

Directors Notes

GONE WITH THE WIND

The book was Margaret Mitchell's only novel and was first published in 1936, selling over a million copies within a few months. David O. Selznick acquired the film rights for only \$50,000 and started to publicise the movie before going into production, most notably in his search for the actress to play Scarlett O'Hara, a role won by Vivien Leigh. The film went on to win 10 Oscars, including those for best production, best director and best screenplay. No other movie has sold more tickets at the US box office.

DAVID O SELZNICK

The son of a failed silent movie producer, Selznick married the daughter of MGM boss, Louis B. Mayer and was quickly promoted to succeed the legendary Irving Thalberg as the studio's producer. Selznick liked to be involved in every detail of his productions, bombarding his staff with memos. One of his telegrams was over 30 feet long and ended with the words "I have just received a phone call that pretty much clears up this matter. Therefore you can disregard this wire." His films include King Kong, David Copperfield, Anna Karenina, Intermezzo and Rebecca. He was instrumental in promoting the talents of Fred Astaire, Katherine Hepburn, Ingrid Bergman and Alfred Hitchcock.

BEN HECHT

Prolific screenwriter, playwright, journalist and novelist. Wrote over 70 screenplays, many of them anonymously. These include Scarface, The Front Page, Stagecoach, Some Like it Hot, Wuthering Heights, Monkey Business and A Farewell to Arms. He was nominated for 6 academy awards and won 2 Oscars. He did not enjoy writing for the movies, but did so to finance his other work. He could produce a screenplay within 2 weeks and never spent more than 8 weeks on a script. He became a civil rights activist very early in his career and was vociferous in his condemnation of Hitler's persecution of the Jews. At the end of World War II, he became involved in raising money and support for the new state of Israel.

VICTOR FLEMING

A former mechanic, racing driver and chauffeur, Fleming entered the movie business as a stuntman before becoming a cameraman and then a director. He is credited with catapulting both Gary Cooper and Clark Gable into stardom. His films include The Virginian, Red Dust, Treasure Island, Test Pilot, The Wizard of Oz and Gone With The Wind. He was a renowned ladies' man and had a string of high-profile affairs. Clara Bow said of him "Of all the men I've known, there was a man."

John Ruscoe

March 2010

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Criterion Theatre

Our next production:



By Steve Thompson
15th-22nd May 2010

In the week before Christmas, a new Tory government is facing dissent over its latest Bill. With a majority of only three, the Whips' office is out in full force, and they'll stop at nothing to keep the strays in line. But they're in for a long night - boy scouts are rioting in Whitehall, the PM is golfing with the US President, five Tory rebels are on the loose and the Chief Whip is playing at Santa. Could this be the beginnings of a leadership challenge? This is a fast-moving switchback of a play, with more twists and double-bluffs than a poker game between con-men. If you are a fan of Yes, Minister and Yes, Prime Minister, you will love this.



BOX OFFICE (Direct)

024 7667 5175

This is a notice to members

Criterion Lottery Fund and Draw

Funds for the theatre are raised through our Lottery Fund. Please consider buying a number (or more than one) for the small sum of £5 per number per month. Please contact **Mike Tooley** on 024 7667 3789 or mike_tooley@hotmail.com for details.

Remember... you've got to be in it to win it!



Production photography by
Richard Johnson
079 0450 6280

The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre

"Frankly, my dear, it's a sassy comedy..."

MOONLIGHT and MAGNOLIAS

by Ron Hutchinson



Programme

Produced by arrangement with Samuel French Limited

MOONLIGHT and MAGNOLIAS



CAST

David O. Selznick
Ben Hecht
Victor Fleming
Miss Poppenghul

Tim Willis
Jon Elves
Matt Sweatman
Rebecca Fenlon

Act 1 Scene 1

Selznick's office, Hollywood, 1939.

Act 1 Scene 2

The same, two days later.

INTERVAL

Act 2

Three days later.

CREW

Director
Stage Manager
Prompt
Set Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design
Wardrobe
Set Build

John Ruscoe
Ben Woodward
Maggie Parkes
Pete Bagley
Ian Knight
Dave Cornish
Maureen Liggins, Pam Coleman,
Pete Bagley, Simon Sharpe,
Kevin Woods, Jo Sharpe,
Frances Dixon, Mike Tierney,
Paul Tierney, Andrew Tyrer,
Martin Roddis, Mike Tooley
Paul Chokran, Judy Talbot,
Paul Wilkins, Sue Hadlum
Annie Woodward, Les Rahilly,
Joe Fallowell, Debbie Relton-Elves,
Sara Farmanfarmai, Harry Leonard,
Kat Cooper, Simon Heer

Set Paint

Props and Set Dressing

Tim Willis



Gaslight was Tim's debut at the Criterion, Moonlight and Magnolias is his second performance. He first appeared on the local theatre circuit at the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth in 1984. Trained at Mountview Theatre School, his subsequent professional acting career highlights include Fiddler on the Roof, Mother Courage, and the Heather Brothers' Lust, all in London's West End. Other credits include an 18-month stint as Riff-Raff in The Rocky Horror Show European tour, an international tour of the Mousetrap, and numerous national tours including Arcadia (NT) and Neil Simon's Laughter on the 23rd Floor. In 2002, he was offered a "proper job" and returned to the area where he continues to act and direct. Tim is the current Director of Productions at the Talisman Theatre.

Matt Sweatman



Matt has been a member of the Theatre since 1992 and has enjoyed a number of the productions performed here – mostly the ones he wasn't in! Favourite roles have been The Prince of Wales in The Madness of George 3rd, Sergeant Toomey in Biloxi Blues, Eddie Carbone in View From The Bridge and recently joining the large cast for A Chorus of Disapproval, playing a rather sleazy swinger – quite a challenge! Matt is looking forward to working with John Ruscoe and Becky Fenlon again and also with Tim Willis for the first time. He is not looking forward to working with Jon Elves again!

Jon Elves



Jon first appeared at The Criterion in the early 1990s and has since appeared in various productions including Wind in the Willows, Amadeus, The Madness of King George, Stop the World I Want to Get Off, Abigail's Party, Return to the Forbidden Planet, Brassed Off, Hedda Gabler, A Russian in the Woods, Two, The Reduced Shakespeare Company's The Complete Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged), Four Nights in Knaresbrough, Sex, Drugs & Rick 'N Noel and most recently appeared in A Chorus of Disapproval.

Rebecca Fenlon



Rebecca made her debut at The Criterion in 2007 as Elaine in The Graduate and has since appeared in productions including Cider with Rosie, Blue Remembered Hills, and Sex, Drugs & Rick 'N Noel. She has played Estella in Great Expectations last year and most recently appeared in A Chorus of Disapproval.