

WRITTEN BY NINA BAWDEN

CARRIE'S WAR

ADAPTED BY EMMA REEVES



**29 MARCH
—12 APRIL**
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THEATRE

Robert Bawden
(son of Nina Bawden)

My mother started writing for adults around the time that I was born. As my brother, sister and I grew up and listened to her stories from her own childhood, we frequently asked her if she could write stories for children, not just for grownups. We really meant for us, of course.

Eventually she agreed. We loved that she wrote about our family in many of her books, for example our secret hiding place in *The Secret Passage* and a favourite family holiday in *The Witch's Daughter*. We were especially fascinated by her tales from the Second World War, her time in the blitz in London and especially her evacuation to Wales and safety,

the theme of *Carrie's War*. Many of the stories made us laugh out loud such as the story about the shopkeeper she and her brother stayed with who wouldn't let her go up or down stairs more than once a day to save wearing out the carpet. His real name wasn't Mr Evans but he was a real person. It also made me sad to think about being separated from parents because of war.

And today that feels even more relevant with children across the world being separated from their parents and many being evacuated to other countries to keep them safe.



Carrie's War was one of my favourite books as a child. I read it again and again, wearing my old copy to pieces. It's a compelling mixture of bildungsroman, mystery, history, ghost story and fairy-tale.

Carrie is a beautifully drawn adolescent heroine. She's sensitive, empathetic, bright, brave, anxious, kind; sometimes generous almost to a fault, sometimes capricious and rebellious. She becomes a teenager at a time of great change, when people of many different backgrounds were thrown together.

Like Carrie, Nina Bawden was evacuated from England to South Wales at the beginning of World War II. Bawden spent the later years of the war at Somerville College, Oxford, where she and her friends worked optimistically for the better world they longed

to see under a new Government. Fiercely intelligent and compassionate, her writing and activism gave a voice to the underdog and the 'little people' affected by the decisions of those in power. In *Carrie's War*, we see this in Carrie's developing anger against the injustice and prejudice faced by Mr. Johnny and Hepzibah in particular – which leads Carrie to take a desperate action which haunts her for thirty years.

Nina Bawden wrote 'adult' novels as well as books for children. But for me, *Carrie's War* defies categorisation; it's a fable for all ages. I am delighted that the Minack is presenting this beautiful story of friendship, loyalty, guilt, mistakes, redemption – and growing up.



Emma Reeves
(playwright)

It is astonishing to hear the stories of the great evacuation across the British Isles at the beginning of the Second World War. 1.5 million people moved in the first three days alone, including hundreds of thousands of school children all heading into the unknown.

The story of Carrie and her brother Nick is particularly resonant for me, not just because of the 1970s tv adaptation which had such an impact that I can still quote from it all these years later, but because Carrie's story has so much similarity to the tales told to me by my own parents of their evacuations. My mother was a wonderful storyteller, and I can remember sitting and listening, rooted to the spot while she described in detail the stern billeting officer and how the children waited to be chosen. She painted a vivid picture of the shock of leaving the city and being placed in an isolated farmhouse with well-meaning but culturally different people.

Carrie is such a relatable child, so desperate to find a way to interact with this new and frightening world, and almost crippled with the responsibility of looking after her brother in the absence of her mother. She struggles with her new role until the story takes her to Druid's Bottom where she meets Hepzibah, a wonderful maternal figure who keeps them, entranced with stories and gives the children the opportunity to experience one of the most joyful times of their lives.

Bringing *Carrie's War* to the stage has been a fabulous experience, working with a cast of amazing professional actors and some incredibly talented young people. I hope that as you sit and watch you will take as much joy from this production as we have had in creating it.



John Brolly
(director)



Elroy Ashmore
(designer)

For me *Carrie's War* is all about memories, Carrie's adult memories of her childhood as a Second World War evacuee in Wales. When I read the script I saw there were some 18 different locations to think about. Rather than squeezing them all onto the Minack's stage space or designing a multi-locational, multi-level set I decided to use the Minack's own architecture as the basis of a once grand but now ruined old house - Druid's Bottom.

As an adult some 30 years after the war we see Carrie revisiting 'that old ruin' as her son describes it. They walk down through Druid's

Grove and the strange atmosphere brings all her memories back to life.

