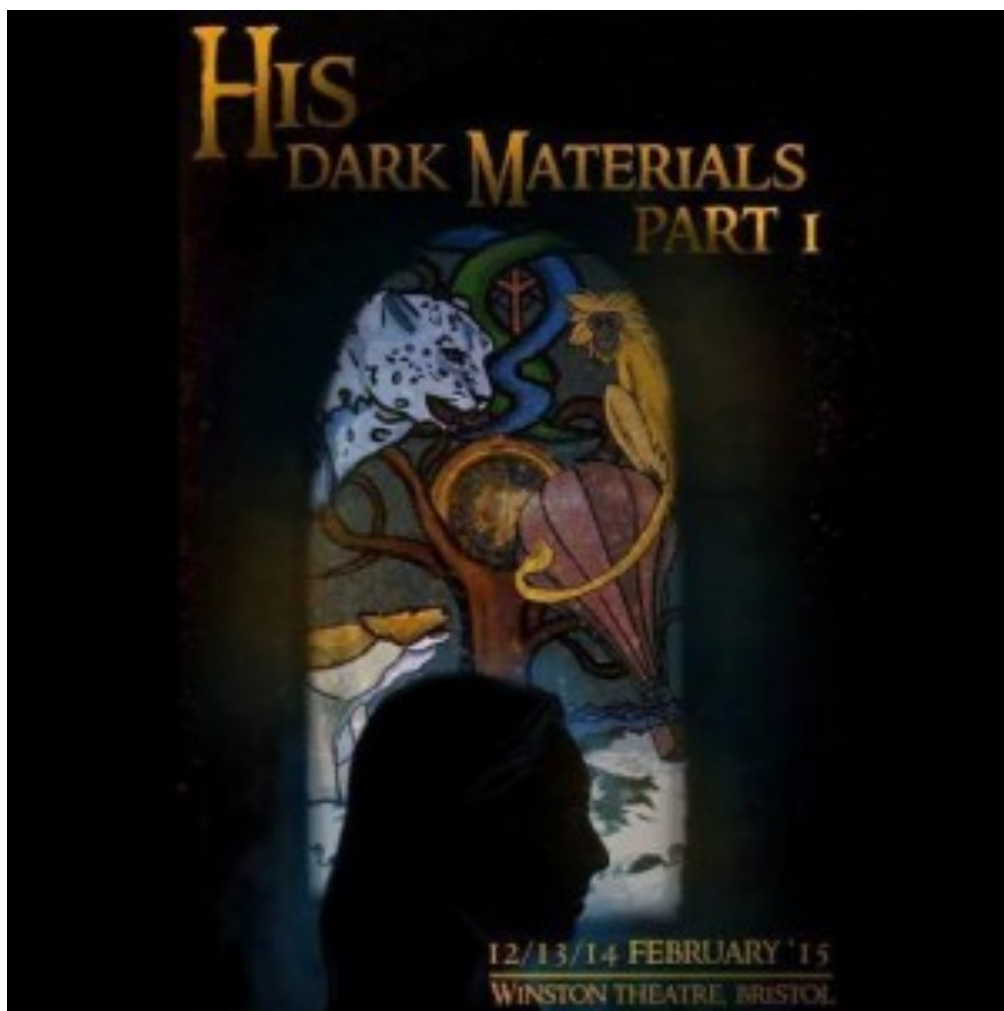


By: DeputyTheatre / Published: 14/02/2015



Part One of Nicholas Wright's adaptation of 'His Dark Materials' ends at the point at which Lord Asriel (Josh Vallance) has broken into another world, Dust is flowing into a void, Lyra (Robyn Wilson) meets Will (Tom Grant) and obtains a knife that opens windows between worlds, The Church is searching for Lyra's true name, Mrs Coulter (Alice Kirk) is searching for Lyra whilst Lyra and Will are searching for Roger (Jonas Moore) and Will's father. Lost? Well, mercifully, Part Two opened with a brief recap before plunging into the mayhem of the second instalment.

Part Two of Max Kirk's production of Pullman's novels leads us into four different worlds and the Land of the Dead, we meet angels, harpies and more witches – oh, and Lord Asriel has declared war on The Authority.

Amongst so much plot, it would be easy to get lost. However, what really stands out in this production is the emotional sensitivity at the heart of the piece. Grant and Wilson's portrayal of the twelve-year olds in love was deeply touching and beautifully performed whilst the relationship between Asriel and Coulter brought fiery dynamism and passion. The strength of the acting comes to the fore in this second half. Having got over the wonderful puppetry that seemed to dominate the first instalment (and continues to be great in the second), we better appreciate the talent of Kirk's entire cast in Part Two.

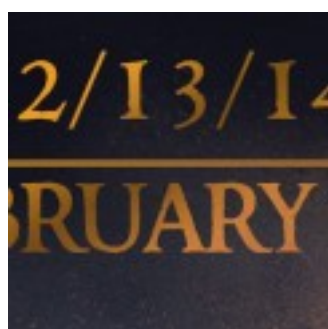
Much has been made in the advertising that each instalment can be seen in isolation and this is certainly true (I checked with other people, they knew what was going on). If you were unfortunate enough to only see Part One, though, I feel sorry for you – how could you stand the cliffhanger? If you're only seeing Part Two, you're in for a treat! If you're seeing both – well, you've struck gold!

'His Dark Materials' has been built up over the last few months and many of us have been waiting with baited breath to see how it would pan out. What emerges are plays of poetry, love and drama that draw you into the world of Lyra and the worlds into which she herself journeys.

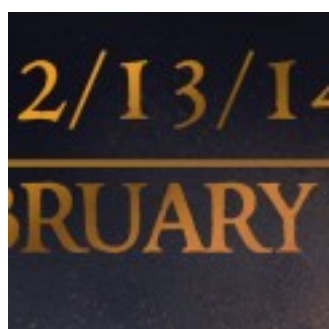
★★★★★

*Read Hallam's review of Part 1 [here!](#)*

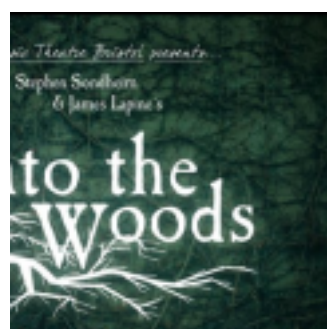
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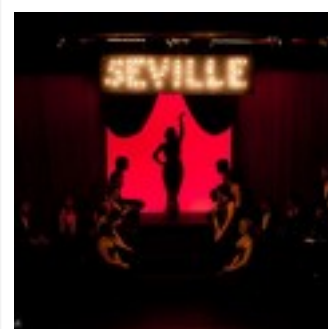
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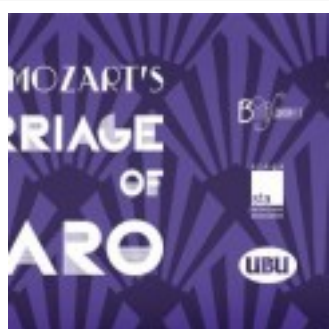
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