

**PRESS RELEASE – embargoed until Friday 29 March, 10am.**

## **The Octagon Theatre's *Treasure Island* is sailing into the University of Bolton Stadium this Christmas!**

**Octagon Theatre Bolton are delighted to announce that a swashbuckling new adaptation of the classic pirate tale will be performed at The University of Bolton Stadium.**

Following the success of last year's production of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* at the stadium, the Octagon Theatre have dropped their anchor in the [Premier Suite at The University of Bolton Stadium](#) again to present their annual festive show in December 2019.

The Octagon Theatre Bolton will present a brand new adaptation of *Treasure Island* based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson - a festive treat for families in Bolton **Sun 8 December– Fri 27 December 2019.**

**Tim Jackson** will direct the new production by the Octagon Theatre following widespread success as a director, choreographer, musical director and composer. Tim Jackson was Choreographer and Musical Director for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Manchester Royal Exchange in 2014, choreographer for the recent West End productions of *Stepping Out* and *Merrily We Roll Along* and most recently directed *The Protagonists* at The Other Palace in London.

**Tim Jackson** has said *"I'm thrilled that we're off on an adventure to **Treasure Island** this Christmas. Brace yourselves for pirates, parrots and pieces of eight!"*

*Robert Louis Stephenson's classic tale of buried treasure and mutiny upon the high seas will be brought to vivid life in a fabulous new musical version for The Octagon Theatre, Bolton. Join Jim and friends as they set sail in search of gold and jewels beyond their wildest dreams.*

*Packed with swashbuckling songs and lashings of laughter, **Treasure Island** is a fun-packed show for all the family."*

The classic tale of buccaneers and buried gold will be presented a rip-roaring new stage adaptation by writer **Kate Ferguson** with music and lyrics by **Susannah Pearse**. **Kate Ferguson's** credits include *Fair Trade*, executive-produced by Emma Thompson (UK tour), *Sherlock Holmes: The Early Years* (Music by Jared Dembowski, lyrics by Susannah Pearse, book with Robbie Hudson), winner of the Theatre for the American

Musical Award and **Susannah Pearse**'s credits include *Jabberwocky* with Rebecca Applin (YMT, The Other Palace), *The Stationmaster* with Tim Connor (Tristan Bates, Aria Entertainment), *Rapunzel* with Youn Young Park (Singapore Rep) and lyrics for *Sherlock Holmes: The Early Years*, book by Kate Ferguson with Robbie Hudson and music by Jared Dembowski, (winner of the Theatre for the American Musical Award).

*Grownups never pay attention to children like Jim Hawkins. Stuck working in the family Inn, Jim is longing for adventure... could this be the day something exciting finally happens? When Jim meets a mysterious seafaring gentleman, adventure calls and it looks like there might be gold on the horizon.*

*But once they set sail, things start to look dangerous. Will Jim and friends escape from a gruesome gang of pirates and make their way back to dry land with the treasure?*

A fearsomely talented cast of actor musicians alongside some frighteningly brilliant young people from Bolton will help us set sail on our jolly way in a fun filled family adventure bursting with music, mutiny and talking parrots!

**Lotte Wakeham**, Artistic Director at the Octagon Theatre said "*I'm absolutely thrilled that the Octagon is presenting this brand new stage adaptation of the much loved family favourite **Treasure Island**. The show's writers - Kate Ferguson and Susannah Pearse - are ridiculously talented, and I know their version of the story will be huge fun and filled with festive magic, as well as unforgettable, toe-tapping songs.*

*I could not be more delighted to have the wonderful Tim Jackson on board, helming this production as director, bringing a wealth of experience from his previous work in the West End.*

*This is going to be a really special, swash-buckling show for Bolton audiences this Christmas."*

The Octagon Theatre building continues to be under redevelopment and will reopen early in 2020. The theatre's second off-site season of shows for autumn 2019 will be announced in May.

***Treasure Island*** will run from Sun 8 December – Fri 27 December 2019 in the [Premier Suite at the University of Bolton Stadium](#).

For more information visit [octagonbolton.co.uk/whats-on](http://octagonbolton.co.uk/whats-on)

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For additional information contact Charlie Rachwal on: 01204 556505 or [Charlie.rachwal@octagonbolton.co.uk](mailto:Charlie.rachwal@octagonbolton.co.uk)

## Notes to Editors

### Octagon Theatre Bolton Present

#### *Treasure Island*

*Based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Book by Kate Ferguson

Music and lyrics by Susannah Pearse

Directed by Tim Jackson

### Venue partner Bolton Whites Hotel and Events

## Dates

#### *Treasure Island*

Thu 5 – Friday 27 December 2019

Mornings 10.15am\*

Matinees 1pm / 2.15pm\*

Evenings 5.30pm / 7pm\*

\*Performances vary daily, for details see performance diary online

Groups 10+ save 15%

**Age Guidance: 5+**

**Tickets on sale from Friday 29 March**

**Tim Jackson** works in theatre, opera and dance. As a Director, credits include: The Protagonists (The Other Palace); The Stable Gala (West End); The Oliviers In Concert (Royal Festival Hall) and The Olivier Awards 2017 (Awards Stager). As Associate Director: High Society (The Old Vic); The Beautiful Game (Union Theatre); From Hackney To Hollywood (UK Tour). West End Choreographer credits include: Merrily We Roll Along (Harold Pinter Theatre); Stepping Out (Vaudeville Theatre); Saturday Night (Arts Theatre); Cat On A Hot Tin Roof (Apollo Theatre - Additional Movement); Mouthful (Trafalgar Studios) and The Olivier Awards 2016 (Royal Opera House). West End Musical Director/Arranger credits: Kean (Apollo Theatre - Arranger); Dreamboats and Petticoats (Playhouse Theatre - Second MD).

**Octagon Theatre Bolton** is a regional producing theatre with the belief that theatre can enrich communities and fundamentally change peoples' lives for the better. It aims to do this through creating a range of entertaining and thought-provoking theatre of the highest quality that inspires and ignites the curiosity of the people of Bolton and beyond. As well as providing opportunities for learning and participation to enable people to realize their potential. The Octagon is currently undergoing a multi-million pound redevelopment and is producing a year of shows and activities in venues across Bolton before the new building opens in early 2020. The redevelopment is the largest transformation of the building in the Octagon's 50 year history and will ensure the future of the Theatre for generations to come – find out more at [octagonbolton.co.uk/reimagined](http://octagonbolton.co.uk/reimagined)

*Treasure Island*

*Based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson*

*Book by Kate Ferguson*

*Music and lyrics by Susannah Pearse*

**The classic tale of buccaneers and buried gold will be sailing into Bolton this Christmas in a rip-roaring new stage adaptation of Treasure Island.**

*Grownups never pay attention to children like Jim Hawkins. Stuck working in the family Inn, Jim is longing for adventure... could this be the day something exciting finally happens? When Jim meets a mysterious seafaring gentleman, adventure calls and it looks like there might be gold on the horizon.*

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