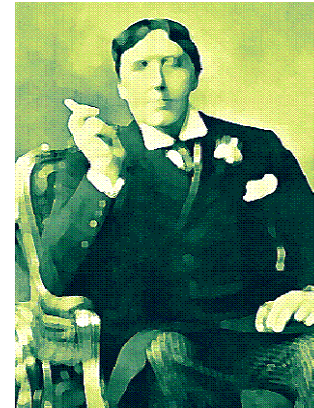


NETWORK THEATRE COMPANY
presents



**An Ideal
Husband**
by Oscar Wilde



Network Theatre – Waterloo, London

25 – 28 February 2009

Message from the Chairman –

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Network Theatre Company's production of 'An Ideal Husband' by Oscar Wilde. This is the first show to be directed by Zoe Hart for Network, and we wish her every success. The cast biographies featured later in this programme remind us of the amazing talent of everyone involved in the production. Among them are several new names to Network, and we welcome them and hope they will become regulars.

This is the first production of the year to mark Network's 70th anniversary - yes, we've been going since 1939. And the year promises to be a busy one. One of our celebrations will be held on Friday, 26th June, at a River Dinner in London; if you are interested in joining us for a meal at a venue to be decided, please give your contact details to any NTC committee member. Later in the year there will be another chance to celebrate in the theatre itself, details to follow on our website and in our regular newsletter.

So back to tonight. Thank you all for continuing to support the Network Theatre Company. Do enjoy the evening, and don't forget our fully licensed Green Room bar which will be open before curtain up, during the interval, and after the show.

Kay Murray
Chairman
Network Theatre Company
February 2009

Interested in joining us?

Why not join Network Theatre Company and realise your ambition! Come to a reading or audition for a part in one or more of our future productions. Or if you'd rather keep out of the limelight, we have many roles behind the scenes – join in backstage, front of house, or with the many other tasks necessary to keep the Network Theatre Company and our little gem of a theatre running.

Pick up a leaflet and an application form in the Green Rom, see our website at www.networktheatre.org, or just speak to one of our members tonight.

Coming up in 2009

1 -4 April - *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

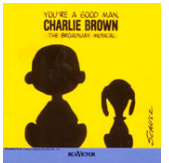
Music & Lyrics by Clark Gesner.

Book by John Gordon.

Based on the comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles Schulz

Directed by **Michael Mayne**

The time of the action is an "average day in the life of Charlie Brown", a day made up of little moments picked from all the days of Charlie Brown, from Valentine's Day to the baseball season, from wild optimism to utter despair, all mixed up with the lives of his friends and strung together on the string of a single day, from bright, uncertain morning to hopeful, starlit evening.



All the well-known figures are present: Charlie, of course, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, and even the dog, Snoopy. After an opening paean to Charlie, Lucy dreams of being a queen and bossing the world. Linus sings of his need for a security blanket, Snoopy plans to capture the Red Baron while a baseball game degenerates into a poll gauging Lucy's popularity. In the end the youngsters and the dog each give his or her idea of what true happiness is with Charlie Brown concluding "happiness is anything and anyone that's loved by you."

8 – 11 July - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

by William Shakespeare

Directed by **Andy Bradshaw**

Fantasy and reality interweave in spectacular fashion in Shakespeare's magical comedy about love and its many stages. King and Queen of the fairies, Oberon and Titania have fallen out with each other and the world is in turmoil as a result. Lysander loves Hermia, but so does Demetrius, but Helena loves Demetrius who doesn't love Helena, oh how will it all end? The course of true love never did run smooth...Will it all come together by the time Theseus and Hippolyta wed? Will Puck learn how to administer love potions correctly and to the right people? Will Bottom make an ass of himself? All of these questions will be answered in this fast moving, funny, colourful and high-energy production. If it were possible to book tickets now, we would urge you to do so. You won't want to miss it!



Director's Notes

Sean McMullan is widely assumed to reside in one of the local hostels, such is the regularity of his appearances at the Network: most recently he directed a one-act play in *Opposites Attract*, adding to his acting and singing credits. He also works with other groups, including playing the title role in *Scapino* for St Mary's Drama Group, and enjoys missing rehearsals to play the trumpet in the Morley Big Band. He is available for bookings even as you read.

Nicci Marsh can remember the smell of stage dust and hot lights since she was very young and has grown up through (and in spite of) her love of theatre. She completed her degree majoring in Physical Theatre and Set and Costume Design a few years ago and has dipped into a range of professional and amateur escapades including advertisements, Flash Performances, Dance Umbrellas and site-specific works. *An Ideal Husband* is Nicci's London stage debut as well as her first performance with Network Theatre

Rosie de Vekey - *An Ideal Husband* is Rosie's 5th production with Network Theatre, and she is delighted to be playing the 'deeply misunderstood' Mrs Cheveley! She has previously performed in *Facades*, *The Kitchen*, *Suburban Spaceman*, and most recently *Opposites Attract*, in which she also directed. Rosie is currently finishing the writing of her own play, producing a film, and is now the recorded voice of a well-known Hotel chain.

Terry Wynne has acted with a number of local South London groups over the last 14 years. This is his second appearance at the Network Theatre, building on acting training received at the Method Studio last summer.

