

The Compleat Works of
**Willm
Shkspr**
(abridged)

Director's notes

A lot has happened since we started rehearsing this play the Olympics have come and gone, summer has turned to winter and credit has been crunched. To be honest, the only one of these that we have really noticed is the middle one, because we had to stop rehearsing out of doors.

This play has been great fun to do. From the auditions, where I had a difficult choice to make from some excellent actors, we have all spent a lot of time laughing. And everyone involved has added something a fantastic assortment of odd props, an outing for our oldest and rattiest wigs from wardrobe, the creation of our soundtrack and the addition of the odd lighting gag.

The play itself is an odd assortment of wit, slapstick, physical and observational comedy, and even bits of the plays themselves, ticking off all of Shakespeare's works without pause for breath. We have spent long hours sitting around my kitchen table, drinking tea and trying to decide what works best and what didn't! I hope I have chosen correctly! Throughout this, the cast have been a delight, humouring my wilder moments, rescuing the bits I didn't understand and throwing themselves (literally) into the show. We have been taught safe sword play, tried the patience of the fire officer and cornered the market in inflatable adult toys. And how hard is it to do things backwards? You decide!

I want to thank all of those involved it has been a long journey from the first cast reading sitting under the tree in the garden to the opening night. During that time, the play has grown as we have come to terms with the (abridged) works of the Stratford maestro. We have, I confess, added a few bits of our own along the way most still make me laugh, but the worse gag in the show? Let's just say it's a generation thing!

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Criterion Theatre
Our next production

Dinner

By Moira Buffini
7th to 14th February 2009



BOX OFFICE (Direct)
024 7667 5175

This is a notice to members

Dinner

by Moira Buffini

7th to 14th February 2009

An artist, a scientist and a sexpot are coming to dinner. Paige, hostess extraordinaire, is celebrating the publication of her husband's bestseller. The arrival of Mike, marooned in the foggy lane after crashing his van, provides an unexpected addition to the evening's entertainment. A silent waiter, sourced from an obscure website, completes the picture. Primordial Soup is first on the menu – let the dinner from hell begin. A wonderful black comedy, with blood on the carpet before the night is over.

"A delicious, bad-taste comedy." THE GUARDIAN

"Irresistibly entertaining and downright moreish." THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

"The sharpness of the satire and it's icy delivery make this play a tasty morsel of light relief." LONDON THEATRE GUIDE

"Plenty of entertainment and fun on offer here." THE TIMES

Production photography by
Richard Johnson
024 7671 4153

The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.

The Compleat Works of
**Willm
Shkspr**
(abridged)

By Borgeson,
Long and
Singer



Programme

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited
This production contains strobe lighting effects

The Compleat Works

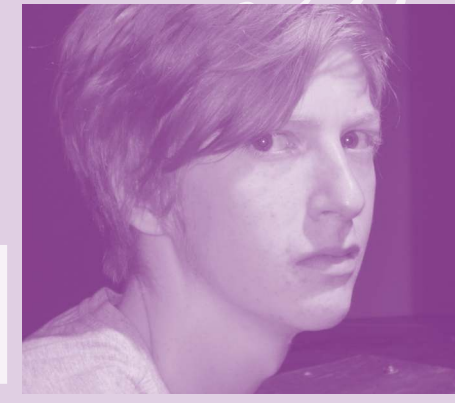


Daniel Singer

Daniel has been a disciple of Shakespeare's works since his mother took him to see "Twelfth Night" at Stratford when he was just seven years old. Although he didn't really understand what was going on, or the incomprehensible dialect, there were two intervals in which to eat crisps and drink Coke and he got to stay up late. He was drawn into a career in acting after witnessing a particularly steamy version of the "bedroom scene" in a performance of Romeo and Juliet during an English A level trip. The potential of this encouraged him to keep his hand in throughout the hard grind of theatre school. He made his professional Shakespearian debut at Stratford as the "Second Merchant" in Comedy of Errors (sadly the theatre has now been demolished to make way for the 2012 Olympic Village). His cites as his influences Bard heavyweights like Gielgud, Jacobi, Tennant and Barrymore (John, not the one who used to be on TV). After a series of lesser roles at a series of smaller theatres, Daniel teamed up with Jess to create this homage to the Bard which has united all and sundry (rich or poor, young or old, cat AND dog) in accessing and appreciating that monolithic giant of English literature plus Daniel at last gets to play Romeo, although not quite in the circumstances he would have wished.

