

newtheatroyal

Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2DD box office: 023 9264 9000

www.newtheatroyal.com

education e-newsletter no1 January 2009

welcome to the first e-newsletter for schools and colleges, this issue contains information about the professional productions at the New Theatre Royal this season which we think are of special interest to performing arts, dance and drama students. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact our education officer Liz Weston on : 023 9277 8993 (direct line) or e-mail lw@newtheatroyal.com. You can book directly with the box office on 023 9264 9000

"The Barber of Savile Row"

Unexpected Opera present a riotous version of Rossini's classic opera

Saturday 31 January 7.30pm:

Schools tickets £6 (stalls): accompanying staff free

Lifted out of 17th century Spain, the action is dumped hook, line and sinker into 1950's London: the era of Brylcreem, Teddy Boys and rock'n'roll. Figaro, the famous barber, plies his trade among the fashionable set and outwits all of them in the name of true love. True to Unexpected Opera's reputation, this is a show for opera enthusiasts and first-timers alike, making opera exciting and entertaining, but never 'dumbing down'. Opera is the ultimate in music theatre - and this rip-roaring version (sung in English) in which the traditional operatic recitative has been replaced with spoken dialogue and the music adapted for a band, rather than orchestra, makes opera totally accessible.

The show is in two acts and watch out for the sing-a-long in Act 2.

Suitable for anyone over the age of 11 Ideal for music and performing arts students
FREE Q + A session with the company after the show.

Running time: 2 hours and 20 minutes

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"The Cherry Orchard" By Anton Chekov

Presented by Blackeyed Theatre

Wednesday 11 February 7.30pm

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets booked and paid for by Wednesday 28 January 2009

Stalls: £6.00 and accompanying staff free

Dress Circle: £10.00 and accompanying staff free

Upper Circle: £5.00 and accompanying staff free

The Cherry Orchard is a cornerstone of 20th century theatre and arguably the most famous play by one of the most significant writers of his generation. And yet the play, contrary to popular belief, was not written as a tragedy but as a comedy (even with touches of farce!). This brand new adaptation of this fabulous play returns it to its comedic roots, bringing all of its colour, energy and vision to life. Set against the painful emotions of a family forced to move on from their ancestral home are larger-than-life characters and dazzling dialogue that will delight audiences young and old. From the same company that wowed audiences with *Oedipus* and *Oh What a Lovely War*, *The Cherry Orchard* will be an inspiring production full of wonderful acting and invention, complimented by stunning design and an ingenious theatrical twist. Exuberant, hilarious and ultimately very touching.

Education workshops accompany this production and will focus on using Stanislavsky's psycho-techniques (or method acting) to get under the skin of a character. If you want to book a workshop with the company please contact Liz Weston on lw@newtheatreroyal.com

FREE Q + A session with the company after the show

Running time 2 hours and 20 minutes (including the interval)

"The African Company presents Richard III"

By Carlyle Brown

Performed by Collective Artistes

**Thursday 26 February at 7.30pm, Friday 27 February at 1.30pm
and Saturday 28 at 7.30pm**

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets booked and paid for by Thursday 12 February 2009

Stalls: £6.00 and accompanying staff free

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Dress Circle: £10.00 and accompanying staff free
Fri matinee (1.30pm) £8.00 and accompanying staff free
Upper Circle: £5.00 and accompanying staff free

"Them steal away ya past and cut ya from ya future. Make ya blood into a purse to fill with gold and silver. But it's too dear."

1821, New York. While slavery still ravages a divided nation, Billy Brown's African Company has mounted a financial and critical success with its all-black production of Shakespeare's Richard III. But the all-white Park Theatre next door is mounting its own production and they will stop at nothing to subdue their increasingly popular competition. Based on the little known history of America's first Black theatre company, the play tells the story of a small group of actors prepared to stand up to centuries of oppression and to take centre stage whatever the cost.

Collective Artistes is an international Black theatre company committed to creating and touring vibrant theatrical productions that tackle issues of social concern. With roots in Nigeria, their productions repeatedly explore stories from communities of African descent, both in the UK and abroad, while focusing on universal themes including the roles and experiences of women across the world and resistance to oppression. Forever central to CA's mission, is to embrace the African Diaspora communities, to address the needs of these communities and to promote a complex and positive perception of Africa and the African Diaspora to UK and international audiences.

Age suitability: 14+ **please note:** this is NOT a version of Richard III
FREE Q+A session with the cast after the Friday matinee
Running time: 2 hours and 20 minutes including the interval
Workshops are available with the company: please contact Liz Weston on lw@newtheatreroyal.com

"The False Servant" (La Faux Servante) by Pierre Marivaux

Presented by Third Party and Bord Cadre

Wednesday 4 March 7.30pm

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets booked and paid for by Wednesday 18 February 2009

Stalls: £6.00 and accompanying staff free

Dress Circle: £10.00 and accompanying staff free

Upper Circle: £5.00 and accompanying staff free

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A strong visual interpretation of an 18th century French classic, performed in 50% English and 50% French. Third Party have linked up with French company Bord Cadre to present this fast-paced, minimalist production with music.

The company was formed in 1993 by a group of actors who had previously worked with The Medieval Players - a skills based company specialising in pre-Shakespearean theatre. Together with director Ben Benison [of ground breaking 1960s improvisational company Theatre Machine]. Their aim to create a concise and visually explicit form of story telling which would unburden plays from the weight of tradition., productions were realised with a clear stage and a minimum of paraphernalia, highly demanding of the actor. The economy of means required by the style and scale of the operation produced an inventiveness which became a hallmark of the company's work - Filling the stage instead with ideas and expectation.