Eleni Young - Originally from Kent, Eleni moved to London three years ago. She started working in musical theatre but has now started to concentrate working in acting. She has appeared in a range of work both on stage and on screen including roles at Sadler's Wells Theatre, the BBC, and Channel Four. *An Ideal Husband* is Eleni's second performance with Network Theatre after having performed as Juliet in *Opposites Attract* and cannot wait to do more shows!

When I was first offered the chance to direct at the Network I jumped at the opportunity to fulfill one of my ambitions and direct *An Ideal Husband*, a classic by one of my favourite authors, Oscar Wilde.

Had I considered my choice of play more carefully at the time I might have hesitated, as this play teaches us that our ambitions can sometimes lead us astray.... As Sir Robert Chiltern says (in one of the lines I haven't cut!) "I used to think ambition the great thing. It is not. Love is the great thing in the world. There is nothing but love..."

And so, it is with love that together we have sewn our costumes, painted our set, and breathed life into our characters... we hope you love it too!

The Arch 200 Club

70 years ago, Southern Railways founded a theatre group at Waterloo. The spirit of amateur theatre has survived through changes of name and nationalisation and is now struggling with the costs that came with privatisation. Please help us to continue to entertain you by becoming a member of the Arch 200 Club.

The Club exists to help the continued existence of the Network Theatre as a building in the face of ever increasing overheads. Membership subscriptions fund projects that are for the general good of the theatre, not productions themselves. Membership costs a minimum of £5 a month. Every month three membership numbers are drawn and half that month's subscriptions paid out in prizes.

There is so much more that needs to be done. The staging needs replacing and some parts of the theatre that the audience do not see are in desperate need of refurbishment. If there is a large enough membership it might even be possible to give the audience a real warm feeling. More details are available from Nigel Williams at arch200@networktheatre.org

Cast

THE EARL OF CAVERSHAM K.G.
VISCOUNT GORING, his son
SIR ROBERT CHILTERN, Bart.,
Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs
VICOMTE DE NANJAC,
Attaché at the French Embassy in London
LADY CHILTERN
LADY MARKBY
THE COUNTESS OF BASILDON
MRS. MARCHMONT
MISS MABEL CHILTERN, Sir Robert Chiltern's
Sister
MRS. CHEVELEY
PHIPPS, Lord Goring's Servant

Terry Wynne
Indrojit Banerji
Sean McMullan
Kevin Healy
Christina Houghton
Miranda Harrison
Eleni Young
Isobel Henderson
Nicci Marsh
Rosie de Vekey
Kevin Healy

Production Team

Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Lighting Design and Operator
Sound Operator
Costume
Set construction
Programme
Front of House
Box Office

Nigel Williams
Gargi Yahav
Ewelina Kudla
Dan Young
Paul D'Orley
Kay Murray
The Company
Gaelle Comte
Hannah Few
Nigel Oatway

Special thanks to:

Margaret Bates for the loan of the sofa
Dawn Fraser for art work
All the volunteers in the box office and behind the bar

Act 1

Sir Robert Chiltern's House in Grosvenor Square.

Act 2

Sir Robert Chiltern's House.

Interval

20 minutes

Act 3

The Library of Lord Goring's House in Curzon Street.

Act 4

Sir Robert Chiltern's House

Company Biographies

Indrojit Banerji is a veteran of the (school) stage and (family video cam) screen, Indro's acting experience began with the modest role of Jesus Christ in his school play (aged 8) and has since spanned works by Pinter, Lorca, Longfellow, Shakespeare and now Wilde, with performances garnering critical acclaim - the critic in all cases being his mother. Whether the aforementioned playwrights would agree with this verdict depends on whether they would have been courageous enough to argue the case with the aforementioned critic.

Miranda Harrison's early roles included Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, and Mrs Putnam in *The Crucible*. Recent stage roles include The Mother in *Blood Wedding*, Betty in *And Did Those Feet* and Barbara in *The Empty Chair* (one-act play at the Edinburgh Festival). Recent film roles range from Lady Constance (upper-class suffragette) in *Suffrage* to Melanie (comedy sex-mad divorcee) in *Breathing In*. For BBC World TV she has just completed a pilot entitled *UTU*, where she plays Fran, a hip geek in a TV news centre.

Zoe Hart - This is Zoë's first time at the Network Theatre and her first time directing at all in fact (but don't tell the cast!). She has enjoyed it all immensely and would do it again if they let her.

Kevin Healy is appearing in his second show at Network Theatre. For some reason he has always wanted to play a butler...strange.... Anyway here goes! He hopes you enjoy the show! (Wow, an entire life in two lines.....)

Isobel Henderson Since completing a degree in Archaeology and Anthropology, Isobel has enjoyed being involved in Amateur Dramatics in London. With Pineapple Performing Arts School she took part in showcases at The Tristan Bates Theatre and The Bloomsbury and has recently taken part in a number of short films, the latest of which was screened at an event at this year's London Short Film Festival. Currently Isobel is a member of MeWe Youth Theatre and is studying 'Acting Shakespeare' at Morley College. In March Isobel is performing with members of Caravanserai Productions in a V-Day benefit performance of 'The Vagina Monologues'. This is her first production with Network Theatre.

Christina Houghton - it's common knowledge that Christina has always been amateurishly dramatic. Lady Chiltern is the ideal opportunity (excuse the dreadful pun) to channel these histrionics into a worthy cause. While in London, she has attended many acting and radio courses at the City Lit and taken part in a community theatre production. This will be her debut performance although she did play, coincidentally, Lady Bracknell for O Level Drama many years ago. No school uniforms this time!