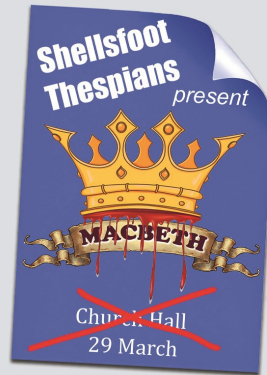
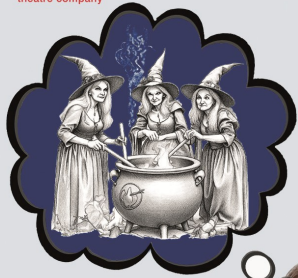


OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



Graham Holliday's

The Scottish Play



*A cursed play?
What could possibly go wrong?*

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Mon 23 - Sat 28 March

Performances at 7:30pm

Full details and on-line booking at:
maskers.org.uk

Tickets £16.50
Registered charity 900067

Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

This amateur production of "The Scottish Play" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



@MaskersTheatre

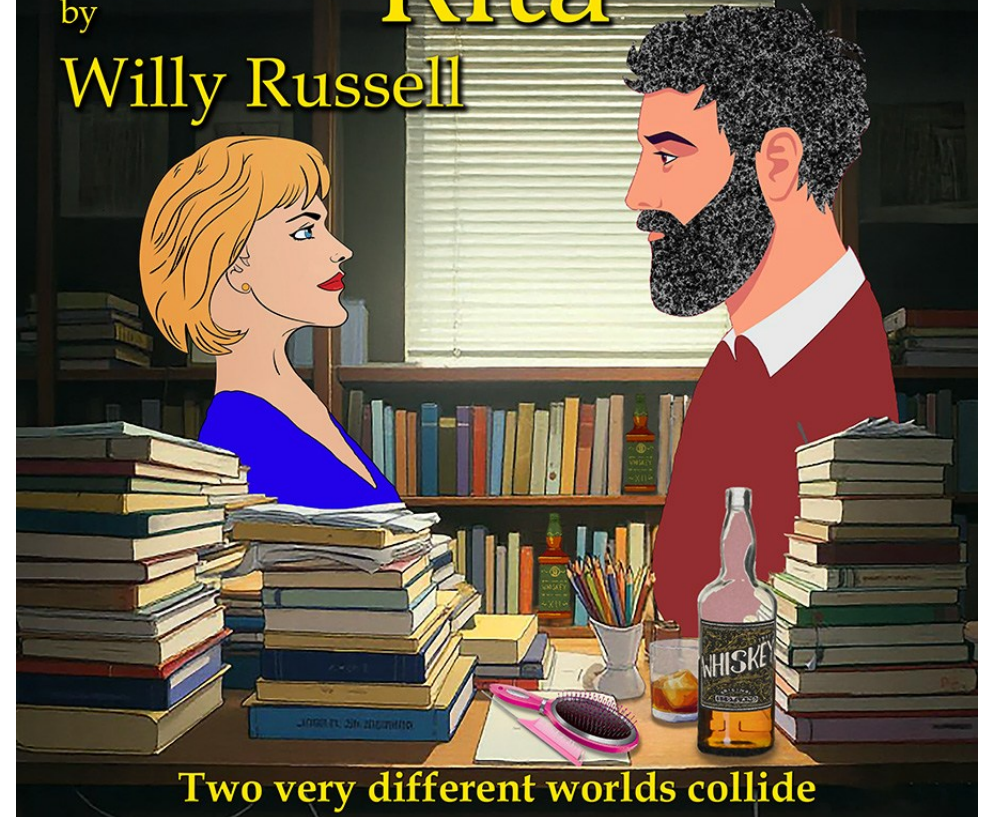
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Educating Rita

by
Willy Russell



Two very different worlds collide

Programme

2nd—7th February 2026

Maskers Studio Theatre

This amateur production of *Educating Rita* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk

Notes

I first experienced **Educating Rita**, written by Willy Russell, as a film, watching with my Dad. This resonated with me as a powerful and uplifting story about change, courage, and the profound impact of education. At its heart is a woman determined to reshape her life — not by escaping it, but by expanding it. Rita's journey towards knowledge, confidence, and self-determination reflects a truth that feels very relatable to me: education, in all its forms, can be a gateway to empowerment.

This production marks a new and exciting challenge in my directing journey. With a cast of just two, **Educating Rita** is the smallest ensemble I have ever worked with. Its intimacy demands a different kind of focus — on detail, nuance, and the evolving relationship at the centre of the play. There is nowhere to hide in a piece like this, and that is precisely what makes it so compelling to stage. I am fortunate to have a talented cast and production team working with me to ensure this focus is not lost.

It is also a play that many people already hold close to their hearts. Whether through previous productions, the film, or simply long-standing affection for Russell's writing, audiences come with their own expectations and memories. Honouring that legacy while bringing something fresh, truthful, and personal to the story has been both a responsibility and a joy.

In directing **Educating Rita**, I hope to celebrate the bravery it takes to reinvent oneself, the mentors who guide us, and the transformative power of curiosity. Most of all, I hope you see a little of your own journey reflected in Rita's — because this play, at its core, belongs to anyone who has ever wanted to grow beyond the limits of their world.

