

Unicorn Theatre presents the premiere of

DUCK!

A new play by Philip Osment
Directed by Rosamunde Hutte

1 Dec 2007 - 27 Jan 2008
Unicorn Theatre, Tooley St, London SE1

Move over Danny Kaye – **Duck!** Is here.

This year's Christmas play at the Unicorn is an Ugly Duckling for 21st Century children. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's story, playwright Philip Osment's contemporary retelling unfolds in urban North London - a funny, witty story with a vulnerable core.

Duck! is the story of Ugly. In a world of pretty young ducks he is big, grey and . . . ugly. Fed up with being the butt of the jokes on the pond and at school, he leaves, looking for a warmer welcome anywhere else. As winter draws in he discovers a big world of kindness, cruelty, selfishness and generosity, where he meets a bizarre collection of characters (including a couple of cool street-wise geese), joins a cat and a hen at a spiritual retreat and nearly wrecks a family's Christmas.

For sparky people aged 7 and over, **Duck!** is filled with characters, jokes and references immediately recognisable to today's audiences.

Duck! is directed by Rosamunde Hutte, newly appointed Associate Artistic Director of the Unicorn who directed last year's Unicorn hit **Journey to the River Sea**. Rosamunde was Artistic Director of Theatre Centre, where she worked with writers including Benjamin Zephaniah, Diane Samuels, Lin Coghlan, Noel Greig, Roy Williams, Oladipo Agboluaje, Brendan Murray, Rosy Fordham, Sarah Woods and Anna Reynolds.

Playwright, director and former actor, Philip Osment has both written and translated numerous award-winning plays, including *The Dearly Beloved*, *What I Did in the Holidays*, *Buried Alive* and *Pedro*, *The Great Pretender* (RSC) for adults and *Little Violet and the Angel* and *The Night Garden* for children.

Cast: Liam Lane; Richard Sumitro; John O'Mahony; Hazel Maycock; Adam Baxter; Gbemisola Ikumelo; Inika Leigh Wright; Ruby Aspinall; Sefa Steer.

Duck! Is designed by Louise Ann Wilson and lit by Ian Scott with music by Tom Johnson and choreography by Jeanfer Jean-Charles

Hans Christian Andersen raised fairy tale and folklore to literary art, and often used his stories to encode his life, saying himself that *The Ugly Duckling* reflected his own life story. The term 'ugly duckling' is now part of the English vernacular - a lasting accolade to one of the world's greatest story tellers.

Press night: Tuesday 11 December 7pm

For information and reviewing tickets please phone Sharon Kean on 020 7354 3574.

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