

Press Release

2010 Rural Tour
A Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds production

The Two of Us

directed by Abigail Anderson, designed by Jane Linz Roberts
Four comic masterpieces from Michael Frayn, writer of the award-winning farce, "Noises Off"

**On tour across Suffolk and Cambridgeshire from
1 September – 9 October 2010**

The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds is getting ready to set-off on tour to rural venues across East Anglia as it stages a fabulous set of mini-comedies on love and relationships: *The Two of Us*.

Originally produced in the West End starring Richard Briers and Lynn Redgrave, *The Two of Us* is one of the earliest works by the award winning writer of *Noises Off* and *Copenhagen*, Michael Frayn. Made-up of four perfect short plays for two versatile actors, the piece demonstrates the very best of his comic style including dazzling timing and a range of great physical comedy.

Funny and touching, the four stories take a look at the complexities of love and marriage in the modern world. What would you do if last night's one night stand moved in the next morning - complete with all his dirty washing? How do you re-kindle the romance of your honeymoon when the newest addition to your family won't stop crying? And how do you cope with a dinner party when you've mistakenly invited the wife, the husband and the new boyfriend all on the same evening?

Starring Simon Nock (*The Haunted Commode* and *Crampons of Fear* for Eastern Angles) and Alys Torrance, this year's tour is directed by Abigail Anderson, responsible for the hit touring comedies *Three Men in a Boat* and *Art*. Held annually the Rural Tour brings drama to the heart of local communities across East Anglia and is supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. This will be the Theatre Royal's 12th rural tour.

Director Abigail Anderson commented: "My favourite thing about the Theatre Royal tour is that it takes plays right on to people's doorsteps



Touring to a venue near you!

Aldeburgh
Barrow
Brandon
Bungay
Bury St Edmunds
Charsfield
Clare
Debenham
Diss
Ely
Freckenham
Garboldisham
Halesworth
Hartest
Haverhill
Hawstead
Lakenheath
Lavenham
Mildenhall
Newmarket
Stansfield
Stowmarket
Sudbury
Syleham &
Wingfield
Thurston
Wickhambrook
Woolpit
Cambridgeshire

and brings everyone together to enjoy themselves. You get to meet and chat to your audience directly, with none of the usual barriers that a formal theatre building puts up. Each venue is unique and no two audiences are the same. I've experienced the most phenomenal welcome from all the villages that I've visited in the last two years with *Art* and then *Three Men in a Boat*.

More than anything else I'd like people to feel they've given their laughter muscles a good work-out by the end of the production."

The Two of Us is on tour across Suffolk and Cambridgeshire from 1 September to 9 October 2010. For tickets, further details and full tour dates please call the Theatre Royal Box Office on 01284 769505 or visit www.theatroyal.org.

- Ends -

For more information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

1. Tour dates:

01 – 04 September Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds
06-Sep Charsfield Village Hall
07-Sep Clare Town Hall
08-Sep Stowmarket Regal
09-Sep Hawstead Village Hall
10-Sep The Cut, Halesworth
11-Sep Wickhambrook Village Hall
13-Sep Brandon Leisure Centre
14-Sep New Green Centre, Thurston
15-Sep Garboldisham Village Hall
16-Sep Jubilee Centre Mildenhall
17-Sep Stansfield Village Hall
18-Sep Haverhill Arts centre
21-Sep Newmarket Kings Theatre
22-Sep Barrow Village Hall
23-Sep Diss Cornhall
24-Sep Quay Theatre, Sudbury
25-Sep Hartest Village Hall
27-Sep Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh
28-Sep Lakenheath Village Hall
29-Sep Debenham Community Centre
30-Sep The maltings, Ely
01-Oct Woolpit Village Hall
02-Oct Lavenham Village Hall
04-Oct Fisher Theatre, Bungay
05-Oct Syleham & Wingfield Village Hall
06-Oct Freckenham Village Hall
07-Oct Arts in cambs tour
08-Oct Arts in cambs tour
09-Oct Arts in cambs tour

2. Cast:

Alys Torrance

Trained at Birmingham School of Drama after RHBNC, London University, and under Philippe Gaulier and Angela de Castro. Theatre credits include: *Grimm Tales by Carol Ann Duffy* (playing a witch, a stepsister and a goat) (Theatre By The Lake, Keswick) *The Three Musketeers* (Milady,

all the musketeers) (national tour), *Faces/Off*, *The Snag*, *Flirt Lab*, *A Night of Shining Armour* (all with Faultless and Torrance), *Housemartin* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Sk8 Angel* (GLYPT) *Underground*, *Starsong* (both with Slung Low); *The Trouble* (Hi-Veld Theatre), *Watercolours* (Quicksilver Theatre), *Dogman* (Rocket Productions); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Ceasar* (Groping for Trout Theatre); *The Country Wife* (Pattern 23 Theatre); Franca Rama's *A Woman Alone* (Canal Café Productions), *NewsRevue* (Newsrevue), *The YarnBards* (The YarnBards).

Radio credits include: *The Milk Run* (R2), *Living with the Enemy*, *Life in London*, *Absolute Power* (all R4). She has also written for R4's *The Bearded Ladies*. TV credits include: *This Is Pop* (which she co-wrote and performed with The Four Horsemen sketch group), *People Like Us*, *Harry Enfield's Yule Log Chums* (writing and performer), *Manchild*, *Dead Ringers*.

Alys also tells stories, writes and performs comedy, improvises, and devises and directs shows with young people - including *O-Sewn* at The Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough.

She is half Hungarian, plays various instruments to various standards, including the ukulele, clarinet and bulbul turang. She lives in a ridiculously chi-chi bit of south London. Her mother is delighted she will be playing adult human women in this production.

Simon Nock:

Simon trained at Mountview Theatre School.

He has spent this year touring the UK in the successful Rock 'n' Roll musical, *Dreamboats & Petticoats*, playing the supporting part of Frank/Slugger/Compere.

Simon has also toured East Anglia before with the Eastern Angles productions *The Haunted Commode*, *Crampons of Fear*, *Doublon* and *Bats Over Bleedham Market*.

Other Theatre work includes: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* & *The Taming of the Shrew* (Guildford Shakespeare Company); *The Comedy of Errors* & *As You Like It* (Guildford Shakespeare Company); *Macbeth* & *Twelfth Night* (Northcott Theatre); *Old King Cole* (Cochrane Theatre, London); *Billy Budd* (Workshop Production, London); *Ghost Train* (Queens Theatre, Hornchurch); *Far Away* (Royal Court/Albery Theatre, London, directed by Stephen Daldry); *Hamlet* (Finborough Theatre, London); *The Great Gatsby* (UK touring production); *Kes! The Musical* (Theatre Royal, York); *The Tempest*, *The Comedy of Errors* & *Paint Your Wagon* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London); *Macbeth* (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme).

Simon's Television work includes; *Sex Traffic* (Channel 4); PC Hector in *Dalziel & Pascoe* (BBC 1); DS Rayner in *The Vice* (ITV 1); Mike in *London Bridge* (Carlton TV); *Grange Hill* (BBC1); *Prime Suspect* (ITV 1) and short films including: *Father*, *The Visitation* & *The Game*.

Simon can also be seen in the first few minutes of *Harry Potter & The Half Blood Prince* looking distinctly like Boris Johnson!