

Sex. Death. Gin. Muffins.

Drury Lane

MINIMUM LABYRINTH



*O may thy virtue guard thee through the roads
Of Drury's mazy courts and dark abodes!*

John Gay, *Trivia, or, the Art of Walking the Streets of London*

Drury Lane is a new walking tour with street theatre, songs and pub stops, written and led by Robert Kingham. It explores the rich cultural history of one of London's most colourful, creative and dangerous quarters: Drury Lane and Aldwych. Squalor, crime, politics and plague provide the scenery for a teeming cast of rakes and poets, actors and gamblers, playwrights and pickpockets, Freemasons and highwaymen, engravers and composers, gunpowder plotters and pornographers, butchers and beadles, judges and jail-breakers, suffragettes and whores, in a story that stretches from Anglo-Saxon settlers on the shores of the Thames to the starched pomp of the British Empire. And in the midst of it all, a familiar figure: an icon of the Restoration: the Cinderella of St Giles.

*Thence to Westminster; in the way meeting many milk-maids with
their garlands upon their pails, dancing with a fiddler before them;
and saw pretty Nelly standing at her lodgings' door in Drury-lane
in her smock sleeves and bodice, looking upon one:
she seemed a mighty pretty creature.*

Samuel Pepys, *Diary*, Wednesday 1 May 1667

We are seeking an actor to play the part of Nell Gwyn. Nell will flit in and out of the story in various roles: as herself; acting snippets of Dryden and Shakespeare; adding to the story with her celebrated wit; and singing snatches of songs. Ideally (but not essentially) you will be able to accompany your singing on an instrument. All of the action will take place on the streets of London.



Performance dates can be flexible according to your availability. The walk is in three half-hour slots with pub stops in between, taking c. 3 hours overall. We plan to run the walks on Saturday and/or Sunday afternoons in April to June 2020, and this may extend. The length of the run will depend on popularity but based on previous similar walks we expect to run at least 12 performances.

You will be paid Equity rates under the Equity National Standard Contract for all rehearsals and performances.

Minimum Labyrinth is the creative partnership of Robert Kingham and Rich Cochrane, which for more than a decade has produced walks, coach tours, performances, books, audiobooks and films.

If you are interested then please contact Robert Kingham: robertkingham [at] virginmedia [dot] com | 07887 826790
The deadline for expressing an interest is Friday 20 March 2020.