



The Network Theatre Company

www.networktheatre.org

Press Release

For immediate release 23rd January 2011



NETWORK THEATRE'S 400th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION OF *THE TEMPEST* TO MOVE TO THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S SHOWCASE.

Network Theatre Company's presentation of *The Tempest* forms part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Open Stages* programme of Shakespeare plays. It opens next month at Network Theatre, Waterloo, in a collaborative production with Kipper Tie Theatre and The Stage Company.

It will now open the RSC's Regional Showcase in April at a two-week festival at Questors Theatre, Ealing.

This production of *The Tempest* celebrates the 400th anniversary of its first public performance. It features nine dancers playing the omnipresent Ariel and cross-casting to explore the sexual sub-text.

Dates: Press Night Friday 10th February 2012 at 7:30pm.

Performances: From 9th February to 3rd March 2012, Thursday to Saturdays at 7:30pm.

Location: Network Theatre, 246A Lower Road, Waterloo, SE1 8SF

Prospero, the Duke of Milan, and his daughter Miranda had been banished to a far island. When his betrayers are shipwrecked, he hatches a plot to exact revenge. With intrigue, sexual tension, treason, love and jazz – this is Shakespeare at his best!

The celebrity audience, which has been invited to the Press Night on Friday 10th February, includes actors Hugh Bonneville, Britt Eckland, Clive Francis, Rula Lenska and Robert Powell; musicians Mick Avory (*The Kinks*) and Ali McKenzie (*The Birds*), radio and TV presenter Paul Gambaccini, and choreographer Wayne Sleep.

The RSC has invited Network's production to form the prime part of its Regional Showcase at its opening night at Questors Theatre, Ealing on 13th April 2012, which is currently in the final planning stage.

Bernie Byrnes' new abridged scripting of *The Tempest* is set in the liberated 1960s, but the abandoned Prospero, Miranda and Caliban still retain the repressed elegance of the 1940s. Although this high-energy production explores the psychological riptide of Shakespeare's multifaceted play, it is interspersed with jazz interludes that support or oppose the story for comic effect. Nine dancers act Ariel in contemporary physical theatre. Cross-casting emphasises the sexual subtext of Shakespeare's last masterpiece.

The Tempest had its first public performance in February 1612 at the Blackfriars Theatre in London. Later in 1612, *The Tempest* transferred to The Globe for its summer run. It continued until The Globe was destroyed in a fire in June 1613.

Publicity: Aspects Productions Gina Way 020 8973 3605 aspects@blueyonder.co.uk

Producer: Lion's Mane Theatre Arts Ltd Keith Wait 020 8894 5885 keith@stagecompany.co.uk

For press tickets contact: Kirsty Eyre kirsty@class-stage.co.uk

Box office (public sales): www.networktheatre.org/Tempest



Details of the producing companies are appended.

Kipper Tie Theatre

Network Theatre

The Stage Company

(see Supplementary Information)



Supplementary Information



The Royal Shakespeare Company, which needs no introduction, has an exciting project in 2011–2012, which is known as Open Stages. This initiative aims to embrace, develop and celebrate amateur theatre, re-forging the bond with the world of professional theatre. The RSC, in partnership with a number of regional theatres and amateur theatre associations, are running a national programme of skills sharing events and showcases, with amateur societies from across the UK invited to produce their own RSC branded Shakespeare themed production. This may then become part of a regional showcase or become part of the World Shakespeare Festival, for which RSC Open Stages will hold a celebration over several weekends in mid July 2012.



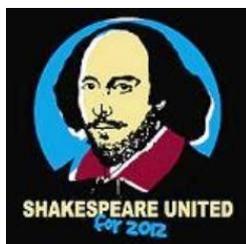
The Network Theatre is a well-established club theatre at Waterloo, London. Founded in 1939, the theatre company runs a programme of five in-house shows per year, in a wide range of genres, including Shakespeare. It has recently won the Writers' Guild Theatre Encouragement Award for promoting new writing. The company runs a dedicated theatre located under Waterloo station.



Kipper Tie Theatre is a professional company, partly funded by Arts Council England. It works mainly in children's theatre, and had a long and successful run of *The Mole Who Knew It Was None of His Business* at the Edinburgh Fringe this year. It is currently producing an adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*. In the mainstream theatre, it has recently had a number of productions of *A Long Night in London* (a play about the Bethnal Green tube station disaster during the Second World War) in various London theatres. This autumn, it is producing shows in Bombay, Singapore and in Lithuania.



The Stage Company is a professional stage production company. This summer it produced *For Ever, In Trust*, a play commissioned to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of a prestigious grant-making charity. It has produced a number of shows on the Fringe, including *Silver Age Adieu*, which also had short runs at the Marlborough Theatre, Brighton and at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. Its successful production of *Facades* ran at three London theatres, including the Riverside Studios.



Shakespeare 2012 is an initiative in response to a call by Equity, the performers' union, for a nationwide, grassroots, all-inclusive celebration of the greatest creative artist of his kind in history, to coincide with the London Olympic Games. As the original concept of the Olympics in ancient Greece embraced performance and drama, *Shakespeare 2012* embraces theatre in the voluntary and professional sectors to create a unifying national Shakespeare celebration which is designed to be the greatest cultural event of the twenty-first century.



Aspects Productions is an entertainment promotion company which provides press and publicity services. Past productions have included the two Royal Gala Performances at Richmond Theatre, Big Band Blitz, and numerous cabaret shows, and corporate events. Aspects also operates the historic Eel Pie Club.



Lion's Mane Theatre Arts Limited is a production company working in the field of performing arts. Trading names include The Stage Company and Crazy Films.