

ROSE THEATRE KINGSTON ANNOUNCES 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Highlights of the season include:

- World première **Hogarth's Progress** – a double-bill written by **Nick Dear** and directed by **Anthony Banks** including the revival of ***The Art of Success*** and a new companion play ***The Taste of the Town***
- Full cast announced for ***Much Ado About Nothing*** – **John Hopkins** to join **Mel Giedroyc** as feuding lovers Benedick and Beatrice
- **Lindsay Posner** directs **Stephen Bill's** award-winning play ***Curtains*** starring **Saskia Reeves** and **Caroline Catz**
- **Tom Burke** stars in **Friedrich Schiller's *Don Carlos***
- ***The Rose at 10: Celebrating 10 Years of World Class Theatre***, an exhibition showcasing the history of Rose Theatre Kingston

Having first opened its doors in 2008 under the leadership of founding Artistic Director Sir Peter Hall; this year **Rose Theatre Kingston** celebrates its 10th anniversary with a season of work including the world première of **Nick Dear's** double-bill ***Hogarth's Progress: The Art of Success*** and ***The Taste of the Town, Much Ado About Nothing*** led by **Mel Giedroyc** and **John Hopkins** and anniversary exhibition ***The Rose at 10: Celebrating 10 Years of World Class Theatre***.

Hogarth's Progress is a salacious exploration of the nature and commercialisation of art including the first major UK revival of Dear's award-winning play ***The Art of Success***, which follows William Hogarth through a bawdy night in 1730, and the world première of ***The Taste of the Town*** which revisits the hugely successful artist 30 years later when he's at the end of his career. Directed by **Anthony Banks** the plays will run in rep opening Sat 29 Sep, with previews from Thu 13 Sep, and running until Sun 21 Oct. Each play can be seen as a single performance or enjoyed together, either over different days or as an all-day theatrical experience. Tickets are on sale to Rose Circle members now, Loyalty Card members on Tue 27 Feb at 10am and go on general sale on Thu 1 Mar at 10am.

Alongside the main season is ***The Rose at 10: Celebrating 10 Years of World Class Theatre*** an anniversary exhibition showcasing some of the work of the last 10 years including exhibits from Rose Theatre Kingston's most memorable productions, from ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** which reunited director Peter Hall and Judi Dench as Titania 50 years after their RSC production, to the first revival of ***The Wars of the Roses*** directed by Trevor Nunn. The exhibition will run at Rose Theatre Kingston from Tue 13 March until Sun 29 Apr.

Chief Executive **Robert O'Dowd** said today, '*In just 10 years the Rose has gone from strength to strength and changed the theatrical landscape of South West London. Not only have we worked with the most exciting performers and creatives the country has to offer, making world-class theatre in Kingston, the West End and touring throughout the country and abroad, but we've established a strong partnership with Kingston University and the Royal Borough of Kingston to create a successful education and participation programme for the local community which is at the heart of what we do.*

I'm very proud of the accomplishments of the Rose which couldn't be done without the unwavering loyalty of our stakeholders, supporters, donors and volunteers.'

Executive Producer **Jerry Gunn** added, *'10 years ago Sir Peter Hall took the helm of the Rose with one aim, to create excellent, interesting, thought provoking theatre that everyone can enjoy. It's very special for me, having joined the Rose at the beginning, and experienced such theatrical landmarks as reuniting Peter Hall and Judi Dench for A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Trevor Nunn completing his ambition in directing all 37 Shakespeare's with King John. We have such a fantastic season to celebrate and I'm hugely excited for Hogarth's Progress, another world première and double bill which promises to be great fun, a real bawdy romp –what can I say, we like to celebrate in style!'*

Rose Theatre Kingston presents

Curtains

By **Stephen Bill**

Directed by **Lindsay Posner**; Set & Costume Design: **Peter McKintosh**; Lighting Designer: **Paul Pyant**
Composer & Sound Design: **Isobel Waller-Bridge**; Casting Director: **Ginny Schiller**

Until Sat 17 Mar

Press night: Wed 28 Feb, 7pm

Ida has one birthday wish. Will it come true?

