

NUFFIELD THEATRE · SOUTHAMPTON  
THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

JOHN WHITING'S

# THE DEVILS

Tuesday to Saturday  
19th to 23rd JANUARY



  
SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY  
LEISURE  
COMMITTEE

## The Devils

John Whiting based the play on Aldous Huxley's book *The Devils of Loudun* a copiously and terrifyingly documented account of suspected diabolism in 17th-century France.

These are the historical facts. In 1617, a priest called Urbain Grandier was appointed to the important living of St-Pierre Du-Marche at Loudun, a town in central France. He was then twenty seven, brilliant, handsome, ambitious and lecherous. "It is difficult", says Huxley, to find any medieval or Renaissance writer who does not take it for granted that, from highest prelate to humblest friar, the majority of clergymen are thoroughly disreputable". After a year or two at Loudun, Grandier had not only seduced several women, but made implacable enemies of several men.

Not surprisingly, his downfall, when it came, came by way of a woman; more suprisingly, a woman whom Grandier had not even seen, let alone seduced. This was Soeur Jeanne des Anges, Prioress of a convent of seventeen Ursuline nuns, a young woman with little true religious vocation. She had heard of Grandier's amorous exploits, and her virgin imagination was dangerously excited by them. The priest became her secret obsession, and the obsession spread, with results that were grotesque, grim, and (for Grandier) fatal.

The play, a basis of a stunning film by Ken Russell, has great contemporary relevance in a world which has not learned as much as it thinks about the persecution of freedom by fear, bigotry, envy and greed.

The Maskers Theatre Company present

## The Devils

by John Whiting

by arrangement with Samuel French

Cast in order of their appearance

Mannoury	a surgeon	Tony Bull
Adam	a chemist	Bruce Atkinson
Louis Trincant	Public prosecutor	Anthony Bull
Phillipe Trincant		Sarah Spencer
Jean D'Armagnac	Governor of Loudun	David Jupp
de Cerisay	Chief Magistrate	Alan Watson
A sewerman		Graham Buchanan
Urbain Grandier	Vicar, St Peter's	Steve Clark
Ninon	a widow	Hazel Burrows
de la Rochepozay	Bishop of Poitiers	David Pike
Father Rangier		John Carrington Jnr
Father Barre´		Albert Minns
Sister Jeanne of the Angels		
	Prioress of St Ursulas Convent	
Sister Claire		Belinda Drew
Sister Louise		Kate Atkinson
de Laubardemont	King's Commissioner	Katrina Dowding
Father Mignon		Philip de Grouchy
Sister Gabrielle		David Bartlett
Prince Henri de Conde		Emma Carrington
Richelieu		Michael Patterson
Louis X111	King of France	Ken Spencer
Bontemps	a gaoler	Alan Small
Father Ambrose		Anthony Bull
Other Parts		Douglas Coates
		Alan Robinson
		Sandra Philip
		Dominic Farrell

The Action takes place in and near the town of Loudun, and briefly at Paris, between the years 1623 and 1634.

There will be one interval between the two Acts

## For the Maskers Theatre Company

Director	Ken Spencer
Stage Manager	Pat Sawyer
Assistant Stage Managers	Dawn Finbow, Nichola Horne
Stage Crew	Sue Rackley, Geoff Cook, Pam Cook, Miles Spencer, Julia Campone, Kevin Mitchell, Chris Finbow
Technical Director	Ron Tillyer
Set Design	Ken Spencer
Lighting Design	Clive Weeks
Lighting Operators	Clive Weeks, Stuart Cross
Sound	Lawrie Gee
Sound Operator	Martin Caveney
Set Construction	Chris Finbow, Edwin Beecroft, Geoff Cook, Bryan Langford
Properties	Ella Lockett, Jean Durman
Wardrobe Mistress	Chris Baker
Wardrobe Hire	Royal Shakespeare Company Bristol Costume Hire
Wigs	Showbiz of Southampton
Publicity	Michael Patterson

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Thanks are due to the following for their assistance :

'Old Orleans', Eastleigh Antiques, Underhill House Trophies, Canon David Tizzard, Fleurs of Swaythling, Nuffield Theatre Staff and Kevin Heyes of Theatre Clwyd.

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The Nuffield Theatre administered by an independent Trust representing financial, local and theatrical interests. The Nuffield Theatre Trust acknowledges financial assistance from the Arts Council of Great Britain, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, The University of Southampton, Eastleigh Borough Council, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, The Nuffield Theatre Club.

The use of cameras or tape recorders in the Theatre is forbidden. The management reserves the right to refuse admission also to make any alteration in 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 of 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 the numbers indicated on the notices exhibited in those positions.
4. The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

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**THE MASKERS AT MOTTISFONT 1993**

In the Open Air in the grounds of Mottisfont Abbey, Romsey

**JOSEPH ANDREWS**

from the novel by **Henry Fielding**, adapted by PM Clepper

Wednesday 21st - Sunday 25th July, and Tuesday 27th - Saturday July 31st.

Bring a picnic and a rug or folding chair. Early booking is advised.

For further information contact The Box Office Tel 0794 40846.

Credit Cards accepted.

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The Maskers will be on tour in April at various locations with an Anthology entertainment and will be taking two plays to France in May.

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If you are interested in becoming involved in The Maskers please contact our Membership Secretary Betty Riggs on 472619 for further details.

The Company was formed in 1968 with the coming together of a dozen dedicated amateur actors, actresses and 'technicals' all of whom shared a professional approach to their hobby. The membership is now over a hundred and has some 200 productions to its credit. There is always a warm welcome extended to new members, whether on stage or backstage.

Past productions at The Nuffield have included '*Tess*', '*Rebecca*' and '*On Golden Pond*', at the Plaza Romsey, '*Amadeus*', '*Noises Off*' and '*Flare Path*' whilst Mottisfont Abbey has been a regular venue for over 10 years with Chaucer's '*Canterbury Tales*', '*Cyrano de Bergerac*' and '*The Recruiting Officer*' among recent offerings.

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Southampton University Players present at The Nuffield Theatre

**THE COUNTRY WIFE** by William Wycherley

at 7.30 pm Tues 26th - Sat 30th January. Box Office Tel 671771

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The Maskers acknowledge the assistance of Southampton Arts Council.