



Anton Chekhov's

# The Cherry Orchard

Translation by Mike Poulton

**5th to 8th September 2012**

Doors open 7pm - Performance 7.30pm

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Network  
Theatre  
Company

# The Cherry Orchard

The Action of the Play takes place at the turn of the century  
at Madame Ranevskaya's Cherry Orchard

**Act I**

**The Nursery**

**Act II**

**Open Fields**

**Act III**

**The Drawing Room**

**Act IV**

**The Nursery**

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts II and III  
during which time the bar will be open for refreshments.

# The Cherry Orchard

‘But the whole tragedy of futility is that it never succeeds in achieving tragedy. In its blackest moments it is inevitably doomed to the comic gesture.’ - Dorothy Sayers, in defence of *The Cherry Orchard* as a comedy.

In *The Cherry Orchard*, Chekhov introduces us to a selection of characters that are desperate for something to happen, but completely ineffectual in taking action. It’s a play where nobody seems to know how to get what they want. As the play progresses, we see characters jump from one subject to the next, without really addressing the central problem of the play - What is to be done about the cherry orchard? What ensues is a series of farce-like scenes brought on by, as mentioned by Dorothy Sayers, the futility of the characters.

The characters are not only incapable of doing something about the cherry orchard; they find it impossible to get what they want from one another. In *The Cherry Orchard*, each character is isolated from those around them and unable to make human connections. The comedic elements of the play also isolate the audience from the psychological reality of the problems these characters face, resulting in a kind of fishbowl effect. In observing these characters, we can relate to and see our own struggle with indecisiveness and isolation.

As we press our faces up to the glass of this Chekhovian aquarium, we can observe, in Sayers words, these characters in their ‘blackest moments, inevitably doomed to the comic gesture’ and ask ourselves, would we do any different?

Thank you to all who participated in this production. This has been a phenomenal experience and I am grateful for such a talented and committed cast and crew. Thanks also to all the committee members who went above and beyond their duties to ensure I had what I needed to create a successful production. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show.

Jordana Berk  
Director

# Message from the Chairman

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and a warm welcome to tonight's production of *The Cherry Orchard*, Anton Chekhov's famous play translated by Mike Poulton.

A classic play such as this one, under the experienced direction of Jordana Berk, provides us with an excellent evening's entertainment. I am very pleased to welcome both new and old members to this production, both on stage and behind the scenes, who attest to our continued appeal, growth and success.

We are justly proud of the fact that the Network Theatre has been included in the Londonist's list of top ten amateur theatre venues in London. I hope you will agree with me that we are very fortunate in having our own premises; of course we rely on ticket sales, donations, fundraising and bar profit to help pay our bills, and I would like here to acknowledge the continued generous support of our members and their families and friends.

So please sit back and enjoy the comedy and pathos in this classic play skilfully performed on a traverse stage, and make use of the Green Room bar which is open before and after the show, as well as during the interval.

**Kay Murray**  
Chairman  
Network Theatre Company  
September 2012

# Company biographies



## **James Black - Lopakhin**

Thirty-one years old and originally from Scotland, James moved to London two years ago. A journalist by trade, but also a writer and poet, James is currently paying the bills with bar work in Camden and still clinging to the idea that one day he can change the world.



## **Sarah Grove - Dunyasha**

Sarah trained at East 15 Acting School. Recent plays include *The Tempest* (Sebastienne), *On The Bench* (Scooner) and *Dances for Wolves* (Merry). She has also worked with Charles Vance's Weekly Rep Company with credits including *Charley's Aunt* (Amy) and *Table Manners* (Annie). Other credits include *Multiplex* and *Sk8* directed by Steve Marmion (Drum Theatre Plymouth).



## **Mike Wyer - Yepikhodov**

This is Mike's sixth show with Network, and he couldn't be more excited to be working with such a great cast and crew. He trained at Imperial College with Kat Quatermass, and can be seen playing the role of a site reliability engineer in his day job at Google.



## **Elizabeth Kingsman - Anya**

The Cherry Orchard is Elizabeth's first play with Network Theatre. Previously she has appeared as Beatrice in Castle Theatre Company's Shakespeare tour of *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Mum in Steven Berkoff's *East* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as well as writing and performing sketch comedy with The Durham Revue.

# Company biographies



## **Claire Garrigan - Ranevskaya**

Claire's acting credits include King Lear (Cordelia), Twelfth Night (Viola), Absolute Hell (Elizabeth), Hamlet (Ophelia), Suddenly Last Summer (Catherine Holly), Dead Kennedy's Children (Clara), Much Ado About Nothing (Hero), All's Well That Ends Well (Helena), and title roles in The Country Wife, Hedda Gabler and Dolores. She played Titania in Network's A Midsummer Night's Dream.



## **Noeleen Comiskey - Varya**

Noeleen's credits include: on TV, Law & Order UK, The Bill, Big Train and Armando Iannucci Show; in theatre Exterminating Angel - a devised piece developed on the Genesis Directors Programme at The Young Vic, Dark Carnival, Every Breath, The Government Inspector and taking the lead female role in Deir Yassin, a powerful political drama at the Bloomsbury Theatre.