The design was then to add to the Minack's architecture things that would suggest not only an old ruined house, one with unsettling undercurrents, but additions that would also work for all the other locations in Carrie's memory. A staircase, a fireplace, an upper level, a large window, columns and so on. The ruined house would be a catalyst for all of Carrie's memories of that time, superimposed onto the one old ruin of Druid's Bottom.






Adult Carrie	Eleanor Toms
Carrie's son	Levan Dove
Young Carrie	Poppy Livingstone
	Jess Postlethwaite
Nick	Iris Kirwan
Mr Evans	Steve Jacobs
Aunty Lou	Rebecca Hulbert
Albert Sandwich	Dylan Taylor-Bennett
Mr Johnny	Ben Kernow
Hepzibah Green	Georgia Nicholson
Major Harper	Craig Johnson
Mrs Fazackerly	Eleanor Toms
Billy	Holly Taylor
Mr Owen	Craig Johnson
Mrs Gotobed	Rebecca Hulbert
Frederick	Craig Johnson
Mr Rhys	Ben Kernow
Mrs Davies	Eleanor Toms
Musicians	Zaid Alrikabi
	Ben Sutcliffe

Actors will play Young Carrie at the following performances:

Friday 29 March at 6pm	Poppy Livingstone	Sunday 7 April at 2.30pm	Poppy Livingstone
Saturday 30 March at 4pm	Jess Postlethwaite	Sunday 7 April at 7pm	Jess Postlethwaite
Monday 1 April at 4pm	Poppy Livingstone	Monday 8 April at 4pm	Poppy Livingstone
Tuesday 2 April at 2.30pm	Jess Postlethwaite	Tuesday 9 April at 2.30pm	Jess Postlethwaite
Tuesday 2 April at 7pm	Poppy Livingstone	Tuesday 9 April at 7pm	Poppy Livingstone
Wednesday 3 April at 4pm	Jess Postlethwaite	Thursday 11 April at 2.30pm	Jess Postlethwaite
Thursday 4 April at 2.30pm	Poppy Livingstone	Thursday 11 April at 7pm	Poppy Livingstone
Thursday 4 April at 7pm	Jess Postlethwaite	Friday 12 April at 4pm	Jess Postlethwaite

Cover Actors: Marnie Cole, Charlotte Bister, Jack Brownridge Kelly



Director	John Brolly
Composer & Musical Director	Ben Sutcliffe
Set Designer	Elroy Ashmore
Costume Designer	Marion Harrison
Lighting Designer	Simon Hutchings
Assistant Director	Millie Brolly
Welsh Language Consultant	Sion Tudor Owen
Production Manager	Simon Hutchings
Stage Managers	Jenny Beare Craig Brown
Assistant Stage Managers	Marian Haynes Millie Brolly
Costume Assistant	Yasmin Baird
Sound Operator	Byron Ladd-Carr
Lighting Operator	Lucy Gaskell
Set Building	Dan Richardson Lynn Batten
Chaperones	Tamsin Livingstone Yasmin Baird
Producer	Zoë Curnow
Assistant Producer	Sian Kennedy
Publicity Design	Matt Travis
Photography	Lynn Batten
Programme Design	Vanessa Jackson

We would like to thank the following for their help:

