

About Pentabus

'One of the most important theatre companies in the country, where it has led, other new writing theatres – such as the Royal Court – have followed' The Telegraph

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company. We are the only professional theatre company in the UK whose vision is singularly rural. We tour new plays about the contemporary rural world to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres, telling stories with local relevance, plus national and international impact.

We believe that every person living in an isolated rural community has a right to exceptional theatre. We are based in a Victorian school in rural Shropshire, and to date all of our work has been made here. It then tours village halls and theatres locally and nationally. Over four and a half decades we've produced 173 new plays, reached over half a million audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award, a Fringe First and were the first to live stream from a village hall. We have hosted a writer in residence since 2014 and they have gone on to be commissioned by the Royal Court, Birmingham Rep, HighTide, Royal Welsh College, Nottingham Playhouse and the Bush.

We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 25 and Pentabus Young Company is our programme offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Group, which has been running for eight years. Previous participants of the Young Writers' Group have had their work presented at Ludlow Fringe, Latitude Festival and Hereford Courtyard. It is a springboard into further study and the arts industry.

About Theatre by the Lake

Theatre by the Lake, hailed by The Independent as 'the most beautifully located and friendly theatre in Britain', opened in 1999. It is a short stroll from Derwentwater on the edge of Keswick, amid the magnificent western fells of the Lake District, which has recently been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status.

The theatre has two stages, a 400-seat Main House and 100-seat Studio, and presents up to nine of its own productions throughout the year as well as hosting a variety of festivals and visiting companies, playing to over 125,000 people per year.

Led by Artistic Director Liz Stevenson and Executive Director James Cobbold, Theatre by the Lake is the only Arts Council funded producing theatre in Cumbria, generating a further £2.5m through sales and fundraising each year to support work onstage and the provision of inspiring community engagement programmes for people of all ages.

Theatre by the Lake closed their doors in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, but continued to provide a programme of work both digitally and outdoors until their reopening in Autumn 2021 with Home I'm Darling. Jacaranda is the second production of their reopening season.

Theatre by the Lake (as Cumbria Theatre Trust) is a registered charity, number 516673