

Cast

Adam, from the waterboard - John Young
Kim, his daughter - Josie Garland

Guy, from the police force - Mark Woolner
Harriet, a teacher - Christine Holding
Vicki, their daughter - Sarah Stewart-Watson

Paul, an ecologist with the waterboard - Tom Greeves
Redfarn, his son - Oli Strath

Sam - Joe Watson
Archie, his younger brother - Benedict Caverhill
Leah - Rachel Caverhill
Karen - Elizabeth Mortimer
Ria - Emma Garland
Jade - Helena Cronin

Rebecca, the town mayor - Lucy Patrick

Roland, a developer - Edward Rogers

Otter - Abby Stobart
River - Edward Rogers, Lucy Patrick and the ensemble

Tamara, a nymph - Rachel Caverhill
Gnome (Harribailey) - Dan Shread
Gnome's wife (Gertrude) - Maya Holmes
Tavy, a giant - Oli Strath
Torridge, a giant - Joe Watson

Other roles played by the cast

Singers - Christine Holding, Maya Holmes,
Lucy Patrick, Gillian Webster
Guitar and drums - Anthony Summer
Xylophone and thumb piano - Gillian Webster

Costumes - Fiona Avis
Floor canvases - Olivia Young, Lucy Patrick
Text based on devising by the cast, arranged by Mark Beeson
Giant puppet mentors - Cariad Astles, Philippa Glanwill
Shadow puppet mentor - Philippa Glanwill
Production manager - Philippa Glanwill
Lighting rig - Carl Kinson and Iain Wedlake
Lighting - David Stewart-Watson
Publicity design - Amy Shephard
Music composition and direction - Gillian Webster
Education and stage management - Abby Stobart
Direction - Abby Stobart, Mark Beeson and the cast

with thanks also to Amy Shephard, Elizabeth Pennington, Jan Goddard, Harrie-Rae Cronin, Mattheo Holding and Clare Saunders for their creative contribution; and to all our volunteers

Trees, water and animals

Depending on climatic conditions, it is argued on the one hand that trees along the catchment help to conserve water both by preventing run-off from exposed soil which can cause flooding, and by releasing ground water more slowly and consistently into the rivers, which can mitigate water shortage. On the other hand it is argued that trees can increase evaporation through transpiration and deplete the streams and rivers.

A significant number of properties are at risk from flooding along catchments that include Dartmoor. For example across the South Devon Catchment it is estimated that roughly 5% of all properties are at risk of flooding once in every hundred years. In the Tamar Catchment which includes the River Tavy and its tributaries, the police station in Tavistock is said to be at risk. It is thought possible that with the effects of climate change the number of properties affected could rise dramatically, as outlined in the various Catchment Flood Management Plans produced by the Environment Agency.

In many parts of Africa, the montane forest which clothes the mountain ranges and the high plateaux forms the last reserve for rare birds and mammals - this has been recognised for a while. What has emerged more recently is the argument that montane forest around the headwaters of rivers in the drier areas is important in mediating the release of rainfall and ground water into the water courses, particularly where patterns of rainfall appear to be growing less consistent. With land and firewood in short supply, the pressure on montane forest from local farmers is increasing. This is already leading to conflict between those trying to manage resources at a strategic regional level and those desperate to make the most of dwindling basic necessities locally. The fates of fresh water and forest are likely to become increasingly linked if extreme weather events grow more frequent.

The European otter (*Lutra lutra*) is our largest mustelid, a family that includes the badger and the weasel. In Britain its territory can be as large as 40km along a river catchment, where it lives on fish and eels but also consumes small mammals and birds. Otter populations suffered a steep decline during the middle of the 20th century, but in recent years sightings have been on the increase, though still rare.

The Eurasian beaver (*Caster fiber*) is a large semi-aquatic rodent which is thought to have become extinct in Britain and much of the rest of Europe in late medieval times. Now being re-introduced in parts of Scotland, it is known for its ability to fell trees and build dams with them to create beaver 'lodges'.



Trying on the puppet Torrige at MED Theatre

Myths and philosophy

The myth of Tamar, Tavy and Torridge is related by Mabel Quiller-Couch in *Cornwall's Wonderland* published in 1914. A similar tale of the love of Tavy for the nymph Walla, and her transformation into a stream, is related by William Browne in his poem *Britannia's Pastorals*, written around 1620.

According to African tradition, Mbona was a celebrated rainmaker who, on account of his great popularity, came into conflict with the secular and religious authorities of the day, who in the end had him killed.

Western philosophy has been described as a footnote (rather a long one) to Plato, the Ancient Greek thinker who lived in Athens c.423-347 B.C. One of the most famous passages in Plato's masterpiece *The Republic* is the 'myth' of the cave, in which he uses a complicated but memorable analogy to explain his theory of enlightenment, which involved attaining knowledge of the 'forms', or perfect abstract entities such as 'beauty' and 'justice'. The Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) sought to unravel the whole of this tradition by showing that the so-called problems of philosophy were caused by the way philosophers themselves had been bewitched by language.



Rehearsing Tamara at Manaton