

Four Nights in Knaresborough

We know what happened when Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral at the end of 1170 and we know the identities of the assassins. The event was recorded in detail for posterity by one of Becket's clerks, who was himself injured in the attack. We also know that the four knights responsible had travelled from the court of King Henry in France and spent the following year at Knaresborough Castle. Apart from that, we can only speculate about why Becket died and what became of his murderers.

Four Nights in Knaresborough offers some fictitious, but plausible, answers. Knaresborough Castle is set high above the river Nid in Yorkshire. It had extensive views of the surrounding countryside and must have dominated the small market town that grew around it. Imagine the reactions of the inhabitants, finding that the most notorious men of the time were living in their midst. If we think about public concerns today when criminals are released into the community, we can perhaps understand how it must have been for the people of this small town.

And what about the knights themselves? They were men of action, veterans of wars and crusades, who also served at the royal court. How would they pass their time? For a full year, they were cooped up together in one small and cold castle, not knowing whether they would be killed on the orders of the King, lynched by the local mob, or sent into a long and uncomfortable exile in Palestine. The tensions within that castle must have been enormous.

This play uses humour and insight to explore those tensions: the practicalities of keeping warm and getting food under the eyes of a hostile local population, the fear of what is to come, conflicting passions and the search for absolution.

John Ruscoe
Director

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Criterion Theatre
Our next production

Sex, Drugs & Rick'N Noel

by
David Tristram
4th to 11th July 2009

 BOX OFFICE (Direct)
024 7667 5175
This is a notice to members

Sex, Drugs & Rick'N Noel

by David Tristram
4th to 11th July

This modern musical comedy takes us on a funny, entertaining and moving journey with Rick, a working man who has lost his direction in life.

Rick loses many of the people and things which were important to him all in the space of a few months. He is forced to make drastic changes and decides to do a history course at university where he meets Noel, another mature student with a whole different outlook to living. Together they learn about life and women but not much about history.

Production photography by
Richard Johnson
024 7671 4153

The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.

Four Nights in Knaresborough

by
Paul Webb

This production contains strong language

Programme

Produced in association with Nick Hern Books

Four Nights in Knaresborough

The play takes place in a Norman chapel and in a room in Knaresborough Castle.



Bill Butler
Morville



Jon Elves
Fitz



Dave Crossfield
Brito



Andy Bayliss
Traci



Cathryn Bowler
Catherine



Pete Brooks
**Becket,
John,
Wigmore**

ACT ONE
Scene One - Morville's Dream

NIGHT ONE
Scene Two - evening, January 1171
Scene Three - later that night

NIGHT TWO
Scene Four - evening, March 1171
Scene Five - an hour later

ACT TWO
Scene One - early hours of Night Two

NIGHT THREE
Scene Two - evening, September 1171
Scene Three - later that night

NIGHT FOUR
Scene Four - morning, December 1171
Scene Five - that night
Scene Six - later that night

Set Design

Louise Bagley

Set Build

Pete Bagley, Simon Sharpe I/c
Des Ali, Doug Griffiths, Paul Tierney,
Mike Tierney, Andrew Tyrer, Mike Tooley
Kevin Woods, Ben Woodward

Paint

Louise Bagley, Paul Wilkins I/c
Sara Beamish, Doreen Belton,
Emma Fernandez, Sue Hadlum,
Pauline Petros, Judy Sharpe, Christian Voigt

Director

John Ruscoe

Stage Manager

Ben Woodward

Prompt

Maggie Parkes

Lighting Design

Ian Knight

**Sound Design
Sound Operator**

Dave Cornish
Pete Bagley

Wardrobe

Maureen Liggins, Pam Coleman

Tapestry

Judy Talbot I/c
Paul Chokran, Sue Hadlum
Sally Patalong, Susie Murphy
Viv Cuttiford

Props

Annie Woodward, Les Rahilly,
Erica Young, Sally Patalong

Special Effects

Paul Wilkins

**Drumming arrangement
and performance**

David Butler