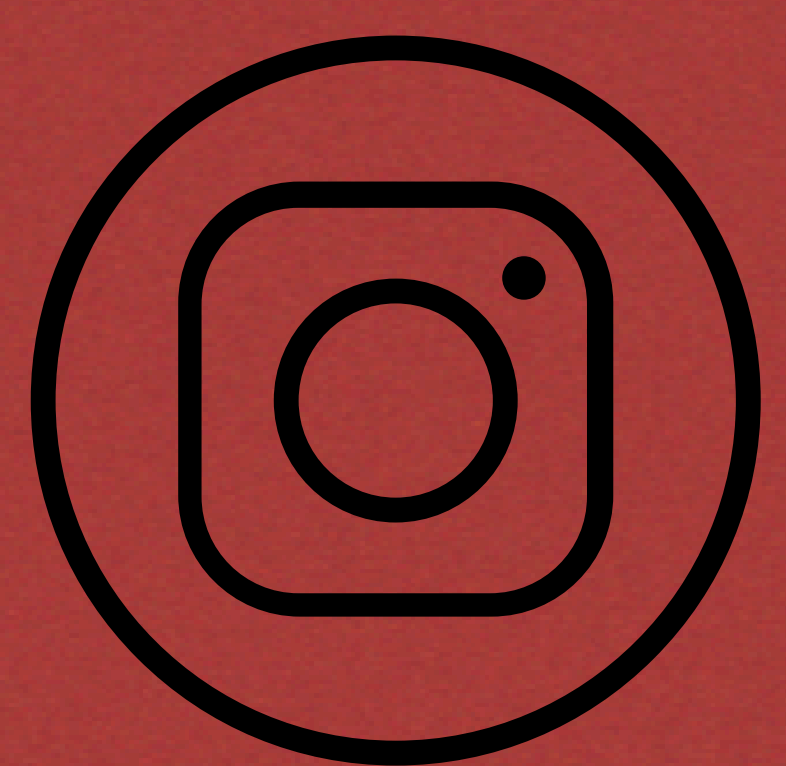


Wherefore art thou, woman-hater?



The renaissance comedy
reborn, with vengeance.

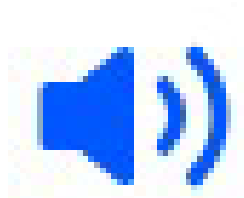
Adapted from *Swetnam the Woman-hater*
by Acting Speaks Louder with an original live score



