

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



At Hamptworth Lodge
6 - 16 July 2016
At 7:30pm

Phonetics professor Henry Higgins tutors an extremely cockney Eliza Doolittle in the refinements of speech and manner. With the end result producing a very elegant Miss Doolittle, the lessons along the way become much more far reaching.

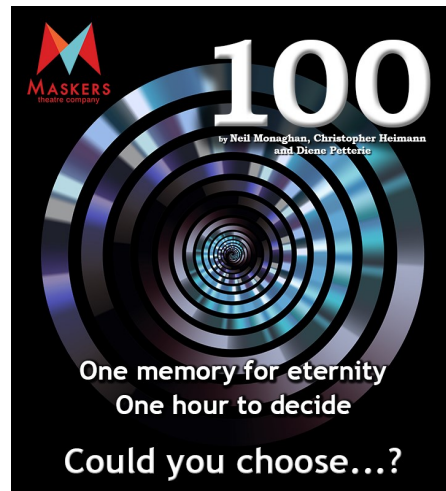
BOOKING:
Via link on our website
or 0333 666 3366

At the Maskers Studio Theatre
25 - 29 October 2016
At 7:30pm

If you were given one hour, to choose one single memory from your life, whilst all others will be erased from your mind forever, what would you pick?

The four characters of this play, who find themselves in the "void", have no choice but to make some quick decisions or face eternity alone.

BOOKING:
Via link on our website
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Programme

Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 May
MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes

I read a lot of plays, and I mean...a lot! About three years ago I read a play called *Mammals* by Amelia Bullmore, which looked at adultery, marriage and relationships with brutal humour and honesty. I tried to get it put on, but nobody "got" it, so I never got to direct it. Fast forward two years and I became aware of a Twitter storm over a new play, *Di and Viv and Rose*, which had just premiered at the Hampstead Theatre Downstairs. Within two months it had transferred "upstairs" for an extended run, then moved into the West End for another extended run. Surprise, surprise, it was written by Amelia Bullmore. I immediately read the play and loved its balance of humour, honesty and warmth. It also has three of the best written female roles I have read for a long time. This play has multiple levels; you can treat it just as a comedy, but there is so much more to find if you want to. The play has been a joy to work on, not just from a character and thematic point of view, but I've been privileged to work with three extremely talented, committed and fearless actors who have pushed the boundaries of this play way beyond my expectations.

This play is primarily about friendship; why we need it, why we make friends in the first place, and how friendship helps us through life, both the good times and the bad. The majority of the play is about three very different young women meeting at university and how they deal with the trials of growing up. The latter part of the play is about how their lives turn out and how their friendship adapts to their individual situations.

Two thirds of the play take place in the 1980s, and being students, the friends respond to the music of the time, so there is a wide selection of music from the period. In fact, music is a major part of the first act as you will see.

The set is mainly representational, except for the girls' student house, "Mossbank". This is the only setting that has dimension and detail which reflects their experience of that time.

I've really enjoyed Directing this play and we've had a lot of fun working on physical characterisation and interaction, from the energy of 18 year-olds to the subtle changes ten and 20 years on. This play catches the passing of time, as Bullmore herself puts it, "how everything is the same but different – that's what ageing is, right?"

This play is an emotional roller coaster which has been immensely rewarding to work on, so welcome on board - we hope you will enjoy the ride as much as we have.

Paul

Act One Scene Five is dedicated to the memory of Prince Rogers Nelson who provided part of the soundtrack to my life when I was forcibly growing up in the eighties.

Southampton Rape Crisis

SRC provides a range of integrated, specialist services to those who are at risk of or who have been affected by an unwanted sexual experience. This may include anything from rape, childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault to harassment or coercion.



We work with young people (11+), men, women and families as well as providing information, advice and support to agencies who are working with affected individuals.

SRC services include:

- ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) support to individuals and their families who are thinking about or already engaged in reporting their experience and negotiating the criminal justice system
- One to one therapy through our Adult Counselling Service or Young People's Counselling Service
- Support for families who are struggling with the impact of sexual abuse or assault through Family Therapy
- Therapeutic Groups for adults and young people
- A telephone Helpline providing free, confidential advice, support and information on 023 8063 6313. Sun: 7:00pm - 10:00pm Tues: 10:00am - 1:00pm Thurs: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Cancer Research UK

We're the world's leading charity dedicated to beating cancer through research. We've saved millions of lives by discovering new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, and survival has doubled over the past 40 years.



In the 1970s, less than a quarter of people with cancer survived. But over the last 40 years, survival has doubled – today half will survive. Every day in the UK there are more than 400 people diagnosed with cancer that will survive the disease for more than 10 years thanks to research.