Jenni



Directed by Jenni Prior — Jenni joined Maskers in November 2023 for **Almost, Maine**, and has a long history of acting, directing and backstage roles before Maskers. She directed the sell-out production of Bill Bryson's **Notes for a Small Island** last year and was the joint director of **Murder in the Studio** and assistant director for **Winter Sparkles**. Jenni also has the demanding role of Marketing Director for the company.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes
Win a bottle of wine — tickets available from the bar!

FUTURE PRODUCTION

A story of mothers, daughters,
and the language of reconciliation

B, Y, L, E, E, B, L, E, S, S, I, N, G,
E, L, E, E, M, O, S, Y, N, A, R, Y

MASKERS
theatre company

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Mon 27 Apr - Sat 2 May
Performances at 7:30pm

Tickets £16.50

Full details and on-line booking at:
masks.org.uk

Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

Recommended for ages 15+
Registered charity 90067

This amateur production of "ELEEMOSYNARY" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;
Marketing Team:- Jenni Prior, Angela Stansbridge, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker; Tash Priddle; Maddy Cope; **Front of House Manager:-** James Lawson;
Box Office Manager:- Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager:-** Meri Mackney



LIGHT UP - SHIRLEY YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES



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VALUE FOR MONEY ENGAGING LOCAL DRAMA CLASSES RUN BY HAMPSHIRE'S MOST INNOVATIVE YOUTH THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS CHARITY

WEDNESDAY (TERM TIME) - ADVANCED (11-19)

5:00 - 7:00

THURSDAY (TERM TIME) - MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY (7-18)

5:00 - 7:00

FRIDAY (TERM TIME) - COMPANY (7-18)

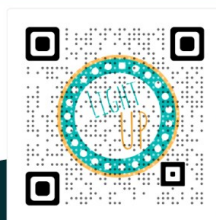
4:30 - 6:30

SATURDAY (TERM TIME) - IMPROV CLUB (10+)

1:30 - 3:00 (monthly)



MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY
OFF EMSWORTH ROAD, SHIRLEY



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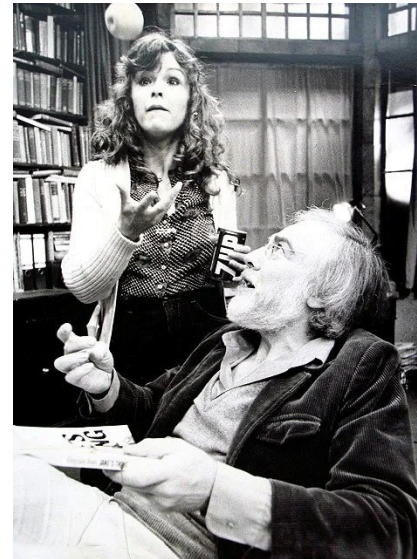
Willy Russell is an English dramatist, lyricist and composer. His best known works are *Educating Rita*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Blood Brothers* and *Our Day Out*. Commissioned by the RSC, *Educating Rita* premiered at the Warehouse, London in 1980 and transferred to the

West End, London, in August 1980, starring Julie Walters and Mark Kingston.

Since its premiere and long West End run (the play ran to at least June 1982), the play has been translated and produced in almost every part of the globe, garnering awards both for its author and for many of the actors who have played the roles of Rita and Frank.



PAULCOXPHOTOS.CO.UK



The Cast



Rita—The Student played by **Tash Priddle** — Tash joined Maskers in 2024 playing Brenda Dixon in *Cash on Delivery* and then played the murdering Julia in *Murder in the Studio*. Most recently, she was part of the outdoor summer show, *Romeo and Juliet*, playing Petra.



Frank—The Professor played by **Ruben Sanchez-Garcia** — Ruben joined Maskers in 2010 and has since acted, directed and helped backstage in a number of shows. He has particularly fond memories of his first show with the Maskers, *Treasure Island* in 2011, as well as playing Peter in *Zoo Story* and Andrey in *Afterplay*, and directing both *Butterfly Kiss* in the Maskers Studio, and an open-air production of *Don Quixote* at Hamptworth. He most recently played Nils Bohr in *Copenhagen* at the Maskers Studio. As a university professor in real life, he feels slightly typecast, but is still looking forward to playing Frank in this classic two-hander.



The Production Team

Director
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Lighting Design
Sound Design
Lighting and Sound Operators
Set Design
Set Construction
Set Dressing
Costume
Properties and Furniture
Poster Design
Show Photography
Rehearsal Prompt

Jenni Prior
Meri Mackney
Abi Linnartz
Emily Smith
Jamie McCarthy
Ashley Martin, Max Margereson
Clive Weeks, Jenni Prior
Tuesday Team
Meri Mackney, Jenni Prior and Company
Clare Britton and Cast
Teo Rusu, Meri Mackney, Adam Taussik
Clive Weeks
Abi Linnartz, Clive Weeks
Abi Linnartz, Meri Mackney

Acknowledgements

Maskers are very grateful to:
Everyone who has lent books and plants.
Wyn Jeffrey for the Anglepoise lamp.
Marie McDade for the typewriter.



Ever wondered what goes on offstage at a play?

Every show has a host of people working away out of sight of the audience.

Maskers is welcoming people into the theatre to explore the bits the audience doesn't usually get to see. Come and learn a little about the workshop, the technical department, the costume department and how we go about marketing our shows.

Or just drop in for a cup of tea and a chat on the first Saturday of every month.

Saturday 7th February

Saturday 7th March

Running from

10am – 1pm.