

For Immediate Release

## Lyceum Theatre announces eight-play Season for 2010/11

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company is delighted to reveal an entertaining and ambitious eight-play Season for 2010/11 under Artistic Director Mark Thomson and Associate Artists Tony Cownie, John Dove and Philip Pinsky.

Following a very successful season 2009/10, with celebrated playwrights, authors and three world premières, the Lyceum Theatre stands firmly as Scotland's premier producing theatre company, combining classics with new writing and a continued commitment to encouraging a broad audience.

*"I am thrilled to have such fantastic creative partners working with us this year – Stellar Quines, the Citizens' Theatre, the National Theatre of Scotland with the Royal Shakespeare Company - to join us in creating an extended 8 show season," says Lyceum Artistic Director Mark Thomson. "There is a great blend of the new and the classical, of weight and laughter and creative adventure with our Romeo-Earnest productions. The season has powerful strands of love, sexual politics and identity running through it. These are eternal concerns, which we're articulating in vivid theatrical form through the ages. We present them on our stage now, to delight and challenge."*

We open the new season with William Shakespeare's classic love story **Romeo and Juliet**, directed by Tony Cownie. This tale of star-cross'd lovers resounds with themes of love and the tyranny of divides – themes which continue into our next production, Oscar Wilde's **The Importance of Being Earnest**, directed by Mark Thomson. Mark and Tony will work with Neil Murray as designer, Philip Pinsky as composer and a powerful ensemble cast on both these productions to explore the relationship of these two great classics – the Lyceum's Autumn of Love.

The Lyceum also celebrates two co-productions this season, and is delighted to welcome back the award-winning Stellar Quines Theatre Company with the UK première of Linda Griffiths' **Age of Arousal**, which will then tour Scotland. Directed by Muriel Romanes, this lavish, sexy and powerful ensemble piece tells the story of five Victorian women pursuing a new age where erotic and economic freedom reign supreme. **Muriel Romanes said:** *Stellar Quines is thrilled and delighted to be collaborating with the Lyceum on this deftly poetic, vigorous and profoundly witty play.*

The Lyceum's second co-production, with the Citizens' Theatre, is the World Première of **Marilyn**, directed by Jeremy Raison. A new play by Sue Glover, best known for the Scottish classic *Bondagers*, **Marilyn** is an intimate portrait of the life of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's most enigmatic film stars as she spends time with Simone Signoret in a hotel room while Arthur Miller type's away in the room next door. **Jeremy Raison, Artistic Director at the Citizens' said,** *"We are delighted to be collaborating with the Lyceum on this new play from Sue Glover, one of Scotland's best writers. It is a fascinating story,*

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Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Friday, 21 May 2010

*particularly as it is based on real-life events, examining the lives of two extraordinary women."*

Other highlights for the season include Liz Lochhead's Scottish sparkling version of Molière's *School for Wives*, re-titled ***Educating Agnes***, with Tony Cownie directing, while John Dove directs his fifth and final Arthur Miller production for the Lyceum, ***A View From the Bridge***. **John Dove said:** "*It's a rare privilege to be able to direct five of the great Miller plays for one theatre in eight years. And it is thanks to the passion and humanity of the people of Edinburgh that this is possible.*"

With one playwright's departure comes the return of another in the much-loved writing of Stuart Paterson. The Lyceum is pleased to announce that it will be staging his wonderful fairytale family drama, ***The Snow Queen***, which Mark Thomson will direct and Ken Harrison (*The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*) will design.

In another exciting move for the company, the Lyceum is also delighted to announce its association with The National Theatre of Scotland and The Royal Shakespeare Company in bringing the RSC's acclaimed production of ***Dunsinane*** to Scotland. David Greig's new play, a sequel to Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, directed by Roxana Silbert, was presented by the RSC at London's Hampstead Theatre in London earlier this year. The production will receive its Scottish première at the Lyceum Theatre in May 2011.

-Ends-

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Season 2010 / 2011

#### Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tony Cownie

17 September – 16 October 2010

Press night: 18 September

#### The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Mark Thomson

22 October – 20 November 2010

Press night: 23 October

#### A View From the Bridge

By Arthur Miller

Directed by John Dove

14 January – 12 February 2011

Press night: 15 January

#### UK Première

#### Age of Arousal

By Linda Griffiths

Wildly inspired by *The Odd Women* by George Gissing

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Directed by Muriel Romanes

A co-production with Stellar Quines Theatre Company

18 February – 12 March 2011 (then touring Scotland including the Tron 15 – 26 March. More dates TBC)

**Press night: 19 February**

World Première

Marilyn

By Sue Glover

Directed by Jeremy Raison

A co-production with Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow

15 March – 2 April 2011

**Press night: TBC**

Educating Agnes

By Liz Lochhead

(Or L'Ecole des Femmes, by Molière)