***Rogue Theatre** for assistance with the set build*

***Ian Williams** for recording the trumpet music*

***Christine Gendall** for permission to reprint extracts from 'The Evacuees Tale'*



Evacuation
Memories of
Cornwall

by **Derek Arthur Norman**

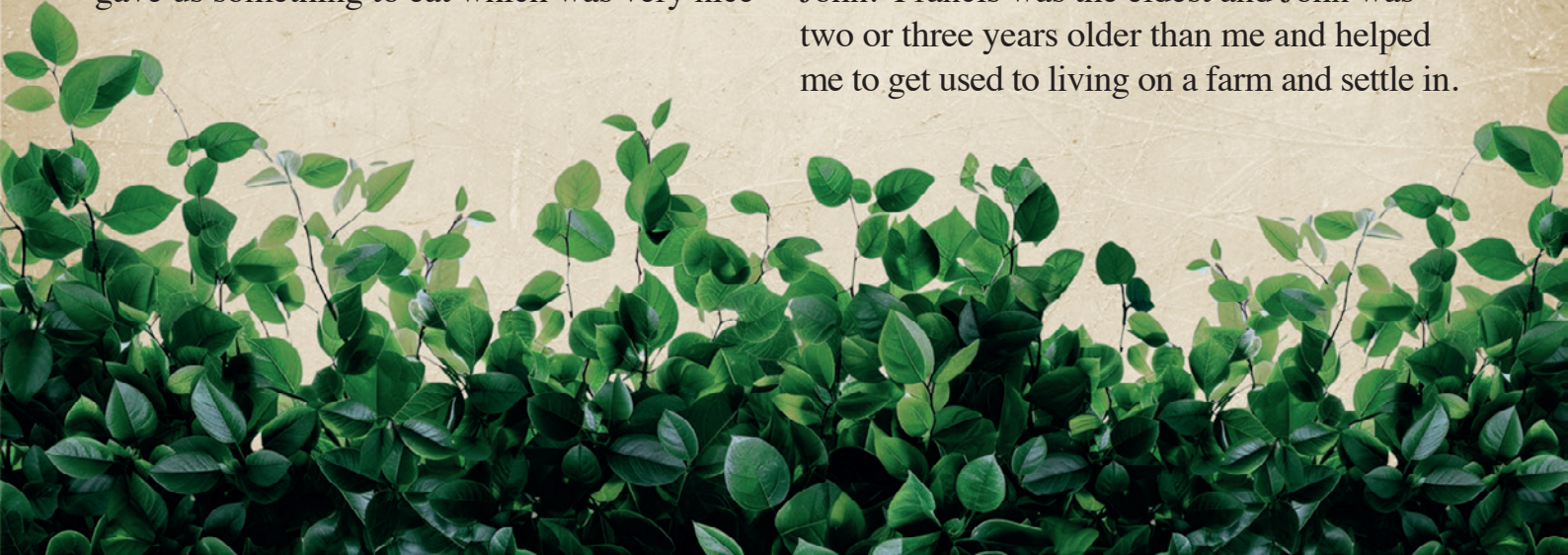
Extracts from *The Evacuees Tale* by Christine Gendall (St Levan History Group)

Derek's first experiences of evacuation to the far west of Cornwall must have been as strange and disconcerting as Carrie and Nick's to Wales, though, happily he gradually found his feet in the country and remembers it with great fondness.

I was crying as the train pulled away from the station. I was with my grandmother on the train, but I could see my dad waving to me on the platform as we moved away from the station. The train was beginning to pick up speed and my dad gradually faded away in the distance. I couldn't understand why he hadn't come with me, but I didn't know then that he had been called up to join the Navy and had to report to his first posting. The train made lots of stops to allow people to get on and off and many of them were in army or navy uniforms, but we eventually arrived at Penzance in the evening. From there we went on to a place called Treen where a lady met us at the door of a house. My grandmother told me it was called Barnicote Cottage. The lady gave us something to eat which was very nice

except that there was a piece of gristle on the plate which made me feel sick when I tried to eat it and had to spit it out. My grandmother told me I must eat it. I tried to eat it again, but I could not and really was sick. That was the first memory I had at Treen and it wasn't very nice.

After about a month, I think, my grandmother left Treen to go back to London. Sometime later, maybe two or three weeks, I was taken over the road to Treen Farm and was told I would be staying with Mr and Mrs Hall. They were so nice and treated me as if I was their own son. Mrs Hall looked after me and gave me a nice bedroom with a lovely bed to sleep in. Mr and Mrs Hall had two sons, Francis and John. Francis was the eldest and John was two or three years older than me and helped me to get used to living on a farm and settle in.



Across the river there was an old cottage surrounded by all sorts of trees including fruit trees. Apparently there was an old man living there who would give anyone visiting him the opportunity to pick some fruit. The bigger boys crossed the river and disappeared from view, but eventually came back with some apples. They were walking in front of me back to the road when I saw a snake basking in the sunshine. It was curled up and I bent down to take a closer look. I put my hand out towards the snake, but not too close and it didn't try to attack me. I called out to the bigger boys and they came back and one of them said it was an adder and they should kill it. They picked up large rocks and threw them onto the snake killing it. The other boys then walked away but I stayed behind, I felt sorry for the snake and removed the rocks from it hoping it would still be alive, but unfortunately it was dead.

