

Repertoire

NOVEMBER 2012

Newsletter of Adelaide's oldest theatre group



Noël Coward's Forgotten Play!

Star Quality

adapted by Christopher Luscombe

15 - 24 November

Noël Coward takes us behind the scenes of a new West End production called *Dark Heritage*, the veritable play within a play!

It's an authentic backstage world of talent and treachery with a gallery of unforgettable characters: the temperamental and manipulative leading lady, the ruthless director, a jaded old trouper and, caught in the middle, an innocent young playwright.

Star Quality has been called Coward's "wickedly funny final play" which shines the spotlight on the backstage world of theatrics.

"We're putting on a play, not fighting a bloody war. Why can't people in the theatre behave like normal human beings?"

This quote from the play is one which everyone involved in theatre will be familiar with!

Originally written by Coward in 1951 as a short story about the theatre business, Coward later adapted *Star Quality* for the stage (1967). However, despite a few readings, the play was never produced during Coward's lifetime.

The talented actor, Christopher Luscombe played the role of Noël Coward on stage and fell under the spell of the great Coward. Luscombe became a scholar of Noël Coward and having spent much time researching his life and works, Luscombe was able to put his finger on the problem with Coward's *Star Quality* - it was essentially a short story, more suited to a movie than a static stage. Too many scenes and locations, and far too many characters!



photography by Norm Caddick

So Luscombe set about to study the essential story of Coward's *Star Quality* and he eventually adapted it for the modern stage. Luscombe has said that Coward initially wrote his short story "free of censorship" so that he had been "able to conjure up a rather more authentic account of the language and leanings of the theatrical profession"!

Who better to write a play about actors, directors and playwrights, than one of the most prodigious talents theatre has ever seen!

And it seems that the leading lady of *Star Quality* had a very famous muse... Our leading lady, Lorraine is said to have been modelled after Coward's great friend and colleague Gertie Lawrence!

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You're invited to our Season Launch for 2013

Our dedicated team have been working behind the scenes this year to assemble a fantastic line-up for 2013. The Rep will again produce some outstanding drama and comedy and will entertain you with a melodrama!

The details will all be revealed at our season launch on Sunday 2nd of December - and you're invited!

The Season Launch is our way of thanking everyone who has been a part of putting together the brilliant shows of 2012 and to thank our supporters, and to announce the plays we will be producing next year.

If you are an actor, volunteer, or designer it is a great way to find out what the plays are about, who the directors will be and generally what will be involved if you're looking to take part.

So come and join us to celebrate the end of a fantastic year, and toast to the success of Season 2013!

When: 3.00 - 5.00pm
Sunday, 2 December 2012

Where: The Thomas Nave Room (upstairs)
The Arts Theatre

Afternoon tea and drinks will be provided.

Please RSVP for catering purposes before 28 November.

Phone 8212 5777 and leave a message containing your name and the number of people who will be attending.



Rehearsal photos from Star Quality





Adelaide's own Coward-scholar, Barry Hill is directing *Star Quality* for the Rep. Barry has even played Noël Coward, opposite Pam O'Grady in "Noël & Gertie"! Barry is a prodigious talent who is never far from a theatre and we're glad to have him back at the Rep!

Barry has assembled a terrific team of troupers to bring to life this great story. Our leading lady, Lorraine Barry is played by the talented Shelley Hampton, who has tried to tame the diva antics backstage. Alan Fitzpatrick plays the stage director, Ray Malcolm and Joshua Coldwell has transformed to become the playwright of the piece.

Booking Information

Adults \$20, Concession \$15, Students \$10
Special rates for group bookings apply.

We now have online booking available for you to use.
Simply visit www.trybooking.com/35129 to book tickets for *Star Quality* (small booking fee applies).

Or,
phone 8212 5777 between 10am and 2pm
Monday to Friday

Or,
email your booking request to:
adelaiderep@e-access.com.au.

Our own theatrical stalwart, Lorie Smart makes an appearance, as does the infamous Brittany (one of the only trained stage-dogs we know of!). They are brilliantly supported by Marcin Holownia, Allison Scharber, Peter Bleby, and Robert Bell.

This is a brilliant comedy about the theatre world and all its glamour. *Star Quality* is rarely performed and this is the SA Premiere of the Luscombe adaptation.

Don't miss your chance to see this comic masterpiece!

Performances

Thursday 15 November at 8pm
Friday 16 November at 8pm
Saturday 17 November at 8pm
Wednesday 21 November at 8pm
Thursday 22 November at 8pm
Friday 23 November at 8pm
Saturday 24 November at 2pm

Matinee performance

Saturday 24 November at 8pm

Star Quality will run for approximately 2 hours and will have a 20 minute interval.

Bookings are now open!



Season's Greetings



The Board of the
Adelaide Repertory Theatre
would like to wish everyone
a happy and safe
Christmas and New Year.

We hope to see you back
at the Arts Theatre again in 2013!

Rising Costs

Owing to the rising costs of producing theatre, the Rep is reluctantly raising the price of tickets.

The Rep has maintained ticket prices for many years now however with rising fees and charges we must now make small adjustments.

The increase will not take effect until 2013, and every effort has been made to minimise the amount that we pass on to you, our loyal supporters.

From next year our prices will be:

Adults	\$22
Concession	\$17
Students	\$15
Subscription	\$70 (includes tickets to all 4 shows + bonus ticket to bring a friend for free)

Special Carparking Rates

Don't forget that patrons to the ARTS Theatre are entitled to the special rate of \$8 parking at the Moore St Carpark.

Whilst many of the car parking spaces are reserved by day, this only applies until 6pm. This means theatre-goers can park there any time after 6pm and disregard the "Reserved" signage. The car park operates on a pay and display arrangement.

Witches, fairies, spirits and ghosts, no, not costumes from recent Halloween celebrations, but the inhabitants of Shakespeare's Globe in 2013!



The famous venue will host *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* next year - let's hope no harm befalls those who utter the name of The Scottish Play!

The Globe's touring offering, which is currently nominated

for a Theatre Award UK also returns next year, when *Henry VI Pt 1, 2 and 3* will tour the UK and *King Lear* and *The Taming Of The Shrew* will travel further afield, each dropping into London on November 11.

Lily James, one of the stars of the television series *Downton Abbey* (she plays Lady Rose), will join Olivier Award-winner Matthew Kelly in Anya Reiss' new adaptation of Chekhov's *The Seagull* in the West End.

The boys of *Glengarry Glen Ross* are back, "badder than ever"! Al Pacino stars in the Broadway Revival of the classic David Mamet play.

The Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning drama officially opens on November 11.

Stephen Tompkinson will make his West End musical debut as King Arthur in Monty Python musical *Spamalot*, which transfers to the Playhouse Theatre from 20 November 2012.

The 2013 Olivier Awards, the highlight of the UK theatre awards calendar, will be held on 28 April. The slightly later date for next year's ceremony enables shows opening up to 5 March to be eligible for consideration.

Nominees will be revealed on 26 March, so watch this space!

Don't forget to let us know if you see anything interesting when you're overseas next!

News from Abroad

In our last newsletter, we mentioned long-standing board member, Stephen Dean and his experiences working at the Edinburgh Fringe on the show *Double Bill: Shakespeare's Queens & The Madness of King Lear*.

No sooner had Stephen returned to Adelaide, but the company he was working for announced a season in the West End of London.

So Stephen has packed his bags once again and jetted off to do the lighting design at our namesake theatre in London.

Information about the shows Stephen is involved with, as well as our namesake can be found at www.artstheatrewestend.co.uk/

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

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