

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

20 - 24 October

Silly Cow

Maskers Studio Theatre

Lies! Deceit! Murder...? Ben Elton's outrageous comedy Silly Cow is the story of Doris Wallis, the gossipy tabloid critic. Bold, brash and bitchy, trashing people's careers is all in a day's work. She has money, infamy, and her faithful assistant Peggy to help her break into stardom in her own right - what could possibly go wrong?

BOX OFFICE: via link on our website
or 0333 666 3366



4, 5, 8 - 11 December

Room at the Inn

Maskers Studio Theatre

Be prepared for this year's Christmas Anthology with a difference... set in December 1940.

You are invited to join us and experience what they feel and how they cope with their troubles and their surprises.

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MASKERS
theatre company



The Yalta Game

A teasing tale of summer passion
where fact and fantasy collide.

&
Afterplay



Tea and sympathy with a dash of vodka and some little white lies.

An evening of two short plays by Brian Friel

Programme

Tues 15 to Sat 19 September
MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Director's Notes

Brian Friel is a great admirer of Chekhov whose influence is apparent in these two plays. *The Yalta Game* is adapted from a short story by Chekhov and on one level is a simple tale of a holiday romance and its consequences. But in having his characters alternate between dialogue and soliloquy, Friel makes the audience co-conspirators in the affair and asks intriguing questions about appearance and reality, deception and authenticity. Did the affair really happen - or are we being seduced, like Anna, into playing a version of Dmitry's Yalta game? As he himself says, "Let's find out".



Afterplay also takes us into a world of shared fictions but here they are consoling fictions designed to make life more tolerable. Friel revisits Chekhov's *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya* and imagines a chance encounter in 1920s Moscow - some 25 years after the events of the plays - between Sonya (Uncle Vanya's niece with a doomed passion for Astrof) and Andrey (the feckless brother of the three sisters who was cuckolded by Natasha). In this bitter-sweet Chekhovian epilogue they are still ensnared by their past lives but they tell their tales with warmth and wit.

These two pieces are very different in form and style and rehearsing them together has been interesting! I am greatly indebted to both casts and crew for their sterling work on this production.

Ron Stannard

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the two plays.

The Production Crew

Director	Ron Stannard
Director's Assistant	Avril Woodward
Production Manager	Chris Baker
Stage Manager	David Cowley
Assistant Stage Manager	Rob Osborne
Set Design	Ron Stannard & Clive Weeks
Lighting Design	Clive Weeks
Lighting Operator	Paul Duell & Alex Rolfe
Sound Design	Jamie McCarthy
Sound Operator	Gail Blues
Stage Crew	David Cowley, Adam Taussik & cast
Properties	Adam Taussik
Costumes	Sheana Carrington
Set Construction	Clive Weeks, Rob Osborne, David Cowley, Chris Baker & cast

The Cast

The Yalta Game

Dmitry Dmitrich Gurov Eric Petterson
Anna Sergeevna Lydia Longman

Afterplay

Andrey Rubén Sánchez-García
Sonya Maria Head



Dmitry Dmitrich Gurov - Eric Petterson. Eric started a late acting career with Maskers in 2012. His roles have included Jack in *The Weir*, James in *The 13th Floor* and a mass murderer in the latest Christmas show! In 2015, Eric play John of Gaunt in Maskers' tour of *Richard II* and he played a hunter in this summer's *The Jungle Book*. He is very much enjoying playing Dmitri in *The Yalta Game*.



Anna Sergeevna - Lydia Longman. This is Lydia's third show with Maskers, having played Catherine in *Wuthering Heights* and the Queen in the touring production of *Richard II*. Working with such a small team has been an absolute treat and performing opposite Eric constantly challenges her to be better. When not rehearsing, Lydia runs 'Shakesperts' - bringing reduced Shakespeare to the masses!



Andrey - Rubén Sánchez-García. Rubén joined Maskers in 2010, after arriving from Germany, where he first acted for a (Spanish-language) theatre group. In Maskers, he's been a Spanish pirate in *Treasure Island* and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as directing *Butterfly Kiss*. In real life he is a university lecturer, and married to fellow *Treasure Island* pirate Kate. He is delighted to be directed by Ron in this beautifully written and intimate piece of theatre.



Sonya - Maria Head. Maria has been a member of Maskers for many years but has not acted with them since playing Marmee in *Little Women* in 2009. She has performed in several open air productions at Mottisfont, including Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and is delighted to be involved once more. Playing Sonia in *Afterplay* has been an exciting challenge and it is wonderful to have the opportunity to speak such beautiful and poetic lines.

For the Company

Technical Manager --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Sarah Russell;
Marketing Team --- Angela Stansbridge, Ruth Kibble, Leah Barlow, James Norton, Clive Weeks;
Front of House Director --- Chris Baker; **Front of House Display** --- Leah Barlow;
Box Office Manager --- Chris Baker; **Photography** --- Clive Weeks.