

**Maskers Theatre Company**  
in the Open Air at Mottisfont Abbey  
(courtesy of the National Trust)



## **The Hypochondriac**

by Molière (in a new translation)

**Wednesday 18 to Saturday 28 July 2001**

(not Monday 23)

Gates open 6.30pm Performance 7.30 pm

Enjoy a pre-performance picnic in the beautiful gardens of Mottisfont Abbey where Maskers will recreate the court of the French "Sun King" Louis XIV

Tickets from Turner Sims Concert Hall  
£6.50 First Night and Sunday 22 July; £10 Friday and Saturday performances; £8 all other evenings

**BOX OFFICE 023 8059 5151**

3676  
**Maskers Theatre Company**

at the Nuffield Theatre Southampton

# **Misery**

by **Stephen King**

adapted for the stage by **Simon Moore**

directed by  
**Philippa Taylor**

Tuesday 16 - Saturday 20 January 2001

## Director's Note

Why *Misery* ? Hardly a title to put a smile on post Christmas and New Year lips!

I am probably one of the few who had neither read nor heard of the book, nor seen the award winning film- but I liked the script, which the author Stephen King had produced with Simon Moore for a West End production. I was excited and challenged by the technical requirements and felt the chilling thriller would provide a good antidote to Christmas excesses!

I needed two good actors and was fortunate to have cast Maria and Steve who have worked exceptionally hard over a short rehearsal period with seasonal interruptions. The technical and management support of Maskers, and friends, has been outstanding and we hope that all our efforts meet your expectations.

Thank you for your support.

Philippa Taylor  
January 2001



## BIOGRAPHIES

**Steve Clark** - a Masker for fourteen years, Steve was last seen being led to the gallows as John Proctor in RAOBS' *The Crucible*. No stranger to on-stage degradation and torture, particularly as Urbain Grandier in *The Devils*, Steve has also appeared as Gary in *Noises Off*, Angel Clare in *Tess*, Gabriel Oak in *Far From The Madding Crowd* and Lopakhin in *The Cherry Orchard*, all of which have thrilled literally several Nuffield theatregoers. Steve is delighted to be working with Maria once again, and says "Thanks to Sue".



**Maria Head** – has been a member of the Maskers for five years and last appeared at the Nuffield Theatre in *The Cherry Orchard*. In July 2000 she won the David Bartlett Award as best supporting actor for her performance of Lampito as a Glaswegian Spartan in *Lysistrata* at Mottisfont Abbey. Maria attended Avery Hill College in London where Drama was her main subject. Whilst at College she played the part of Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with Norman Pace of 'Hale & Pace'. Other previous major roles include Helene Hanff in *84 Charing Cross Road* and Chelsea in *On Golden Pond*.



**Philippa Taylor** – previous productions at the Nuffield include *Twelfth Night*, *When the Wind Blows*, *On Golden Pond*, and (for Southampton Operatic Society) *Iolanthe*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Kiss me Kate*. At Mottisfont Abbey she has directed *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Thieves Carnival* and *Ring Round the Moon*, whilst at the Plaza Theatre Romsey she directed *Seasons Greetings* and *Amadeus*. Appearances on stage at the Nuffield include *Cider with Rosie* and *A Chorus of Disapproval*.



# MISERY

Paul Sheldon ..... Steve Clark  
Annie Wilkes ..... Maria Head

Act I Scene 1 The Twenty-sixth Annual Romantic  
Fiction Awards. Winter  
Scene 2 A Colorado farmhouse. Morning. Winter  
Scene 3 The same. Night  
Scene 4 The same. Night  
Scene 5 The same. Day  
Scene 6 The same. Night  
Scene 7 The same.  
Scene 8 The same. Two days later  
Scene 9 The same. Christmas morning  
Scene 10 The same. Morning

## INTERVAL

Act II  
Scene 1 The farmhouse. Day. Spring  
Scene 2 The same. Day  
Scene 3 The same. Night  
Scene 4 The same. Day  
Scene 5 The same. Night  
Scene 6 The same. Night  
Scene 7 The same. Late Spring  
Scene 8 The same. Night  
Scene 9 The same. Morning  
Scene 10 The Twenty-eighth Annual Romantic  
Fiction Awards