Our vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

Acknowledgements

Maskers give our appreciation and thanks to:

Jo Welch, Graham Buchannan, Joanna Iacovou, Highfield CE Primary School and Chesil Theatre for loan of props and furniture, Kate Buckland for loan of coat, and Oliver Trojak for creating the 'Rose' bowls

The Cast



Di - Ruth Kibble

To get into character for this play, Ruth thought back to her own experience at university - shared houses, meal plans, organising people's social lives...she was really more of a Rose than a Di! That said, the shared experience of entering adulthood while being stretched academically and challenged in every way left her with friendships that have lasted over a decade and without which she'd be lost. It isn't often you find a play available to non-professional companies that is not only modern and fresh, but which focuses entirely on the stories of women. Ruth, Leah and Kristina have spent time during and between rehearsals discussing the dynamics of the characters in the play, and those of women in theatre generally, and it is Ruth's true pleasure to find in Di aspects of her own personality that aren't often expressed on stage.



Viv - Leah Barlow

It is rare to come across any play in which the female characters are not traditionally love interests, older "wise women" or generally described as waif-like and petite; so as a 6ft tall marathon runner, Leah struggles to find parts that she "looks right" for and can sink her teeth into. So when *Di and Viv and Rose* was announced, she was instantly excited and eager to be involved. Leah identifies with aspects of all three of the characters in the play (both good and bad) and hopes the audience will find them equally relatable. Viv is both familiar and a challenge to Leah in different ways, and she has worked hard to do justice to the complexity and vulnerability of Viv, in her biggest acting role to date.



Rose - Kristina Wilde

This is Kristina's second outing with Maskers, and first time ever that she's played a girl. She has played a singing cat, a blind male seer, and Henry IV. Then she joined Maskers, and played Mowgli in last year's run of *The Jungle Book*. At 26, playing a girl was becoming a bit of a pipedream. Luckily, *Di and Viv and Rose* is a perfect place to start. Rose is a fearless character. Her full-on approach to her new friends, her frequently hilarious dialogue, and her sometimes tricky path to becoming an adult combine to make a character who is both a gift and a challenge. Her giggling, zest and warmth light up the pages of the play. They will, with any luck, do the same in the Studio. Kristina would like to reassure everyone that, despite playing a girl for the first time, she thinks she will be pretty good at it.

The play takes place over 27 years, in locations ranging from University in "The North" to Marylebone Station, Little Kimble and New York.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes

Amelia Bullmore

A few years after leaving Manchester University, Bullmore got the part of Steph Barnes in *Coronation Street* in 1990. After 18 months she left to work with Chris Morris on the controversial *Brass Eye* comedy series. She carried on working with Morris on his experimental sketch show *Blue Jam* and its TV counterpart *Jam*. She wrote scripts for the BBC series *This Life*, then appeared in *State of Play*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *I'm Alan Partridge*, *Twenty Twelve* and *Sherlock*. She also appeared in sketch show *Big Train* and is currently playing DCI Gill Murray in ITV's police drama *Scott and Bailey*, which she is now co-writing. She has also appeared in the second series of the BBC's *Happy Valley*. Her first play *The Middle* was nominated for the Dennis Potter Award in 2000. Her next play *Mammals* premièred in 2005 and won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is married to the Scottish Actor Paul Higgins and has two daughters.



Directed by Paul Green - Paul has been acting and directing for nearly 40 years. Paul joined Maskers in 2014 and has already directed two shows, with acting credits including a waiter in *Betrayal* and Akela the wolf in *The Jungle Book*. He is delighted to be directing in the Studio again, which he feels is an ideal setting for the show. Paul's background is in physical theatre and he hopes this has helped him to add extra depth to the production. He is delighted to be working with Ruth, Leah and Kristina, whom he enjoyed acting with in *The Jungle Book* and he is looking forward to seeing their combined energy light up this thought-provoking comedy.

The Production Crew

Production Manager

Chris Baker

Stage Manager

Robert Osborne

Assistant Stage Manager

Emma James

Set Design

Paul Green & Adam Taussik

Lighting Consultant

Clive Weeks

Lighting Design

Eric Petterson & Paul Green

Lighting Operator

Eric Petterson & Emma James

Sound Design

Paul Green, Nick Longland & Jamie McCarthy

Sound Operator

Mike Matthias

Properties

Adam Taussik

Costume Designer & Wardrobe

Sheana Carrington, assisted by Marie McDade, Molly McDade and Christine Baker

Set Construction

Pete Hill, Adam Taussik, Tony Kibble & Paul Green

For the Company

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

Rehearsing Di & Viv & Rose

