

BILL WARD TO LEAD CAST IN NATIONAL TOUR OF THE GLEE CLUB

OUT OF JOINT, CAST & KILN THEATRE

present

Spring 2020 Tour of

THE GLEE CLUB

By Richard Cameron
Director - Kate Wasserberg
Designer - Mark Bailey
Musical Director and Sound Designer - Dyfan Jones
Lighting Designer - Katy Morison
Associate Director - Sita Thomas
Assistant Director - Gavin Joseph
Movement Director - Ingrid Mackinnon

"Music was on the move, the swing, the shake, the sex of it was comin' through the airwaves."

Out of Joint, Cast, Doncaster and Kiln Theatre, London announced today that star of *Coronation Street* and *Emmerdale* and respected stage actor Bill Ward will lead the cast of their national tour and London run of *The Glee Club*. Fresh from playing Hugo / Loco Chanelle in the West End hit *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, Ward will take on the role of Bant in this new production of Richard Cameron's play to be directed by Out of Joint's artistic director Kate Wasserberg.

In the summer of '62, five hard-working, hard-drinking Doncaster miners, together with their church organist accompanist, are frantically preparing to wow the audience of a local gala concert with their sweet tones. This is *The Glee Club*, a group of unlikely singers, who though being established in the working men's clubs, aren't exactly known for being at the vanguard of a musical revolution. But both Britain and music are about to change ... and so too are the lives of these six men, will anything ever be the same again?

Richard Cameron's raucous comedy about friendship and divided loyalty in a rough and rugged world, features the romantic songs of the 1950's performed live on stage.

Bill Ward's stage career includes *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, *Viva Forever*, *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Spamalot* in The West End, *Shakespeare In Love* at the Bath Theatre Royal and on tour, *Look Back in Anger* at Northern Stage and *The Lady From The Sea* at The Royal Exchange. His television roles include Charlie Stubbs in *Coronation Street* and James Barton in *Emmerdale*.

The Glee Club was first staged at the Bush Theatre in 2002 before transferring to the West End. It was revived seven years ago to open Cast, in Doncaster, the writer's hometown. The announcement of the first batch of dates reveals that the tour of Kate Wasserberg's new production will begin at the same theatre on February 28 and will culminate in a run at Kiln Theatre in London from June 4 to 27. More dates are to be announced.

Kate Wasserberg says - "Richard Cameron is one of our greatest living writers, and I am so excited to be working with our partners Cast and Kiln Theatre to produce *The Glee Club*. With incredible songs and boisterous humour, it is the bittersweet story of one boy's coming of age and the men he knew, held together by their love of music and each other. *Out of Joint* is above all things a touring company and we can't wait to bring this play, about what unites us even when events threaten to tear us apart, to audiences all around the U.K."

Kate Wasserberg is Artistic Director of Out of Joint where she has directed *Rita*, *Sue and Bob*, *Too* (Bolton Octagon, Royal Court and tour) and *Close Quarters* (Sheffield Theatres). Prior to this, she was the founding Artistic Director of the Other Room in Cardiff, which won *Fringe Theatre of the Year* at the UK Stage Awards and was nominated for a *Peter Brook Empty Space Award* under her leadership. At The Other Room she directed, amongst other work *Seanmhair*, and *Play/Silence*. She is the former Associate Director of Theatr Clwyd, where her work included *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *Insignificance* and *All My Sons*, *A History of Falling Things* (TC and the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff). Previous to this she was Associate Director of the Finborough Theatre, London.

Out of Joint has made extraordinary plays for audiences around the world for over 25 years. Continually touring and bringing communities together with stories that reflect our humanity and unite us, Out of Joint work with artists from all backgrounds to deliver great writing. We develop and produce new plays and the very best existing titles; tour work to midscale venues, and offer enrichment opportunities to every community we visit. Recent productions have partnered Out of Joint with The National Theatre, The Royal Court, Sheffield Theatres and Northampton Theatres as well as touring venues throughout the UK.

Cast opened its doors in 2013 and has since played host to internationally acclaimed touring companies, co-produced work and the very best in local talent. The state-of-the-art 620-seat theatre presents a thriving programme of performing arts all year round. As well as the main auditorium, the Second Space within the venue can accommodate up to 200 spectators and features small-scale touring works. The theatre is now enjoying its sixth year in operation and offers a cultural programme that contributes to Doncaster's place making agenda, including partnerships with the National Theatre and Royal Opera House. Recent highlights include the free outdoor spectacular *RISE!* from French company L'Homme Debout which attracted an audience of over 3,500 people, and English Touring Theatre's *Two Trains Running*, which enabled Cast to engage with new audiences. Cast is also a charity that aims to enable local people to access the arts through a varied programme, participation activities, and local and national partnerships. Last year, Cast completed their first national tour with *The Last Seam*, an emotive and powerful production that brought to life the stories of the local mining community to professional and community venues across the North of England.

Based in Kilburn, **Kiln Theatre** creates internationally renowned, high-quality, engaging and innovative work which presents the world through a variety of different lenses, amplifying unheard voices into the mainstream. Led by Artistic Director Indhu Rubasingham and Executive Director Daisy Heath, it makes theatre that crosses continents and tells big stories about human connections across cultures, race and languages. We encourage artists of all ages and backgrounds. Recent productions include *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith, adapted by Stephen Sharkey, *Holy Sh!t* by Alexis Zegerman, *Approaching Empty* by Ishy Din, *The Son* by Florian Zeller (West End transfer), *The Half God of Rainfall* by Inua Ellams, *Wife* by Samuel Adamson, *Blues in the Night* by Sheldon Epps. *The Seven Ages of Patience* by Chinonyerem Odimba and *When the Crows Visit* by Anupama Chandrasekhar. Kiln Theatre is a local theatre with an international vision.



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Performance Dates and Venues

February 28 – March 7- Cast in Doncaster (press performance March 3 – 7.30pm)
<https://castindoncaster.com>

March 10 – 14 - Theatr Clwyd, Mold
<https://www.theatrclwyd.com/en/>

March 24 – 28 - Lichfield Garrick
<https://lichfieldgarrick.com>

April 7 - 11 - Malvern Theatre
<https://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk>

April 14 -18 Cambridge Arts Theatre
<https://www.cambridgeartstheatre.com>

April 21 – 25 - Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
<https://www.theatreroyal.org>

April 28–May 2 - Northern Stage, Newcastle
<https://www.northernstage.co.uk>

May 5 - 9 - Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford
<https://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk>

May 12 – 16 - Oldham Coliseum
<https://www.coliseum.org.uk>

May 19 – 23 - Leeds Playhouse
<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk>

May 27 – 30 - Theatre Royal, York
<https://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk>

June 4– 27 - Kiln Theatre
Press night - 8 June
<https://kilntheatre.com>

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