"Original, vital, relevant, entertaining, innovative, enriching theatre" Irish Times

Suitable for ages 13+.

FREE Q + A session with the company after the show

Running time approx 2 hours 30 minutes including interval

"Can Any Mother Help Me?" presented by Foursight Theatre

A new play inspired by the book by Jenna Bailey

Friday 27 March at 7.30pm

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets booked and paid for by Wednesday 11 March 2009

Stalls: £6.00 and accompanying staff free

Dress Circle: £10.00 and accompanying staff free

Upper Circle: £5.00 and accompanying staff free

In 1935, a young woman wrote a letter to the women's magazine *Nursery World*:

'Can any mother help me? I live a very lonely life as I have no near neighbours. I cannot afford to buy a wireless. I adore reading, but with no library am very limited with books...I know it is bad to brood and breed hard thoughts and resentment. Can any reader suggest an occupation that will intrigue me and exclude 'thinking' and cost nothing!'

Women from all over the country and from all walks of life and all socio-economic backgrounds wrote back expressing similar frustrations. They were full of ideas and opinions but, since they belonged to a generation of women whose choices were limited by the expectation of becoming housewives and mothers, had nowhere to express them. So they decided to start a private magazine.

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The Cooperative Correspondence Club - or CCC as it quickly became known - was a place for these women to describe the subjects close to their hearts: the pain and elation of childbirth, the difficulties during wartime, or the struggles and comedies of daily routine. It also became a clandestine platform for the women to voice their personal theories on subjects as provocative as the female orgasm, racism, and wartime politics.

None of the women anticipated the way that the magazine would come to play such an important part in their lives. The letters contributed over five decades by the extraordinary group of wives and mothers who made up the CCC provide an intimate and moving collection of personal stories, and, above all, a portrait of inseparable friendships.

Drawing on the newly published book *Can Any Mother Help Me?* (Faber 2007), and working closely with its author, Canadian Jenna Bailey, Foursight Theatre have created an evocative, dynamic and touching piece of physical theatre, bringing to life the funny and often moving stories of over twenty women. Women whose lives became intimately connected through the simple act of writing letters.

Suitable for ages 14+.

FREE Q + A session with the company after the show

Running time: approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes (to be confirmed)

"Pickwick Papers" Presented by European Arts Company

Tuesday 31 March at 7.30pm

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets booked and paid for by Wednesday 18 March 2009

Stalls: £6.00 and accompanying staff free

Dress Circle: £10.00 and accompanying staff free

Upper Circle: £5.00 and accompanying staff free

A classic adaptation of Charles Dickens' first and funniest story. This weird and wonderful tale of Samuel Pickwick and the 'perambulations, perils, travels, adventures and sporting transactions of the corresponding members of The Pickwick Club' is a highly physical and inventive piece of entertainment. Featuring a versatile cast of six actors familiar from stage and screen and packed full of comic set-pieces, this clever stage version follows the eccentric Mr Pickwick, Sam Weller, Jingle, Winkle, Mrs Bardell and The Fat Boy as they traverse the country on their haphazard journey.

Expect dueling, elopement, bribery, fisticuffs, mistaken identity, near drowning, cross dressing (and that's just in the green room). This is Dickens as you've never seen it

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before!

'European Arts Company provides sheer entertainment but also an excellent opportunity for seeing high quality live theatre.' International Herald Tribune

Suitable for ages 11+.

FREE Q + A session with the company after the show

Running time: 2 hours and 10 minutes including the interval

"Still" & "The Perfect Human"

CANDOCO DANCE COMPANY

Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm

TICKET PRICES:

Tickets booked and paid for by Thursday 19 March 2009

Stalls: £6.00 and accompanying staff free

Dress Circle: £11.00 and accompanying staff free

Upper Circle: £5.00 and accompanying staff free

CandoCo was the first company of its kind in the UK - A professional contemporary dance company of disabled and non-disabled performers - a dance company that does not exclude disabled dancers and therefore is asking questions just by existing. CandoCo has works with internationally renowned choreographers, creating performances of outstanding artistic quality that inspire audiences and push boundaries of dance.

"Candoco is the company for which choreographers reserve their wildest and often most inventive work" Observer September 2007

"brilliant and bracing ... gripping to watch" The Guardian 2006

'**The Perfect Human**' is a dark unsettling piece that questions our search for perfection. The piece starts by presenting us with the perfect human and ends with an anxious getaway with helicopter sounds looming above. Apart from its dense character other strong aspects of this piece are the contagious music - which alternates between rhythmic drums and lyrical classical music - and the relentless movement that is carried throughout. '**The Perfect Human**' gives an opportunity to all of Candoco's dancers to display their skills and there's plenty of movement in unison, which is always a positive challenge.

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In the piece 'Still' the audience gets the chance to experience a very different style of contemporary dance. 'Still' is anything but. **Nigel Charnock's** patchwork of ideas takes the dancers in a constant stir guided by his eclectic choice of music. There are microphones and music boxes, knickers and bondage, love and death. The DV8 founding member and dance maverick kidnaps dancers and audience alike into a world of love, lust, addictions and obsessions - using his unique blend of morbid irony, furious entertainment and black comedy.

Nigel says: "Still' as a chaotic, wild, seriously funny piece about love and loss-a celebration of life and death written with bodies without limits."

Suitable for ages 14+: contains some nudity and language of a sexual nature

FREE Q + A session with the company after the show

Running time: 1 hour and 30 minutes including interval.