

MASKERS FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Monday 11th – Saturday 16th May 2009

The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband by Debbie Isitt
The Maskers Studio, Emsworth Road, Shirley, Southampton, SO15 3LX
Box Office: 023 8055 1489 (adult content)

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 25th July 2009

Tom Jones - Henry Fielding's 18th century romp
In the open air at Hamptworth Lodge, Landford, near Romsey.
Hamptworth Lodge is a stunning Jacobean-style house just 4 miles from junction 2 of the M27.
Box Office - tel: 023 80 71 1818
Www.ticketsouth.co.uk
Tickets available from 1st April 2009

January 2010

The Crucible by Arthur Miller
The Nuffield Theatre, Southampton
Box Office : 023 8067 1771

Why not join The Maskers Theatre Company?

The company is keen to welcome new members with an interest in all aspects of theatre.

Contact Jo Iacavou our Membership Officer, Tel: 023 8048 1161
Jo.iac@live.co.uk

to find out more about The Maskers theatre Company
go to www.maskers.org.uk

The Maskers Studio has a licensed bar and is accessible for patrons with disabilities.
The Maskers Theatre Company is a Registered Charity 900067
For more information visit www.maskers.org.uk



the maskers theatre company

A theatrical double bill

Thursday 19th – Saturday 21st March 2009

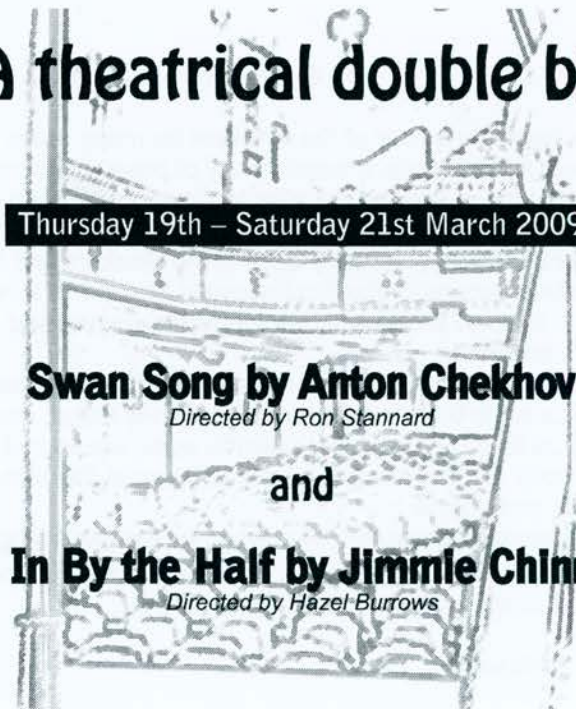
Swan Song by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Ron Stannard

and

In By the Half by Jimmie Chinn

Directed by Hazel Burrows



Director's Notes

Swan Song by Anton Chekhov

Chekhov said this "dramatic study" took him just an hour and five minutes to write. It was premiered in 1888, about eight years before the great series of his major plays began with *The Seagull*.

An ageing comic actor wakes up, drunk, in his dressing room and wanders onto the darkened stage. Out of this simple situation Chekhov has fashioned a bitter-sweet little gem in which one can already see the classic Chekhovian themes of wasted talent, unfulfilled ambitions and the pathos of lost romance; and his technique of sentiment constantly undercut by comedy.

The play has been described as a "tear-jerker" - the tragedy of a comic actor who will play serious roles only in an empty theatre to an audience of one. But even in this early work Chekhov is more teasingly complex and ironic than that, and we have tried to reflect this in our production so that we laugh even as we sympathise. The three of us hope you enjoy our little offering.

Ron Stannard

In By the Half—by Jimmie Shin

I have been a member of the Maskers for many years now, and it has been my pleasure to perform in a huge variety of plays, major roles and spear carrier. What prompted me to take up the offer to direct, came from my involvement in last years - 'One Act Festival of Plays' and the fun we had.

Remembering also my early days in the Maskers and how we would put on a one day entertainment for the Southampton Show with a very short rehearsal period, to learn the part and quickly decide, upon staging and costume was such an enjoyable challenge.

For this play, that is what I decided to do. The play was quickly cast, and my five ladies came to their first rehearsal with lines learnt, saving so much time and allowing us to immediately get down to work. We've had two rehearsals a week, for one month. Each character is very different in this little gem of a play, involving comedy and drama.

With enormous pleasure I have watched the play develop, and would like to send a big thank-you to the cast and crew for all their support and encouragement.

Wish us luck for the Totton Drama Festival.

Hazel Burrows

The Cast

Swan Song

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Svetlovidov, an old comic actor | John Souter |
| Nikita, an old prompter | Graham Buchanan |

In by The Half

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Madam | Avril Woodward |
| Doris | Chris Baker |
| Doctor | Suze Provins |
| Sylvia | Angharad Price |
| Ursula | Hayley Cheeseworth |

Technical/ Support Team

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Production Manager | Angie Stansbridge |
| Stage Manager | Angie Stansbridge |
| Sound | Geoff Grandy |
| Lights | Jamie McCarthy |
| Props | Moyra Allen |
| Bar and Prompt | Jan Spiers |
| Publicity/programme | Anja McCloskey |
| Box Office | Christine Baker |
| Front of House | Pete Hill and Maskers |
| Printing | Geoff Wharam |