@womanhaterplay

About the Show

misogyny

 [mi-**soj**-uh-nee, mahy-] / mɪ'sɒdʒ ə ni, maɪ- /

noun

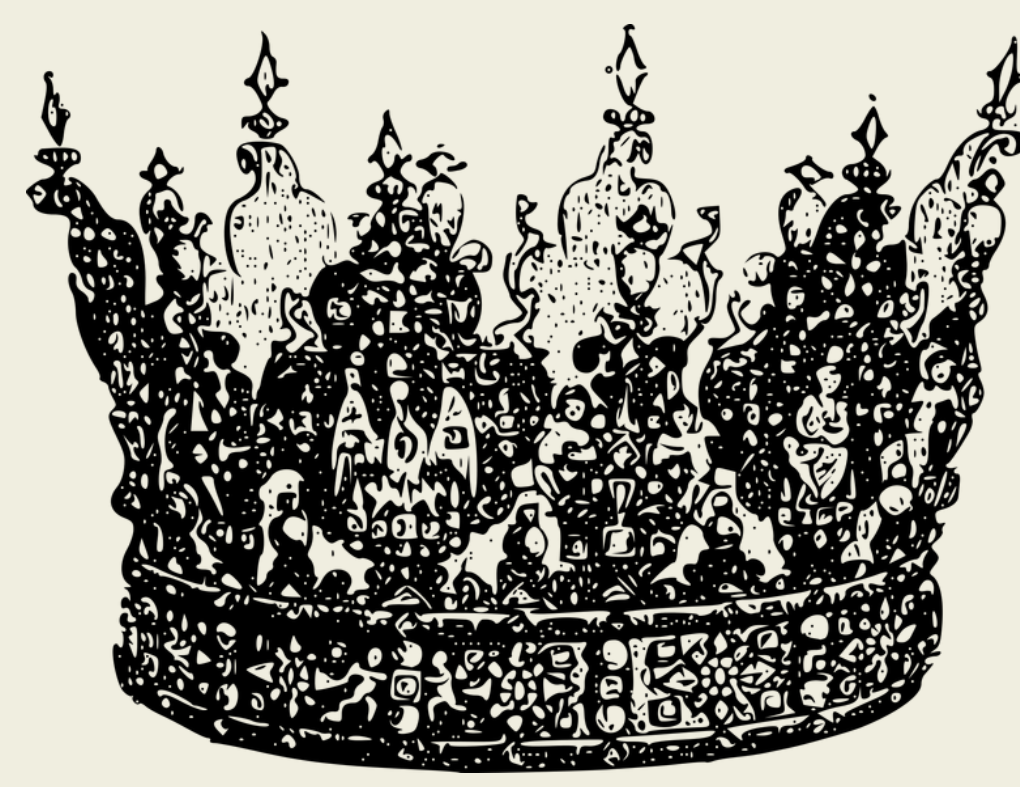
1. Hatred, dislike, or mistrust of women, manifested in various forms such as physical intimidation and abuse, sexual harassment and rape, social shunning and ostracism.
2. Ingrained and institutionalized prejudice against women: sexism.

Written anonymously and first staged in the Renaissance, Swetnam The Woman-Hater, is where the word misogyny comes from.

Star-crossed lovers, swordfights and sexism in the 16th century — it has it all. But how could that possibly be relevant today?
Come and judge for yourself...

The second show brought to you by Cumbrian production company Acting Speaks Louder, creators of Disco, Baby? 'Outstanding' (FringeReview.co.uk). Created and produced by three up-and-coming artists working across music and theatre.

If they don't take the Fringe by storm, at least there'll be plenty of rain when they get home!



SWETNAM,
THE
VVoman-hater,
ARRAIGNED BY
WOMEN.

A new Comedie,
Acted at the Red Bull, by the late Queenes Seruants.



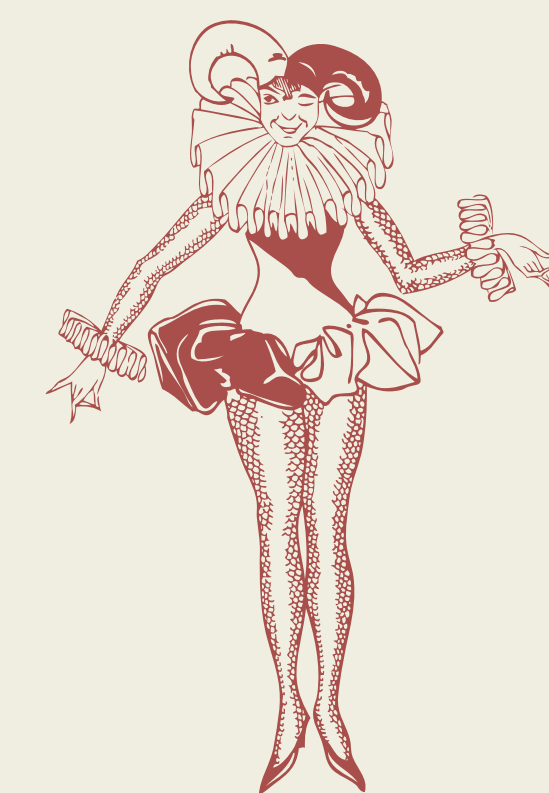
LONDON,
Printed for Richard Meighen, and are to be sold at his Shops at Saint Clements Church, ouer-against Essex House, and at Westminster Hall. 1620.

