemble and each actor as he or she takes the opportunity to shine. It shows our culture and national character in a good light. And it's a smashing night in the theatre." (***The British Theatre Guide***)

...as invigorating as a high wind over the downs in spring." (***The Observer*** ****)

"...Nelson's production manages to become more than the sum of its entendres. The Clerk's Tale of patient Griselda- a complex allegory about the constancy of the Christian soul done with such ravishing tenderness that it becomes a highlight.. Chaucer's work is all about the journey: Northern

Broadsides make the arrival truly transporting as well." (***The Guardian*** ****)

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

"Conrad Nelson's unique direction is impressive, as like Dawn Allsopp's evocative clock-style set, it captures the spirit of the original but also adds so much more. This is a show which the whole family can enjoy as it is timeless, funny and poignant. The Octagon has done it again: this could be the show to beat this Christmas." (***What's On Stage*** ****)

LISA'S SEX STRIKE

"Director Conrad Nelson evokes the muses of Olympus and the ghost of Benny Hill in a knockabout synthesis of styles that incorporates music hall, brass bands, Bollywood and rap... Morrison's version is faithful to Aristophanes in that it is hysterically funny. The joyous conclusion - conceived as a slinky Berlin cabaret routine - left the audience, like the characters, gagging for more." (***The Guardian*** ****)

A GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

"Conrad Nelson's production is sharply defined, full of original touches, immaculately paced..." (***What's on Stage*** *****)

"...the blunt expose of parochial paranoia is only part of the story - and the fun really starts when Conrad Nelson's production begins to treat [Gogol's feverish vision](#) as an early example of the theatre of the absurd.... it is the resounding music (in Nelson's own arrangements) that roots the action to a specific time and place." (***The Guardian*** ****)

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

"Conrad Nelson's joyous production proves once and for all that Northern Broadsides' approach to the classics is far more than Northernising speech and setting." (***What's on Stage*** ****)

"It's a comic classic: and Conrad Nelson gleefully restores it to life for today. ...Grand fun." (***Libby Purves review*** ****)

BROKEN TIME

"Conrad Nelson's highly entertaining production should appeal to more than just rugby fans, making good use of music hall routines and a fine ensemble cast who bring cornets, euphoniums and tubas along. It's a stroke of genius to represent the matches as stirring band arrangements; but as they say around these parts, where there's muck there's brass." (***The Guardian*** ****)

1984

"...an attention-riveting piece of pure theatrical magic." (***What's On Stage*** *****)

"To praise **Northern Broadsides**'s production for being drab, dreary and dispiriting might seem perverse; but the fact that 1984 is all of those things is not just good, it is "double good. The cast morph effortlessly, under Conrad Nelson's storytelling-inspired direction, between vivid characterisations and neutral narrator roles. Nick Haverson's Winston, now crushed, now defiant, finally defeated, is compelling and Kate Ambler manages to breathe raw life into the novel's unconvincing Julia, the love of his life, trampled by Big Brother." (**The Observer**)

I DON'T WANT TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

"Director Conrad Nelson has ensured that the play delivers the emotive and realistic social documentary genre which is essential for keeping history alive and accessible to the masses." (**Chris Eldon Lee review**)

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

"In the hands of director Conrad Nelson, and a comically gifted cast, it is a reminder of the power of theatre. If this is the kind of alchemy it intends to keep creating, (Northern Broadsides) is set to be one of Yorkshire's finest exports for years to come." (**Yorkshire Post** *****)

"...up to the minute, politically sharp and hilarious." (**The Observer**)

THE GRAND GESTURE

"Conrad Nelson's ever-theatrical direction situations satisfyingly seesaw between gleeful absurdity and gut-wrenching gravity." (**The Observer** ****)

BALLROOM BLITZ

"...under Conrad Nelson's direction - taking place on a set backed by a sparkling curtain - there's also an elegance about the production. Scenes, including some intricate ballroom dancing sequences, glide together seamlessly under the patterned light of the glitter ball." (**The Stage**)