Ida's family is throwing her a tea party for her eighty-sixth birthday, but their efforts to be cheerful and make the event a success verge on the desperate. Afflicted with dementia and racked with pain, Ida feels she has lived too long. As celebrations draw to a close, old prejudices and rivalries are forced into the open when the family must face the ultimate dilemma in this hilariously painful and moving picture of a family in turmoil.

A comedy about end of life sounds like a contradiction in terms, but **Stephen Bill's** award winning play about the unfunny issue of the right every individual should have to depart this world with dignity, manages to tackle this very serious topic with humour and heart.

Lindsay Posner directs **Leo Bill** (Michael), **Caroline Catz** (Susan), **Jonathan Coy** (Geoffrey), **Tim Dutton** (Douglas), **Wendy Nottingham** (Margaret), **Saskia Reeves** (Katherine), **Sandra Voe** (Ida) and **Marjorie Yates** (Mrs Jackson).

Rose Theatre Kingston presents

The Rose at 10: Celebrating 10 Years of World Class Theatre

An anniversary exhibition

Tue 13 Mar – Sun 29 Apr

Press and Guest View: Fri 23 Mar, from 6pm - 8pm

Celebrating 10 years of Rose Theatre Kingston, **The Rose at 10** will include exhibits from some of the Rose's most memorable productions including Titania's dress from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as worn by Judi Dench, the throne from Shakespeare's trilogy *The Wars of the Roses* and behind-the-

scenes photographs from the world premiere of Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend*, alongside costumes, props, model boxes, press cuttings and exclusive plans and images.

Rose Theatre Kingston in partnership with Kingston University present
Shake The Superflux: Yanis Varoufakis on Shakespeare

Mon 19 Mar, 8pm

Yanis Varoufakis has emerged not only as an embattled finance minister and iconoclastic economist, but a life-long lover of Shakespeare. He called the Greek debt crisis 'a Shakespearean tragedy', reported that observing the European Union is 'like watching Othello', and compared the world's leaders to Shylock and Macbeth. Those who sold out were 'like Richard III', or Lady Macbeth saying 'What's done cannot be undone'. His books are enlivened by Shakespeare quotations, like Lear's cry to 'shake the superflux' of wealth. But in this surprise new lecture, which promises to be a performance worthy of the Bard, he will also discuss the power of these 400-year-old plays 'to show the heavens more just'.

Proceeds from this event raise funds to support Rose Theatre Kingston.

Rose Theatre Kingston and Curve, Leicester present

George's Marvellous Medicine

By **Roald Dahl**

Adapted by **David Wood**

Directed by **Julia Thomas**; Designer: **Morgan Large**; Lighting Designer: **Jack Weir**

Video Designer: **Andrzej Goulding**; Sound Designer: **David Gregory**

Composer: **Tasha Taylor-Johnson**; Casting Director: **Kay Magson CDG**

Wed 28 Mar – 7 Apr

Guest night: Wed 28 Mar, 5.30pm

Most grandmothers are lovely, kind, helpful old ladies. Not George's Grandmother. George's Grandmother likes to gobble up slugs and bugs, and is always telling George what to do. But one day, when his parents leave him alone with the grizzly old grunion, George takes his chance and sets about creating a brand new medicine to cure her of her cruelty. Little does he know that his perilous potion will be the start of a rather marvellous adventure...

Following the success of *The Twits* and *The Witches*, Rose Theatre Kingston's magnificent new co-production with Curve, Leicester promises to be yet another hugely imaginative and entertaining stage adaptation, bursting with growing grannies, feathery farm animals and bags of frothbuggling family fun.