It is a sad irony that the play though to be the root of the word 'misogyny' still holds relevance today. I first read **Swetnam the Woman-Hater** after reading about it in Lesley Ferris's book **Acting Women** during my first year at drama school. Not only was the play brilliant in itself, full of Jacobean comedie which we hope to do justice to, its origins are also fascinating. Thought to have been first performed between late 1618 and early 1619, **Swetnam the Woman-Hater** was written as part of the backlash against the publication of **The Arraignment of Lewd, Idle, Froward, and Uneconstant Women** by Joseph Swetnam. The literary response of pamphlets and treatises to this misogynist work was largely written by women, a rarity for the time and even rarer to survive to be documented later in time, although the authorship of this play (and therefore their gender...) remains a mystery. I was shocked that I couldn't seem to find any modern productions or adaptations and felt that it was high time for the play to be brought back to the stage, with an **Acting Speaks Louder** twist of course!

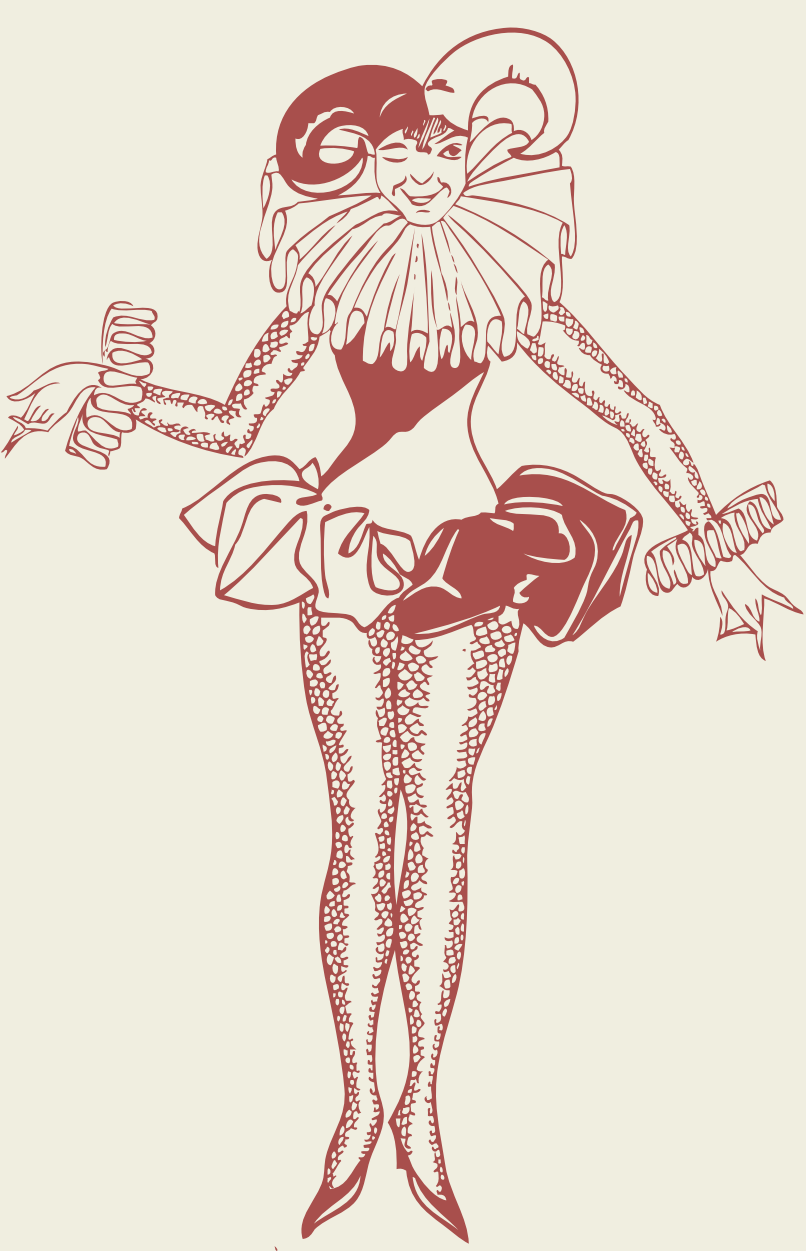
~ adapter and artistic director of **Acting Speaks Louder**, Nuala Sankey



