

THE REP

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre,
Beresford Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2EX

EDUCATING RITA

by Willy Russell



Programme 50p

77th
Season

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

November
19 -



November
- 30

**PRESENT
LAUGHTER
by Noel Coward**

"She also happens to be one of the few actresses living who can be dressed by Schiaparelli and look as if she had been upholstered by Maples"

The Master's ascerbic, inimitable wit is displayed to perfection in this sparkling comedy of elegance of a bygone age - in the company of flamboyant actor Garry Essendine, with his life of parties, fun and adoring, gay young things.

A cocktail of unrivalled delight !

**Box Office opens 5.00pm Wednesday,
13th November, 1996**

Don't forget that tickets for The Rep are now available from the Newcastle Tourist Information Office until the week before a show opens, when they are transferred to our own Box Office.



GOOD EVENING

.....and welcome to the
Repertory Theatre;
we hope that you will enjoy
your evening with us

Here is a little information about our theatre which first-time visitors may find helpful :

CAR PARKING

The Rep has parking space available in the school yard of the Cauldon Primary School, directly opposite the theatre. Patrons are encouraged to use this facility. Cars are parked at the owner's risk, no responsibility can be accepted by the Repertory Theatre.

REFRESHMENTS

Theatre Bar : This is open from half an hour before the curtain rises until the end of normal licensing hours. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

We must advise patrons that our licence restricts the consumption of Bar Refreshments to that area of the theatre only. Persons under the age of 14 years are not permitted to enter the Theatre Bar.

Coffee : Coffee will be served to patrons in their seats during the interval. Coffee tickets are available in the auditorium and should be purchased before the performance.

Confectionery : A full range is available, and on sale in the auditorium before the performance. Patrons are respectfully asked not to rustle confectionery wrappings as it can mar the enjoyment of others.

SMOKING : Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

PHOTOGRAPHY : Photography and/or tape (including video tape) recordings in the auditorium during a public performance are prohibited.

The Rep is a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, and is affiliated to the British Theatre Association and International Amateur Theatre Association.

We look forward to seeing you at our next production

New Theatre Update

THE NEW REP

Building will start on our Leek Road site during the next two weeks.

The building contract is for 45 weeks thus enabling the Company to move into the new Theatre in time to start our 1997/98 season.

Fund raising will continue during the season and we shall be starting a new four year covenanting scheme, also you can still buy a seat and have it named after yourself or your organisation. Recently Blythe Bridge W.I. have had two seats named after their organisation.

Please contact Trevor Barlow or Richard Masters for further information.

We hope you enjoy tonights performance and hope to see you during the remainder of the season.



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

presents
by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

EDUCATING RITA

by Willy Russell

24th - 28th September and
1st - 5th October, 1996

**DIRECTED AND DESIGNED BY
DAVE BRYAN**

GENERAL STAGE MANAGER ... RICHARD MASTERS

Acknowledgements

Specialist Wardrobe Care and Dry-cleaning for the Repertory Theatre courtesy of **Central Cleaners**, 163 Hamil Road, Burslem.

**WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE,
WHOSE MEMBERS VOLUNTARILY ATTEND ALL OUR
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.**

EDUCATING RITA

by Willy Russell

CAST

FRANK Derek Yeomans
RITA Caroline West.

Directed by Dave Bryan

*The action takes place in an
upper room in a University in the
North of Engand*

Time.....The Present

THERE WILL BE A TWENTY
MINUTE INTERVAL

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager *Bill Hancock*

Property Mistress *Debbie Rowley*

Stage Technicians
*Stuart Campbell
Tina Campbell
Martin Alsop
Yvonne Tipping
Richard Masters
Mike Adams
John Beeston*

Wardrobe Mistress *Alison Wicks*

Company *Peter Croft*

Photographer *Judy Adams*

Bar Manager *Trevor Barlow*

Front of House
Manager *Stella Woolliscroft*
Box Office *Brenda Swancott*

Refreshments *Sandy Holland*

ABOUT THE PLAY

Since it first appeared (in a Royal Shakespeare Company production) on 10 June 1980, *Educating Rita* has become a firm favourite with British audiences. As well as enjoying a very successful run in London's West End, it has been performed by professional and amateur companies alike up and down the country. It was voted 'Best Comedy of the Year' in 1980. In 1983, it was rated the fourth most popular play on the British stage - and the list included Shakespeare! - while the film version released in the same year was greeted with universal critical acclaim.