Rose Theatre Kingston, Granville & Parham Productions and Antic Face present

Much Ado About Nothing

By **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Simon Dormandy**; Set & Costume Designer: **Naomi Dawson**

Lighting Designer: **Paul Pyant**; Composer & Sound Designer: **Jon Nicholls**
Casting Director: **Sarah Bird**

Fri 13 Apr – Sun 6 May

Press Night: Wed 18 Apr, 7pm

Joining **Mel Giedroyc** as Beatrice and **John Hopkins** as Benedick are **Peter Bray** (Don John/House Clerk), **Sam Dastor** (Antonio/Verges), **Peter Guinness** (Don Pedro), **Victoria Hamnett** (Margaret/Watchman), **Kate Lamb** (Hero), **Calam Lynch** (Claudio), **Caolan McCarthy** (Conrad/Friar), **Nicholas Prasad** (Borachio), **David Rintoul** (Leonato), **Katherine Toy** (Ursula/Hugh Oatcake), **Stewart Wright** (Dogberry) and **Silas Wyatt-Barke** (Balthazar/George Seacole).

Don Pedro is victorious. The turf war in the city is won and the Mafia overlord brings his entourage to Messina, a luxury spa hotel deep in the Sicilian hills, to hide out, recover and party. While Leonato, the hotel owner, fawns over his clan boss, his daughter, Hero, wins the heart of the Don's young protégé. Meanwhile, Beatrice, the no-nonsense, customer-experience manager, has unfinished business to see to with Benedick, Pedro's commitment-phobic consigliere. But when Hero is disgraced, the party is over, love turns to hatred and new battle lines are drawn.

Beneath its witty surface, ***Much Ado About Nothing*** is a powerful exploration of the struggle for love, identity and self-knowledge in a male-dominated world – as relevant today as ever. The Rose's production will use Shakespeare's language in a sharp contemporary setting that not only offers glorious opportunities for physical comedy amid the furnishings of a spa hotel but also provides a social context that enhances the darker themes in this timeless comic gem.

The play reunites **Mel Giedroyc** with director **Simon Dormandy** after their collaboration on the UK première of *Luce* by JC Lee in 2016.

Peter Bray plays Don John/House Clerk. His theatre credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare's Globe/international tour), *De Gabay* (National Theatre Wales), *Britten: The Canticles* (Royal Opera House), *Emil & The Detectives* (National Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe), *The Iliad* (Royal Lyceum Theatre); and for television, *Love and Death*.

Sam Dastor plays Antonio/Verges. His theatre credits include *Lettice and Lovage* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *Yes, Prime Minister* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Apollo Theatre), *Haroun & The Sea of Stories* (National Theatre), *Melon* (Theatre Royal Haymarket) and *A Servant to Two Masters* (New Ambassadors Theatre/UK tour). His television credits include, *Yes, Prime Minister*, *Blake's 7* and *Mountbatten*, *The Last Viceroy*; and for film, *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* and *Jinnah*.

Mel Giedroyc plays Beatrice. Her theatre credits include *Luce* (Southwark Playhouse), *Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour* (UK tour), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Playhouse Theatre), *Eurobeat* (Novello Theatre) and *New Boy* (Trafalgar Studios) and will appear in *Company* at Gielgud Theatre this September. Television credits include *The Sound of Music Live*, *Miranda*, *Sadie J*, *Sorry, I've Got No Head* and *The Vicar of Dibley*. Presenting work includes *Letterbox*, *The Great British Bake Off*, *Let It Shine*, *Horrible Histories*, *Eurovision Song Contest*, *Relatively Clever*, *Mel and Sue Show*, *The Gift*, *Now You See It*, *Collectaholics*, *Late Lunch* and *Light Lunch*. Radio credits include *The 4 O'Clock Show*, *Count Arthur Strong Series* and *The Mel & Sue Thing* and will host the upcoming reboot of *The Generation Game* on BBC. Giedroyc has also appeared in many comedy television shows including *Would I Lie To You?*, *Big Fat Quiz of the Year*, *8 Out of Ten Cats* and Richard Ayoade's *Travel Man*.

Peter Guinness plays Don Pedro. His theatre credits include *After Independence* (Arcola Theatre), *Reunion* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *The Little Foxes* (Donmar Warehouse) *The Tempest*, *Too Clever By*

Half (The Old Vic) *Doctor Faustus*, *Measure for Measure* (Young Vic) and *The Power and the Glory* (Chichester Festival Theatre). His television credits include *Stan Lee's Lucky Man*, *The Assets*, *Da Vinci's Demons*, *Strike Back* and *Hidden*; and for film, *Knights of the Round Table: King Arthur*.