REHEARSALS



Photography by Annika Gu





Cast & Crew



Zach Chung – Composer/Sound Engineer

Zach Chung is a composer/sound engineer/multi-instrumentalist from Cambridge currently studying the Tonmeister Music and Sound Recording course at the University of Surrey. He has experience being musical director, composing and arranging music for theatre (Chemistry: The Musical, Wuthering Heights), performing in the local music venues (The Disco Chickens, Quack Attack, flash mob orchestra) and working as a technician (Reaching the C). He is excited to be making his debut at the Edinburgh Fringe this year.

Grace Florence – First Player

Grace Florence is a Scottish actor and creative from Glasgow and a recent graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) foundation program. She is also a proud member of the National Youth Theatre and previously trained with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Juniors, where she received the Outstanding Student Award. Passionate about truthful, compelling storytelling, Grace is building her career across stage and screen. Her recent credits include playing King Lear in King Lear (RADA), Masha in Three Sisters (RADA), Miranda in The Tempest (City of Glasgow College), Nina in The Seagull (RCS), Gerda in The Snow Queen (RCS), Alex in Spark (a devised theatre production for young audiences), Flute in Orchestra (National Theatre Connections). Grace is thrilled to be making her Edinburgh Fringe debut this year.



Nuala Sankey – Second Player / Producer

Nuala Sankey first performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in Oliver Jr. in 2022 and has been in love with the festival ever since. This festival season marks her 3rd Edfringe as a performer and 2nd with Acting Speaks Louder having written/directed/produced their first show Disco, Baby? aged just 17. Other credits include Climate Cabaret (National Youth Theatre), Kiss Me Kate (National Youth Music Theatre), All Grown Up (British Youth Music Theatre). She was also the Young Artist Director for the Cumbria Opera Group Festival in 2025.

After graduating from the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, she is currently training at Guildford School of Acting. Her studies are supported by the Kelsick Trust and the Cumbria Opera Scholarship, funded by the David Snowdon Trust and administered by Cumbria Opera Group.

