

COMING UP AT THE ROSE.....

Friday May 18th

Main House (P)

'The Psychic World of Paul Norton and Tracey Hall'

Following their 'sell out' appearance here at The Rose Theatre last year. We welcome back by popular demand, an evening of Clairvoyance and psychic messages with 'SKY TV Mediums, Paul Norton and Tracey Hall. These two mediums are quickly gaining the reputation of being two of Britain's finest! They will astound you with specific messages about your own life and pass on messages from 'the other side' which will literally be 'out of this world'.

4th—9th June

Nonentities Main House (A)

'HARVEY' by Mary Chase

Elwood P Dowd has a wonderful friend, Harvey, who shares the trials and tribulations of his life. His sister does not approve. Why? The fact that Harvey is a 6' 1" tall white rabbit that only Elwood can see may be a factor. One of the longest running comedies in Broadway and West End history and brought to life on film by James Stewart this play will delight the whole family.

Standard Ticket Prices

Curtain Up 7.30pm

Friday 15th and Saturday 16th June 2007

Hexis Theatre Company (P)

'THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD' by Jayson Bartlett

has been cancelled "due to Hexis Theatre Company being unable to complete the contract".

20th –21st June

Swan Playwrights (P)

'LAUGH A MINUTE'

A Sketch Show which aims to have you doing precisely thatlaughing continuously! Fancy some comedy? We've got a whole show stuffed with gags, with, slapstick, surprises and humorous happenings, plus a few bizarre situations. Covering a range of subjects – men and women, politics, holidays, even gardening! – Swan Playwrights aim to have you rolling in the aisles or at least tittering away in the aisles!

Standard Ticket Prices

Curtain Up 7.30pm

Thursday 5th- Friday 6th July

Kidderminster College of Performing Arts Student s'

'AFTER JULIET' by Sharman McDonald

End of Year Performance(A)

Every year it is Kidderminster College of Further Education's privilege to stage the graduating students final production at the Rose Theatre. This year sees them performing a play by the well-known Scottish playwright Sharman McDonald, who originally wrote it on the inspiration of her daughter, Kiera Knightley. The play takes up the story of what happens to the remaining characters after the death of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, exploring whether history must repeat itself... A tense truce holds between the Capulets and the Montagues after their deaths. Benvolio, Romeo's best friend, is in love with Rosaline, Juliet's cousin; but Rosaline is bent on revenge. A play that explores timeless issues which are as relevant today as they were then. Please note the play contains some bad language.

Standard Ticket Prices.

Curtain Up 7.30pm



THIS THEATRE NEEDS YOU!.....

Want to be a part of high quality local theatre? It takes a lot to put on a production and we constantly need new people to work back stage, Front of House, the bar, as well as in front of the lights! If you feel you could contribute, however small, please contact our Box Office for details. We are true Amateurs: that means we do it for the love of it! *Go on, have a go! I bet you'll have as much fun as we do!* Tel: 01562 743745



The Nonentities present

ART

By Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton



Monday 7th
– Saturday
12th May
2007

An Amateur Production



‘The Rose’ Theatre Celebrates a Blooming Marvellous 25 Year Anniversary

The resident company at ‘The Rose Theatre’ celebrate 25 years at the current site and look forward to continuing to offer ‘live’ entertainment to the inhabitants of Kidderminster and the surrounding areas.

It all started in 1937 with an enthusiastic group of local actors performing wherever they could hire a venue. Then after the World War II, the founder, Kenneth Rose and a dedicated trio were able to provide funding to purchase the Opera House at the foot of Comberton Hill. However, the traditional theatre with a capacity of 650 had to be demolished to make way for the growing town’s ring road system. Thanks to the inspired endeavours of Kenneth Rose, the Lands Tribunal agreed that the compulsory purchase order necessitated a full reimbursement of the value of the property, which in the 1970’s would have been £167,000. This was to build a new theatre on a site in Bromsgrove Street, which the town had donated, enabling ‘the show to go on’.

Sadly, the death of Kenneth Rose followed by rapid inflation threatened to cut short the performance.

However the redundant St Oswald's Church Hall at Broadwaters was rented for productions and as no other better site could be found, was bought and under the determined chairmanship of Frank Hodges, was transformed into a fully equipped theatre – ‘The Rose’, named after the founder chairman.

Now, 25 years later this flourishing theatre is a home to a resident theatrical company and a venue for other amateur and professional visiting companies, musicians and artists who have made a visit to ‘The Rose’ a regular date on their performing calendars.

Souvenir Brochure

Limited edition brochure celebrating the 25th
Anniversary of live theatre here at



Specially Commissioned brochure packed with history,
backstage secrets and anecdotes and
pictures.

If you love the theatre, you’ll love this!