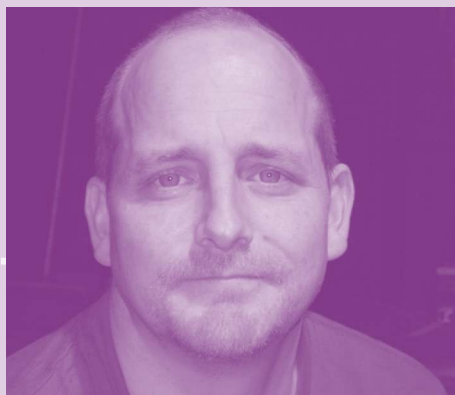
All's Well That Ends Well
As You Like It
The Comedy of Errors
Cymbeline
Love's Labours Lost
Measure for Measure
The Merry Wives of Windsor
The Merchant of Venice
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Much Ado About Nothing
Pericles, Prince of Tyre
Taming of the Shrew
The Tempest
Troilus and Cressida
Twelfth Night
Two Gentlemen of Verona
Winter's Tale
Henry IV, part 1
Henry IV, part 2
Henry V

Henry VI, part 1
Henry VI, part 2
Henry VI, part 3
Henry VIII
King John
Richard II
Richard III
Antony and Cleopatra
Coriolanus
Hamlet
Julius Caesar
King Lear
Macbeth
Othello
Romeo and Juliet
Timon of Athens
Titus Andronicus
The Sonnets
A Lover's Complaint
The Rape of Lucrece
Venus and Adonis
Funeral Elegy



Adam Long

Adam has been involved in the theatre since he was just 4 years old - as a camel in his school nativity. However, he was stripped of the part before opening night after an altercation with the actress playing the part of Mary. He described her portrayal of the scene in the stable as 'horribly one-dimensional', before lecturing her for 15 minutes on the emotional and physical pressures of travelling miles and miles, heavily pregnant, on a donkey, to a remote village, before giving birth to the Son of God in a stable, and how her performance was not synthesizing these elements into a convincing performance- not to mention the fact that she was holding the Baby Jesus upside down. Adam has come a long way since then, he won a scholarship at RADA and has recently finished filming a new musical adaptation of Romeo and Juliet in which he plays an Egyptian Romeo. After Jess and Daniel release him from his contract at Christmas, he will be joining the National Theatre to play the lead in their new production of Hamlet.



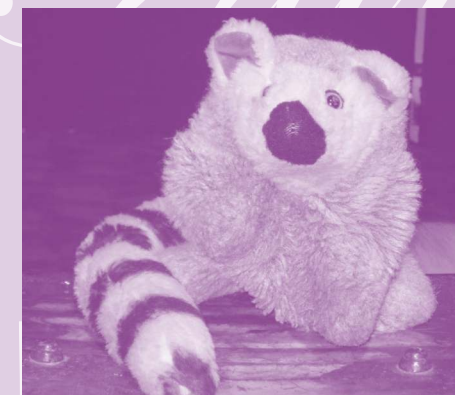
Jess Borgeson

For the narrow minded and culturally challenged (like Adam), Shakespeare can appear irrelevant, boring and incomprehensible. And yet the same people seem to thrive on Katie and Peter and endless repeats of Top Gear on Dave. Jess, on the other hand, loves Shakespeare. He finds the plays inspiring, funny, poignant and enjoyable. He has sat through a marathon performance of the Histories, claiming to be so entranced he missed the onset of DVT which left him in a coma for six months. Everybody has a vice that fills them with so much pleasure they cannot release themselves from it, whether it's football, shopping, drink or drugs. Jess' vices are the themes of history, love, tragedy and comedy, dressed seductively in a coolee of Olde English. The Theatre is his opium den, Shakespeare his apothecary, a sonnet his quick fix, iambic pentameter the rhythm to which he rolls. When he walks into the theatre, he can't wait to get into his tights and codpiece.

Jess Borgeson
Adam Long
Daniel Singer

Jon Elves
David Butler
Chris Firth

Stage Manager	Tony Cuttiford
Design/Build	Dave Holmes i/c, Lewis Holmes, Simon Sharpe Des Ali, Kevin Walsh
Paint	Paul Chokran, Tony Cuttiford
Light Design	Ian Knight
Operator	Ben Woodward
Sound Design	Becky Bartlett, Dave Cornish
Operator	Marie Well
Wardrobe	Jean Firth, Liz Hodgkiss
Properties	Frances Dixon i/c, Jackie Crisp, Erica Young Kim West, Sally Patalong
Fights arranged by:	John Waters
Original music and arrangements:	The Cast
Assistant Director	Gennie Holmes
Director	Bill Butler



Ricky the Ring Tailed Lima (Player King)

Ricky makes a first appearance in this guest role at the Criterion, although he has had a hand in many past productions around the country. He was educated at Harrow where he developed his love of performance, and spent time in Stratford (while waiting for a train). Previous work has included Planet Earth with David Attenborough (BBC1), The Really Wild Show (CBBC) and Sooty (CITV). He has enjoyed working on The Compleat Works and has developed an especially close relationship with Jess, who has had a big hand in Ricky's performance.