## **Mark Johnson - Yasha**

Following a long break from performing, this will be Mark's second show with Network, after Harvey earlier this year. Mark is extremely excited and proud to be given the opportunity to be involved in this production



## **Bill Boyd - Firs**

This is Bill's first show with Network Theatre. He recently played Arthur Winslow in The Winslow Boy at Putney Arts Theatre. Other credits include The Birthday Party (Petey), The Plough and the Stars (Peter Flynn), Further Than the Furthest Thing (Bill), Road (Scullery), Three Sisters (Chebutikin), The Wind in the Willows (Badger) and The Visit (Boby).

# Company biographies



## **Paul Hoskins - Pishchik**

Paul returned to the stage in 2011 for the first time in 15 years, in Network's production of Family Ties. He also camped it up as Trinculo in The Tempest. Previous credits have included Richard II (John of Gaunt), Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead (Guildenstern) and Aunt Martha in a cross-dressing production of Arsenic & Old Lace.



## **Alastair Callcutt - Gayev**

Alastair's previous roles have included Moon in The Real Inspector Hound, Dr Gortler in I Have Been Here Before and Pickering in Pygmalion. He has also directed productions of Hay Fever, Blithe Spirit and The Importance of Being Earnest. For the Network Theatre Company, he appeared in Joe Orton's Fred & Madge in 2010 and Hugh Whitemore's Pack of Lies in April 2012.



## **Megan Housley - Charlotta**

This is Megan's second Network production, having played Ariel in The Tempest earlier this year. Recent productions include A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck) in Paris, Her Naked Skin and The Boy Friend for Tower Theatre, and The Penelopiad and Double Falsehood for KDC. She played Pepicek in Brundibar for Chetham's/Imperial War Museum North and the Manchester Holocaust Commemoration 2004.



## **Sean McMullan - Trofimov**

Sean has recently taken on the finances for Network (go on, buy another programme) and was Assistant Director on Harvey in March. As an actor credits include An Ideal Husband (Sir Robert), You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Charlie Brown), and Time for Love (Bernard). As a trumpet player he occasionally gigs with the Morley Big Band.

# Production credits

Director	<b>Jordana Berk</b>
Casting Assistant	<b>Cathy Neeson</b>
Stage Manager	<b>John Bannister</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Eshani Weeresinghe</b>

Lighting Design	<b>Dan Young</b>
Lighting Operator	<b>Rebecca Mason</b>
Sound Operator	<b>Cathy Neeson</b>
Set Design	<b>Franziska Schmidt-Dengler</b>
Set Construction	<b>Paul Lunnon, Nigel Williams, David Harvey, Cast &amp; Crew</b>
Costumes	<b>Samantha Kelly</b>
Front of House Manager	<b>Sue Walker</b>



# The Arch 200 Club

Over 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 from just £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 shorten the wait for the gentlemen's toilet!

More details are available from Nigel Williams at  
[arch200@networktheatre.org](mailto:arch200@networktheatre.org)

# Coming up



## **Fairy Tales of New York**

Cornelius Christian - a young Irish-American returns to New York after studying in Ireland, to live the dream.

A tale of nonchalant and flamboyant disregard for others - to say what's most expedient to get to where you need to be at some risk to life and limb! But does that matter? People are just stepping stones anyway aren't they?

From dockside to funeral home, corporate life to boxing ring - life is a stage - Cornelius and his peachy shoes are ready, but is everybody else?

New York seems just the place to play out the dream! At any cost!

Written by J.P Donleavy

Directed by Robin Lansman

Reading: 11<sup>th</sup> September

Auditions: 24<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September

Performances 27<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December

For more information about Network Theatre Company, upcoming readings, auditions and performances visit [www.networktheatre.org](http://www.networktheatre.org)

# Coming up



## Dr Faustus

Marlowe's classic morality play, of a hero gone bad, is reinterpreted and directed by Bernie C. Byrnes. Did our hero choose his own way or was his destiny predetermined? If we are all truly damned, what point is there in being good?

In London in the 70's against a backdrop of IRA bombings, eminent physician Dr Faustus despairs at the lottery of death and destruction. He damns the law, science and God and seeks power and riches through black magic. Faustus dices with the devil and strikes a bargain for ultimate power in exchange for his soul.

Four and twenty years of absolute power and corruption later, as we reach the new millennium, the devil collects from Faustus. But man still struggles with his place in the universe, religious troubles continue to dominate the news, and random bombings lend an air of chance to any journey.

Are you predestined to come? Will you choose to? Or will you throw a six to start?

Written by Christopher Marlowe

Directed by Bernie Byrnes

Reading: 6<sup>th</sup> October

Auditions: 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October

Performances: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb to 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Weds to Sat only



**More than 70 years of drama**

Network Theatre  
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