

Why Festival 50?

We have now been 50 years in Berkeley Road South in our theatre – THE CRITERION – which we own.

It is now a thriving theatre of quality. 50 years ago this seemed an impossible dream.

I suppose every enthusiastic director who has been bitten by the theatrical bug (once bitten you're infected for life) has fantasized about starting their own theatre with its own group of actors.

I know I did. To have a building that was our very own where we could put on plays of our choice with our own company would be fantastic.

But that is what it seemed at the time: a fantasy. We had no building and no money. But thanks to the vision, the skills, talent and the sheer hard work of many, many people, 50 years later the Criterion stands proud as a symbol of its own success.

Since the Criterion opened in 1961 it has staged over 400 productions, two of which have been world premieres, and members of the Company have played over 6000 parts. On average every play needs about 50 people backstage and front of house to produce and staff. That means, since 1961, over 20,000 support roles have been undertaken by local people. Now, in 2011, the Criterion Theatre Company is nearly 200 people strong; the standard of performance is invariably high; the front of house atmosphere welcoming, and the backstage and technical support second to none.

We believe that 50 years need celebrating in a festive way. So Festival 50 will be an enjoyable commemoration of theatre. We are presenting 9 one-act plays over two weeks (chosen from an initial list of more than 120) which comprise a rich variety of established plays, new plays, foreign plays and experimental plays. We will be presenting 3 plays each night over two weeks and they will offer our Company an opportunity for high calibre performance coupled with simplicity of staging.

Festival 50 will be a brave and glorious celebration of all that makes the Criterion unique. Celebrate with us and enjoy it!

Geoff Bennett

Festival Director and President of the Criterion Theatre

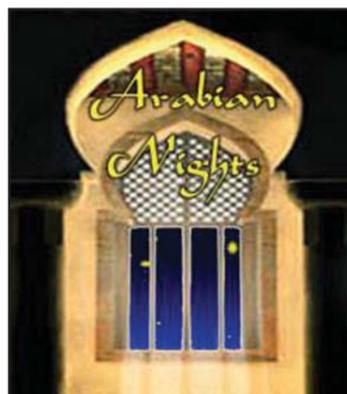
Criterion Lottery Fund and Draw

Funds for the theatre are raised through our Lottery Fund. Please consider buying a number (or 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!



Our next production:



Arabic Nights by Dominic Cooke
3rd - 10th September 2011

It is wedding night in the palace of King Shahrayar. By morning, the new Queen Shahrazad is to be put to death like all the young brides before her. But she has one gift that could save her, the gift of storytelling. With her mischievous imagination, the young Queen spins her dazzling array of tales and characters. But will her silver-tongued stories be enough to enchant her husband and save her life?

BOX OFFICE (Direct)

024 7667 5175

This is a notice to members

If you have any comments about your experience at the Criterion Theatre, please email Louise at **comments@critteriontheatre.co.uk**



Supported by Shortland Horne



Some plays contain smoking on stage under The Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007 and may also contain mild language

Programme

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Company A

Performance Dates:

9,13, 19 and 22nd July at 7.30pm
and Sat 23rd July at 10.30am

IC Props: Chris Jones
IC Sound: Dave Cornish
IC Lighting: Ian Knight
Stage Manager: Annie Woodward

The Monkey's Paw ad. Holloway from Jacobs

The perils of ambition lie at the heart of this supernatural tale. A working-class family in the 1940s is granted three wishes, all of which come true, but in a macabre and unexpected way.

Director Ruth Miller
Mother Chris Ingall
Father John Butler
Son Joe Fallowell
Ex-Sergeant Peter Gillam
Factory Official Bill Bosworth
Sound Design Becky Bartlett and Peter Gillam
Props Sally Patalong
Monkeys Paw Paul Wilkins
Prompt Bill Bosworth

Resting Place by David Campton

Jim and Minnie are old in the 1960s and share a wealth of memories. They grieve over what can be forgiven but not forgotten, yet love triumphantly.

