

Turn of the Screw, adapted by Tim Luscombe, 2018

Review highlights (11-week UK tour, February – May 2018). With copy on the play below.

Reviews:

At the very heart of every good ghost story is the unexplained and, in Tim Luscombe's **superb adaptation** of Henry James' Turn of the Screw, there is plenty that remains unexplained and a plethora of spooky happenings to keep the audience on the very edge of their seats.

Paul Lucas-Scott, The Sussex Newspaper

Casting new light on the ambiguities central to Henry James' influential literary ghost story, Tim Luscombe's Turn of the Screw is **intelligent, insightful, and infused with otherworldly menace.**

Revelling in the text's contradictions, his adaptation picks apart the tales' layered, unreliable narratives, introducing an improved framing device which sees gown-up orphan Flora investigating the sinister events of her youth.

Dave Fagnoli, The Stage

Henry James' Turn of the Screw is a classic which has had many interpretations and adaptations over the years. **This latest version manages to keep all the ambiguity of the original whilst giving the audience a spine-tingling nights entertainment.**

Theatrelife

A perfect ghost story for a winter's evening.

Paul T Davies, British Theatre

Rather than simplifying or diluting the complexities of James' text, **Luscombe's translation of the novella to the stage simultaneously preserves and intensifies the tale's multi-layered ambiguity**, which is no mean feat.

Marie-Luise Kohlke, Neo-Victorian Studies, 10:2, 2018

This new adaptation of the famous Henry James novella is billed as "The Classic Ghost Story", but it's actually and intentionally much more than that. Tim Luscombe has carefully constructed his drama to simultaneously ratchet up the tension, while at the same time picking at the threads of his characters as they start to unravel. **Not just a ghost story ... but a psychological thriller.**

Matthew Lenton, Theatre News

This is a **remarkable adaptation** by Tim Luscombe. There are parts of this story which **leave you spellbound.**

Slough Observer

Henry James would be surprised and pleased with this adaptation.

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Heather Chalkley, Fairy powered productions

Tim Luscombe's deliciously-clever stage adaptation of Turn of the Screw challenges, twists and satisfies – a chilling night at the theatre. Thanks to an **ingenious** framing which keeps switching us between then and a now 30 years later, the governess is undermined as never before, taunted to finally accept the fact that she... well, made it all up. Or did she? Of course, the ambiguity is key to the original, but Luscombe's version tips the balance daringly and keep[s] us guessing. The piece makes you question everything.

Phil Hewitt, Chichester Observer

Tim Luscombe's atmospheric adaption switches between the present and the past and, as the second act builds to its dramatic conclusion, leaves you grappling with just what is the truth behind the troubled ghosts of Peter Quint and Miss Jessel.

Portsmouth News

A truly haunting, troubling experience; in fact, everything a disturbing ghost story should be. Pleasure comes from the storyline and the chance to decide the outcome for yourself.

Alison Norton, Wolverhampton Express and Star

Beautifully adapted for the stage by Tim Luscombe.

Tricia Marcotti, The Guildford Dragon News

Pitch perfect.

Henley Standard

Thrilling.

Bucks Free Press

This is a sophisticated adaptation of a gothic horror classic, which manages to remain faithful to the original, while finding a clever new way to tell the ‘story within a story’. This new adaptation manages to be **both original and disturbing**. It’s also **genuinely unsettling**.

Andrew Weltch, Rhiwbina.info

At the end of the play, a viable argument can be made both for the supernatural explanation and the psychological one. This is undoubtedly the play’s greatest strength, and what ultimately makes its narration **compelling**. *Turn of the Screw* manages to convey the same atmosphere as its literary predecessor, as well as its unresolved nature; under this respect it is the most **successful. It can claim to do justice to the work of Henry James.**

Chiara Stazzulla, Arts Scene in Wales

One of the most thought-provoking characteristics of *Turn of the Screw* is that it leaves you to draw your own conclusions. Despite being classified as a ghost story – which it most certainly is – it is also **a deeply disturbing psychological thriller**. Tim Luscombe’s adaptation includes some additional pointers towards the sexual element in James’ story plus the **inspired** ploy of using the same actors to portray children and adults. **Twists and turns point in all directions**, leaving the audience on the edge of their seats not knowing what to expect – but totally scared.

Barbara Michaels, the Reviews Hub

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A **chilling** tale of intrigue that keeps you guessing (and shuddering) long after the curtain falls, **excellently written** by Tim Luscombe. Just about the creepiest thing I've ever seen.

A play which actually frightened the living daylights out of me. *Turn of the Screw*'s frights are earned and eerie.

Of course, there are ghosts a go-go, as one would expect, but their inclusion is **intellectual as well as insidious**. Perhaps they are revenants of the past; perhaps they are figments of the imagination; perhaps they are a little of both. The action is adequately ambiguous to allow for any conclusion you come to.

Scary and scintillating, *Turn of the Screw* proves itself to be just as gripping to modern audiences as it was to those of Henry James' heyday. **This is a must-see!**

Barbara Hughes-Moore, Get the chance, Wales

Blurb:

1840. A young governess agrees to look after two orphaned children in Bly, a seemingly idyllic country house. But shortly after her arrival, she realises that they are not alone. There are others – the ghosts of Bly's troubled past. The Governess will risk everything to keep the children safe, even if it means giving herself up to The Others. Years later, confronted by the past she is compelled to account for what actually happened to her and the innocents under her protection.

This brand new and “*deliciously atmospheric update*” by Tim Luscombe is “*intelligent, insightful and infused with other worldly menace*” (The Stage).

Turn of the Screw has been interpreted or adapted many times and provided rich inspiration for *The Woman in Black* (written in 1983). This new *Turn of the Screw* is faithful to the original “*casting new light on its ambiguities*”. “*Revelling in the text's contradictions, (it) picks apart the tales' layered unreliable narratives*” (The Stage).

Tim Luscombe's dynamic, thrilling adaptation of Henry James' much-loved and genre defining classic ghost story *Turn of the Screw* lets you draw your own conclusions about the events at Bly and where guilt resides.