



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Orange
Tree
Theatre

PRESS RELEASE 8 February 2017

20 – 29 JULY 2017

Directors Festival

Announcing a festival of plays directed by students from the first year of the Orange Tree Theatre and St Mary's University's MA in Theatre Directing. Five plays by five directors playing in repertoire over 10 days with all tickets £7.50.

Albert's Boy by James Graham, directed by Kate Campbell

Even Stillness Breathes Softly Against a Brick Wall by Brad Birch,
directed by Hannah de Ville

The End of Hope by David Ireland, directed by Max Elton

Misterman by Enda Walsh, directed by Grace Vaughan

Wasted by Kate Tempest, directed by Jamie Woods

Priority booking for Members of the Orange Tree Theatre is now open.
Public booking opens 15 February 10.00am.

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Full production information

20 July 7.00pm, 22 July 8.30pm, 27 July 4.00pm, 28 July 8.30pm

Albert's Boy by James Graham

directed by Kate Campbell

The human race has never built a weapon it did not eventually turn on itself.

Einstein's guilt tangles him up in knots.

It's boomtime in America, 1953. At home in New Jersey, Einstein isn't basking in this Free World glow. His cat is missing and that is the least of his problems. Nearly a decade after the Second World War ended in a mushroom cloud over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Albert is questioning his own part in the proliferation of the Atomic Bomb.

When his friend's son Peter Bucky visits, recently repatriated from a Chinese POW camp at the end of the Korean War, opinions and molecules collide, in this riveting play not seen on the London stage since its world premiere at The Finborough Theatre in 2005.

Written by James Graham, whose play *This House* recently transferred to the West End following a hit run at the National Theatre.

20 July 8.30pm, 24 July 7.00pm, 26 July 8.30pm, 29 July 7.00pm

Even Stillness Breathes Softly Against a Brick Wall by **Brad Birch**
directed by **Hannah de Ville**

We all pour into the city like water down a sink

Him loves her. Her loves him. Yet everyday they decay. Every day they descend into the city, leaving their souls tucked up in bed.

What do you do when you realise how inconsequential your life is? That you have, slowly, without realising become another corporate cog in a corporate machine. That the only thing you get excited by is the anticipation as to whether your neighbour's cat will acknowledge you.

Brad Birch's lyrical aesthetic results in a poem. A dynamic poem, shared between two disillusioned voices. Two voices, just going through the motions...

But what happens when Him and Her say no. No to the meal deals. No to the iPhones. No to the friends. No to this pathetic illusion of happiness - it's simple really, they just have to...

Wake up.

Wake up.

Yet how do you wake up from life?

Brad Birch's plays include *The Brink*, which had its world premiere at the Orange Tree in 2016.

21 July 7.00pm, 24 July 8.30pm, 27 July 7.00pm, 29 July 8.30pm

The End of Hope by **David Ireland**

directed by **Max Elton**

So I decided to dispose of the body myself. I chopped him up with a kitchen knife and I thought about burying him in the back garden but I couldn't be bothered with all that digging so I just threw him in the bin.

Dermot and Janet are about to have a one-night stand. Before sealing the deal, though, Dermot must:

- a) Check she agrees that Tony Blair's a war criminal.
- b) Establish whether she killed her ex-husband
- c) Reluctantly accept she does not realise he's famous.

David Ireland's witty and insightful comedy makes its London premiere following his critically-acclaimed *Cyprus Avenue* at the Royal Court Theatre.

21 July 8.30pm, 25 July 7.00pm, 27 July 8.30pm, 29 July 4.00pm

Misterman by **Enda Walsh**

directed by **Grace Vaughan**

...sin has become our religion, greed our communion and Evil... Evil is our God.

Blasphemy, shameless flirting, deceit, excessive drinking, arrogance and laziness. Inishfree is immersed in evil and only Thomas McGill can see it. With God at his shoulder it is up to him to cleanse the town and bring salvation to its people.

