**About The Bard’s Tales**

The Bard's Tales is a storytelling performance show. Drawing on the folklore tales, which inspired Shakespeare's plays, it combines storytelling from acclaimed teller George Bassett with four key scenes from Shakespeare's best-loved plays performed by three professional actors. It includes cross gender performances and recorded and sung music.

The set is simple and flexible with a backdrop and two flats. The actors use a set of three boxes, moved to different spaces during scenes. Juliet's 'balcony' is a custom designed ladder!

The folktales are traditional, adapted through the ages and from research we have found the ones that inspired Shakespeare in writing his plays.

The show was commissioned in 2017 by Newark and Sherwood District Council and was originally performed outdoors in parks and a church but is totally adaptable for indoor performances.

Why would a promoter want this show? It makes Shakespeare totally accessible - the stories explain and illustrate the thinking behind the plays and the oral tradition of storytelling, with tales, which have been passed down through generations. The scenes included are Titania and Bottom for Midsummer Night's Dream, The Witches in Macbeth and the Balcony Scene from Romeo and Juliet. These are played with humour and gusto. It is a great introduction to Shakespeare for younger people and for those who might find sitting through a complete play a bit daunting. It is also a joy for more experienced Shakespeare lovers.

Audience feedback from the 2018 performances said the show was fast and fun, creating a wonderful entry point for those new to the traditional art of storytelling and a wonderful revisit for those who already love Shakespeare.

**Key selling points**

. Brings Shakespeare to life.

\* Energetic, vibrant funny and fast paced.

\* Emotionally charged and moving.

\* Promotes the oral storytelling tradition fused with theatrical performances.

\* Can be played anywhere - suitable for outdoor or indoor performance.

\* Flexible and adaptable staging and set.

\* Fully self-contained show comes with lighting, PA and power sources

**Booking the Show:**

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