



Unicorn Theatre

Autumn Season 2007/2008

This season we expand the range of work we produce to include plays for the very young as well as a teenage audience. We now have a year-round programme for young people aged 0 months to 19 years.

We also welcome our new Associate Artistic Director - Rosamunde Hutt (previously Director of Theatre Centre) – for her first full season here.

This is a fantastic moment to be joining the Unicorn. Our Autumn Season continues to build upon and diversify the work created since moving into our state of the art building. With four premieres, this season shows the fruits of our work with leading UK writers and theatre makers, producing plays for a new generation of audiences. Our commitment to creating new work remains undimmed; we have six new plays under commission, the first of which is Duck! written by Philip Osment. Other writers include Christopher William Hill, Roy Williams, Mike Kenny and Linda Marshall Griffiths.

Season Highlights include:

World Premiere

- **Looking for JJ – By Anne Cassidy, Adapted and Directed by Marcus Romer**

A co-production between Unicorn Theatre and Pilot Theatre, adapted from the novel by Anne Cassidy about a child who murders her best friend.

Ages 11+

World Premiere

- **Duck! – Written by Philip Osment, Directed by Rosamunde Hutt**

Meet Ugly, he's no ordinary duck. In fact, he might not even be a duck at all! A brand new play inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's The Ugly Duckling.

Ages 7+

London Premiere

- **How to Beat a Giant – Written by Diane Samuels, Directed by Titania Krimpas**

A funny, dark tale about sibling rivalry, shadows in the night and a real giant! From the writer of *Kindertransport*

Ages 7+

London Premiere

- **Theatre Café – UK Premieres of 11 European plays**

John Retallack's Company of Angels transform the Clore Studio into a candle-lit cabaret space for ten days of rehearsed readings of new plays.

Ages 12+

FULL SEASON INFORMATION

Theatre Centre

Romeo in the City

Written by Amber Lone

Directed by Michael Judge

Tuesday 25 September – Saturday 6 October 2007

Press Performance: Wednesday 26 September, 1.30pm

Two families surviving inner-city life in Britain clash in a battle of loyalty, rivalry, love, gangs and knives. Amber Lone's updated twist on Romeo and Juliet combines Shakespearean verse with modern urban rhymes in a highly charged production. *Romeo in the City* is part of Theatre Centre's 'Isle is Full of Noises' festival which also includes *I Love You*, *Let's Foot It* and *Inspiration Workshops*.

For ages: 14+

Pilot Theatre in association with Unicorn Theatre and York Theatre Royal

Looking for JJ

Written by Anne Cassidy

Adapted and Directed by Marcus Romer

Tuesday 23 October – Sunday 25 November 2007

Press Performance: Wednesday 24 October, 7.00pm

The murder of a child can unite the nation in revulsion. But when the killer is a child herself, that hatred is cast into confusion. *Looking for JJ* considers how a child murderer might feel when she has been released from custody and is trying to make a life for herself with a new identity.

Anne Cassidy's controversial, award-winning novel receives its world premiere in this play adapted and directed by Marcus Romer. (*Lord of the Flies* and *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads*)

For ages: 11+

Company of Angels

Theatre Café

Directed by John Retallack and Ben Harrison

Tuesday 9 October – Sunday 21 October 2007

Press Performance: Wednesday 10 October, 7.30pm

The Clore Studio will be transformed into a candle-lit cabaret café for these specially commissioned translations of plays by leading European playwrights for young people. Staged as 'script-in-hand' rehearsed readings, eleven plays will be premiered. Special Event; An International Symposium at which play readings will be followed by panel discussions with directors and writers.

For ages: 12+

Eastern Angles and Company of Angels

Truckstop

Written by Lot Vekemans

Directed by Chris Rolls

Tuesday 23 October – Sunday 28 October 2007

Press Performance: Tuesday 23 October, 7.45pm

This award-winning psychological thriller from Holland about love, independence and growing up receives its London Premiere fresh from the Edinburgh Festival.

A mother who runs a roadside café will stop at nothing to protect her vulnerable daughter from her ambitious trucker boyfriend. Their lives are changed forever when conflict turns to rage at knifepoint.

Janet Bamford and Eugenia Caruso were jointly awarded Best Actress in The Stage Awards, Edinburgh Festival. The play won the highly-regarded Van der Vies prize for the Best New Play in the Netherlands in 2005.

For ages: 12+

Unicorn Theatre

How to Beat a Giant

Written by Diane Samuels

Directed by Titania Krimpas

Friday 2 November – Sunday 2 December 2007

Press Performance: Sunday 4 November, 2.30pm

Lenny and her younger brother Sniff don't want to go to sleep.

From the darkened shadows of their room they conjure up their favourite bedtime story. Lenny takes the central role of Mollie Whuppie - the fearless adventurer who always triumphs over the dreaded giant – whilst poor Sniff is left with the bit parts. But fantasy turns into reality when the giant of their imagination suddenly comes crashing into the bedroom. Captured and about to be eaten, it's down to little Sniff to try and save the day.

For ages: 7+

Unicorn Theatre

Duck!

Written by Philip Osment

Directed by Rosamunde Hutt

Saturday 1 December – Sunday 27 January 2008

Press Performance: Tuesday 11 December, 7.00pm

From the Director of last year's Christmas Show *Journey to the River Sea* and acclaimed children's writer Philip Osment comes a bold and modern look at this classic story.

Ugly is no ordinary duck. In fact, he might not even be a duck at all! An embarrassment to his brothers and sisters - Ugly eats snails, speaks funny and looks even funnier. Fed up with being the butt of all the pond jokes, he strikes out on his own. On his quest for somewhere else to belong he hooks up with a couple of street-wise outlaw geese, seeks enlightenment at a spiritual retreat and nearly wrecks a family's Christmas.

Tired and alone, Ugly meets a couple of nasty chancers who try to convince him he's better off dead – only so they can have something to eat!

Kazoos, wellies and rubber rings combine with live music for this World Premiere of a new play inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's Ugly Duckling. Set on Hampstead Heath, Duck! is a wild adventure for anyone who wants to stand out from the crowd.

For ages: 7+

Little Angel Theatre Company

Handa's Surprise

Written by Eileen Browne

Directed by Marleen Vermeulen

Tuesday 11 December – 30 December 2007

Press Performance: Wednesday 12 December, 1.45pm

The Little Angel's acclaimed adaptation of Eileen Browne's much-loved story comes to the Unicorn for Christmas.

In the dusty dryland's of Kenya, Handa goes on a journey to the neighbouring village to see her best friend. She takes a basket of 7 delicious fruits as a surprise - but 7 different animals have 7 very different ideas of better uses for the fruit.

A blend of physical performance, puppetry, live music and song combine to create an intimate, magical production with audience participation.

For ages: 2+

Tangere Arts

Hood in the Wood and A Tasty Tale

Written by Noel Greig

Directed by Johnstone

Wednesday 9 January – Sunday 3 February 2008

Press Performance: Wednesday 9 January, 1.45pm Hood in the Wood and Tasty Tale Thursday 10 January 1.45pm

A welcome return to the Unicorn for Tangere Arts with two scary fairytale delights! Brilliantly performed by a skilful storytelling duo, Gary will have you shrieking in delighted terror as he transforms into different guises from the ferocious wolf to the gingerbread house witch whilst Lewis uses his collection of curious and unique instruments to create a live atmospheric soundscape.

Hood in the Wood is an energetic and dynamic version of Little Red Riding Hood whilst a Tasty Tale tells the true story of what happened to Hansel and Gretel.

For ages: 7+

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