



BROTHER WOLF is proud to present the return of its latest 5-star production: [The Mad Hatter's Tea Party](#). Adapted, produced and directed by award-winning actor/writer/producer, [James Hyland](#), this one-of-a-kind show explores Lewis Carroll's inimitable world of Wonderland from the point of view of two of its most iconic characters: The Hatter and the March Hare. Fantastical and utterly bonkers, *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* is both groundbreaking and surprising in equal measure. As part of this unique production, Brother Wolf has collaborated

with [A Child Of The Jago](#). They have designed and made the spectacular and completely original costumes for the show. Since their inception in 2008, A Child Of The Jago has continued to champion, create and produce small runs of fine quality clothing whilst maintaining an environmentally conscious approach. Inspired by infamous historical figures like Jack Sheppard and Joan of Arc rather than throwaway trends, they remain one of the original anti-brands.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party is Brother Wolf's eleventh production to date and is preceded by a catalogue of acclaimed works including [A Christmas Carol – As told by Jacob Marley \(deceased\)](#), the "definitive telling of A Christmas Carol" (Redditch Standard), winner of Best Performer in Theatre (Fringe Report Awards 2012); [Fagin's Last Hour](#), "powerful and highly accomplished" (The Stage), recognized by The Queen for its part in Dickensian Scholarship; [Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde](#), "One of the most mesmerising and terrifying performances you'll ever see" (The Times Guardian), winner of Best Male Act (Solo Fest 2013); and [A Lesson from Auschwitz](#), "one of the most powerful and most important pieces of theatre I've ever seen" (Centre Stage).

Praise for 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party':

"'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party', based on the book 'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll, has been excellently adapted by James Hyland who not only produced and directed the play but incidentally plays the fun, crazed, eccentric Mad Hatter better than Johnny Depp any day of the week. Michael Shon plays the lovable March Hare with a gruff cockney accent and insane mannerisms that come together very well for his character. A Child Of The Jago have outdone themselves yet again on the fabulous costumes that sum up this production as entertaining, fun and full of laughs and a great play to go and see with the kids or simply on your own. I loved it."

★★★★★ ~Mark Carter, British Theatre Journal

JAMES HYLAND

Actor (playing The Hatter) | Adapter | Producer | Director



[James Hyland](#) is Artistic Director and Founder of Brother Wolf. He is also a multi award-winning stage and film actor as well as a critically acclaimed writer, producer and director. James' work has been described by the press as "immensely powerful" (The Independent), "magnificent" (Plays to See) and "highly accomplished" (The Stage). To date, he has received more than 140 outstanding reviews as well as over 300 audience testimonials for his ground-breaking performances. Following his education at the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance, he made his professional acting debut in 'The North Pole', winning the Guardian International Student Drama Award in 1996. Since then he has appeared in over 70 professional productions, working with a variety of directors including Michael Boyd, Adrian Noble and Matthew Warchus, as well as acclaimed companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and Brother Wolf, winning a further four awards including Best Performer in Theatre (Fringe Report Awards, 2012) for his solo performance as Marley's Ghost in 'A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)' and a nomination for The London Theatre Award (London Awards for Art and Performance 2012) in competition with the Royal Shakespeare Company's 'Matilda The Musical'. John Park, Director of the Fringe Report Awards, said "The award celebrates the work of James Hyland, actor, and in particular his creation and delivery of 'A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)'. It reflects his fine work as an actor in film, TV, radio and theatre in a remarkable range of productions." In the same year, further honours were bestowed by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace in recognition of Dickensian scholarship. By 2014, 'A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)' had been officially rated as one of "the top Christmas shows in London, Edinburgh and around the UK" (High 50 Culture). The show's unique presentation has even been discussed in best-selling books about the theatre. In 2018, during the 175th anniversary of Dickens' original novella, James performed his award-winning show at The Royal Albert Hall, selling out to capacity. The production was followed by two more award-winning one-man shows: 'Fagin's Last Hour' in 2011 and 'Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' in 2013. James serves as actor, adapter and producer on all three productions. The shows have toured extensively, breaking box office records along the way, as well as his 5-star commemorative drama 'A Lesson from Auschwitz', of which he is the writer, director, producer and co-actor (commended by The Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau), reviewed as "a majestic statement of the power of theatre" (Plays to See). His latest production, 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party', sees him playing one of Lewis Carroll's most famous literary creations, on tour this year. To date, James has completed 35 UK tours through his company, Brother Wolf. Screen credits include 'We Are Monster', nominated for The Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature Film (Edinburgh Festival, 2014) and the award-winning music videos/short films from Kaskade and Tinie Tempah in which James plays the lead roles: 'A Little More' and 'Disappoint You', again serving as writer (and improviser) of the dialogue. His latest roles on screen see him performing in Unstoppable Entertainment's award-winning film 'The Sound' (in which he appears opposite Joseph Mawle), selected for the exclusive HollyShorts Film Festival, and the twelve-time award-winning film