Many plays over the years have enjoyed similar meteoric popularity when first staged, only to burn themselves out and fade into obscurity within a relatively short period of time. There are good reasons, however, for supposing that *Educating Rita* will not share such a fate. To begin with, it is first-rate theatre. In the introduction he wrote recently for a German edition of the play, Willy Russell asserts that for him - as it must be for all working playwrights - the true medium is the *performance*, the book being no more than a record of the text. Certainly, it is on the stage that *Educating Rita* comes fully into its own. It is a play full of nuance and undertone - misunderstandings, awkwardnesses, double meanings - things that cannot be conveyed anywhere near as successfully on the printed page as they can in a player's facial expression or tone of voice, by a cough, a glance or a shrug.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I was born in Whiston, which is just outside Liverpool. They talk funny in Whiston. To a Liverpudlian everyone else talks funny. Fortunately, when I was five my mum and dad moved to Knowsley, onto an estate full of Liverpudlians who taught me how to talk correctly.

When I was eleven they sent me to a secondary school in Huyton. Like all other Knowsley kids I was frightened of Huyton. There were millions of new houses there and flats and everyone said there were gangs with bike chains and broken bottles and truck spanners. What everyone said was right: playtime was nothing to do with play, it was about survival. Thugs roamed the concrete and casually destroyed anything that couldn't move fast enough. Dinner time was the same only four times as long.

At home there were conferences, discussions, rows and slanging matches all on the same subject - me and the job. I'd become a ladies' hairdresser! I went to a college for a year or so and pretended to learn about hairdressing.

For six years I did a job I didn't understand and didn't like. Eventually I even had my own small salon and it was there that on slack days I would retire to the back room and try to do the one and only thing I felt I understood, felt that I could do: write.

I sensed that the world in which I would be able to write would be the academic world. Students have long holidays. I'd be able to spend a good part of the year writing and the other part learning to do a job, teaching perhaps, which would pay the rent.

I enrolled in a night class for O level English Literature and passed it. To go to a college though, I'd need at least five O levels. I had to find a college which would let me take a full time course, pack everything into one year. I found a college but no authority was prepared to give me a maintenance grant or even pay my fees.

I heard of a job, a contract job in Fords, cleaning oil from the girders high above the machinery. I packed up the hairdresser's and joined the night-shift girder cleaners. I stayed in that factory just long enough to earn the fees I needed; I enrolled at the college and one day in September made my way along the stone-walled drive, as I entered the glass doors of Chidwall College I felt as if I'd made it back to the beginning. I could start again. I felt at home.

Springbank are pleased to support The Repertory Theatre and the Local Arts

Vending's Finest Choice

- Springbank are independent specialists in all types of vending systems
- We have all the necessary support services 'in-house' to cover installation, operating, technical services and ingredients supply.
- Our systems produce cost effective savings and represent genuine value for money.
- We already supply prestigious companies in your area.

01785 • 815551

Whitebridge Lane
Industrial Estate
Stone

SPRINGBANK

Staffordshire
ST15 8LQ

Vending's Finest Choice

Now more
than ever
you need
financial
advice
that's
independent



A Member of



Services include:-

- Savings
- Ethical Investment
- Persona; Equity Plans
- TESSAs
- Life Assurance
- Pension advice/retirement planning

**Steven
J. Mountford
Financial Services**

Independent Financial Adviser

Brockley House, 2 Hanover Street
Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 1AU

Tel: 01782 713540

Fax: 01782 715348

Finalist in the 1994 IFAP Advisor of
the Year Award

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE
PLEASE CONTACT**

RICHARD MASTERS

TEL: 01782 744897

THE REP

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre,
Beresford Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2EX
Telephone (01782) 844784

77th Season 1996/1997

EDUCATING RITA by Willy Russell

24 - 28 September and 1 - 5 October, 1996

Box Office opens 18th September

PRESENT LAUGHTER by Noel Coward

19 - 23 and 26 - 30 November, 1996

Box Office opens 13th November

CHRISTMAS AT THE REP

21st December, 1996

PLAZA SUITE by Neil Simon

21 - 25 January and 28 January - 1 February, 1997

Box Office opens 15th January

RELATIVELY SPEAKING by Alan Ayckbourn

11 - 15 and 18 - 22 March, 1997

Box Office opens 5th March

JOURNEY'S END by R. C. Sherriff

13 - 17 and 20 - 24 May, 1997

Box Office opens 7th May

BOX OFFICE

OPENS

5.00 p.m.

TELEPHONE

844784

CLOSES

8.00 p.m.

FOR TELEPHONE BOOKINGS