Victoria Hamnett plays Margaret/Watchman. Her theatre credits include *Naked* (Jack Studio Theatre), *Thisbe* (Vault Festival), *Animal Farm* (Theatre Clwyd), *Pride and Prejudice* (Theatre Royal Bath) and *Richard III* (Changeling Theatre); and for film, *Chesil Beach*.

John Hopkins plays Benedick. His theatre work includes *The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ - The Musical* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *The Boys in the Band* (Park Theatre/Vaudeville Theatre), *Ross*, *The Deep Blue Sea* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Ben Hur* (Tricycle Theatre), *Holy Warriors* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Private Lives* (Royal Lyceum Theatre), *A Mad World My Masters*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Candide*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Tempest*, *Venus and Adonis*, *King John*, *Julius Caesar*, *Love In A Wood* (RSC), *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?* (Sheffield Theatres) and *The 39 Steps* (Criterion Theatre). For television, his work includes *Poldark*, *Endeavour*, *The Lodge*, *Stan Lee's Lucky Man*, *Catastrophe*, *Dancing On The Edge*, *Hacks*, *Secret Diary Of A Call Girl*, *Merlin*, *Identity*, *Wire In The Blood*, *Robin Hood*, *The Path to 9/11*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Love In A Cold Climate*, and two series as Detective Sergeant Scott in *Midsomer Murders*; and for film, *The Face Of An Angel*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Experiment* and *The Pool*.

Kate Lamb plays Hero. Her theatre credits include *The Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Smack Family Robinson* (Rose Theatre Kingston), *deadkidsongs* (Theatre Royal Bath) and *Summer and Smoke* (Southwark Playhouse). For television, she played Delia Busby in BBC's *Call the Midwife*, and appeared in *Endeavour*, *May Day* and *Switch*.

Calam Lynch plays Claudio in his professional theatre debut. His film credits include Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk*.

Caolan McCarthy plays Conrad/Friar. His theatre credits include *The Beggar's Opera*, *Alice in Wonderland* (Storyhouse, Chester) and *The Plough and the Stars* (National Theatre).

Nicholas Prasad plays Borachio. His theatre credits include *Miss Meena and the Masala Queens* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Ross* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *A Mad World My Masters* (RSC/Barbican), *The Tempest* (The Tobacco Factory), *Baghdad Wedding* (Soho Theatre) and *Mustard* (Bristol Old Vic). Television credits include *The Five* and *Drifters*; and for film *Hearts & Minds*.

David Rintoul plays Leonato. His theatre credits include *Hamlet* (Almeida Theatre/Harold Pinter Theatre), *Nell Gwynn* (Shakespeare's Globe/Apollo Theatre), *Remembrance of Things Past*, *The World Turned Upside Down*, *The Trojan War Will Not Take Place*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Rivals* (National Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (RSC/Garsington Opera), *Richard II*, *Richard III* (Phoenix Theatre), *Map of the Heart* (Gielgud Theatre), *Dirty Dancing* (Aldwych Theatre), *An Ideal Husband* (The Old Vic), *Etta Jenks* and *Sergeant Ola and his Followers* (Royal Court Theatre). Television credits include *Game of Thrones*, the title role in *Doctor Finlay*, *Injustice*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Horatio Hornblower: Retribution*, *Hornblower: Mutiny*, *Poirot* and *Sweet Medicine*; and for film, *The Iron Lady*, *My Week with Marilyn*, *Unrelated*, *The Ghost Writer*, *Ironclad: Battle for Blood*, *Is Anybody There?* and *Agent Hamilton*.

Katherine Toy plays Ursula/Hugh Oatcake. Her theatre credits include *Coriolanus*, *Vice Versa*, *Salome* (RSC), *Merlin* (Royal & Derngate Northampton), *The Prince and the Pauper* (Unicorn Theatre), *Treasure Island* (The Watermill Theatre) and *The False Servant* (National Theatre).