'Transmission' in which James plays the lead role of Dr Sam, screened at more than ninety festivals worldwide including The Fisheye Film Festival, The Horrible Imaginings Film Festival and Torino Underground Cinefest for which James has received three Best Actor nominations. His performance has been reviewed as "the key to this short film's success... it is Hyland who really sells it. Enigmatic and maniacal, he lures you into comfort and just as quickly kicks the chair out from underneath you... anchored by a superb performance from James Hyland, 'Transmission' brings classic dystopian cinema to the modern era" (Screen Anarchy). To date, James has appeared in seven award-winning films, four in which he plays the lead character.

MICHAEL SHON

Actor (playing the March Hare)



[Michael Shon](#) studied an MA in Acting at the Arts Education School London and continued his training with the Impulse Theatre Company 1 year program under the tutelage of Scott Williams. He was a member of the National Youth Theatre, making his professional stage debut appearing in their production of *Savages* at the Royal Court Theatre in 2006. Michael has been working with Brother Wolf since 2016, having met James Hyland whilst working together on the short film *Transmission*. Michael has since performed and toured with Brother Wolf on two projects. Firstly, in James Hyland's powerful 5-star commemorative production *A Lesson from Auschwitz*, playing the Jewish prisoner Abraham Könisberg. Having premiered at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre in 2016, the production has toured the UK extensively, garnering excellent reviews and audience testimonials in which Michael's performance was described as "magnificent" and "totally believable". In 2017 Michael worked again with Brother Wolf in collaboration with Harrogate Theatre on Kim Newman's occult thriller *Magic Circle*, playing the hippy occultist Professor Harry Cutley. The show, directed by Phil Lowe, premiered on the main stage at the Harrogate Theatre and has since toured the UK, garnering fantastic reviews and audience testimonials along the way. Michael is also a member of RSC Associate Director Aileen Gonsalves' site-specific Butterfly Theatre Company. Michael has completed two tours of Germany with the company, playing the titular role in *Macbeth* (2014) and Mercutio in *Romeo*

and Juliet (2015), as well as Jacques in *As You Like It* (2014-15) and Mort in *California Suite Part 2* (2014) in London, Buxton and Devon. Screen credits include the political prisoner Leonard in the multi-award winning short film *Transmission* by Parallel Madness, in which Michael received a Best Actor nomination at the Torino Underground Film Festival. He also appeared as a sardonic hipster Justin in NTE Production's short comedy *Love, Hate, Date* as well as the role of Dr. Francis Grappell in the Victorian crime docudrama *Murder Maps* now available on Netflix. Commercial work includes TV and in-house idents for Barclays, Weetabix and Perkbox. Michael can be heard voicing the disgruntled animal rights campaigner Travis Jones, alongside Brendan Coyle and Lia Williams in the Audible's *Animal Instinct: Human Zoo*, written by Simon Booker. He also has a recurring role as Tom Cunningham in Big Finish's cult *Dark Shadows*, appearing extensively in the highly successful *Bloodlust* miniseries.

A Child Of The Jago

Costume Designers/Makers



Since their inception in 2008, [A Child Of The Jago](#) has continued to champion, create and produce small runs of fine quality clothing whilst maintaining an environmentally conscious approach. Sourcing high quality obsolete fabric and end of line cloths from British mills, A Child Of The Jago is guided by a philosophy of slow and ethical fashion. Their clothes are crafted in-house at their Clerkenwell studio by a highly skilled team and their iconic hats are produced by their traditional Luton milliners. Inspired by infamous historical figures like Jack Sheppard and Joan of Arc rather than throwaway trends, they remain one of the original anti-brands operating outside of the traditional expectations of runway shows and seasonal collections. Working in this way, A Child Of The Jago provides a welcome antidote to the branded juggernaut of mass-produced fashion and sterile clothing that pollutes our environment and our minds. By rejecting the mass conformity and consumption of the global "fashion system", they remain resolutely autonomous, free to say and produce what they want, when they want, how they want. A Child Of The Jago take their name from Arthur Morrison's 1896 novel which sees the protagonist rise far above his status by dressing his way out of poverty. Set in the Jago slum in what is now

