

The Lyceum's Autumn of Love

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tony Cownie

17 September – 16 October 2010

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Mark Thomson

22 October – 20 November 2010



Romeo and Juliet resounds with themes of love and the tyranny of divides – themes that continue into the next production, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Tony Cownie and **Mark Thomson** will direct the two plays respectively working on one versatile set designed by **Neil Murray** (*Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, *Mary Rose*), lighting designer **Johanna Town** and with composer **Philip Pinsky**.

The casts for both plays will include **Tom Berish**, **Liam Brennan** (*Every One*), **Ben Deery**, **Nick Farr**, **Will Featherstone**, **Cathal Finnerty**, **Melody Grove**, **Kirsty Mackay** (*Peter Pan*, National Theatre of Scotland), **Cara Kelly** (*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*), **Alexandra Mathie**, **Sean Murray**, **Steven McNicoll** (*The Mystery of Irma Vep*), **Mark McDonnell** (*Curse of the Starving Class*) and **Grant O'Rourke** (*The Cherry Orchard*).

The directors, creatives and cast will work together on both productions to explore the relationship between these two great classics.

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

"Is love a tender thing...it pricks like a thorn."

Arguably Shakespeare's most passionate and heartbreaking drama, *Romeo and Juliet* unravels the tangle of emotions in the hearts and minds of the forbidden lovers, and their friends and families.

The play is an elegy for doomed youth, exploring the damage that social divisions and family feuds can inflict. The impact on Shakespeare's star cross'd lovers, and on the society around them, is overwhelming. The outcome is lies, conflict and the play's famously tragic ending.

With themes that speak as powerfully in this age as in his own, *Romeo and Juliet* demonstrates Shakespeare as a writer for all time.

www.lyceum.org.uk/romeo

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

"I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train."

Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners and mores has delighted audiences since it was first staged in 1895. Ernest loves Gwendolyn. Cecily loves Ernest. 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 concerning a rather celebrated 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!

www.lyceum.org.uk/earnest

-ENDS -

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Autumn of Love Ticket deal:

Book *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* together and SAVE £10!

This offer is valid for Stalls and Grand Circle and only on full price tickets. Both shows must be bought at the same time. No refunds on previously bought tickets. Offer ends 16 October 2010.

Romeo and Juliet Press Night: Saturday 18 September at 7.45pm

The Importance of Being Earnest Press Night: Saturday 23 October at 7.45pm

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Friday, 10 September 2010

Cast:

Romeo and Juliet

Romeo
Juliet
Friar Lawrence
Nurse
Mercutio
Benvolio
Tybalt
Capulet
Lady Capulet
Montague/ Friar John
Paris
Prince Escalus/ Apothecary
Peter/ Servant

Earnest

Mr Algernon Moncrieff
Miss Cecily Cardew
Rev Canon Frederick Chasuble
Lady Bracknell

Mr John Worthing

Miss Laetitia Prism

Mr Grisby
Merriman/ Lane
Hon Gwendolen Fairfax

Actor

Will Featherstone
Kirsty Mackay
Sean Murray
Alexandra Mathie
Grant O'Rourke
Ben Deery
Cathal Finnerty
Liam Brennan
Cara Kelly
Nick Farr
Tom Berish
Mark McDonnell
Steven McNicoll
Melody Grove

Creative Team:

Tony Cownie	Director (Romeo & Juliet)
Mark Thomson	Director (The Importance of Being Earnest)
Neil Murray	Set and Costumes Designer
Johanna Town	Lighting Designer
Philip Pinsky	Composer
Raymond Short	Fight Director

LYCEUM TICKETS & PERFORMANCES:

Romeo and Juliet

Performances: **17 September – 16 October**

Evenings: Tuesday – Saturday at 7.45pm

Matinees: 22, 25, 29 September and 2, 6, 9 October at 2.30pm

First Look Previews sponsored by *The List*: Friday 17 September at 7.45pm

Curtain Raiser: Tuesday 21 September at 6pm – tickets £5 Conc £3 & under 18s free

Post-show discussion with members of the cast: Tuesday 28 September (FREE)

Touch Tour for the visually impaired: Thursday 30 September at 6.15pm & Saturday 2 October at 1pm

Audio described performances: Thursday 30 September at 7.45pm & Saturday 2 October at 2.30pm

BSL Interpreted performance: Wednesday 6 October at 7.45pm

Captioned Performance: Saturday 9 October at 2.30pm

The Importance of Being Earnest

Performances: **22 October – 20 November**

Evenings: Tuesday – Saturday at 7.45pm

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Friday, 10 September 2010

Matinees: 27, 30 November and 3, 6, 13 November at 2.30pm

First Look Previews sponsored by *The List*: Friday 22 October at 7.45pm

Curtain Raiser: Tuesday 26 October at 6pm – tickets £5 Conc £3 & under 18s free

Post-show discussion with members of the cast: Tuesday 2 November (FREE)

Touch Tour for the visually impaired: Thursday 4 November at 6.15pm & Saturday 6 November at 1pm

Audio described performances: Thursday 4 November at 7.45pm & Saturday 6 November at 2.30pm

BSL Interpreted performance: Wednesday 10 November at 7.45pm

Captioned Performance: Saturday 13 November 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 more information please contact Melissa Clarke, Press Officer on 0131 248 4822 or mclarke@lyceum.org.uk

Funders:



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