

the everyman

www.everymanfestival.co.uk

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Issue 6

April/May 2010



Educating Rita by Willy Russell

Super Clubnight Performance

20-22 April

Everyman Clubroom | 8pm

STRINDBERG

KNEW MY FATHER

OR THE MAKING OF MISS JULIE

by Mark Jenkins – author of *Rosebud* and *Playing Burton*



11-15 May, 8pm

Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff

Box Office: 029 2030 4400 - Tickets £8 (£6 conc)
or book online at www.chapter.org

Please Note: *This production is not suitable for patrons under 16 as it contains strong language and scenes of a sexual nature*

In this edition of
The Everyman:

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From the Chairman

Simon Fuddy



As Easter is behind us and we look towards the promise of summer (complete with festival) I thought it would be a timely opportunity to talk about our plans for once Autumn comes upon us – and beyond. A panel of board members met in early January and met with a number of potential directors to decide our 2011 programme. Here are the results:

As you all probably are aware (and decided in our previous submissions round) we are looking forward to a large-scale production in November of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* to be directed by Gerry Watson. We have recently had great success with Tom Hockey's powerful production of *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible* was written in response to the controversy surrounding the first production of that play. It looks at that period of time in the late 17th century when society went mad and began accusing anyone with an ounce of individuality of being a witch. The play was inspired by the anti-Communist hysteria of the 1950s (which Miller was subjected to due to his so-called 'un-American values') but is as relevant today.

Post- Christmas we will be looking forward to Eric Hadley's production of *Le Malade Imaginaire* by Moliere – a wonderful comedy about a hypochondriac who is so desperate to be loved that he imagines he suffers from all sorts of illnesses so that others will feel sorry for him. And of course he is blind to those around him who actually do love him. Eric is once again hoping to work in some live music so the production should be a very vibrant and entertaining one.

Next May, Peter Harding-Roberts will be directing his postponed production of *Loot*. This is also a comedy – but a blistering satire from the pen of Joe Orton examining police corruption and the authoritarian state.

Finally 2011 is rounded off by a production of *Good* by CP Taylor which I will be directing. You may have seen the recent film adaptation – the play is the story of a liberal 'good' man who gets swept into the machinery of the Nazi state in 1930s Germany.

I hope you will agree with me that we have an exciting eighteen months ahead of us. In the meantime this May we get the chance to enjoy Toby Harris' production of *Strindberg Knew My Father* by Mark Jenkins, before we head into the open air with this year's Summer Festival.

Simon

COMING SOON FROM EVERYMAN THEATRE

Everyman Summer Theatre Festival 6-31 July 2010

Gair am Air | 6-10 July

Much Ado About Nothing | 7-17 July

HMS Pinafore | 21-31 July

Winnie the Pooh | 24-31 July

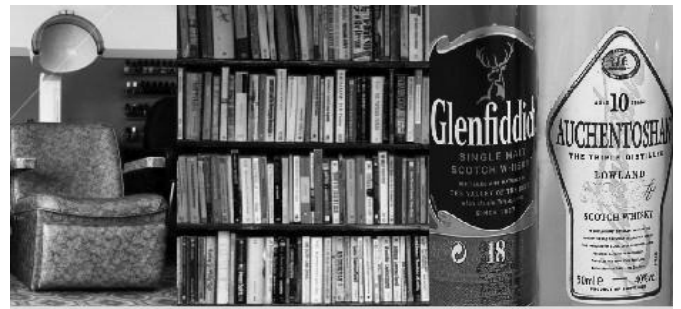
The Crucible | 14-20 November 2010

Super Clubnight:

Tues 20, Wed 21 and Thurs 22 April

8pm, Everyman Clubroom

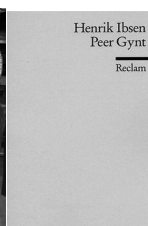
When Rita - a desperately discontented young woman, wife and hairdresser - effectively breaks into Frank's office, the whisky weary tutor has not seen or heard anything like her for some time, if ever. Having taken on Open University work for the extra cash – and no doubt as an additional alibi for sneaking off to the pub – Frank is simply stunned when Rita barges in. Friendship and heartbreak ensue.



