

MASKERS FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

JINGLE BELLS

Snippets, songs, readings ... and a few surprises - the perfect start to your Christmas

Monday 5th - Saturday 10th December 2011 - 7.30_{pm}

at The Maskers Studio (Box Office 023 8055 1489)

Tickets £7.50 (to include mulled wine and mince pie)

The Graduate

The Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

24th - 28th January 2012

www.nuffieldtheatre.co.uk - Box office 023 8067 1771

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

in the open-air at **Hamptworth Lodge**, Landford

11th - 21st July 2012

Why Not Join The Maskers ?

The Maskers are keen to welcome new members with an interest in any aspect of theatre – all things technical, directing, costumes, props, set design and construction, helping front of house, marketing and, of course, acting!!

Enjoy the challenge of 'making theatre happen'.

Contact the Membership Development Office, Hazel Burrows on
023 8063 4009 - email – hazelburrows@tiscali.co.uk

To find out more about The Maskers Theatre Company go to

www.maskers.org.uk



the
maskers
theatre
company

HUMBLE

BOY

the
award-winning comedy
from
Charlotte Jones

with

Six Characters

by
Sandra Horn

Presented in conjunction with the
Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages Project

Sponsored by



Fri 21st - Sat 29th Oct 2011

HUMBLE BOY

by Charlotte Jones

Six Characters

by Sandra Horn

Six Characters	CAST	Humble Boy
Hamlet	MATT AVERY	Felix
Margie	SARAH-JAYNE WAREHAM	Mercy
Gertrude	JAN SPIERS	Flora
Old King	KEN HANN	George
Claudius	RICHARD MARTIN	Jim
Ophelia	JO WELCH	Rosie

CREATIVE TEAM	
Director - Humble Boy	ROS LIDDIARD
Director - Six Characters	FRAN MORLEY
Producer and Designer	PETER LIDDIARD
Stage Manager	ANGIE BARKS
Lighting Designer	CLIVE WEEKS
Sound Designer	JAMIE McCARTHY
Composer	ED DENHAM
Fight Director	PAUL BENZING
Wardrobe	SERENA BROWN with SUSAN WILSON
Props & Set Dressing	ELLA LOCKETT with FRAN MORLEY
Set Construction	ROGER LOCKETT with GRAHAM BUCHANAN, PHILIP EVANS, PETER LIDDIARD, JEZ MINNS, & ALAN ROWE
Musicians	RACHAEL COURAGE piano; NING-NING LI; JORGE MAY; BECKY WALDRON violins
Voice Coach	KATHY EAST
Rehearsal Prompt	SUZE AVERY & GAIL BLUES
Lighting Operators	RUBEN SANCHEZ-GARCIA & KATHRYN SALMON
Sound Operators	MARTIN WELCH & JAMIE McCARTHY
Marketing/Publicity	ANGELA STANSBRIDGE & team
Front of House	PETER HILL & team
Photography	CLIVE WEEKS - www.cwphotos.co.uk
Box Office	CHRISTINE BAKER
FoH Display	ZANNAH LAWThER
Bar	JAN SPIERS (Manager) & team
Programme design	PETER LIDDIARD & SARAH RUSSELL
Programme printing	GEOFF WHARAM

SIX CHARACTERS
followed by a short interval of 5 mins

HUMBLE BOY

The action takes place in the Humbles' garden in The Cotswolds over one summer

There will be a 15 min interval after Act 1

Approximate running time for both plays, including intervals - 2 hrs 45 mins.

WITH THANKS TO
The Chesil Theatre, Winchester. Prestech. Vara Williams.
Dave's hairdressers of Bitterne.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



BRAMBRIDGE
Park
GARDEN CENTRE



ROS LIDDIARD - Director - HUMBLE BOY

Charlotte Jones was an actress before she became a writer. Frustrated by the actor's lot, which is to wait by the phone for the offer of a starring role, she wrote one for herself! This first play was *Airswimming*, in which she played a woman incarcerated in an asylum, awaiting news of her release. That, says

Charlotte, was a metaphor for Jones-the-actress waiting for her agent to call!

Five years, and several successful plays later, she wrote *Humble Boy*, an elegant tragic-comedy about a mother-son relationship and a study in grief. *Humble Boy* was written with Simon Russell-Beale in mind for the role of *Felix*, a troubled astrophysicist whose dysfunctional behaviour is at the heart of the play. Luckily, Charlotte's actor husband was appearing with Russell-Beale in *Hamlet* at The Royal National Theatre. The script was handed over...dutifully read...loved by all...and was premiered in The Cottesloe in 2001, with Russell-Beale in the lead role! *Humble Boy* went on to win two *Olivier Awards* and the 2001 *Critics' Circle Theatre Award*. The play has many themes, one of which is its parallels with *Hamlet*.

The company has enjoyed rehearsing this engaging play, with its beautifully realised characters and we are proud of our association with the *Royal Shakespeare Company's* innovative *Open Stages* event. Our involvement with the project encouraged us to integrate other artistic elements in the production. It has been a pleasure to work with Brambridge Park Garden Centre on the *Humble's* garden, with Ed on the original music, performed live; with Sandra on her clever play, and with speech therapist, Kathy, on *Felix's* stammer. This production has been both a challenging and really exciting experience.



FRAN MORLEY - Director - SIX CHARACTERS

Sandra Horn has worked a minor miracle in her ten minute curtain raiser. *Six Characters* (in search of two authors in this case) is a clever and witty linking of *Hamlet* and *Humble Boy* which has been really enjoyable to bring to life with the company. There are well known *Hamlet* lines and a playful approach to the characters.

A group of actors have been frozen in time, some of them frustrated with the characters Shakespeare wrote. They are given a kind of Dr Who regeneration into modern actors, who find welcome opportunities in Charlotte Jones' writing to play people they identify with. You don't need to be familiar with *Hamlet* to enjoy *Humble Boy* but making the links is great fun. *Six Characters* offers a helping hand. Spot the actor who was quite happy with *Hamlet* as written (and therefore the one most like Hamlet himself), the one who most radically departs from *Hamlet* as we know it, the two who swap places (one of them reluctantly), the one who opts for the quiet life, and the one who does their best to help but maybe with a *Rosencrantz* and *Guildestern* ulterior motive.



SANDRA HORN - Author - SIX CHARACTERS

I've been writing something or another ever since I can remember, and regularly roped the neighbourhood kids in to take part in my 'shows' when we were all at primary school. To have my play chosen by The Maskers is such heady stuff I still can't quite take it in!



ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY - OPEN STAGES

This production is being promoted through the RSC Open Stages project, which aims to re-forge the bond between amateur and professional theatre. In partnership with a number of regional theatres, the RSC 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 productions.