

TNT theatre presents DAVID COPPERFIELD based on the novel by  
Charles Dickens. Adapted by Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith.

DAVID COPPERFIELD was Dickens' "favourite child" – his most personal and perhaps finest novel. TNT bring the essence of this masterpiece to the stage in a fast moving piece of music theatre that concentrates on the key themes of the novel, such as the break down of the family. Dickens also introduces a new idea into literature – the so called "unreliable narrator" – this is highly theatrical as we see that David is himself not to be believed as he tells his own story – his opinions and moral position are often wrong – especially in his judgement of his best friend Steerforth, a charming devil-like figure who turns the broad comedy of this charming story into something like tragedy. The TNT production concentrates on the key figures of the novel: the Peggotty family of fishermen, the tyrannical stepfather Murdstone and his appalling sister, little Emily – the fisher girl who dreams of becoming a lady, David's weak and deluded mother and the diabolic Steerforth. The settings shift from rural England to the seaside home of the Peggotty family (an upturned boat!) to the dark, smog filled streets of London in its Victorian grandeur and filth. Beyond all of this is the sea, a key metaphor for the unknown power that humanity can never control and one that eventually will swallow Steerforth and redeem David. As ever Dickens shows a great and modern sympathy with oppressed children, the poor and insane and warns us all that life without a mature feeling for our fellow humans has no value.

TNT first approached the novel over ten years ago and now this new version will build on the international success of the original production. This is the same production team that created the award winning OLIVER TWIST (the most performed touring production of the last ten years). The director is Paul Stebbings, who also adapts the novel with Phil Smith. Paul's work has been seen in over forty countries on four continents and he recently returned from directing Shakespeare at China's leading theatre, (the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre). The musical score is by Thomas Johnson, who has written music for the Royal National Theatre and in the West End of London. As usual TNT will aim for a clear storyline and a powerful mix of accessible comedy and serious drama. The language will be a mix of modern English and Dickensian prose that should be understood by those with moderate English skill while in no way compromising the integrity of the piece as true theatre. The live music will feature instrumentation and songs. Previous productions of TNT directed by Paul in France include THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY, OLIVER TWIST and ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST.

2012 is Dickens bicentennial year. We invite you attend a dramatisation of his own favourite work.

If you people need to be persuaded to go to the theatre, TNT are the company to see. SUDKURIER Germany

TNT are known as the best touring theatre company in the world. China National TV

I never knew classical theatre could be so entertaining. CNN

TNT - true music theatre. Classical Music Magazine London.