Directed by Tony Cownie

8 April – 7 May 2011

**Press night: 9 April**

Scottish Première

Dunsinane

By David Greig

Directed by Roxana Silbert

The National Theatre of Scotland presents

The Royal Shakespeare Company production of

Dunsinane

In association with the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

14 May – 4 June 2011 (then touring)

**Press night: TBC**

CHRISTMAS

The Snow Queen

By Stuart Paterson

From the original by Hans Christian Anderson

Directed by Mark Thomson

2 – 31 December 2010

**Press night: 3 December**

On sale 14 June 2010

Tickets: £11.50 - £23.00

CHILDREN HALF PRICE AT ALL TIMES!

Family Tickets just £60

## The Plays

***"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet".***

**Romeo and Juliet**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tony Cownie

Arguably Shakespeare's most passionate and heartbreaking drama, his elegy for doomed youth unravels the mire of emotions bound up in the hearts and minds of not only the forbidden lovers themselves, but also their friends and families.

The play's poetically searing exploration of the damage that social and family enmities and divisions can inflict on their offspring and wider society leads to its famous tragic end of the loss of young life. Its timeless charge to ourselves and our society speaks as powerfully now as when it was first staged, *Romeo and Juliet* truly claims Shakespeare as a writer "for all time".

**A powerful ensemble Lyceum cast bring this brave, often bawdy and bloody love story to life. And the same cast will follow this production with another seemingly impossible love story on the Lyceum stage forming an autumn of love against all odds but with very different endings.**

***"It is a terrible thing for a man to find out suddenly that all his life he has been speaking nothing but the truth. Can you forgive me?"***

**The Importance of Being Earnest**

**By Oscar Wilde**

**Directed by Mark Thomson**

Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners and mores has delighted audiences since it was first staged in 1895. Ernest loves Gwendolyn. Cecily loves Jack. What could possibly go wrong? Double lives and double standards abound in this masterpiece of satirical wisdom.

Town and country lives become horribly entangled when Algernon's love-struck friend Jack escapes to the country as his alter-ego Ernest. Identities are assumed at a rate of knots as each confusion leads inexorably to another. Even monstrous Lady Bracknell has secrets to hide, as she re-encounters a figure from her past, who once upon a time misplaced a very important handbag...

Can it all end happily? Will Algernon's invalid friend Bunbury throw the metaphorical cat among the exceedingly well-mannered pigeons? Join our crack ensemble cast to find out for yourself the vital importance of being earnest!

***"Sometimes there's too much love. You know? There's too much, and it goes where it mustn't..."***

**A View From the Bridge**

**By Arthur Miller**

**Directed by John Dove**

Arthur Miller's modern social tragedy explores the life and loves of the family of a dock worker in post-war New York. Eddie Carbone lives with his wife and niece, a happy enough family with an intense love and sense of duty locking them together. But life becomes a struggle for meaning when the family is rocked by the arrival of two illegal immigrant cousins, and tensions mount as an eruption of violence beckons.

With underlying themes of identity, personal politics, sexuality and the law, Miller's tale of ordinary human beings and their extraordinary lives is a richly textured story in keeping with his other plays *Death of a Salesman*, *The Price* and *All My Sons*. Lyceum Associate Artist John Dove returns to direct.

***"Type damn you. Type! It's the only way to liberty!"***

**Age of Arousal**

**By Linda Griffiths**

Wildly inspired by *The Odd Women* by George Gissing

**Directed by Muriel Romanes**

**A co-production with Stellar Quines Theatre Company**

A time of great passion and great confusion. Virtue is barely holding down its petticoats. People are bursting their corsets with unbridled desire.

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Ex-militant suffragette Mary Barfoot and her devoted protégé and lover Rhoda enlist female students to master the new invention that will gain them freedom – the typewriter. Three spinster sisters are invited into the school to rescue them from poverty, setting in motion an odyssey of alcoholism, cross dressing and sexual revolution. Enter Everard Barfoot, Mary's cousin, an ex-doctor in his 30s about to embark on a life of leisure, and suddenly all the characters in this lavish sexy ensemble piece are erupting with discoveries, contradictions and epiphanies. Genre busting, rule-bending and ambitiously original.

**“They need to be seen with a pretty girl and the girl needs to be seen. It’s just a pity they want you to be dumb and blond, and as soon as you’re getting noticed they sneer at you – for being dumb and blond. But that’s life, I guess?”**

## **Marilyn**

**By Sue Glover**

**Directed by Jeremy Raison**

**A co-production with the Citizens’ Theatre**

Holding a mirror up to the notion of stardom, the myth of the blonde bombshell and the pressure of fame, *Marilyn* offers a glimpse into the private life of one of popular culture's most iconic women.

