

THE RISEN WOMAN

a new play about Adelina Patti the world famous opera singer who scandalised Victorian society and found sanctuary in South Wales

Former BBC documentary filmmaker Deborah Perkin has written her first stage play, about the 19th century international superstar soprano who made her home in the Brecon Beacons. A child star in America, Patti sang at Buckingham Palace at age 18, and captivated the opera houses and courts of all Europe. Determined to take control of her own destiny as an adult, she married against her family's will, but bitterly regretted her choice. Her aristocratic French husband was cruel, and in time, she found true love with her leading tenor Ernest Nicolini. As divorce was impossible, she found sanctuary at Craig-y-Nos, risking career and reputation as a fallen woman, her life mirroring those of the operatic heroines she portrayed.



The Risen Woman has the potential for popular and artistic stage success, bringing attention to Wales, particularly to the Brecon Beacons and Swansea Valley where Patti lived, loved and married.

The **Arts Council of Wales** has provided grant funding to **Deborah Perkin Media Ltd** to develop *The Risen Woman* with a Research and Development Company in partnership with **Theatr Brycheiniog**. Acclaimed director **Erica Eirian** brings together outstanding creatives including Musical Director **Peter Knight**, **Llinos Daniel** as Adelina Patti, and **Rhys Meredith** as her husband. See following

pages for more information on Deborah Perkin Media Ltd and R&D Company.



R&D VENUE PARTNER: THEATR BRYCHEINIOG

DAVID WILSON Director of Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon, is lending support in kind to *The Risen Woman* R&D project, providing rehearsal and technical space.



David ran Porter's in Cardiff, where *The Other Room* won many accolades including The Stage Award for Best Fringe Venue, the first time it had been won by a venue outside London. He was deputy director of National Dance Company Wales, executive director at Chapter's Actors Workshop, and lectured for The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama Arts Management MA course.

R&D COMPANY

DIRECTOR: ERICA EIRIAN trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has worked in professional theatre for 40 years as an actor and director. From 2008 until 2019 she was Artistic Director of the highly respected Theatr Pena, a company committed to creating opportunities for older women in theatre, and bold productions of classic and classically inspired plays. Erica earned a reputation as a director with a seriousness of purpose and confident creative aesthetic. Productions include Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Trojan Women* by Euripedes, *The Maids* by Jean Genet (for which she was nominated for a Wales Critics Best Director Award), *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, and *Woman of Flowers* by Siôn Eirian.



Enthused by Deborah's passion for her subject and full of admiration for a fellow older woman still willing to set herself new challenges, Erica is delighted to be joining DPML as Director of *The Risen Woman* R&D project.

Erica directed three Research & Development projects for Theatr Pena, most recently in summer 2018, Lorca's *Blood Wedding*.



ACTOR/SINGER LLINOS DANIEL

Television credits include *Hinterland/Y Gwyll* (Hinterland Films), *Stella* (Tidy Productions), *Da Vinci's Demons* (Fox), *Zanzibar*, *Eryn Roc a Rôl* (S4C), *Pobol y Cwm*, *Stepping Up*, *Torchwood*, *Not Getting Any* (BBC). She has played a wide range of characters with National Theatre Wales, Ludlow Festival Theatre, Wales Theatre Company, Vienna's English Theatre, Theatr Clwyd, Wales Millennium Centre, Lighthouse Theatre in South America, Volcano Theatre, Sherman Theatre and Theatr Pena. Earlier this year Llinos performed in Hong Kong and she has just finished touring the UK in the award-winning musical *Eye of the Storm* (Theatr na n'Óg, music by Amy Wadge). Llinos is currently appearing in *A Prayer for Wings* written and directed by Sean Mathias, at the King's Head Theatre in London. She trained at Royal Holloway University of London and Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art.

ACTOR RHYS MEREDITH

On screen credits include *The Mysterious Mr Webster*, *Wolf Hall*, *Casualty*, *Doctors*, and *Robin Hood* for BBC, and feature films *Apostle* and *The Cleansing*. Rhys also starred in the BBC drama which was nominated for a Golden Globe and won the RTS Award for Best Mini-Series.

On stage Rhys has worked with Shakespeare's Globe, Chichester Festival Theatre, Michael Grandage Company, English Touring Theatre, The Factory, Sprite Productions, Theatre Royal Bath and Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

Rhys is also an experienced voice artist with numerous credits for BBC Radio 4. Rhys trained at RADA.



ACTOR ELIN PHILLIPS

trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Her theatre credits with Theatr Clwyd include *All My Sons*, *Rape of the Fair Country*, *As You Like It* and *Animal Farm*. She was in *All But Gone* at The Other Room, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Arabian Nights*, *Snow Child*, *Patroiophobia* and *Station* (Sherman Theatre), *Yerma* (West Yorkshire Playhouse) *Ice Road* (Raucous), *The Populars*, *Seagulls* (Volcano) *Henry V* (Barn Theatre) *Dau* (RCT Theatre) *The Compleat Female Stage Beauty* (Mappa Mundi) *Gwlad yr Addewid*, *Milwr yn y Meddwl* (Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru). Television credits include *Will* (TNT), *Gwaith Cartref*, *Zanzibar* (S4C) *Crash*, *Doctors* (BBC Wales) and her films include *Love Type D* and *Y Syrcas*



ACTOR CHRISTOPHER MORGAN was in the sell-out production of *The Art of Concealment* at the Jermyn Street Theatre and was also in *Trilby* at the Finborough Theatre. As a performer in Wales he has worked for The Torch Theatre, Mappa Mundi, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Black Rat and Striking Attitudes. He was in Ken Russell's final short film *Boudica Bites Back*. He is also a Director, and has worked with Hijinx Theatre, Theatr Y Byd and the Redgrave Theatre in Farnham. Chris was born in Cardiff, and trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR/COMPOSER PETER KNIGHT is a composer, musician and teacher, who studied at Cardiff University under Alun Hoddinott, and won the Hywel John Bevan Memorial Prize for composition.



Peter has written original scores for theatre, film and television, and was a founder member of Mappa Mundi theatre company. His first love is writing for the stage, which provides the perfect vehicle for his talent for scene-setting, underscoring, and providing an additional dimension into characterisation and interplay. He has provided music for Theatr Clwyd, Sherman Theatre, Hijinx, Theatr Iolo, Caerphilly Festival Theatre and Everyman.

Erica Eirian, Peter Knight and Llinos Daniel worked together on Sion Eirian's play *Woman of Flowers*





Deborah Perkin founded DPML in 2013 on leaving BBC Wales, to make her widely acclaimed cinema documentary *Bastards* (12A, UK 2014) in association with Ffilm Cymru. Further film and video projects followed, and now she is driven to write for the theatre. *The Risen Woman* is her first stage play. www.deborahperkin.com



Watch Mark Kermode's BBC review and read about festival selection and awards www.deborahperkin.com/bastards

Prior to founding DPML, Deborah Perkin worked for the BBC in London and Cardiff. Full list of productions at www.deborahperkin.com/filmography She is known for her investigative work including Britain's first expose of a paedophile priest which attracted 6m viewers on BBC1; and for her history programmes including a drama-documentary about Owain Glyndwr, and a feature-length biography of the musical genius *Quincy Jones*. She directed, produced and wrote the scripts for all her films.

Deborah is an avid opera and theatre fan. She has enjoyed using music throughout her professional life, working with several composers and orchestras, including Carl Davis on *Out of the Dolls House*, Adrian Williams and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales on *First Emperor of China*, and on *Bastards* with Debbie Wiseman MBE and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.