Stewart Wright plays Dogberry. His theatre work includes *Swallows and Amazons* (Bristol Old Vic/Vaudeville Theatre/UK tour), *Muscle* (Bristol Old Vic/Hull Truck Theatre), *The Nothing Show* (Jackson's Lane/The Tobacco Factory/ UK tour), *All My Sons* (National Theatre), *Jackie* (Queen's Theatre) and *The Magistrate* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Savoy Theatre). For television his credits include a series regular as PC Mark Mylow in *Doc Martin*, *I Want My Wife Back*, *Love & Marriage*, *Bonkers*, *Wild West* and *Rescue Me*; and for film, *Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?!*, *Incendiary*, *The Best Man*, *If Only*, *Ali G Indahouse*, *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Dog Eat Dog*.

Silas Wyatt-Barke plays Balthazar/George Seacole. His theatre credits include *The Lorax* (The Old Vic/Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto), *Forty Years On* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Emperor and the Nightingale* (Theatre by the Lake), *The Go Between* (Apollo Theatre) and *Sunny Afternoon* (Harold Pinter Theatre). He will also star in Simon Amstell's forthcoming film *Benjamin*.

Simon Dormandy directs. His recent work includes an award-winning production of *The Hudsucker Proxy*, his own adaptation of the Coen Brothers movie, in association with Complicite for the Nuffield Southampton Theatres and Liverpool Playhouse; the UK première of *Luce* by JC Lee; *Julius Caesar* for Bristol Old Vic; collaborating with Simon McBurney on *The Encounter*, recently on Broadway; and two main-house shows at the Arcola - a reimagined *Waiting for Godot* with a young comic double-act in the leading roles, and the UK première of *Eldorado* by Marius von Mayenburg, starring Amanda Hale and Sian Thomas, in 2014. His adaptation of *A Passage to India*, which he co-directed for simple8 and the Royal & Derngate Northampton, has just opened at The Park Theatre following a regional tour. As an actor, Dormandy played leading roles with *Cheek by Jowl*, the RSC, Donmar Warehouse, The Old Vic, at many other theatres, as well as on film and TV. Between 1997 and 2012 he taught Drama and English at Eton College.

Rose Theatre Kingston presents

The world première of

Hogarth's Progress

The Art of Success & The Taste of the Town

A double-bill by Nick Dear

Directed by Anthony Banks

Thu 13 Sep – Sun 21 Oct

Press performances: Sat 29 Sep, 2.30pm & 7pm

Set in an imagined version of eighteenth century London, *Hogarth's Progress* is a riotous double bill of plays following one of Britain's most celebrated artists on two spectacularly wild days and nights – one at the beginning of his career and one at the end.

The plays explore the extraordinary life of William Hogarth and the commercialisation of art in a time that saw British culture spring from the drawing rooms of the wealthy into ordinary houses across the country. Filled with political satire, boisterous romps and sleazy characters, *Hogarth's Progress* promises to be an extraordinary theatrical event not to be missed.

The double bill begins with the first major revival of *The Art of Success*, which was first performed by the RSC in 1986 before transferring to the Barbican and New York. Compressing the artist's ascent to fame into a single, action-filled night, Dear follows a larger-than-life Hogarth as he mingles with famous playwrights and artists, royalty and prostitutes, prime ministers and murderesses creating an

exceedingly imaginative, thoroughly scurrilous, but nonetheless highly entertaining portrait of a world on the brink of transformation. The second play, *The Taste of the Town*, catches up with Hogarth 30 years later, finding him now hugely successful, yet still at odds with the world and with himself. Old and tired he may be, but there's always time for one more fight.

"*The Art of Success* began as a play about the political manipulation of art. Along the way it snowballed into a rather lurid comedy of sexual manners. At its core though, is a debate about the nature of ambition, and the lengths to which one will go to succeed, and the degree of compromise one learns one will accept." Nick Dear (1986)

"Thirty years later, I write *The Taste of the Town*. Hogarth is older; so am I. Is he the same person? Am I the same person? How do the decisions of three decades ago look now? Are we all, perhaps, in constant conversation with our younger selves – a dialogue of reproach and congratulation, pleasure and regret? Or do all the statements just turn into questions?" Nick Dear (2018)

Each play can be seen as a single performance or enjoyed together, either over different days or as a thrilling all-day theatrical experience.

