

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

Autumn 2009 –
Spring 2010 Season

An Affiliate of the Conservatoire for Dance & Drama

Contact & Venues

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

1-2 Downside Road, Bristol BS8 2XF

Tickets for *Dick Whittington*,
The Tempest, *The Nativity* and
The Comedy of Errors through the
Theatre School Box Office:

0117 973 3955

www.oldvic.ac.uk

Bristol Old Vic

King Street, Bristol BS1 4ED

Tickets for *The Good Companions*
and *The Country Wife* through the
Bristol Old Vic Box Office:

0117 987 7877

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Circomedia

Portland Square, Bristol BS2 8SJ

Tickets for *The Comedy of Errors*
through the Theatre School Box Office:

0117 973 3955

www.oldvic.ac.uk

Redgrave Theatre

Percival Road, Bristol BS8 3LE

Tickets for *Dick Whittington*,
The Nativity and *The Tempest*
through the Theatre School Box Office:

0117 973 3955

www.oldvic.ac.uk

In association with An Affiliate of



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Design Paul Watson

Welcome

A warm welcome to our Autumn 2009 – Spring 2010 season.

We're offering you an even wider range of entertainment this season and introducing you to the new company of 2009/2010.

Our well-established musical term opens at the Bristol Old Vic Studio with a new dramatisation of JB Priestley's *The Good Companions*. This ever-popular novel, written in 1929, established Priestley as a national figure and is the delightful tale of Jess Oakroyd's adventures 'on t'road' and his encounters with a travelling concert party, the *Dinky Doos*. Malcolm McKee has written the musical score and dramatisation especially for the School and it is directed by Sue Wilson.

The run-up to Christmas brings us our annual tour to primary schools of a new version of *The Nativity – Bristol Fashion* directed by Toby Hulse. This lively production retells the story in a modern setting – its first sold-out tour last year performed in over 35 schools; you can catch it at the Redgrave on Saturday 12 December.

Toby continues his work with us with an adaptation for junior schools of Shakespeare's magical last play, *The Tempest*. Taking place on Prospero's enchanted island, this rich mix of comedy, tragedy and love will provide an ideal introduction to this great play. On tour to schools after Christmas it can be seen at the Redgrave on 23rd and 30th January.

Bristol's traditional family Pantomime returns to the Redgrave with *Dick Whittington*. The ever-green story of a poor boy's rise to be Lord Mayor of London helped by Tommy, his swash-buckling cat.

Clive Hayward and John Telfer spoil us again with an hilarious knock-about show guaranteed to set you up for the festive season. *Oh yes it will!*

The New Year moves us into our classical season bringing the great comedies of English theatre in up-to-date accessible productions.

We return to the Bristol Old Vic Theatre Royal with Wycherley's *The Country Wife*, directed by Jenny Stephens. Written in 1675, after initial success, this Restoration comedy was considered too outrageous to be performed for many years, telling as it does the arrival in London of an inexperienced young "country wife", and her discovery of the joys of town life – most especially the fascinating rakes and dandies of London, only too ready to make her acquaintance. Richly textured with double-entendres and bawdy comedy, it now stands as one of the sharpest satires of that period.

The season finishes with a return to Circomedia in Portland Square with Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* directed by John Hartoch. One of Shakespeare's earliest and shortest plays, it tells the story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth. Arriving in Ephesus, Antipholus and Dromio are taken for their long-lost twin brothers – all is not as it seems and a fast playing plot of mistaken identities ensues...

