

Forthcoming Captioned Performances – March 2010

Liverpool Playhouse Box Office 0151 709 4776

Saturday 15 May, 2.00 pm ***Canary***

In 1960s Liverpool two lovers hide in the closet and then go their separate ways. While pits close and dole queues grow, a couple of runaways find *Heaven* in 1980s London. and today the paparazzi chase a love story that could tear a family apart. Then a grieving mother gets lost up a mountain, with a vicar. A deeply moving, funny, unflinching and often magical story about love, honesty and being brave enough to sing out at the top of your voice. With style.

Liverpool Everyman Box Office 0151 709 4776

Thursday 1 April, 7.30 pm ***Hansel and Gretel***

A Wonder Tale

Hungry and alone in the forest, Hansel and Gretel are armed with their very last slice of bread. Will they eat to survive, or leave a trail home instead?

Let the irrepressible Kneehigh Theatre take you by the hand and lead you into deepest part of the forest! Prepare for a world of darkness, wit and wonder, of earthy delights and crooked shadows. A world that is sweet... but never sugary.

This tender, tasty and terrifying new version of the classic story is told through lively music, rough poetry, the most amazing gadgets and gizmos...

For children and brave adults everywhere.

Saturday 26 June, 7.30 pm ***The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists***

Based on the novel by Robert Tressell In a new adaptation by Howard Brenton.

Enlightening, deeply moving and gloriously funny, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* is a story that has changed countless lives and remains as vivid and as relevant as when it was written almost a century ago. This story of a group of working men who are joined one day by Owen, a journeyman-prophet with a vision of a just society, is a masterpiece of wit and political passion and one of the most authentic novels of English working class life ever written.

Now one of our greatest playwrights, Howard Brenton, adapts it for the stage in a new production for the Everyman. Christopher Morahan returns after the success of *The Caretaker* to direct a large ensemble in a vital production filled with energy, humour, passion and song.

Liverpool Empire Booking for captioned performance 0844 3 72 72 72 or access4all.empireliverpool@livenation.co.uk

Wednesday 21 April, 7.30 pm ***Blood Brothers***

Returning to the Empire Theatre for two weeks only, Liverpool's own musical for all time: Blood Brothers. With book, music and lyrics by Willy Russell, Blood Brothers tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with tragic consequences. The superb score includes 'Bright New Day', 'Marilyn Monroe' and the emotionally charged hit 'Tell Me It's Not True'.

Few musicals have received quite such acclaim as the multi-award winning Blood Brothers, and Bill Kenwright's production, having recently celebrated its 21st phenomenal year in London, continues to enjoy standing ovations at every devastating performance.

(Liverpool Empire, continued)

Wednesday 9 June, 7.30 pm ***The Hobbit***

Enjoy the sights, sounds and excitement of the best selling fantasy novel ever written, in this fresh spectacular live theatre production with sparkling new magical effects - perfect for Hobbit fans both young and old. Bilbo Baggins, a quiet and contented Hobbit, has his life turned upside down when he is chosen by Gandalf the Sorcerer to join Thorin Oakenshield, exiled king of the Dwarves, on his quest to reclaim their kingdom and treasure. A frightening but magical journey - a journey from which they may never return. The adventurers battle through the Misty Mountains, wind, rain, hail and thunderstorms, narrowly escaping Trolls, Goblins, Wolves and Giant Spiders. Finally Bilbo alone must face the guardian of the treasure, the most feared dragon in all Middle Earth - Smaug ... Join us as we travel "there and back again".

Tuesday 13 July, 7.30 pm ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***

The most fantasmagorical stage musical in the history of everything, hits the road in top gear in a brand new high flying tour.

With a cast orchestra and crew of 100 (including ten dogs), sensational sets and stunning special effects, this action-packed adventure is the story of the magical car, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts, and his two children Jeremy and Jemima, alongside Truly Scrumptious and Grandpa Potts, all try and outwit the dastardly Baron and the famously evil Childcatcher.

Bursting with magical songs including *Truly Scrumptious*, *Toot Sweets*, *Hushabye Mountain* and the Oscar nominated title song, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, the production has been nominated for three Olivier Awards, won Best Musical in the 2002 Variety Awards, been nominated for five Tony Awards on Broadway and won the coveted Manchester Evening New Theatre Award for Best Family Show in 2006. This ravishing award-winning show is guaranteed to be the most exciting theatrical event of the year.

DON'T LET IT TAKE OFF WITHOUT YOU!