When I got home from school I usually had a look around the farm to see the cows being milked and visit the pig pens and the horses when they were in the field. There were plenty of hens roaming around and I used to look to see if any eggs had been laid. Mrs Hall or one of the boys would tell me when tea was ready. Mrs Hall always made a nice meal at tea time. A special treat was blackberry pie and Cornish cream. I thought Mrs Hall made the best blackberry pie in the whole of Cornwall.

*Francis and John Hall
in the farmyard, Treen
1930s.*

A.G.D. (Bi) 24

DEFENCE REGULATIONS
GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

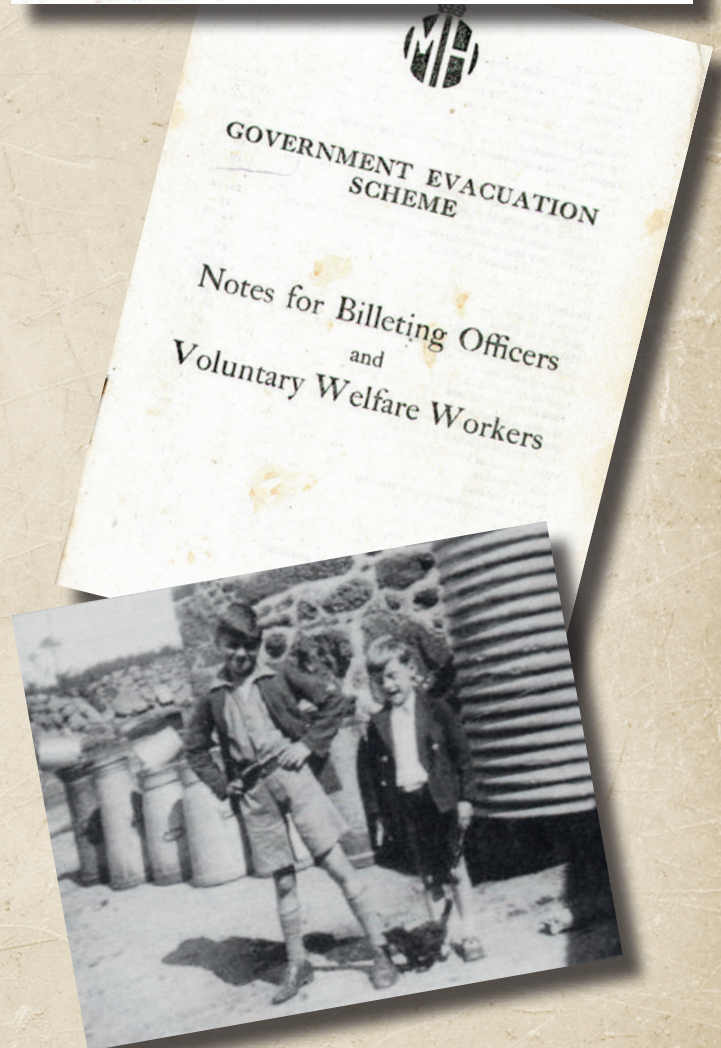
Amendment of Form E
INSTRUCTIONS TO OCCUPIERS

As from the first pay day in the week commencing Saturday, 1st July, 1944, the weekly rates of billeting allowances for unaccompanied children are as follows:—

Under 5 years	10/6d. per week.
5 years and under 10	11/6d. "
10 " " " 12	12/0d. "
12 " " " 14	13/0d. "
14 " " " 16	14/0d. "
16 years	16/6d. "
17 " and over	17/6d. "

June, 1944.

(C51945) 1,500,000 5/44





**Zaid
Alrikabi**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

I would love to revisit the ancient city of Petra in Jordan. I was there as a youngster and was completely mesmerized by its beauty and isolation.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

I would take a photograph from my 5th birthday party where we all sat in the garden, together and happy. Plus, I have a matching tie and shorts so that's pretty special.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

I think I would really love a spaghetti bolognese. Not sure that was really typical at the time the story is set but it's what I would want!



**Levan
Dove**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

I would pick the Maldives because it was an amazing holiday and we saw loads of sharks, fish and turtles.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

My guitar, because they gave it to me, so it reminds me of them when I play it.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

Apple pie, because it's amazing.



**Rebecca
Hulbert**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

The Camino de Santiago. 500 miles of walking solitude.



**Steve
Jacobs**

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

A family portrait.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

Veggie sausages and cheesy mash with onion gravy, and a Viennetta for after, (which is now a Hulbert family 4th generation tradition).