1960. Marilyn Monroe is staying in the Beverly Hills Hotel with her husband Arthur Miller, while preparing to film *Let's Make Love*.

In the apartment opposite, the great French actress Simone Signoret waits for her husband Yves Montand to return from the studio.

Both successful actresses in their own right, the women form an uneasy friendship under the watchful eye of Patti, hairdresser to the stars. But it will become a friendship that will test their deepest beliefs and will threaten to destroy them both.

This new play by Sue Glover, best known for the Scottish classic *Bondagers*, is an intimate portrait of the life of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most enigmatic film stars.

**“No bluestocking bride for me – there’s a very fine line between brainy and barmy, so a burd that’s no Einstein, that’s the best and only hope for a happy alliance. Yes, pick a simple girl – it’s not rocket science!”**

## **Educating Agnes**

**By Liz Lochhead**

*(Or L'Ecole des Femmes, by Molière)*

**Directed by Tony Cownie**

Based on Molière's French comic farce *School for Wives*, Liz Lochhead's Scottish version, re-titled *Educating Agnes*, combines poetic rhythms, Scottish banter and a comic touch.

Arnolphe is obsessed at the thought of being cuckolded by a wife. As a result, he decides he must marry his pure and innocent ward Agnes moulding her into the 'Absolute Ideal Wife'. Only he hasn't told *her* this. His "perfect" plot is threatened when Agnes falls for young Horace, who, unaware that Arnolphe also intends to marry Agnes confides in Arnolphe of their plans to wed. Driven by jealousy, Arnolphe sets about plotting against his rival with increasingly outrageous and hilarious consequences as he attempts to "school" his intended wife.

Liz Lochhead is renowned for her poetic translations into Scots-English – *Tartuffe* and *Miseryguts*, and the Lyceum is delighted to present this her most recent Molière translation

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The National Theatre of Scotland presents the Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Dunsinane* in association with the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

**Dunsinane**

**By David Greig**

**Directed by Roxana Silbert**

*Macbeth is dead. Under cover of night, an English army has swept through the landscape, killed the tyrant and taken the seat of power.*

Attempting to restore peace and put in place a new ruler, the commanding officer is beset by a brutal guerrilla uprising and simmering discontent amongst his own inexperienced troops. Struggling to grasp the alien customs and politics of this harsh country, he finds himself drawn towards the tyrant's powerful widow in search of someone to share his burden of responsibility. Increasingly isolated from his own men and Scottish allies alike, his efforts to restore order appear futile as the situation spins out of control.

David Greig's exhilarating play is a vision of one man's attempt to restore peace in a country ravaged by war. David is a multi award-winning Scottish playwright whose play with music *Midsummer* was a hit of this year's Edinburgh Festival. His work is regularly produced by the National Theatre of Scotland with his new version of *Peter Pan* touring the UK in 2010. His most recent production for the RSC was *The American Pilot*.

RSC Associate Director Roxana Silbert directs.

**The Snow Queen**

**By Stuart Paterson**

**From the original by Hans Christian Anderson**

**Directed by Mark Thomson**

Whatever the weather outside, we guarantee a white Christmas *inside* the Lyceum this winter!

From her ice palace at the very top of the world, the wicked Snow Queen plans to turn everything to winter – no more summer, no more sunshine, no more warmth, no more holidays making sandcastles on the beach...

She starts by casting her spell over one little boy, Kay, turning his heart cold and letting him see only misery and ugliness in the world. But Kay's friend Gerda has always thought of Kay as a brother, and together with the beasts of the forest and the sun spirit Bhima, she undertakes a quest to save him – and the rest of mankind – from eternal chill!

Stuart Paterson's plays have long been popular with young audiences, especially at the Lyceum, and we're delighted to be revisiting one of his earliest, most beautiful and most popular adaptations of Hans Christian Anderson's fairytales. Guaranteed to put warmth into the coldest of hearts, however young or old you are!

Directed by Lyceum Artistic Director Mark Thomson (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Lyceum 2008).

**Tickets**

**All tickets go on sale 19 July 2010**

Box Office 0131 248 4848

Groups 10+ 0131 248 4949

Book Online at [www.lyceum.org.uk](http://www.lyceum.org.uk)

Every production in the 2010/11 Season will have a captioned performance. Dates TBC.

Online: [www.lyceum.org.uk](http://www.lyceum.org.uk)

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## Press Office

Please contact Melissa Clarke on 0131 248 4822 or [mclarke@lyceum.org.uk](mailto:mclarke@lyceum.org.uk).

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