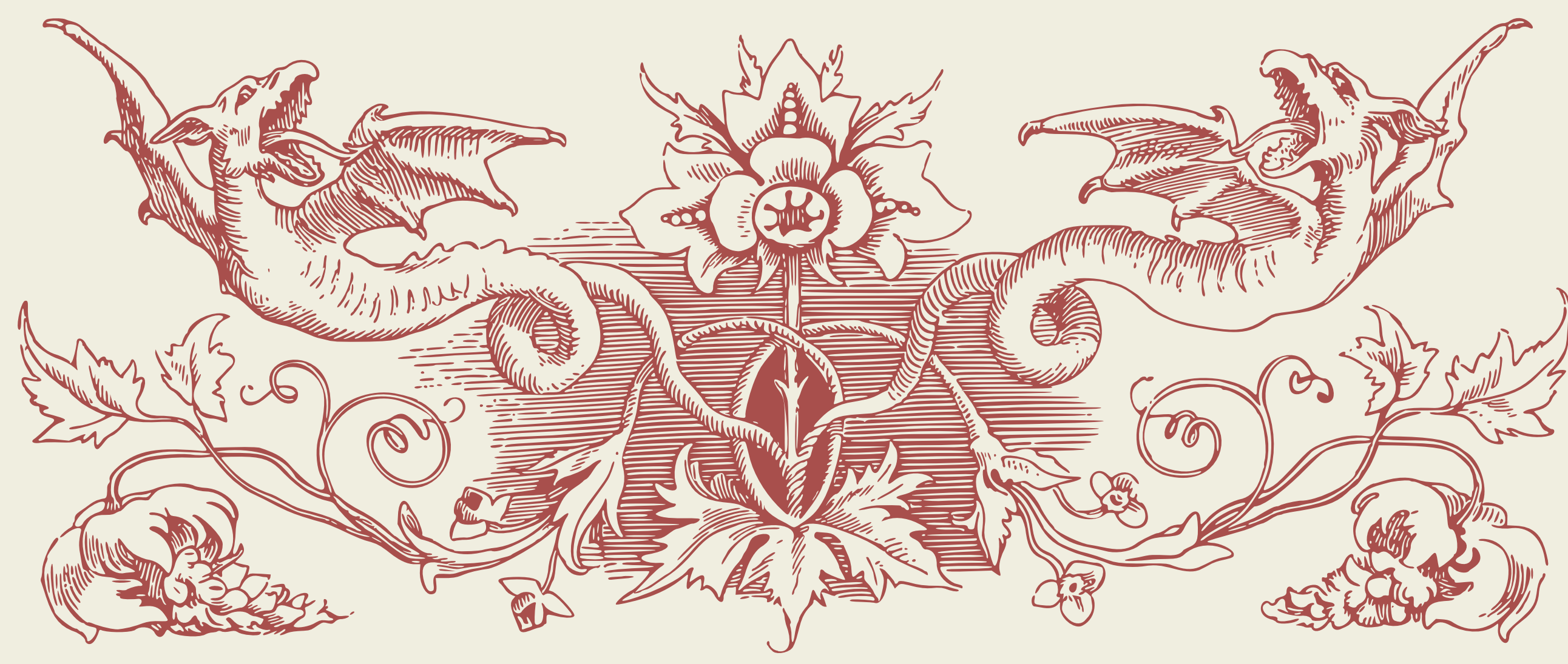


Annika Gu – Technician/Programme Designer

Annika Gu is starting her first year at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama as a BA Performance Design student. Her most recent design include the programme for the 'Marlowe Arts Show 2026: Twelfth Night' and 'Cambridge American Stage Tour 2026: King Lear'. Annika is delighted to have had the opportunity to design the programme and do photography for this extremely talented cast alongside her lighting technician debut.



Poster Designer – Charlotte Kennard
Costumes– The Costume Company
Logo Designer – Mia Powney
Social Media Manager – Grace Florence



Special Thanks

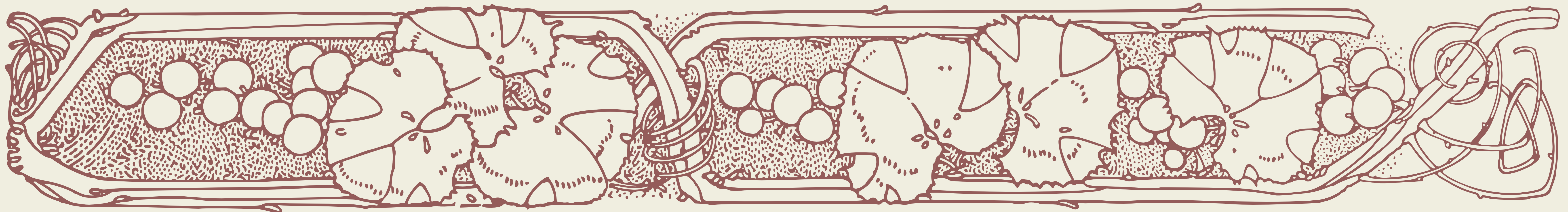


Cumbria Curtain Call

Footsteps to Theatre

The Staveley Roundhouse

**Everyone who donated to
our Crowdfunder**



Leave Us a Review!



wherefore-art-thou-woman-hater

Written anonymously and first staged in the Renaissance, Swetnam The Woman-Hater, is where the word misogyny comes from. Star-crossed lovers, swordfights and sexism ...

 edfringe.com



Acting Speaks Louder | Home

Acting Speaks Louder is a Cumbrian based production company, creating space for up-and-coming creative talent to hone their crafts in the industry

 [actingspeakslouder.com](https://www.instagram.com/actingspeakslouder)