Nick Dear is a playwright. His writing for theatre includes *Dedication* (Nuffield Southampton Theatres), *The Dark Earth and the Light Sky*, *Food of Love* (Almeida Theatre), *Frankenstein*, *Power*, *The Villains' Opera* (National Theatre), *Zenobia*, *The Art of Success*, *Pure Science*, *Temptation* (RSC) and *In the Ruins* (Bristol Old Vic). His adaptations include *The Promise* (Tricycle Theatre), *Summerfolk*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (National Theatre), *The Last Days of Don Juan* (RSC) and *A Family Affair* (Cheek by Jowl). His screenplays include *Persuasion*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Cinderella*, *The Gambler*, *Byron*, *Eroica* and Agatha Christie's *Poirot*. He has also written extensively for BBC Radio.

Anthony Banks directs. His theatre credits include *Strangers On A Train*, *Gaslight*, *DNA* (UK tour), *Twilight Song* (Park Theatre), *After Miss Julie* (Theatre Royal Bath/UK tour), *Raz* (Trafalgar Studios/Assembly Edinburgh/UK tour), *Cesario*, *More Light*, *The Eternal Not*, *Prince Of Denmark* (National Theatre), *Pignight* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *The Experiment* (Soho Theatre/Berliner Ensemble), *Herding Cats* (Theatre Royal Bath/Hampstead Theatre), *Bassett* (Bristol Old Vic), *ReWrite* (Westminster Hall/National Theatre) and *The Hotel Plays* (Grange & Langham Hotels, London). He was also Associate Director at the National Theatre 2004 – 2014 where he commissioned and developed a hundred new plays for NT Connections.

Exeter Northcott, Nuffield Southampton Theatres and Rose Theatre Kingston present

Don Carlos

By **Friedrich Schiller**

Translated by **Robert David MacDonald**

Directed by **Gadi Roll**

Tue 6 – Sat 17 Nov

Guest Night: **Wed 7 Nov, 7.30pm**

Press night at Exeter Northcott: Tue 16 Oct, 7.30pm

Tom Burke stars as Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa in a new major revival of Friedrich Schiller's great romantic drama, *Don Carlos*, a co-production with Exeter Northcott and Nuffield Southampton Theatres, directed by **Gadi Roll**.

Don Carlos, son and heir to the tyrannical Philip II, is desperately in love with his stepmother, Elizabeth, to whom he was once betrothed. To resolve his all-consuming passion, Carlos enlists the help of his closest friend. Enter Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa, who dreams of freedom for his people and becomes an unlikely power broker in the King's duplicitous court.

Written just two years before the French Revolution, Schiller's *Don Carlos* engages with themes of justice, equality, freedom of expression and conscience, religious bigotry and state persecution and is as relevant today as ever.

Rose Theatre Kingston

Listings

24-26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL

www.rosetheatrekingston.org

Twitter: **@Rosetheatre**

Facebook: **/RoseTheatreKingston**

Instagram: **RoseTheatreKingston**

Season at a Glance

Rose Theatre Kingston presents

CURTAINS

Until Sat 17 Mar

Press night: **Wed 28 Feb, 7pm**

Rose Theatre Kingston presents

THE ROSE AT 10: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF WORLD CLASS THEATRE

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Press and Guest View: **Fri 23 Mar, from 6pm - 8pm**

Rose Theatre Kingston in partnership with Kingston University present

SHAKE THE SUPERFLUX: YANIS VAROUFAKIS ON SHAKESPEARE

Mon 19 Mar, 8pm

Rose Theatre Kingston and Curve present

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

Wed 28 Mar – Sat 7 Apr

Guest night: **Wed 28 Mar, 5.30pm**

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

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HOGARTH: THE ART OF SUCCESS & THE TASTE OF THE TOWN

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ROSE THEATRE KINGSTON

Founded by Sir Peter Hall, and modelled on the original Elizabethan Rose Theatre on London's Bankside, Rose Theatre Kingston is the largest producing theatre in South West London.