Arnold Circus in Shoreditch - a stone's throw from their first landmark shop on the corner of Great Eastern Street - the novel caused uproar for exposing the depravity and desperation of the Victorian underclass. Although their unique East London shop has now closed, they have since relocated to Charing Cross Road in the West End and are set to open another shop later in the year. Placing enormous value in the quality of their pieces, A Child Of The Jago designs them to look great until they rot off your back, whatever the year or season.

CHRIS WARNER

Music



[Chris Warner](#) is a composer, sound designer, musical arranger and orchestrator whose range of work covers theatre, television and film. Other Brother Wolf credits include: *A Lesson From Auschwitz*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Fagin's Last Hour*, *A Christmas Carol - As told by Jacob Marley (deceased)*. Recent composing and sound design credits include: *The Tide Jetty*, *River Lane*, *Private Resistance* (Eastern Angles), *ART* (East Riding Theatre), *Dark of the Moon*, *Double Cross*, *Blackout*, *Dr Scroggy's War*, *The Heresy of Love*, *The Patriot Game* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast), *Archie in Manhattan* (Grand Opera House, Belfast), *Macbeth* (RSC Associated Schools), *84 Charing Cross Road* (Cambridge Arts Theatre, National Tour), *Frank Carson Rebel Without A Pause*, *The Boat Factory* (Happenstance Theatre Company). Recent orchestration credits for theatre, television and the wider media include: *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Royal Shakespeare Company), *McMafia* (BBC1, Series 1), *Make a Musical* (BBC Learning, BAFTA nominated); *A Portrait of John Doe* (MercuryKX Records); *Waiting Room* (Ballet commissioned by Thüringen Staatsballet Germany). As a composer for TV and Film Chris is published by Audio Network, producing original music that is featured extensively in TV, Film and Advertising in this country and around the world. His six most recent albums have all been recorded at Abbey Road and have been used on programmes such as *The Sky At Night*, *The Apprentice* and the *One Show*. Specific theme tunes include: *A History of British Comedy with David Mitchell* (BBC Radio 2), *The Day I Met The Queen*, *One Week In August*, *The Lost World of the Suffragettes* (BBC R4).

Tour Dates:

MARCH 21 @ 7.30pm

BARTON UPON HUMBER - ROPERY HALL

Maltkiln Road, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire, DN18 5JT

01652 660 380 www.roperychall.co.uk

JULY 30 @ 7.30pm

ST ALBANS - THE ALBAN ARENA

Civic Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3LD

01727 844 488 www.alban-arena.co.uk

MORE TOUR DATES COMING SOON!

Synopsis

"What does it mean to sit between this world and that at the drop of a hat?"

The Hatter and the Hare are stuck. They can't move on.

Trapped by self delusion and memory loss, they remain at 6 o'clock, forever drinking tea. The Hatter embraces it. The Hare rejects it. But who is to blame for this never-ending party?

Take a trip down the proverbial rabbit hole with Brother Wolf's groundbreaking adaptation of one of the most beloved stories of all time. Fantastical and utterly bonkers, "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party" is a mind-bending new twist on Lewis Carroll's immortal classic. So grab your seat at The Hatter's table and get ready for the weirdest and wildest party this side of Wonderland!

Recommended for: Ages 8+

CONTENT ADVISORY: This is an immersive theatre play which involves direct audience address and explores themes of bereavement and loss in relation to memory, sanity and time. The age recommendation is therefore classified as 8+. Parental discretion is recommended.

Cast and creative team:

Writer/Director/Producer: James Hyland

March Hare: Michael Shon

The Hatter: James Hyland

Costume Makers/Designers: A Child Of The Jago

Composer: Chris Warner

Lyricist: James Hyland

Vocalist: Peter Thomas

Puppet Maker: Liz Johnson

Make-up Design: Lisa Otterburn | Paige McKiernan

Production Photographer: Dom McHarrie

Photo Editor: Roxane Pin

For further details please contact:

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