Educating Rita by Willy Russell

My first experience of Willy Russell came in the form of a 'student standby' ticket for *Blood Brothers* at the New Theatre. While I enjoyed the performance (as much as I could, being sat in the last but one row of the upper circle, with even *my* knees firmly wedged against the seat in front) it did not make one-hundredth of the impression upon me that *Rita* did and still does. The film was screened late-night on BBC1 at around this time in 2006 (as I was going into my final term at university) and this is the Flixster review I posted a few days later: "An inspirational film. I can't emphasize enough how positive the experience of watching it has been. If anyone tells you that in order to get on you have to subvert your principles and instincts, this tale of the would-be-scholar Scouser (Walters) and her whisky weary ex-poet of a professor (Caine) will put you straight. Definitely a best of British."

This is equally true of the story as a play and is the effect I aspire to educe in my first production.



In staging this uplifting tale I have tried to incorporate a number of new ideas and broadened out the setting whilst remaining at all times akin to the spirit of the original. My initial idea of including referenced characters in a series of 'dumb shows' (or 'moving tableaux') has had to be revised for the smaller - yet in retrospect perfect - surroundings of the clubroom. One other alteration – which I was always prepared for and absolutely open to – has been to cast Rita as 'Valley's Girl' as opposed to the conventional Liverpudlian lady. In casting I was keen to find actors who would naturally embrace and inhabit the characters of Rita and Frank – I believe that (after much deliberation) I have done this. Jenni *just is* a fascinating storyteller and Simon a remarkable tutor. As I type, set and props (are everywhere but) almost all there, lighting and sound concepts are (in theory) complete and costumes are coming together item by item. Now looking forward to the tech on Friday!

Jen



Educating Rita is an intelligent and insightful piece of modern British theatre, for all audiences.

Rita Jenni Rose Davies

Frank Simon Futtly

Directed by Jen Callow

Doors at 7.45pm | There will be an interval of 15 minutes.

Super Clubnights are thoroughly rehearsed, script-held projects, performed for members, family and friends. **They are not public fee-paying productions.**

strindberg knew my father

Everyman's May Production

Strindberg knew my Father or the ***Making of Miss Julie***

by Mark Jenkins (Everyman member), writer of ***Rosebud*** and ***Playing Burton***

(Best of the Fest London New Play Festival)

Director: Toby Harris

11 – 15 May 8:00pm Chapter Theatre

Tickets: £8 (£6 concessions on Tuesday/Thursday only)

Box Office Now Open– book on-line at www.chapter.org!

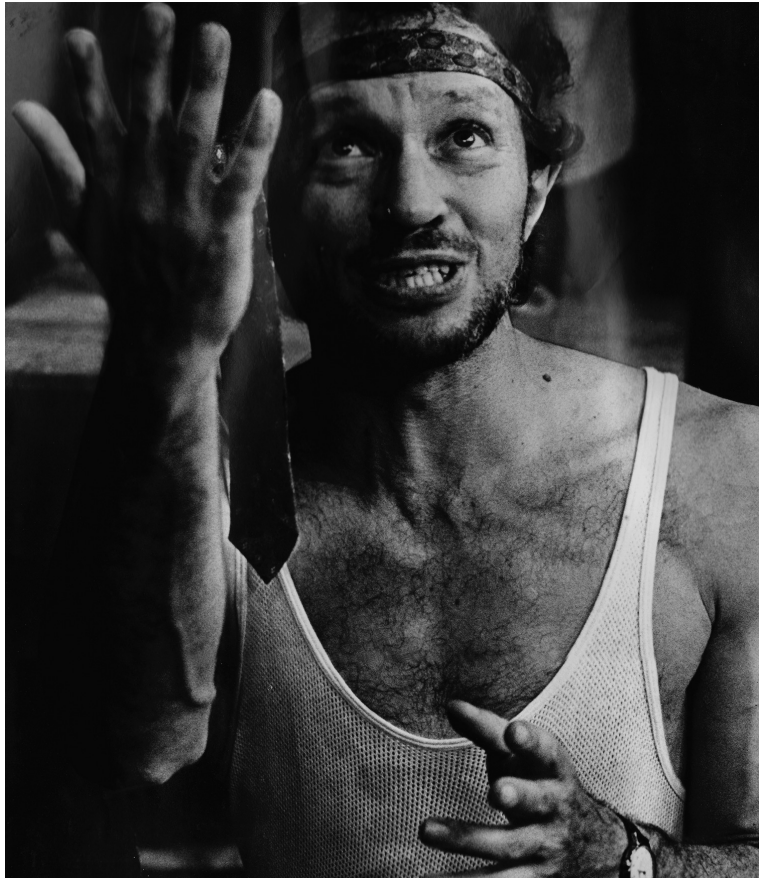
After the publication of ***A Madman's Defence***, Swedish dramatist August Strindberg spent the period from April to September, 1888, with his family on an extended holiday in a rundown castle in Skvolyst-at-Lyngby in Denmark. This is the setting for the drama – six short months in a Gothic castle, where Strindberg's marriage to the long-suffering Baroness Siri Von Essen (an accomplished professional actress), finally breaks up as he writes one of the great defining masterpieces of modern theatre – ***Miss Julie***.