Ask in the Foyer: £5 each

Production Notes:

Serge has bought a modern painting for a huge sum of money. Marc hates it and cannot believe that any friend of his could possibly like such a work. Yvan tries unsuccessfully to placate both sides

Art was first produced in 1994 at the Comedie des Champs Elysees in Paris. Sean Connery saw it there on his wife's advice, and liked it so much that he decided to back an English-language production. He and co-producer David Pugh commissioned Christopher Hampton to translate the script, and it is that version that has been a "rave" success, all round the English-speaking parts of the globe – including Canada, Australia and the United States. The London production won an Olivier award for Best Play and an Evening Standard award for Best Comedy – seemingly inevitably a "Tony" was duly awarded to the New York version.

In view of this world-wide professional success, and in the surely reasonable supposition that anyone interested in the play must surely have already seen the English-language "original", or one of the sell-out-successful touring versions, how does any amateur team approach the play?

In our case the answer is "with considerable trepidation"! True, the text affords the cast the relish of using scintillating dialogue and the luxury of virtually unfettered interpretation. However, we are told little of the background of the three men, how they came to be friends – or even if the current crisis in their friendship is merely one of many similar events, though perhaps prompted by a different cause. In our background work, we have therefore tried to understand what makes the men tick, and through this to discover what is the real basis of their friendship, and of their current dispute. We have inevitably had to try and understand the central dilemma of the conflict between the "shock of the new" and the tested appeal of the tried, trusted and traditionally familiar – a conflict perhaps as relevant in theatre as in the world of painting. Importantly, we have also had the purely technical challenge of presenting the host of "laugh lines" to 'hopefully' their best advantage.

The whole company hopes that our efforts meet with your approval. . . . ?

Hugh Meredith

The superstar of European theatre is now Paris-based **Yasmina Reza**, whose plays are packing theatres from Berlin to Buenos Aires. Her output is small--five plays and a couple of books--but Reza has won just about every major theatre award in Europe and the U.S.

The glamorous writer, now in her 40s, was propelled to stardom by *Art*, a short play about friends who fall out over a modern painting--actually, a blank canvas. It was still playing to sell-out houses in Paris seven years after it first opened in 1994, and has been produced in more than 30 countries. Audiences laugh at Reza's plays, but she would argue that they aren't comedies. "My plays are tragedy, funny tragedy. *Art* is heartbreaking," she says. Her works, written in French, often centre on the despair that seeps through her characters' trivial conversations.



PHOTO BY MARTINE BELLAÏCHEZ
L'OPERA STAGIA

Reza's books, both autobiographical, reflect a dark vision of life. Reza was born in Paris to a Hungarian mother and a Jewish Iranian-Russian. Reza's father inspired *Hammerklavier*, her first novel, published in 1997. *Desolation* was published two years later, both books earning her praise. She found time to write even though she was raising two young children and performing every night in the Paris production of her *Life x 3*.

Reza often worries that her plays are not taken seriously. It may not matter: Audiences keep coming back.

Some reviews of Professional Productions of *Art*

"A remarkably wise, witty and intelligent comedy has touched a universal nerve" The Times

"Chic, short and wickedly, perceptively funny, it's the perfect West End play" The Evening Standard

"This is not some irrelevant fringe production; it is a major intervention in the cultural debate of the Country by people who are keen to keep the reactionary tides running. It is probably the most sustained attack on modernism yet seen on the British stage, and it represents a stern challenge to the brilliant success story of British contemporary art" The Guardian

"(It) not only brings to the stage a topical debate, it makes it invigorating, touching and finally disturbing.

This dark comedy, translated from the French . . . explores its themes through a rift between friends"

Financial Times

"It's an actor's dream, a non-stop cross-fire of crackling language, serious issues of life and art expressed in outbursts that sound like Don Rickles with a degree from the Sorbonne. Brilliantly translated by Christopher Hampton . . . *Art* takes that yawny old bore, the play of ideas, and jolts it into life" Newsweek

ART

by Yasmina Reza

translated by

Christopher

Hampton

Cast:

Marc BOB GRAHAM

Serge COLIN YOUNG

Yvan TOM REES

The play is set in Paris, in the living rooms of several flats, variously Marc's, Serge's and Yvan's, in the final decade of the last Century.

In respect to the author's intentions, the play will be performed as written, without an interval.

Final curtain will be at approximately 9,05pm.

The Coffee Bar and Licensed Bar will both be open after the performance.

The Production Team:

Stage Manager

KEITH HIGGINS

Set concept

NICOLA BLAKEMORE

Lighting Design and Operation

DENISE CHURCHETT

TED CHURCHETT

Sound

CRAIG RAYNER

Wardrobe

VICKY WAKEMAN and
CAROLINE CLARK

Properties

MAUREEN LOWMAN

Assistant Stage Manager

DENNIS BEASLEY

Prompt

DO EVANS

Set built by the stage management team and members of the Society

The play Directed by HUGH MEREDITH

Production acknowledgements:

Artwork painted by NICOLA BLAKEMORE

Serge's Furniture kindly loaned by The Range, Crossley Retail Park, Kidderminster (01562 754055)