We do hope you enjoy our new season of plays presented by the latest group of talented students training at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Paul Rummer *Principal*
Sue Wilson *Artistic Director*

Contents

The Good Companions	Pages 2–3
Dick Whittington	Pages 4–5
The Nativity	Pages 6–7
The Tempest	Pages 8–9
The Country Wife	Pages 10–11
The Comedy of Errors	Pages 12–13
ACTiv8	Pages 14–15
Calendar	Pages 16–17

Booking Details

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School

1-2 Downside Road, Bristol BS8 2XF

Tickets for *Dick Whittington*, *The Tempest*, *The Nativity* and *The Comedy of Errors* through the Theatre School Box Office: **0117 973 3955**
www.oldvic.ac.uk

Bristol Old Vic

King Street, Bristol BS1 4ED

Tickets for *The Good Companions* and *The Country Wife* through the Bristol Old Vic Box Office: **0117 987 7877**
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Circomedia

Portland Square, Bristol BS2 8SJ

Tickets for *The Comedy of Errors* through the Theatre School Box Office: **0117 973 3955**
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Redgrave Theatre

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www.oldvic.ac.uk

Bristol Old Vic Studio
Box Office: 0117 987 7877

The Good Companions

By J. B. Priestley

A musical dramatisation by Malcolm McKee

Directed by Sue Wilson

Thu 5 – Sat 21 November 2009

What larks! What scrapes!
What adventures!

Based on the stage play and novel by J. B. Priestley, a group of people from widely diverse backgrounds find themselves 'on the road' with the 'Dinky Doos' – a down-at-heel concert party.

Joining forces, they become *The Good Companions* and their musical adventures begin...

Set in the great slump between the wars, there are echoes of recession that resonate today. But *The Good Companions* is a romantic comedy, full of love, laughter and larger-than-life characters who are thrown together under exceptional and unusual circumstances.

With evocative music and sparkling lyrics by Malcolm McKee, whose musical credits for the School include *Crackers and Spice* (Bristol Old Vic Studio, 2007) and *Oh! What A Lovely War* (Tobacco Factory, 2008) and under the direction of Sue Wilson, (most recently *Machinal* at the Tobacco Factory this summer) *The Good Companions* will bring some welcome cheer this autumn, opening with a bang on November 5th.

'You will go a long way to find a production performed with so much belief and complete commitment'

Bristol Evening Post on
Oh! What A Lovely War

'Directed with huge style by Sue Wilson, this play had some of the best production values I've experienced in the Southville theatre'

Crackerjack on *Machinal*

bristololdvic

Evenings 7.30pm, Thu & Sat mats 2.30pm (no mat Thu 5)

£13 full £9 concessions, First night tickets ALL £9

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

THE GOOD COMPANIONS



Redgrave Theatre

Box Office: 0117 973 3955

Dick Whittington

Written and directed by Clive Hayward

Music written and composed by John Telfer

Fri 4 – Sun 20 December 2009

'Rats in parliament, rats in banks and rats all over the city.'

London in 2009? You'd be forgiven for thinking so! But this is London in the 1300's...

King Rat is not happy. His plans for world domination are threatened by the irritating prophecies of Nostradormouse. Are Dick Whittington and a swashbuckling cat really the ones to stop him? Can a poor lad from the West Country defeat his horrible hordes to become Lord Mayor of London? King Rat will do everything in his ratty power to prevent it.

Following on from last year's runaway success of *Aladdin*, the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School is proud to present another much-loved traditional pantomime.

Join us at the Redgrave Theatre as we entertain the whole family with thrills and spills, foot tapping songs and laughs galore!

Once again written and directed by Clive Hayward, with original songs composed by John Telfer, this promises to be a Christmas treat you cannot do without. Due to public demand we have put this year's show on sale early. Who will be the next Lord Mayor – Dick Whittington or the King of Rats? Come and find out!

Christmas isn't Christmas without a trip to the Redgrave!

£15 full / £10 conc / £7 schools

First night tickets ALL £10

Sat & Sun tickets ALL £15

www.oldvic.ac.uk



Aladdin, Christmas 2008



Jack and the Beanstalk, Christmas 2007

Photography: Graham Burke



Redgrave Theatre
Box Office: 0117 973 3955

The Nativity — Bristol Fashion

Adapted by Toby Hulse and Christopher Scott,
from the original version by Phil Willmott
Directed by Toby Hulse
Sat 12 December 2009, 10am & 11.30am

Christmas – it's all about the gifts.

The gift of a child. The gift of hope. The gift of the future.
And, the greatest gift of all – the gift of a story.