But heaven may be further from Inishfree than he thought.

Enda Walsh's play takes a stark look at the dark side of rural life and the isolated mind of a man on a mission.

His previous plays include *Ballyturk*, *The New Electric Ballroom* and *The Walworth Farce*. He wrote the book for the musicals *Once* and David Bowie's *Lazarus*.

22 July 7.00pm, 25 July 8.30pm, 26 July 7.00pm, 28 July 7.00pm

Wasted by **Kate Tempest**

directed by **Jamie Woods**

Life wants you - it beckons - makes itself immense.

Respect it - take it in your arms, connect and face it.

Your life is for much more than getting wasted.

Three old friends. One remarkable day. One epiphany. Tony's tree changes four times a year - Ted, Danny and Charlotte need to catch up.

It's time to seize control. Make a difference. Change things. This is it.

The charged words of remarkable contemporary poet **Kate Tempest** capture a generation of lost souls seeking their place in the world, when they forget their epiphany the minute they've thought it. **Wasted** is a gripping, funny & moving portrait of life, loss, love and losing your mind.

MA Theatre Directing course information

This MA Theatre Directing course – the only one of its kind in the UK to be predominantly housed in a producing theatre sees MA students based at the multi-award winning Orange Tree Theatre and is designed to explore the art and techniques of theatre directing within the context of contemporary theatre making.

Modules are taught by both academics and theatre directors with the assistance of professional actors in the practical classes. The programme is both academic and vocational. It aims to provide an advanced understanding of theatre production processes within a context of both contemporary theatre making and the dramatic tradition. It further aims to develop students' craft skills and technical abilities in order to prepare them for a career in theatre directing.

The programme is aimed both at graduates who wish to advance their understanding of theatre practice in order to develop their work to a professional standard and at theatre professionals who wish to formalise their experience with a course of study and a qualification. The course can be studied full-time in one year or part-time over two years and applications are being taken for the 2017-18 academic year, with full details at www.stmarys.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses-london/ma-theatre-directing

Drama St Mary's is a creative centre which is both a learning environment and a context for professional creative work and community engagement. Their postgraduate courses are vocational programmes which aim to equip students with advanced industry skills but also provide the opportunity for artistic experiment and research. "We think it is particularly important that theatre should have social purpose and although we place the performer at the centre of our work there is a strong focus on the audience. We believe that theatre is about 'us' not about 'me'."

At the **Orange Tree Theatre** we aim to stir, delight, challenge, move and amaze with a bold and continually evolving mix of new and rediscovered plays in our unique in the round space. We want to change lives by telling remarkable stories from a wide variety of times and places, filtered through the singular imagination of our writers and the remarkable closeup presence of our actors. A theatre of this scale, with the audience wrapped around the players, invites acting to be the centre of the experience. This is theatre as a figurative art: the human being literally at its centre. We want to experience voices and stories from our past and our present alongside visions of the future. Life as it's lived: unplugged and unmiked. Close-up magic. Truths the hand can touch.

@Drama_StMarys @OrangeTreeThtr

Listings information

Tickets £7.50 (NO BOOKING FEES)

Orange Tree Theatre, 1 Clarence Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SA

Box Office orangetreetheatre.co.uk | 020 8940 3633 (open 10am to 6.30pm Mon-Sat).

TRANSPORT

Trains Richmond Station (District Line, London Overground and South West Trains to/from Waterloo).

Buses 65, 190, 371, 391, 419, 490, 493, R68, R70, H22, H37, and N22 (night bus) all stop at Richmond Station. 33 and 337 also stop in central Richmond.

Cycling Bike storage facilities near the Theatre at the corner of Church Road and Kew Road, and at Richmond Station.

Parking Pay and display parking is also available nearby. Old Deer Park car park (off the A316) is about a 5-minute walk to the theatre. Free parking after 6.30pm.