

## Press Release

### Animal Magnetism

Dates: 21 – 23 & 25 - 26 April

Tickets: £7 - £20.50

Times: 7.30pm

**The Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds has announced its second Georgian production, the exuberant three act farce *Animal Magnetism*.**

One of the funniest comedies the company has discovered during its regular rehearsed readings, *Animal Magnetism* is the first of two works by the Theatre's heritage figurehead Elizabeth Inchbald to be performed this year. With 6 very strong roles and witty dialogue, the production will use the architectural features of the stunningly restored Theatre Royal to recreate the style of performance of the Georgian era.

The play is set in late 18th-century Paris and Inchbald's pen, dipped in equal amounts of wit and bile, targets medical quackery and complacently outmoded attitudes to women.

A dilapidated Doctor with a high mortality rate amongst his patients is guardian to his charming niece, Constance. Locked away from the public gaze in order to keep her for himself, Constance falls from afar for the handsome Marquis de Lancy, who hatches a ludicrous plan to liberate her and unmask the dangerous medical practices of the Doctor.

Using numerous devices and phoney disguises, de Lancy convinces the gullible Doctor of the extraordinary powers of a magical magnetic wand and its infallible ability to attract the adoration of the opposite sex.

The farce forms a fine introduction to the works of Elizabeth Inchbald, and demonstrates many key attributes of her style; strong feminist lines and major female roles, social critique of the decadent Georgian society through acerbic comedy, and snappy entertaining dialogue.

Theatre Royal Artistic Director, Colin Blumenau commented:

"We are taking this production in a different direction to our re-opening piece *Black Eyed Susan*, which was very visual, looking at the spectacle of Georgian drama and exploring the types of scenery and costume they used."

"This time it will be very much about looking at the use of language and how the immediacy of the Georgian architecture helps its delivery. The works of Inchbald provide

us with the perfect opportunity to do so; her writing sparkles and her knowledge of how and where to place a line is unparalleled."

Framing the 45 minute farce, members of the acting company will deliver a specially written prologue and epilogue – the device which proved so successful and popular in the production of *Black Eyed Susan*.

The play is being performed as part of week of heritage entertainments, and will recreate the Georgian experience of going to the Theatre as a combination evening with another entertainment. *A week of Georgian Delights* will include music, lectures, and short performances all with their inspiration in the 18th and 19th centuries.

For more information or tickets please call the box office on 01284 769505 or visit [www.theatreroyal.org](http://www.theatreroyal.org) .

**-Ends-**

**For more information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:  
Lucy Close, Communications Officer, 01284 829947, [lucy@theatreroyal.org](mailto:lucy@theatreroyal.org)**

Theatre Royal, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QR

administration: 01284 755127 fax: 01284 706035 email: [admin@theatreroyal.org](mailto:admin@theatreroyal.org) box office: 01284 769505 web: [www.theatreroyal.org](http://www.theatreroyal.org)

Bury St Edmunds Theatre Management Ltd. Registered in England and Wales. Registration No. 842455. Registered Charity No. 242977. Registered Office: details above



A National Trust Property