

Hi, my name is Neil Bull and I am the Assistant Director on *Charlie Peace: His Amazing Life and Astounding Legend*. This is a world premiere of a co-production between Nottingham Playhouse and the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

Over the coming weeks I will be your eyes and ears in the rehearsal room as we craft and create this exciting piece of new theatre.

Charlie Peace has been two years in development and six months of pre-production meetings. We have now completed six days of castings in Nottingham and London bringing together the principal actors, musicians and a community choir to boot!

The production also brings together the hugely successful collaborative team that brought you ***The Kite Runner***, artistic director Giles Croft, designer Barney George and composer and arranger Jonathan Girling. Joining them are renowned Nottingham writer Michael Eaton and international graphic artist Eddie Campbell.

With the scope and characters reminiscent of a classic Charles Dickens novel, folk songs drawn from the period and new compositions; a travelling troupe of players brings you the exciting tale of Charlie Peace, the greatest celebrity villain of the Victorian age. A master of disguise, an accomplished musician and irresistibly attractive to women, Charlie was a legend within his own lifetime.

I invite you to join me through an 'access all areas' rehearsal blog. I'll keep you updated with information on rehearsals and post photos and interviews with the cast and creative team. You will be able to send me questions and we will be holding an interactive Twitter session with the company. You can see first-hand the production evolve and take shape; literally from the page to the stage.

I look forward to your company as you join me, Charlie and the cast and creative team on the amazing journey of ***Charlie Peace***.

Neil.

Neil Bull
Assistant Director: *Charlie Peace*
Nottingham Playhouse