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Kilkenny in Southern Ireland

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

A small photograph album with selected memories, plus a mussel shell with a hand-painted picture of The Old Geyhound pub in Tottenham tucked into one of the picture slots.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

White fish with parsley sauce, sauté potatoes and asparagus.



**Craig
Johnson**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Many, many years ago I visited Castlerigg stone circle in the Lake District, which was a very beautiful and magical place. I'd love to see if it was still the same (and still magical!).

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

That's a really difficult question! I would take my OS Explorer Map 102 (Penwith and Land's End), so I could remember all the lovely long walks we've been on.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

I would love her to cook roast chicken with all the trimmings, especially roast potatoes, stuffing and SPROUTS!



**Ben
Kernow**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

I'd really like to return to Prague. I visited on an inter-railing trip but feel like I didn't fully do the city justice in three days. A rich blend of history, culture and amazing architecture all wrapped up in a city which has a real buzz about it.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

ITV's The Chase on catch up! It's without a doubt our go to family entertainment. Educational and entertaining, what more could you want.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

A challenging one, as my go to answer with anything food related is tapas, but I'm unsure how good Hepzibah's Spanish cooking skills are. However, I imagine she'd make an excellent fish pie, so I'd probably go for that.



**Iris
Kirwan**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Isles of Scilly, because I went there and it felt magical.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

Mimmy, my teddy, because I had her since I was born.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

Pasta, because it is my favourite food.



**Poppy
Livingstone**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Tenerife, because I had such a fun time with my family.



**Georgia
Nicholson**

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

I would bring a picture of my family because it would always remind me of them.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what food would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

I would get her to make me a lasagne or a carbonara because they are the best meals in the world!

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

I'd love to time travel to the 90's and revisit my Nana's house. I have so many amazing memories from when I was little. The smell of Yorkshire puddings cooking, the garden with the old-fashioned mangle, and the sound of Dad's Army or Heartbeat on the TV. And, of course, her hugs. Though it wouldn't be the same now, so perhaps it's best to remember how wonderful it was instead...

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

I always have a photo of my little boy Beau with me when I travel and it always makes me smile, so I'd make sure I had one special picture of my whole family together - though there are a lot of us, so to get everyone looking at the camera and not blinking or looking away would be tricky!

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

Hepzibah is a wonderful cook - unlike me! I'm sure she could whip up something delicious from almost anything so maybe a surprise pie? Though my husband is a bit like that and makes the world's best carbonara, so maybe I'd challenge her to make her own version and compare!



**Jess
Postlethwaite**

Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Portugal because we used to go there and I've made good memories there.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

My twin (Penny) because I love her and I could never live without her.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

Spaghetti bolognese because it is my favourite meal and it reminds me of my mum.



Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

I walked all of Hadrian's Wall with my dad once. I'd love to go there again.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

I would take a painting that my daughter, Nelly, and I did together when she was a toddler.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

A nice hearty Sunday lunch.



Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Cotna Eco Park because of all the nature, animals and walks.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

Some of my dog's hair because the house smells of him and his hair is everywhere.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

Lasagne, because I like it and at home I make it myself.



Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

Blackpool, because I love the magical Alice in Wonderland ride at the pleasure beach amusement park.

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

I would take my toy penguin, because I have had him for 11 years and some of my first memories are of playing with him.

If you were Carrie or Nick, what would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

I would ask for pancakes (the big, thin ones) because I always have them for a treat.



Is there a special place you have been to that you would love to revisit?

I would revisit my Grandparents' house 'Rose Cottage' from my childhood. In my memory, it looks like a house from a fairytale so I'd love to see what it's like now. I have many happy family memories of playing there with my sisters and putting on shows for any willing or unwilling audience!

If you had to be separated from your family, what one item would you take with you to remind you of home?

I would take a dvd or digital copy of the film 'Notting Hill' - a family favourite that is played a lot in the Toms household and never fails to make us all smile - I think my mum in particular can quote the whole film!

If you were Carrie or Nick, what food would you like Hepzibah to cook for you?

I'm more a savoury than sweet food person, so I would love for her to bake one of her famous pies (hoping she could make it gluten free!) with gravy mash and veg. Delicious.

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MASSIVE

Tragedy
OF

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

LOVINGLY DERAILED BY
JOHN NICHOLSON



**MADAME
BOVARY**

23 APR - 16 MAY

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