



TWOPENCE TO CROSS THE MERSEY PRODUCERS ANNOUNCE NWCR AS CHARITY PARTNERS

The producers of **Helen Forrester's Twopence to Cross the Mersey The Stage Play** which comes to regional theatre's in 2015 are delighted to announce **North West Cancer Research (NWCR)** as their chosen charity partner.

NWCR is the leading charity in the North West which facilitates cancer research to help increase understanding of cancer, how to diagnose, treat and prevent it. This year alone, the charity has supported £2million worth of research including that at the University of Liverpool, as well as at Lancaster University and the University of Bangor.

Based on Forrester's best-selling memoir, the new stage play version will premiere at Liverpool's **Epstein Theatre** from **Tue 10 March – Sat 28 March 2015** and the opening night performance will be a special charity night for NWCR, with fifty percent of ticket sales from the show's opening performance on **Tue 10 March 2015** being donated to aid the work of the Liverpool-based charity.

To get an understanding of how the money raised will help the charity, Stage Writer and Producer, **Rob Fennah**, together with Co-Producer, **Bill Elms** and Twopence To Cross The Mersey's Production Co-ordinator, **Lynn McDermott**, received a special tour of NWCR's centre and charity headquarters. They met with some of the world-class researchers working to help tackle Liverpool's shockingly high cancer rates.

Producer and stage writer Rob Fennah said: *"Sadly, cancer will affect each and every one of us at some point in our lives either directly or indirectly through loved ones. Visiting the research labs, right here in the heart of Liverpool, and seeing with our own eyes just how much hard work is going into combating this devastating disease gave us a real sense of hope for the future. It is only thanks to charities like NWCR that this type of research can continue and, as such, we are delighted to support them and announce NWCR as our charity partner. This brand new stage production of Twopence To Cross The Mersey will be a much more intimate affair and the Epstein Theatre is the perfect venue to launch it. We hope as many people as possible will come along to the opening night and show their support for NWCR."*

Anne Jackson, CEO of NWCR, said: *"On behalf of everyone at NWCR I would like to say a big thank you to Rob, Bill and everyone at Pulse Records Limited for selecting us as their chosen charity for the forthcoming run of 'Twopence To Cross The Mersey'. The money will help us fund vital research projects in Liverpool and the North West, which is important to our understanding of cancer and will ultimately help us to better detect, treat and prevent the disease in the future. 'Twopence To Cross The Mersey' is such a wonderful production and Helen Forrester's original books have always been a favourite of mine. We are delighted to be benefiting from the opening night. There has already been lots of interest in tickets, so please do book as soon as possible if you want to come along."*

After its initial 3 week run at The Epstein, the show will set sail to play to audiences reaching all across Merseyside as it heads to Southport Theatre from **Thu 9 April – Sat 11 April**, St Helens Theatre Royal from **Tue 14 April – Thu 16 April** and then crosses the Mersey to play at the Floral Pavilion from **Sun 19 April – Thu 23 April**.

Directed by **Bob Eaton**, this much loved account tells the true story of a young girl and her formerly wealthy family as they are suddenly thrown into poverty during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Leaving behind the nannies, servants and comfortable middle-class life in the South West of England, they uproot their shattered lives and choose Liverpool as the city to restart and rebuild their dreams and fortune. Unbeknown to them however, they are in for a terrible shock.

Tickets for the charity fund raiser and general tickets are on sale now; loved by millions, see Helen's dramatic, moving and heart-warming tale come to life as she and her family are forced to survive in the slums amongst the streetwise working class.

Do not miss this remarkably poignant tale when it embarks on venues across Merseyside in this brand new format; **Twopence to Cross the Mersey** is coming to a theatre near you in spring 2015.

Charity tickets for the opening performance at the Epstein can be bought from NWCR by calling 0151 709 2919. Tickets cost £18. Collections for NWCR will also take place at each venue on the tour.

Follow on **Facebook/TwoPenceThePlay** or **twitter @twopenceplay**

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Helen Forrester's TWOPENCE TO CROSS THE MERSEY – The Stage Play

Epstein Theatre

Hanover House, Hanover Street, Liverpool, L1 3DZ

Tue 10 - Sat 28 March 2015

Mon-Sat: 7:30pm | Mats: Wed and Sat 2:30pm

How to Book: Booking Hotline **0844 888 4411**, visit www.epsteinliverpool.co.uk or book in person at the theatre box office (Open 2-6pm Mon-Thu & 12-6pm Fri & Sat) or via **TicketQuarter** on **0844 8000 410** | www.ticketquarter.co.uk or in person in Queen Square, Liverpool City Centre

Southport Theatre

Promenade, Southport, PR9 0DZ

Thu 9 April – Sat 11 April 2015

Eves: 7:30pm | Mats: Sat 2:30pm

How to Book: Booking Hotline **0844 871 3021**, visit www.atgtickets.com/southport or in person at the theatre Box Office.

St Helens Theatre Royal

Corporation St, St Helens WA10 1LQ

Tue 14 April – Thu 16 April

Eve: 7:30pm | Mats: Thu 2:30pm

How to Book: Book in person at the **Theatre Royal Box Office** (Mon – Sat 10am – 5pm). Alternatively, call **01744 756 000** or visit www.sthelenstheatreroyal.com

Floral Pavilion

Marine Promenade, New Brighton, Wirral, CH45 2JS

Sun 19 April – Thu 23 April

Eve: Sun 6:00pm, Mon-Thu 7:30pm | Mats: Wed 2:30pm

How to Book: Booking Hotline **0151 666 0000**, visit www.floralpavilion.com or in person at the theatre Box Office (Mon-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 12pm-4pm)

-Ends-

For more information, interviews, images, review or competition ticket requests please contact Bill Elms at Bill Elms Associates on 0151 245 0135 or bill@billelms.com