Since opening in 2008, the Rose has collaborated with a range of directors, playwrights and producing partners to create vibrant, engaging and inspiring productions. Recent works include the first stage adaptation and world première of Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend* directed by Melly Still, Zach Helm's *Good Canary* directed by John Malkovich, John Barton and Peter Hall's Shakespeare adaptation *The Wars of the Roses* directed by Trevor Nunn, David Hare's *The Absence of War* directed by Jeremy Herrin and Jacqueline Wilson's *Hetty Feather* (West End transfer and Olivier Award nominee) directed by Sally Cookson.

With over 150,000 visitors a year, the Rose enjoys artistic and critical acclaim from its own productions and co-productions as well as from hosting the work of renowned theatre companies including Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Globe, Headlong, English Touring Theatre, Peter Brook, Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, and Sheffield Theatres. With an auditorium that lends itself to both intimate and epic scale productions, the Rose has established itself as one of the most exciting theatres in the UK.

CURVE, LEICESTER

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Chris Stafford and Artistic Director Nikolai Foster, Curve is developing a reputation for producing, programming and touring a bold and diverse programme of musicals, plays, new work and dance. All of this presented alongside a dynamic mix of community engagement and learning opportunities, which firmly places audiences and communities at the heart of everything Curve does.

We are a registered charity (number 230708) and this supports our work with people of all ages and backgrounds, enabling them to access, participate in and learn from the arts, nurturing new and emerging talent and creating outstanding, award-winning theatrical experiences.

Recent productions and co-productions Made At Curve include: Leslie Bricusse's *Scrooge* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* (both in association with Michael Harrison & David Ian), Amana Fontanella Khan's *Pink Sari Revolution*, adapted by Purva Naresh (with Belgrade Theatre Coventry & West Yorkshire Playhouse); *The Graduate*, adapted by Terry Johnson (with West Yorkshire Playhouse); Ravi Shankar's *Sukanya* (with The Royal Opera & London Philharmonic Orchestra; World Premiere & UK tour), Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw* (& Theatre Royal Bath), Jim Jacobs & Warren Casey's *Grease* (& for a limited season in Dubai), Roald Dahl's *The Twits* (& Lyric Theatre, Hong Kong; Rose Theatre Kingston & UK tour), Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (with Birmingham Rep), Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox*, in a new adaptation by Sam Holcroft (with Nuffield Theatres & on tour; Winner of Best Presentation Of Touring Theatre, UK Theatre Awards); our Community Company productions of Alan Parker's *Bugsy Malone*, Shakespeare's

Richard III and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; the Broadway musical *Spring Awakening* (with National Youth Music Theatre), *Sister Act* (& UK tour), *Legally Blonde* (& Daegu Opera Festival, South Korea; Winner of Best Musical, Daegu International Musical Festival Awards), Truman Capote's *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (& Haymarket Theatre, London & UK tour).

GRANVILLE & PARHAM PRODUCTIONS

Granville & Parham Productions, formed in 2013 by Roger Granville and Frankie Parham, produces theatre, comedy, music and film. 2017 marked the first year of The New Generation Festival, an unprecedented 'Glyndebourne meets Glastonbury' annual event that showcases up-and-coming musical talents held in the gardens of the Palazzo Corsini al Prato in Florence. The pair has also produced *DENIM* (Soho Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Le Crazy Coqs, VAULT Festival, Port Eliot Festival, Bethnal Green Working Men's Club and Mario Testino's 60th birthday party, 2014-2018), Oliver Dench's *One-Man Hamlet* (Théâtre National de Nice, 2016), and *Waiting for Godot* (Arcola Theatre, 2014). Other credits include Helen Duff's *When the Going Gets Duff* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2017) and *Vanity Bites Back* (Melbourne International Comedy Festival, 2015), the UK première of *Luce* by JC Lee (Southwark Playhouse, 2016), sketch comedy double-act *Scene Selection* (Leicester Square Theatre, 2013-2017), *Twelfth Night* (UK tour, 2013), *Spring Awakening* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2012), *The Comedy of Errors* (performed in Dari Persian as part of the Globe to Globe season at Shakespeare's Globe / international tour, 2012), *Hamlet* (UK tour, 2011), *Henry V* (OUDS/Thelma Holt international tour to the Rustaveli Theatre in Tbilisi, Georgia, 2009) and *Предложение* (Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal* performed in Russian, 2007). Between them, Frankie Parham and Roger Granville have worked for the RSC (Revolutions season), Shakespeare's Globe (Globe to Globe season), the Young Vic Theatre, the Royal Opera House, Moscow's Sovremennik Theatre, Cheek by Jowl, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Sputnik Theatre Company, Whispering Beasts, Sovereign Arts, DEM Productions, Mingled Yarn, Joyous Gard and the critically-acclaimed Oneohone Theatre Company.