Time: the present

**Warning: stroboscopic lights will be used during this  
production**

Director ..... Philippa Taylor  
Production Manager ..... Christine Baker  
Stage Manager ..... Belinda Drew  
Lighting ..... Martin Clift, Ron Tillyer  
Sound ..... Lawrie Gee, Jan Gee  
Special effects ..... Tony Lawther, Geoff Wharam  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... Val Barwell, Angie Barks  
Helen Officer  
Set design ..... Peter Liddiard  
Set construction ..... Alan Baker, Graham Buchanan, David Jupp  
Douglas Shiell, Alan Watson  
Set painting ..... Maureen Cashman, Shaun Dodimead  
Nichola McKinley, Jim Officer, Richard Peaty  
Properties ..... Gill Buchanan, Ella Lockett  
Wardrobe ..... Beryl Smith, Kate Ward  
Set dressing ..... Sonia Morris, Nicky Housham  
Helen Lewis, Angela Stansbridge  
Transport ..... Tony Austin, Jim Officer  
Photography ..... Clive Weeks  
Marketing ..... Jan Ward

With thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of this  
production, especially:

Terry Stevenson (Occupational Therapy Joint Equipment Store)  
Paul Vincent and Norman Adderley (Southampton General Hospital)  
Clocktower Antique & Book Centre (Bitterne Park Triangle)  
Portswood Cycles

With funding support from Southampton City Arts Council



## STEPHEN KING

Born in 1947, Stephen King was writing prolifically whilst still at High School. By the age of 18 he had already published short stories himself, and *I Was a Teenage Grave Robber* was taken up by Comic Review Magazine. However it was another eight years, when as a \$6,400 p.a. teacher, Stephen sold the rights to his book *Carrie* to New American Library for \$200,000. This was the book that launched his career. It was also the script retrieved by his wife from the rubbish bin when he had lost patience with it.

Many of Stephen King's books have been made into films, including *Carrie*, *Pet Sematary*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Shining* and of course *Misery*. Kathy Bates won an Oscar for the 1990 film *Misery* which also starred James Caan. The stage version was adapted by Simon Moore and first performed in London in 1992 with Sharon Gless (Cagney & Lacey) and Bill Paterson.

Like Paul Sheldon, Stephen King has received many awards. Also like Paul Sheldon he suffered horrific injuries in a hit and run road accident in 1999. Fortunately Stephen is now on the road to recovery having received better care than the character portrayed in *Misery*.

## Would you like to join us?

Maskers Theatre Company was founded 32 years ago and although it still retains a record number of original members, together with their children and even grandchildren, the Company is looking to recruit new members to help keep the Maskers in the spotlight.

We are one of the region's leading amateur theatre companies and perform at a range of venues including the Nuffield Theatre, Tudor Merchant's Hall and at Mottisfont Abbey where our spectacular open-air production is staged in July each year.

We have our own premises – a workshop acquired and converted with lottery funding where we rehearse, store equipment and perform “workshop productions” for members and guests. There is also a comfortable bar area for meetings and social events.

Skills acquired in your job or home are valued by The Maskers. Anyone willing to wield a paintbrush or a screwdriver is welcome, as are those with sewing, carpentry or electrical skills. We are also keen to recruit those with acting or directing skills – or simply the enthusiasm to develop such skills.

Does this sound like you?

Call Betty Riggs on **023 8047 2619** for an information pack.

Or check out our new Website **[www.maskers.co.uk](http://www.maskers.co.uk)**.

*Honorary Life Members*

*John & Betty Riggs  
Ken Spencer  
Ron Tillyer*

## NUFFIELD THEATRE

The use of cameras or tape recorders in the theatre is forbidden. The Management reserve the right to refuse admission, also to make any alterations to the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority:

1. The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
2. All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
3. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
4. The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

With thanks to the Nuffield Theatre staff

Artistic Director ..... Patrick Sandford  
Administrative Director ..... Mark Courtice  
Assistant to the Directors ..... Alison Thurley  
Production Manager ..... Nicky Wingfield  
Assistant Production Manager ..... Ben Ponting  
Chief Electrician ..... Greg Head  
Deputy Chief Electrician ..... Peter Gibson  
Front of House Manager ..... Sarah-Jane Browning  
Sales Office Supervisor ..... Jeff Witcher