

## Devilishly Entertaining

A beautiful summer's evening in The Living Willow Theatre was the perfect setting for the irresistible and imaginative show "The Devil's Violin" on Thursday 30 August. A packed house of all ages was transfixed by Welsh storyteller Daniel Morden, as he transported us into the darkly mysterious world of traditional Gypsy folk tales.

Daniel's obvious enthusiasm and passion for story was infectious as he encouraged the audience to participate in the satisfyingly repetitive elements of each tale - even if we did sometimes struggle to keep up! With the wind ruffling the willow under a darkening sky and fellow spectators wrapped in blankets leaning forward in anticipation, there was no denying the power and magic of the oral tradition which is too often neglected in our TV-dominated world.

Musicians Oliver Wilson-Dickson on violin and Edward Jay on accordion added depth and atmosphere to the stories, reminiscent of silent movies, with their beautifully chosen and timed musical accompaniment. They also had a chance to shine in their own right as they performed energetic, passionate compositions from the Gypsy tradition ranging across Europe.

By turns exhilarating, eerie and heart-wrenching, this was a stunning evening of pure magic from three masters of their art.