All the events and persons depicted in this (at times) farcical nightmare are historically verified and accurate, however outlandish they may appear.

***This production is not suitable for patrons under 16
Contains scenes of a sexual nature and strong language***



PLEASE SUPPORT THIS FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION



Rainbow Nation Stage Company
SHADES OF BROWN
By Michael Picardie

 wales arts international
celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru

Chapter Arts Centre
Canton, Cardiff
June 16—19, 2010 at 8pm
Tickets: £12 (concessions £10)

National Arts Festival
Grahamstown
South Africa
2011

'A gripping and intelligent piece of writing with some piercing dialogue.' - Time Out

THIS IS NOT AN EVERYMAN THEATRE PRODUCTION

THE EVERYMAN NEWSLETTER

Don't forget that you can now view this newsletter on-line at www.everymantheatre.co.uk.

Details of clubnights, auditions and forthcoming productions are sent out via email on a weekly basis. To receive these e-newsletters, send a message to luke.todd@yahoo.co.uk

Please note that there will be no edition of The Everyman Newsletter in May or June. Subsequently the next copy will be in July to promote the Everyman Summer Theatre Festival.

The deadline— for this next edition is **Tuesday 29 June**.

Club Nights

Clubnights have now been confirmed until the summer.

Please check the *Clubnights* section of the Everyman Theatre website (www.everymantheatre.co.uk) for any changes to the schedule.

April 20-22 Super Clubnight production of Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*, directed by Jen Callow.

April 28th **What is a Play? (Part 2)** Eric Hadley returns with the second of his workshops based on the recent book, illustrated with scenes from different authors.

May 5th A rehearsed reading of *The Cordelia Dream* by Marina Carr. Haunted by her dream of Cordelia and Lear, a woman confronts an elderly man, her lifelong rival.

May 12th Everyman production: *Strindberg Knew My Father* by Mark Jenkins. Support our production directed by Toby Harris. This award-winning play by one of Wales' leading writers for stage and screen, is a deconstruction of Strindberg's infamous Miss Julie. Tickets are £8 and this production starts at 8pm in Chapter Theatre.

May 19th A rehearsed reading of *Visiting Mr Green* by Jeff Baron, directed by Phil Rapier.

May 26th **Voyage of the Banned/ End of Year Party** 2012 is Everyman's 70th anniversary and to celebrate seven decades of thought provoking theatre, we will be presenting a season of previously banned plays. Simon Fuddy presents a taster workshop of banned plays through history. Followed by the end of year party. 😊



**EVERYMAN
THEATRE**

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The Everyman Newsletter

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Please send contributions to the editor by mail at Chapter or by email.

Submissions for the next full newsletter must be received by **29 June 2010**.