

Educating Agnes

Based on L'Ecole des Femmes, by Molière

By Liz Lochhead

Directed by
Tony Cownie
8 April – 7 May 2011

www.lyceum.org.uk/agnes



*"I'm going to marry a sweet,
pure, simple girl.
Because your intellectual types,
they make my toes curl."*

Liz Lochhead's new translation of Molière's great comedy *The School for Wives*, adapted and re-titled, is, like the original, in razor sharp, wicked, rhyming couplets.

Ageing bachelor Arnolphe, obsessed by the fear of being cuckolded, decides to marry his pure and innocent ward Agnes and mould her into the 'absolute ideal wife'...Only he hasn't told *her* yet. And, unbeknownst to him, Agnes has already fallen for handsome young Horace who, unaware of Arnolphe's intentions, trustingly confides to the older man in the madly-in-love young pair's marriage plans.

Insanely jealous, Arnolphe plots against his rival with increasingly outrageous and hilarious consequences, as he attempts to 'school' his intended wife.

Liz Lochhead, Maker and Playwright, is renowned for her rhyming Molière translations for the Lyceum – into, in turn, Scots (*Tartuffe*) and devastatingly accurate, modern, colloquial, Scots-English (*Miseryguts*).

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Monday, 07 March 2011

Cont...

Directed by **Tony Cownie** (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Cherry Orchard*) and designed by **Hayden Griffin**. The cast includes **Peter Forbes** as Arnolphe (*Black Watch*, The National Theatre of Scotland), **Nicola Roy** as Agnes (*The Cherry Orchard*, Lyceum; *A Clockwork Orange*, Citizens Theatre); **Kathryn Howden** (*A View from the Bridge*, *Every One*), **Lewis Howden** (*Confessions of a Justified Sinner*); **Steven McNicoll** (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Romeo and Juliet*); **Mark Prendergast** (*The Snow Queen*); and **Crawford Logan** (*Othello*).

-ENDS -

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Lyceum Press Night: Saturday 9 April at 7.45pm

Curtain Raiser: Tuesday 12 April at 6pm – *Rhyme in the Theatre*. A celebration of rhyme with Playwright and Scotland's Makar, Liz Lochhead.

Cast:

Arnolphe	Peter Forbes
Agnes	Nicola Roy
Georgette	Kathryn Howden
Chrysalde	Lewis Howden
Alain	Steven McNicoll
Horace	Mark Prendergast
Orante	Crawford Logan

Creative Team:

Liz Lochhead	Writer
Tony Cownie	Director
Hayden Griffin	Designer, set, props, costumes
John Harris	Lighting Designer

Liz Lochhead:

Liz is no stranger to the Royal Lyceum Theatre. In the mid-eighties she adapted Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and, a year later, Moliere's *Tartuffe*. Both have had frequent Scottish, and further afield, revivals since – *Tartuffe*, which began her lifelong love affair with the work of this French comedic genius, was most recently seen back here at the Lyceum for its twentieth anniversary in a new production in 2006. *Miseryguts* in 2002 (a bang up-to-date version of Moliere's *Le Misanthrope*) was a rude and rhyming hit. She transposed Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* to 1947 and a gloomy Post-War Highland boarding school near an American Air Force Base, for the Lyceum in 2001. In 1999, her brace of one-act plays, *Shanghaied* and *Elizabeth* (about the same quartet of characters in 1939 and on Coronation Day in 1953) went on here under the title *Britannia Rules*.

All of these, since the nineties at least, were directed by Tony Cownie. So these frequent collaborators are very pleased to be working together again on *Educating Agnes*, her most recent Moliere.

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Liz's original stage plays over the last thirty years also include *Blood and Ice*, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, *The Big Picture*, *Quelques Fleurs*, *Perfect Days*, and *Good Things*, commissioned by variously, the Traverse, Communicado, Dundee Rep and Borderline Theatre Companies.

Liz became Glasgow's Poet Laureate in 2005, and, recently in 2011 was surprised and very honoured to be declared Scotland's Makar, or National Poet.

LYCEUM TICKETS & PERFORMANCES:

Performances: 8 April – 7 May 2011

Evenings: Tuesday – Saturday at 7.45pm

Matinees: 13, 16, 20, 23, 30 April at 2.30pm

First Look Friday: Friday 8 April at 7.45pm - tickets £5 (sponsored by The List) SOLD OUT

Curtain Raiser: Thursday 12 April at 6pm – tickets £5 Conc £3 & under 18s free

Post-show discussion with members of the cast: Tuesday 19 April (FREE)

Touch Tour for the visually impaired: Thursday 21 April at 6.15pm & Saturday 23 April at 1pm

Audio described performances: Thursday 21 April at 7.45pm & Saturday 23 April at 2.30pm

BSL Interpreted performance: Wednesday 27 April at 7.45pm

Captioned Performance: Saturday 30 April at 2.30pm

Tickets

Evening performances (full price): £13 - £28

Matinee Performances: Wednesday and Saturday Matinees £12.50 - £15.50

Concessions: £2 off full price for all Tuesday – Thursday shows

Under 18s: Half Price any performance

School Groups: £8 (stalls & grand circle). £7 (upper circle). Matinees – all seats £7. One teacher FREE with every ten pupils.

Registered unemployed: (Tues – Thurs) half price in advance, £1 Stalls tickets available on the day (max 20 per show, stalls only). ID required.

Students/ people with disabilities: Half price (excludes First Look Previews), £5 for Wed matinees.

Wheelchair spaces are available in the stalls boxes. Students – full time only – ID required.

Groups discounts for 8 or more people:

Evenings: Stalls/Grand Circle £5 off and Upper Circle £3 off full price tickets plus one FREE ticket for every 20 paid for.

Matinees: £3 off full price tickets plus one FREE ticket for every 20 paid for.

For press tickets and images please contact Melissa Clarke, Press Officer on 0131 248 4822 or mclarke@lyceum.org.uk

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