



EASY READ AND VISUAL STORY

Property of Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

Please keep in the Greene Room Bar

A Tryal of Witches
Written by Tallulah Brown

A Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds Production

This is a full synopsis of the show with matching photographs and details for anyone who may benefit from knowing the story and details ahead of time.

Please note that this guide will contain spoilers.

Please note:

Accessible performances will take place throughout the run. Please talk to a member of our Box Office or Front of House team for more details.

We do have a small stock of ear-defenders available for those who would like to use them.

There will also be moments of bright dazzling lights.

Actors will be playing multiple characters throughout the play and will often change outfits to represent the character.

Trigger Warnings:

Please note some of the content might be upsetting for certain members of the audience.

Performance Times

The performance will run for approximately 2 hours 40 minutes, including a 20-minute interval.

Cast

Professional Cast

Rachel Heaton – Sarah and Judge Godbold

Emily Hindle – Rose and Matthew Hopkins

Shaniya Hira – Mary, John Stearne and Sir Matthew Hale

Claire Storey – Anne Alderman

Lucy Tuck – Reverend John and Nathaniel

Young Performers

Both playing Elizabeth in alternative performances

Jerry

Georgina

Production Team

Director - Owen Calvert-Lyons

Producer - Zoe Fox

Playwright - Tallulah Brown

Designer - Jessica Curtis

Lighting Designer - Sally Ferguson

Composer and Musical Director - Seraphina D'Arby

Production Manager - Andy Stubbs

Deputy Stage Manager - Rachel Bell

Assistant Stage Manager - Tabitha Dodds

Wardrobe Supervisor - Rebecca Rawlinson

Characters



Rose

Headstrong and independent. Rose runs the alehouse where she is more than capable of holding her own in a space usually dominated by men. Raised as an orphan, Rose is a perpetual outsider and craves adventure. She is best friends with Mary.



Matthew Hopkins

Matthew Hopkins is the self-appointed Witch Finder General who has arrived in Suffolk looking to uncover the Devils work.



Mary

Less certain of the world than her best friend Rose. Mary is about to give birth, while her husband is away fighting in the civil War.



John Stearne

John Stearne is Matthew Hopkins assistant and an equally devout believer in the evils of witches. He is writing a book on the proceedings.



Anne Alderman

A local wise-woman. The villagers come to her for help in illness and childbirth. Enclosure Laws have forced her off her strip of shared land and forced her into poverty and begging. She has a deep connection to the land and has no respect for the male-led rules of law and religion.



Sarah

Mary's mother. A cautious woman who is fearful of standing out. She holds on to her (banned Catholicism) as a source of comfort.



Judge Godbold

Judge Godbold is a former Justice of the Peace and Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds. An experienced Judge.



Nathaniel

Nathaniel works in the ale house. He has not gone off to fight due to an old leg injury. He is married but having an illicit relationship with Rose.



Reverend John

Reverend John cares deeply for his parishioners. He has seen many changes in religious doctrine in his life-time so has developed a pragmatic approach, which blends aspects of different teachings to meet the needs of his flock. He is strong willed and willing to stand up for himself and his parishioners.

Set

Please Note: These pictures are just designs and therefore aren't the finished product. Some elements might be different when created in its final form.



Key:



Act 1

Scene 1:

 At the beginning of the show, a song is sung by 'The Furies'

 At the beginning of the show, the actors come up to the stage through the audience.

 Childbirth

 After Sarah's line "Go on then, go and fetch Anne..." Song continues.

Scene Three:

 After Elizabeth's line "Signs and wonders from heaven..." a song is sung by 'The Furies'

Scene Five:

 After Reverend John's line "We read Psalm 82... a song is sung by 'The Furies'

Scene Six:

 After Anne's line "And the hagstone is witchcraft..." a song is sung by 'Mary'

Scene Eight:



After Rose's line "They say you made a pact...", a drum begins to play and some humming start.



After Rose's line "... if I see a robin, how will I know its her?" a song is sung by 'The Furies'.

Scene 10



After Matthew Hopkin's line 'Did you recongise her' a song is sung by 'The Furies'.

Scene 12



After Sarah's line 'Women in Manningtree were hanged...' a song is sung by 'The Furies'.

Scene 13



A song is sung at the beginning at the scene by The Furies.



After Anne's line "You don't like women to be loud", birdsong is played.



After Anne's line 'You are a little rat Matthew Hopkins' a song is sung by 'The Furies'.

Scene 15



After Anne's line "I've been a witch these five and twenty years" a song is sung by 'The Furies'.

Scene 16



After Sarah's line "she's gone, the witch has gone", a sound of a baby crying is played.



After Reverend John's line "Life can return to how it was", a sound of a baby crying is played.



After Sarah's line "GET UP! Don't you see...", a song is sung by the Furies.



After Sarah's Line "We need to get rid of the poppet", the song is continued by the Furies,

Scene 17



After Matthew Hopkin's line "The devil's work...", a song is sung by the Furies



After the same line, a drum beat is played.

Act Two

Scene One



At the beginning of the act, a song is sung by the Furies.

Scene Three



At the beginning of the scene, church bells are heard.



After Revered John's line "If she's a witch, then I'm a witch", a song is sung by the Furies.

Scene Four



After Anne's line "Hello? Hello! What is this?" a song is sung by the Furies.

Scene Five



After Nathaniel's line "You seduced me..." a song is sung by the Furies.

Scene Seven



After Rose's line "You're very good at hopscotch..." a song is sung by the Furies.



The song is continued after Rose's line "Elizabeth will run inside.."

Scene Nine



Trial scene



After Anne's line "Elizabeth? Elizabeth wake up", Elizabeth lashes out toward Anne.

Scene 10



At the beginning of the scene, creaking sounds can be heard.



After Anne's line "Temptation Lowes", a banging can be heard in the distance.



After Anne's line "I call upon Hecate...", The Furies and Anne begin to sing.



At the end of the scene, a drum begins to beat.

Scene 11



The drum continues to beat into this scene.

Scene 12



Wave sounds at played at the beginning of the scene.



v After Rose's line "We're going there..." The Furies begin to sing.