

Auditions

Wendy Marsh is aiming to hold auditions for the Christmas Variety Show in the next few weeks. Please visit our new website, www.edwardalderton.org, and click on 'Auditions' for up-to-date information on this.

Skatepark

It has come to our attention that a proposed skateboard and BMX park is to be constructed immediately behind the theatre. Full details of the plan can be found on the news page of our website.



Season Booking Form

I would like to book ___ seats for each show of the 2007/8 season:

Production

- There Goes The Bride (13-20 October 2007) _____
- Christmas Variety Show (1-8 December 2007) _____
- Wait Until Dark (2-9 February 2008) _____
- Much Ado About Nothing (2-12 April 2008) _____
- Justifying War (24-31 May 2008) _____
- Abigail's Party (12-19 July 2008) _____

Tickets cost £6.50. If you book and pay for the complete season by 5 October 2007 you are eligible for a discount of £4 for the season: this means that all six shows will cost £35 per person.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to **Edward Alderton Theatre**. (If you wish to have tickets forwarded to you, please enclose a SAE.)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Please send completed form to **Edward Alderton Theatre, c/o 24 Bristow Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4QA**. Any queries should be referred to the Box Office on **020 8301 5584** (6-8pm, Mon to Fri).

Edward Alderton Theatre

5 Brampton Road | Bexleyheath | Kent | DA7 4EZ



Box Office 020 8301 5584
www.edwardalderton.org

Newsletter: October 2007

Editorial

Hello and welcome to our new season of plays at the Edward Alderton Theatre.

As some of you may know, Roz Betts stepped down from her tenure as Artistic Director at the beginning of the year, and I was chosen to take over this demanding role. Several plays had already been picked, and to these I have added what I hope will be an entertaining and eclectic mix of drama and comedy for this, our 32nd season.

Our first offering is **There Goes The Bride**, a dazzling farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. See the director's comments below for more details on this hilarious show.

In December, we are holding another of our extremely popular variety shows, this time with a distinctly Yuletide theme. Devised and directed by Wendy Marsh, who was also responsible for the hugely popular **Stepping Out**, this will have plenty of songs, jokes and sketches to liven up those dull winter evenings. Book early!

Next February we welcome Paul Lay back to the director's chair for the suspenseful thriller **Wait Until Dark** by Frederick Knott. An edge-of-the-seat story concerning smuggled drugs, a missing doll and a blind woman being stalked by a killer, this is guaranteed to be an intense evening's entertainment. For those with long memories, the play was first performed by the EAT back in May 1980.

Then in April, we present that all-time favourite, **Much Ado About Nothing** by William Shakespeare, directed by Richard Banks. This will be our first Shakespeare presentation since **Twelfth Night**, way back in 1985. **Much Ado** is currently a secondary school set text and we will be extending the normal seven days' run to ten to allow for school parties to take priority on the first three nights.

Following that is an unusual one for us - **Justifying War: Scenes from the Hutton Enquiry**, transcribed by *Guardian* journalist Richard Norton-Taylor and directed by Matthew Arnold. Using exact transcripts of Lord Hutton's enquiry into the alleged suicide of Dr David Kelly in 2003, who criticised Tony Blair's government of 'sexing up' the dossier about Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction, the play sees key witnesses - some of them well-known public figures such as Alistair Campbell and Geoff Hoon - lift the lid on the inner workings of parliament. It is not a pretty picture. Whatever your political leanings, we are sure that you will find this an eye-opening insight into what really goes on behind closed doors at Westminster.

Finally, in July 2008, we present that classic domestic comedy, **Abigail's Party** by Mike Leigh, directed by myself. This beautifully observed play follows the course of a dinner party hosted by middle-class suburbanites Beverly and Laurence, which gets steadily more stressful as the evening progresses. Expect exquisite performances from a mixture of regular EAT performers and talented newcomers for what promises to be a memorable end to my first season as Artistic Director. (Fact fans may like to note that this was last performed at the EAT back in October 1985, and so is long due for a revival.)

The theatre has also gone through a dramatic refurbishment programme during the summer months - we now have brand new toilet facilities (replacing the 1976 antiques) as well as a bright, stylish colour scheme in the foyer area, which smartens the place up no end.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy all the presentations we have for you this season, and that you continue to support us in our efforts to bring you all that is best in local theatre - at a very affordable price!

All best wishes,

Mark Campbell
Artistic Director, Edward Alderton Theatre

There Goes the Bride

by Ray Cooney and John Chapman

13-20 October 2007

Make sure you've got a handkerchief (or a large kitchen roll) when you come to see **There Goes the Bride** - for your tears of laughter!

The action of the play takes place in a house in Kensington on the morning of a wedding day. All is going well until the father of the bride gets a bump on the head, and a 1920s flapper girl joins the family. Problem is only the bride's father (and the audience, of course) can see or hear her!

The father-in-law arrives from Australia to be greeted by his son's future in-laws who, in trying to convince him that insanity does not run in the family, confirms his worst fears, with hilarious results.

The cast include many Alderton favourites - Linda Gay, Maureen Hardwen, Mike Martin, Ian Saxton and Horry Stapleton, with three newcomers to the Alderton, Rachel de Silva and Eileen Warner (both previously seen at Erith Playhouse) and Richard Gooderson, who has joined us after a time away from the theatre.

This is a brilliant farce written by two of the theatre's best-known comedy writers, Ray Cooney and John Chapman. If you enjoy a light-hearted, clever and brilliantly acted production you cannot afford to miss this one.

Viv Stapleton
Director

News

Newsletter by email

All newsletters will now automatically be emailed to people where possible in order to reduce postal costs. If you would prefer to still receive yours in paper form, please let us know.