The timeless tale of the birth of Jesus is told in a modern setting,
simply and beautifully, with music, wonder, laughter and magic;
the traditional words of the Mystery plays given new life in
the mouths of a gang of Bristol's finest.

Suitable for anyone over five.

All Tickets: £6
www.oldvic.ac.uk

Sponsored by

John Lewis
Cribbs Causeway



The Nativity - Bristol Fashion. 2008

Photography: Graham Burke

Redgrave Theatre

Box Office: 0117 973 3955

The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

Adapted and directed by Toby Hulse

Sat 23 & Sat 30 January 2010, 10.30am

For twelve years Prospero and his daughter Miranda have been marooned on a mysterious island inhabited by fantastical creatures of the four elements. Now a ship carrying his enemies has come into sight, offering the chance to set things right and escape for home.

Prospero reaches for his magic staff and conjures up a storm beyond our wildest imaginations...

Shakespeare's masterpiece of magic and redemption is performed in a version specially adapted for the understanding of younger audiences, using bold storytelling, puppetry and music whilst retaining all the lyrical beauty of the original verse.

Suitable for anyone over five.

All Tickets: £6

www.oldvic.ac.uk

Sponsored by

John Lewis
Cribbs Causeway



Linocut copyright Clare Melinsky



The Man of Mode, Circomedia 2008

Bristol Old Vic Theatre Royal
Box Office: 0117 987 7877

The Country Wife

By William Wycherley
Directed by Jenny Stephens
Thu 11 – Sat 20 February 2010

Banned from the stage for almost 200 years, *The Country Wife* is one of the rudest and funniest comedies of the Restoration period.


Harry Horner, a notorious and lascivious womaniser, hatches an ingenious plot to seduce the women of London society en-masse. With the help of his friend, Quack, he spreads rumours of his own impotency, so gaining the sympathy of all the men in town and, more importantly, unfettered access to their wives.

Meanwhile, Margery Pinchwife, a young country bride, arrives with her possessive husband, who fears being cuckolded. But she is determined to enjoy all the pleasures of the town, especially that of being loved by Mr Horner....

This tale of high-jinx and hypocrisy, of money and marriage, of sex and scandal is as pertinent today as it has always been.

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Evenings 7.30pm
Thu & Sat mats 2.30pm (no mat Thu 11)
£13 full £9 concessions, First night tickets ALL £9
www.bristololdvic.org.uk



Tartuffe, Circomedia 2007

'This was an excellent choice for this talented group of young actors from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.'
Bristol Evening Post on *The Man of Mode*

'An excellent lesson in bringing period drama to (riotous) life'
Venue on *Tartuffe*

Photography: Graham Burke

Circomedia, Portland Square BS2 8SJ
Box Office: 0117 973 3535

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

By William Shakespeare
Directed by John Hartoch
Thur 4 – Sat 13 March 2010

When two sets of identical twins with identical names are shipwrecked as infants, their father can save only one of each set. Years later, one Antipholus and one Dromio arrive in Ephesus in search of their long-lost brothers only to find that everyone there seems a little odd... the city having a reputation for sorcery...

Fast-paced, hilarious and irreverent, *The Comedy of Errors* shows the young William Shakespeare exploring themes that recur again and again in his later work: mistaken identity, coincidence and the redeeming power of love.

Directed by John Hartoch, (*Romeo and Juliet*, Bristol Old Vic Theatre Royal 2009 and *Twelfth Night*, Redgrave Theatre 2008) and featuring the latest crop of talent from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, the show promises to be as exhilarating as the space of Circomedia itself.

Circomedia, Portland Square BS2 8SJ
Thu 4 – Sat 13 March 2010
Eves 7.30pm Thu and Sat mats 2.30pm (no mat Thu 4)
£13 full £9 concessions, First night tickets ALL £9
www.oldvic.ac.uk

Romeo and Juliet,
Bristol Old Vic
Theatre Royal 2009



'Despite the familiarity of the story, you can't fail to be captivated by this absorbing production'
Metro on
Romeo and Juliet

'...gives a clear insight into one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies'
Bristol Evening Post
on *Twelfth Night*



Twelfth Night, Redgrave Theatre 2008

Photography: Graham Burke

ACTiv8

Theatre Skills Training for 11 – 20 year olds



Youth Group 11 yrs – 18yrs

ACTiv8 students are offered the opportunity to develop the skills, understanding and knowledge to make exciting, innovative, and truthful theatre, in a creative, supportive and playful environment.