ANTIC FACE

Antic Face was founded by Co-Artistic Directors Emma Hall and Charlie Parham. The company was formed with twin aims: to redress a gender imbalance that persists in all fields of theatre; and to provide a collaborative platform for young people seeking to enter the profession in any capacity. With a strong focus on the text, the company is committed both to revisiting the classics and bringing them to a young audience, and to promoting new writing. *Hippolytos* (for which Emma Hall received an Ian Charleson Award nomination) was the company's sell-out debut production, launched and performed deep in the underbelly of the Victoria & Albert Museum. Its production of *For Those Who Cry When They Hear The Foxes Scream* (OFFIE Nominee, Most Promising Playwright) played at the Tristan Bates Theatre in Covent Garden to critical acclaim. This was paired with the company's highly popular festival of new talent, Second Half, which brought queer and experimental film, music, comedy, readings and discussions to new audiences giving a platform to over 50 emerging creatives. They previously staged the world première of *School Play* (OFFIE Nominee, Most Promising Playwright) by debut playwright Alex MacKeith – supported by Arts Council England and published by Oberon Books. An urgent drama about what it means to be a teacher in contemporary Britain, the play was lauded by critics and audiences alike for its vital and honest portrayal of the education system. Most recently, the company presented the UK première of Jen Silverman's *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* at Southwark Playhouse.

EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE

The Exeter Northcott Theatre company has restored a reputation as a leading professional theatre company. Under the artistic direction of Paul Jepson, supported by Associate Companies Metta TC, Le Navet Bete and Paddle Boat, the Northcott creates, curates and collaborates on a vibrant

programme of exceptional performance from its home at the heart of the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus. The theatre is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Recent productions and co-productions include: *People, Places & Things* (Headlong, NT, Home & Exeter Northcott) *The Railway Children* (Exeter Northcott and Nick Brooke Ltd co-production (National Tour)); *The Comedy of Errors* (outdoor Shakespeare South West Tour Summer 2017); *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (Le Navet Bete in association with Exeter Northcott); J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*; *French Without Tears* (Exeter Northcott, English Touring Theatre and Orange Tree Theatre co-production); *This Is My Body* (Exeter Northcott and Ten Ten Productions – Anti Slavery Day Media Award Winner 2015); Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*; *A Christmas Carol* (Exeter Northcott and Creative Cow co-production).

In March 2017, the Northcott successfully piloted, *Beyond My Control*, an interactive performance about epilepsy, presented as part of its radical interdisciplinary commissioning programme – IMPACT Programme in partnership with the University of Exeter, using the medium of performance to facilitate public engagement for the University's world class research.

NUFFIELD SOUTHAMPTON THEATRES

Nuffield Southampton Theatres is one of the UK's leading professional theatre companies. The company is led by Samuel Hodges, supported by a team of associates: directors Blanche McIntyre, Natalie Abrahami and Michael Longhurst, designer Tom Scutt, playwright Adam Brace, choreographer Drew McOnie and poet Inua Ellams. NST develops and produces work with some of the UK's most exciting and dynamic regional theatres. In 2016/17 290,000 people saw an NST production across all 9 regions of the UK. NST won Best Director UK Theatre Awards 2014 (*The Seagull*), 'Regional Theatre of the Year' at The Stage Awards 2015, Best Design UK Theatre Awards 2015 (*The Hudsucker Proxy*), and the 2017 Renee Stepham UK Theatre Award for Best Presentation of Touring Theatre (*Fantastic Mr Fox*).

For further information please contact:

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