

For immediate release

COPENHAGEN

By Michael Frayn

Directed by
Tony Cownie

17 April – 9 May



Photo: Richard Campbell©

“A chain reaction. You tell one painful truth and it leads to two more.”

This intense, absorbing and powerful piece of theatre from **Michael Frayn** brings our 2008/09 Season to a pulsating end.

Copenhagen is a gripping drama in which the mysterious actions of German physicist Werner Heisenberg in 1941 are pored over and intensely questioned. Frayn's piece is a fictional exploration of Heisenberg's real-life meeting with his old friend and mentor Niels Bohr, and the huge significance it may have held for the entire world. Years after the event, their ghosts debate the true meaning of the encounter, and try to understand exactly what happened that night.

The ill-fated meeting splintered their friendship and provoked decades of speculation and debate. Having laid down the guiding principles of quantum physics in the 1920s, the two then found themselves on opposite sides in the Second World War.

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Tuesday, 14 April 2009

Led by Heisenberg, German science rushed to develop a nuclear capability – both to generate power and to create a bomb. But were Heisenberg's motives so clear cut? Did he really want to put the atom bomb in Hitler's grasp? And if so, why did he come to Copenhagen and consult so freely with his half-Jewish teacher and colleague?

There emerges a fascinating portrait of the lives and work of these two men. Driven to explore the boundaries of science, they were also placed by history in a time when their work could, and would, cause unthinkable suffering and horror. With Bohr's perceptive wife Margarethe beside them, the two scientists try to decipher what Heisenberg had hoped to achieve, and the implications of their meeting in Copenhagen.

Lyceum Associate Director **Tony Cownie** (*Mary Rose, Trumpets and Raspberries, Vanity Fair*) leads on the creative team including designer **Neil Murray** (*Mary Rose, Vanity Fair*), and Lighting designer **Malcolm Rippeth** (*Mary Rose, Mrs Warren's Profession*).

The Lyceum welcome a strong cast including well-known television and stage actor **Tom Mannion**, **Owen Oakeshott** and **Sally Edwards**.



Tom Mannion



Owen Oakeshott



Sally Edwards

-ENDS -

Notes for Editors:

Cast:

BOHR
HEISENBERG
MARGARETHE

Tom Mannion
Owen Oakeshott
Sally Edwards

Director
Designer
Lighting Designer

Tony Cownie
Neil Murray
Malcolm Rippeth

Special Events:

The Lyceum is delighted to be working in association with the **Royal Society of Edinburgh** to provide a two-day event around our production of *Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn.

MICHAEL FRAYN at the Lyceum 23 April

On Thursday 23 April, the Lyceum will host, in association with BBC Radio Café, an interview with Michael Frayn led by the renowned arts broadcaster Janice Forsyth.

SCIENCE, POLITICS, AND DRAMA

Royal Society of Edinburgh, George St, Edinburgh.

Thursday 23 April

3pm-4.30pm

Film Screening *The Strangest Dream* (£5 donation welcomed)

Friday 24 April

5pm-6pm

After Effects of Copenhagen – talk by Michael Frayn

6pm-7pm

Operation Epsilon – readings from The Farm Hall Transcripts

Muriel Romanes (Stellar Quines) directs guests and members of The Royal Society of Edinburgh as they read from the papers that inspired Michael Frayn's play.

7.30pm-8.30pm

Panel Discussion – the Drama of Nuclear Weapons

Tickets for all RSE events on Friday 24 April are £15 and to book please call 0131 240 2780

(RSE events are subject to final confirmation)

Press night: Saturday 18 April at 7.45pm

TICKETS & PERFORMANCES:

Performances: 17 April – 9 May

Evenings: Tuesday – Saturday at 7.45pm

Matinees: 22, 25, 29 April and 2, 9 May at 2.30pm

First Look Friday (preview performance) sponsored by *The List*: Friday 17 April at 7.45pm – all tickets £5

Pre-show talk with Michael Frayn: Thursday 23 April at 6pm – tickets £3 / under 18s free

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

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Audio described performances: Thursday 30 April at 7.45pm & Saturday 2 May at 2.30pm

Touch Tour for the visually impaired: Saturday 2 May at 12.30pm

BSL signed performance: Wednesday 6 May at 7.45pm

Evening performances (full price): £12 - £26

Matinee Performances: Wednesday and Saturday Matinees £15

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

Under 18s: Half Price any performance

School Groups: £7.50 (stalls & grand circle). £6.50 (upper circle). Matinees – all seats £6.50. One teacher free with every ten pupils.

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

Students/ people with disabilities: Half price (excludes First Look Fridays), £5 for Wed matinees. Wheelchair spaces are available in the stalls boxes. Students – full time only – ID required.

Groups: 8+ £3 off each ticket (matinees £2 off); 20+ £4 off each ticket (matinees £3 off) plus one free ticket.

To book tickets please call our box office on 0131 248 4848. For group bookings of 8+ please call 0131 248 4849.

For press enquiries and to arrange press tickets please contact Melissa Clarke, Press Officer on 0131 248 4822 or email: mclarke@lyceum.org.uk