The ACTiv8 Youth Group meets every Sunday between 2.00pm and 5.00pm at the School during term time.

Theatre Skills Weeks 2010

During the Easter and summer holidays, the Theatre Skills Weeks provide first hand experience of participating in the performing arts. The course concentrates on introducing participants to a wide variety of techniques and skills which are then drawn together during the weekly Open Afternoon sessions. The Theatre Skills weeks do not lead to a production but are designed to allow students to explore all the many facets of acting, voice and movement.

Easter

Group 1 11yrs – 15yrs Mon 26th – Fri 30th July

Group 2 16yrs+ Mon 26th – Fri 30th July

Summer

Week 1 7yrs – 11yrs Mon 26th – Fri 30th July

Week 2 11yrs – 15yrs Mon 2nd – Fri 6th August

Week 3 16yrs+ Mon 9th – Fri 13th August

For further details and to apply, please go to www.oldvic.ac.uk or telephone Felicity Hazell on: 0117 973 3535 ext 253 or email felicity.hazell@oldvic.ac.uk

Photography: Graham Burke

Rathbones is delighted to support Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

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For more information please contact:

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Calendar

The Good Companions

Bristol Old Vic Studio:
0117 987 7877
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

November

Thu 5	7.30pm	ALL TICKETS £9
Fri 6	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 7	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Mon 9	7.30pm	£13/£9
Tue 10	7.30pm	£13/£9
Wed 11	7.30pm	£13/£9
Thu 12	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Fri 13	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 14	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Mon 16	7.30pm	£13/£9
Tue 17	7.30pm	£13/£9
Wed 18	7.30pm	£13/£9
Thu 19	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Fri 20	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 21	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9

Dick Whittington

Redgrave Theatre:
0117 973 3955
www.oldvic.ac.uk

December

Fri 4	7pm	ALL TICKETS £10
Sat 5	2pm & 7pm	ALL TICKETS £15
Tue 8	10am & 2pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Wed 9	10am & 2pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Thu 10	10am & 2pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Fri 11	2pm & 7pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Sat 12	2pm & 7pm	ALL TICKETS £15
Sun 13	2pm	ALL TICKETS £15
Tue 15	7pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Wed 16	2pm & 7pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Thu 17	2pm & 7pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Fri 18	2pm & 7pm	£15/£10 con/£7 schools
Sat 19	2pm & 7pm	ALL TICKETS £15
Sun 20	2pm	ALL TICKETS £15

The Nativity – Bristol Fashion

Redgrave Theatre:
0117 973 3955
www.oldvic.ac.uk

December

Sat 12	10am & 11.30am	ALL TICKETS £6
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The Tempest

Redgrave Theatre:
0117 973 3955
www.oldvic.ac.uk

January

Sat 23	10.30am	ALL TICKETS £6
Sat 30	10.30am	ALL TICKETS £6

The Country Wife

Bristol Old Vic Theatre
Royal: 0117 987 7877
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

February

Thu 11	7.30pm	ALL TICKETS £9
Fri 12	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 13	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Mon 15	7.30pm	£13/£9
Tue 16	7.30pm	£13/£9
Wed 17	7.30pm	£13/£9
Thu 18	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Fri 19	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 20	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9

The Comedy of Errors

Circomedia:
0117 973 3955
www.oldvic.ac.uk

March

Thu 4	7.30pm	ALL TICKETS £9
Fri 5	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 6	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Mon 8	7.30pm	£13/£9
Tue 9	7.30pm	£13/£9
Wed 10	7.30pm	£13/£9
Thu 11	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9
Fri 12	7.30pm	£13/£9
Sat 13	2.30pm & 7.30pm	£13/£9