## Four Nights in Knaresborough

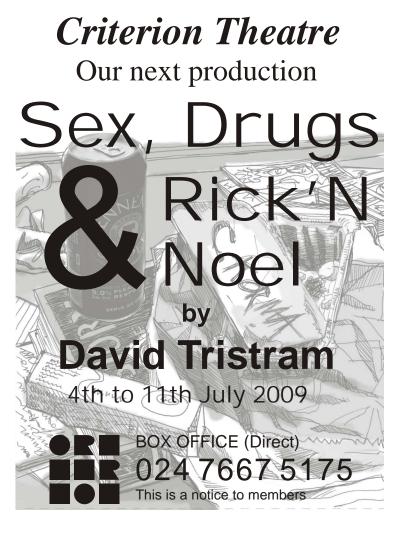
We know what happened when Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral at the end of 1170 and we know the identities of the assassins. The event was recorded in detail for posterity by one of Becket's clerks, who was himself injured in the attack. We also know that the four knights responsible 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



#### 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.

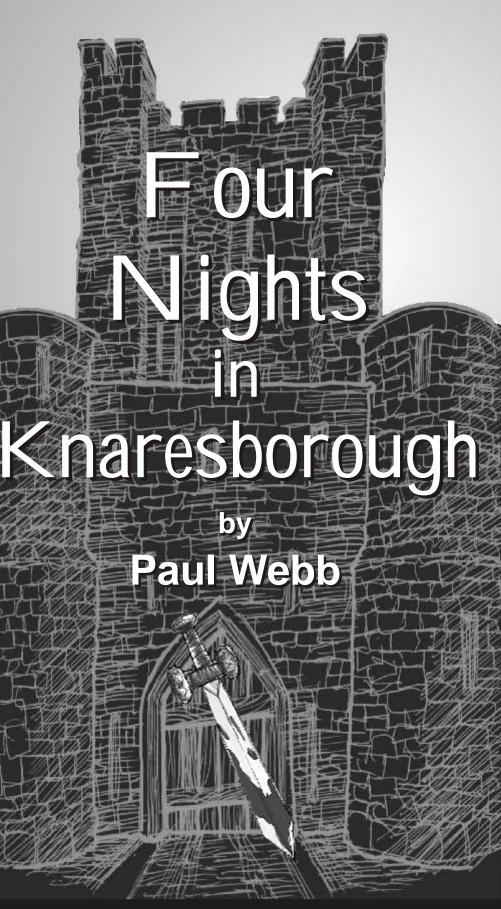
Rick loses many of the people and things which were important to him all in the space of a few months. He is forced to make drastic changes and decides to do a history course at university where he meets Noel, another mature student with a whole different outlook to living. Together they learn about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

> Production photography by **Richard Johnson** 024 7671 4153





www.criteriontheatre.co.uk



This production contains strong language

## rogramme 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.





**Jon Elves** Fitz



### **Dave Crossfield** Brito





ACT ONE Scene One

- Morville's Dream

**NIGHT ONE** Scene Two **Scene Three** 

- evening, January 1171 - later that night

### **NIGHT TWO**

**Scene Four Scene Five** 

- evening, March 1171 - an hour later

**ACT TWO Scene One** 

Scene Three

Scene Six

**NIGHT THREE Scene Two** 

evening, September 1171 - later that night

- early hours of Night Two

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

**Cathryn Bowler** Catherine

Set Design Set Build

Paint

### Louise Bagley

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

Sara Beamish, Doreen Belton, Emma Fernandez, Sue Hadlum, Pauline Petros, Judy Sharpe, Christian Voigt

Director **Stage Manager** Prompt **Lighting Design** Sound Design **Sound Operator** 

John Ruscoe Ben Woodward **Maggie Parkes** Ian Knight Dave Cornish **Pete Bagley** 

Maureen Liggins, Pam Coleman

Tapestry

Props

**Special Effects** 

**Drumming arrangement** and performance

Wardrobe

Louise Bagley, Paul Wilkins I/c

**Andy Bayliss** Traci

> **Pete Brooks** Becket, John, Wigmore

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

Annie Woodward, Les Rahilly, Erica Young, Sally Patalong

**Paul Wilkins** 

**David Butler**