

# Press Release

A Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds production

## **Cider with Rosie**

*by Laurie Lee*

*in a new adaptation by Daniel O'Brien*

*directed by Abigail Anderson*

*designed by Dora Schweitzer*

*original music composed by TJ Holmes*

**On tour: 18 March – 29 May 2010**

**Press night: Tuesday 23 March, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds**

*"O the wild trees of my home,  
Forests of blue dividing the pink moon,  
The iron blue of those ancient branches  
With their berries of vermillion stars." – Laurie Lee*

**The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds goes on tour across the UK this Spring with an exciting new adaptation of poet Laurie Lee's celebrated novel *Cider with Rosie*.**

Growing up in the Slad Valley, Gloucestershire. A bygone age of innocence and simplicity, where the speed of life was no faster than the quiet plod of a horse and plough. Laurie Lee's recollections of growing up and rural living from 1917 have won the hearts of countless readers through his memoirs and poems.

This Spring the Theatre Royal tours a new version of Laurie's story, six actors performing together with energy and verve to bring his family to life with live music and original songs.

We join Laurie and his siblings as they step into the dreamlike world of memory, recalling the defining experiences of their youth: charabanc outings to Weston-super-Mare; frozen white winters and blazing orange summers; the rough and tumble of the family kitchen; tyrannical teacher Old Crabby; the warring ancient rival Grannies Trill and Wallon; and of course that first, unforgettable, cider-fuelled encounter in the harvest fields.

The production is directed by Theatre Royal Associate Director Abigail Anderson: "The script is created entirely from Laurie Lee's words – the only thing we've added to the novel is a selection of his poems set to music. Everyone who knows the book will find it a faithful homage to the beauty of his language, but I'm particularly excited to introduce his surprising and often humorous imagery to a whole new audience. In this production the memories are spoken not just by

Laurie but by his family too. Having an ensemble tell the story adds great energy to the piece, provides different perspectives and reminds us how by sharing experiences we can all become closer together.

The staging of the play reflects the hazy quality of memories, with objects of home and countryside placed around the stage or suspended above it. It will be beautiful and ethereal at times; harsh and sad at others; the music and Laurie Lee's evocative language leading us on a journey through all the emotions and adventures of childhood."

For tickets and further details please call the Theatre Royal 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)**

#### **Notes to editors:**

##### **1. Cast and crew:**

Cast:

Joannah Tincey

Liam Tobin

TJ Holmes

Antony Eden

Devon Black

Amy Humphreys

Abigail Anderson - Director

Mark Howland - Lighting designer

Dora Schweitzer - Designer

T J Holmes - Composer

Andy Stubbs - Production Manager

Lynsey Fraser - Stage manager

Sharron Stowe - Producer

Sarah Jane McElhatton - ASM

Nicola Fitchett - Costume supervisor

##### **2. Tour dates:**

Thursday 18 – Wednesday 24 March – Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds

25 – 27 March – Taunton Brew House

01823 283244, <http://www.thebrewhouse.net/>

29 – 31 March – Corn Exchange, Newbury

01635 522733, <http://www.cornexchangenew.com/>

08 – 10 April – Theatre Royal Wakefield

01924 211 311, <http://www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk/>

12 – 17 April – Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford

01483 440000, <http://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/>

20 – 21 April – The Theatre, Chipping Norton  
01608 642350, <http://www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk/>

22 – 24 April – Laurance Batley Theatre, Huddersfield  
01484 430528, <http://www.thelbt.org/>

27 – 28 April – Buxton Opera House  
0845 127 2190, <http://www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk/>

29 April – 01 May – Swan Theatre, Worcester  
01905 611 427, <http://www.worcesterlive.co.uk/>

05 – 09 May - Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds

11 – 13 May – Coliseum Theatre, Oldham  
0161 624 2829. <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/>

14 – 15 May – South Holland Centre, Spalding  
01775 764777, <http://www.southhollandcentre.co.uk/>

25 – 29 May – Oxford Playhouse  
01865 305305, <http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/>

**3. The Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds** is the last remaining working Regency Theatre in Britain and the only Theatre on the National Trust's portfolio of properties. This beautiful and intimate playhouse re-opened in 2007 following £5.3 million restoration project to restore its unique 18<sup>th</sup> century decorative scheme and layout. Today it has the special ambition to restore the lost dramatic repertoire of the Georgian era, researching and performing Georgian works in a project entitled *Restoring the Repertoire*.

**4. Cider with Rosie is sponsored by Adam and Company.**