Thursday 26 August, 7.30 pm ***Hairspray***

Starring Michael Starke as Edna Turnblad and Les Dennis as Wilbur Turnblad!

The West End's favourite musical comedy, *Hairspray*, tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart as she sets out to follow her extraordinary dreams, inspire her mum and win the boy she loves.

Hairspray is the musical with everything - the ultimate feel-good show which has played to sold out houses in London, on Broadway and theatres around the globe.

Big Hair, Big Heart, Big Hit!

Tuesday 19 October, 7.30 pm ***The Sound of Music***

The world's best-loved musical, *The Sound Of Music* is coming to the Liverpool Empire! This lavish and critically acclaimed production, direct from the London Palladium, tells the story of the Von Trapp family's flight across the mountains and works its magic once again, for young and old alike.

With its unforgettable score that includes some of the most memorable songs ever performed on the musical stage including *My Favourite Things*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, *The Lonely Goatherd*, and of course the glorious title song *The Sound of Music*, it's the perfect family treat!

(Liverpool Empire, continued)

Thursday 16 December. 7.00 pm **Aladdin**

Aladdin will be doing all he can to win the heart of the beautiful Princess, but the evil Abanazar will be trying to thwart his plans. With all your favourite characters including Wishee Washee, the Emperor, Chinese Policeman, and of course, the ultimate pantomime dame - Widow Twankey!

Clwyd Theatr Cymru, Mold. Box Office 0845 330 3565

Saturday 8 May, 2.45 pm **Pieces**

We have to pick up the pieces. We have to get back to work. We have to pick ourselves up. That's what we have to do. Everything says so. Everything.'

Pieces is a modern fable of an idyllic childhood shattered by grief, and the confused, desperate and dangerous attempts we make to learn how to live again.

Jack and Beatrice are twins. They have no Cousins. They have no Uncles or Aunties and no Grandparents. And now, they have no Mum and Dad. The one person who can look after them is their Godmother Sophie, who arrives, shocked and unprepared, at their remote family home in the Welsh Borders.

Sophie has not seen the children since they were tiny: too tiny for them to remember her, and undoubtedly too little to remember what caused her long, enforced absence. But as the three of them return to the isolated family home on the edge of a forest, their collective grief triggers a tragic attempt to remember, repair and recreate the past.

Saturday 22 May, 2.30 pm **A Small Family Business**

by Alan Ayckbourn

"...it's very hard in this country for a business man to say something even half-way idealistic, without people falling over backwards laughing."

A Small Family Business is a dazzling black comedy about family and business morality.

At a family party Jack McCracken is welcomed as the new MD of Ayres and Graces, his father-in-law's furniture business, and is determined for the firm to succeed in this new era through principles of trust and honesty.

But he soon discovers that the family is implicated in a web of fraud, theft and illegal scams that force him to reconsider his ideals.

Lowry, Salford Quay Box office: 0843 208 6000

Thursday, 1 April, 8.00 pm **Serenading Louie**

The destruction of dreams and the loss of passion and purpose of two suburban American couples is the focus of the Donmar's latest production at The Lowry. Award-winning American playwright, **Lanford Wilson's** timeless tale is brought to life by director **Simon Curtis** (*Cranford, A Short Stay in Switzerland, David Copperfield*) and a stellar cast including **Geraldine Somerville** (*Harry Potter, Survivors, Cracker*), **Jason O'Mara** (*Life on Mars* US version), **Charlotte Emmerson** (*Casualty 1909, Holby City, Peak Practice*) and **Jason Butler Harner** (*The Good Wife, Hope & Faith*) who makes his UK theatrical debut.

Friends since college, Carl and Alex are struggling to deal with the harsh realities of adulthood as they enter their thirties. Disillusioned by work and struggling to keep their marriages alive, they're desperately trying to make sense of it all.

Library Theatre, Manchester Box office: 0161 236 7110

Wednesday 31 March, 7.30 pm ***Glengarry Glen Ross***

Meet four desperate Chicago real estate salesmen. This month's top guy wins a gleaming Cadillac, the runner-up takes home a set of steak knives, the rest get the sack.

Admire their know-how and their slickness. Wonder at their dream-selling and their hokum. Be appalled by their double-dealing and chicanery.

Glengarry Glen Ross, a sizzling drama of hard-driven men on the edge and at the edge, won a Pulitzer Prize and is directed by Chris Honer, whose production of Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* was nominated for Best Production in the 2006 Manchester Evening News Awards.