Director Nancy Silvester
Old Woman Maureen Copping
Old Man Doug Griffiths
Wardrobe, Props and Prompt: Marie Wells, Matt Redwood and Erica Young

Chinamen by Michael Frayn

A master-class in farce (and supposedly the inspiration for "Noises Off") the play concerns a dinner party for five people (all played by the same two actors) to which friends are invited and who at all costs must not be allowed to meet.

Director Bill Butler
Stephen/ Barney Jon Elves
Joe/ Bee/ Alex Becky Fenlon
Props Sally Patalong

Company B

Performance Dates:

11,14, 16 and 20th July at 7.30pm
and Sat 23rd July at 2.30pm

IC props: Les Rahilly
Props Team: Matt Waters, Cathryn Bowler
IC Sound: Dave Cornish
IC Lighting: Ian Knight
Stage Manager: Margie Bosworth

Sure Thing by David Ives

A classic of contemporary comedy: two people meet in a cafe and find their way through a conversational minefield as an offstage bell interrupts their false starts, gaffes and faux pas.

Director Anne-marie Greene
Betty Olivia Holmes
Bill Joe Fallowell
Bell and Prompt Gennie Holmes

Afterplay by Brian Friel

In a run-down café in Moscow in 1924 Andrey comes looking for Sonya whom he met the previous evening. Inspired by the plays of Chekhov, Brian Friel imagines the 'afterlife' of two lonely middle-aged people seeking companionship.

Director Jane Railton
Sonya Serebriakova Carly Taylor
Andrey Prozorov Pete Bagley
Prompt Shirley Jobson

Edward Albee's The Zoo Story

One man sits on a bench in Central Park, New York on a summers day. He is joined by another and they are forever linked by the events that unfold.

Director Greg Cole
Producer James Ruffell
Jerry James Wolstenholme
Peter Calum Speed

Across the Companies

Production Manager Ben Woodward
Set Design and Build: Mike Tooley, Ben Woodward, Kevin Woods, Simon Sharpe
Set Painting: Paul Chokran, Pete Bagley, Louise Bagley and Matt Hadlum
Sound Design and Operators: Dave Cornish, Becky Bartlett, and Matt Hadlum
Lighting Design and Operators: Ian Knight, Karl Stafford, and Hannah Barton
Wardrobe: Pam Coleman, Maureen Liggins
Festival Administrators Wendy Anderson, Anne-marie Greene

Company C

Performance Dates:

12,15, 18 and 21st July at 7.30pm
and Sat 23rd July at 7.30pm

IC Props: Emma Withers
IC Sound: Dave Cornish
IC Lighting: Ian Knight
Stage Manager: Peter Jones

Blackout by Davey Anderson

This hard-hitting play was inspired by the true story of a young offender who has committed a violent crime. Performed by the Theatre's Youth Group.

Director Doreen Belton
James Sam Taylor, Peter Meredith
Mum Nicola Reed
Teachers Holly Gosai, Becky Cribdon, Meg Levermore
Policeman Ben Lancashire, Josh Leach
Key Worker Sarah McDonagh, Becky Cribdon
Grandad Ben Lancashire, Josh Leach
Judge Meg Levermore
Friends, Bullies, Nicola Reed, Rachel Stokes, Holly Gosai,
Friends of Friends Becky Cribdon, Josh Leach, Sarah McDonagh, Meg Levermore, Ben Lancashire,
Prompt Pam Coleman
Wardrobe Chrissy Ihenacho

The Bear ad. Brian Friel from Chekhov

Elena, a young and attractive widow is indulging in deep mourning for her philandering, but now dead, husband. Her servant Luka tries vainly to snap her out of it. Then Smirnov arrives, demanding money...

Director Helen Withers
Elena Christine Evans
Luka Annie Woodward
Gregory Matt Sweatman
Prompt Rachel Newey

In Camera (Huis Clos) ad. Hugh Sorrell from Sartre

In Sartre's masterpiece exposition of his existentialist philosophy, three people arrive in a hell they don't expect. Their flawed characters fixed by the choices they made in life, they are obliged to torture each other for eternity.

Director Hugh Sorrell
Porter Gennie Holmes
Garcin Phil Quinn
Inez Dawn Morris
Estelle Elli Lake