

GLOBE THEATRE

104 London Street, Dunedin

www.globetheatre.org.nz

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NEWSLETTER: September 2009

Special Shakespeare event at Dunedin's Globe Theatre!

On Sunday 27th September, at 2pm

The Life and Death of King John by William Shakespeare

A rehearsed reading of a great play you've never seen! In association with Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand "Complete Works Season 2009".

King John is one of Shakespeare's most rarely-performed plays, which is a shame, as it contains some fascinating characters, including two of his strongest female characters Queen Elinor (mother of King John) and Constance, mother to Little Arthur, the (arguably) rightful heir to the throne.

Shakespeare wrote *The Life and Death of King John* in the mid-1590s, probably by adapting *The Troublesome Reign of King John*, a play produced by the older company *The Queen's Men*. In revising the play, one of the major changes Shakespeare made was to change the age of Arthur from a youth in his late teens to a much younger boy. Is it coincidence that he wrote this play shortly after the death of his own young son, Hamnet? Some critics speculate that Constance's words about the loss of her son Arthur reflect the playwright's own grief:

*Grief fills the room up of my absent child,
Lies in his bed, walks up and down with me,
Puts on his pretty looks, repeats his words,
Remembers me of all his gracious parts,
Stuffs out his vacant garments with his form;
Then, have I reason to be fond of grief?
Fare you well: had you such a loss as I,
I could give better comfort than you do.*

Prof Evelyn Tribble and Lisa Warrington (who also directs) have edited the script into a tight representation of all the best bits, featuring twelve terrific actors, including (alphabetically): Thom Adams, Kitty August, Ben Blakely, David Corballis, Poppy Haynes, Hilary Halba, Ross Johnston, Terry MacTavish, Gabriel Parkins, Evelyn Tribble, Ben Truman & Ben Vickers.

See Little Arthur plead for his life! Watch Lady Constance go mad! Discover how God REALLY stands up for Bastards!

This rehearsed reading is presented as part of the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's *Complete Workes* series.

Entry is by gold coin donation, so please come and see this rarely performed work! Remember that Daylight Saving starts on 27 September, so put your clocks forward an hour on Saturday night, or you'll be an hour late for the 2pm start ...

(We wish that we could say that Dunedin's Globe Theatre has organised this event to mark this special year of Shakespeare. However, we did not and can only applaud the University for giving us all the opportunity to see this work. We are delighted to host *The Life and Death of King John* and hope that you will enjoy the work.)

Next Globe Theatre production

A Cup of Tea and a Biscuit,

by Andy Cook, director Brian Beresford

Performance dates: December 3rd -12th 2009

We will soon start rehearsing for this, our final production for the year, a new play written by one of our own members and featuring characters so universal that you will all recognise them (even if you might wish to cross the street to avoid them). It is very funny and just right for that pre-Christmas 'bit-of-a-do'. Please note these dates in your diaries and consider organising a group night out to support the Globe – and to have a great time while doing so.

Do you like going to the theatre?

This might seem a strange question to ask people who are (mostly) Globe members, However, we have started analysing our audience makeup and have come up with the rather surprising discovery that our productions are attended by only a few of you. For example, only 29 of you attended a performance of *The Country Wife* and just 25 came to a performance of *Me and My Friend*. These figures do not include the complimentary seats given to the production team so it is possible that more members did attend. Even so, it is very surprising to us that so few of you did come along to these productions.

We are delighted that you support us by paying a membership fee each year but would dearly love you to support us by attending our productions (and thought we were helping you to do so by giving you such a great ticketing deal).

Incidentally, while we are talking figures, you might be interested to read that our houses averaged 59% during *The Country Wife* season and just 25% during *Me and My Friend* (so members' attendance was clearly very important to this production). The low attendance at the latter was certainly not due to the play, production or review so what happened? If you have any suggestions do please contact us via the Globe website or the secretary (brirose@ihug.co.nz / 4780248)

Wardrobe team

Our current wardrobe manager, Rachael McCann, would like to set up a team of people who could be available to assist with costume requirements for our various productions. This would not require you to be available for all plays of course but it would certainly make Rachael's life much easier if she could get some help with finding, altering or creating the clothes that may be required. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER so do please offer to help if you are interested and able!

Rachael may be contacted at: draculass99@hotmail.com

'Other' productions at the Globe

October 5th to 10th No Ordinary Fairy

written and directed by Carol Krueger for Carol Krueger Children's Theatre.

Productions 2010

We are still waiting for your suggestions! Currently we have two new (New Zealand) plays scheduled for production and are looking for four more. The Committee has identified a number of possibilities but is hoping for your input; the theatre does, after all, belong to the Friends of the Globe, that is, to you.

Dunedin Fringe Festival 2010

The Globe will once again host a number of Fringe productions next year. Meanwhile the Fringe is calling for expressions of interest from groups wanting to be considered for inclusion in the Festival. Contact them at www.dunedinfringe.org.nz

50th Anniversary, 2011

What anniversary? The creation of Dunedin's Globe Theatre in May 1961. We have already asked members for suggestions and have talked in committee about what might be done to recognise the importance of this anniversary to the theatrical history not just of Dunedin but also of New Zealand.

The first years (until 1973) belonged to the Careys, whose vision and energy created the theatre.

"The artistic significance of Patric (Carey)'s productions and designs of an extraordinary range of the world's great drama not only made the Globe an outstanding and eccentric part of Dunedin's culture but also a significant force in a vital stage of the development of a mature New Zealand theatrical culture."

(David Carnegie, Victoria University 2005)

The last 4 decades belong to the Friends who have worked so hard to maintain the theatre's building, traditions and commitments.

We are developing a number of ideas about how we might celebrate this anniversary and look forward to your continued suggestions.