



Press Release

A Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds production

Three Men in a Boat

(To say nothing of the dog!)

A new stage version of one of Britain's funniest and best loved books is going on tour as the Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds presents a delightful new dramatic and musical adaptation of *Three Men in a Boat*.

Written by Jerome K Jerome in 1889 *Three Men in a Boat* has crystallised for generations the humour and charm of the English at play in Victorian Britain. Originally destined to be a travel guide to boating on the River Thames, Jerome let himself get taken away with the comic extracts, mixing life as he witnessed it with witty fiction. The result is a story of quintessential Britishness told in the impeccably mischievous and wry humour that only the English do best.

This new adaptation by the Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds brings out all the charm and energy of the much-loved original with live music and physical comedy. Three multi-talented actors recount the tale of the mis-adventures of boisterous young men J, Harris and George as they travel from the hustle and bustle of Victorian London to Oxford on the River Thames accompanied by Montmorency their dog.

Director, Abigail Anderson, commented: "This production is going to be very theatrical, imaginative and bursting with energy - Jerome K Jerome was a touring actor in his youth, so this is definitely something he would have approved of. The three actors will be performing a host of roles, including the characters they meet along the river and each one taking turns to play Montmorency.

As it was written in the Victorian era and is very much of its time, people often think of *Three Men in a Boat* as a nostalgic story, but in reality it is a young man's take in the world, enjoying a holiday on the river with his best friends. The joy of the story is that the humour and situations still appear fresh and witty today – the characters behave as young men do, getting into all sorts of hilarious trouble and approaching everything with a sense of friendly mischief. There will be lots of music with Gilbert and Sullivan songs, music-hall and banjo played live by actor-musicians. The atmosphere will be vibrant, fun and jolly reflecting the youthful spirit in which it was written.

Above all we hope that audiences themselves will come away feeling like they have met three wonderful new friends – as this, in essence, is what the original novel was all about.”

This production will be going on the Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds' 11th Rural Tour, travelling to small venues in the East before touring nationally. The tour is one of the Theatre Royal's outreach initiatives to bring the best in professional theatre into rural communities in Suffolk and East Anglia.

Tickets and further information are available from the Theatre Royal Box Office on 01285 769505 or online at www.theatreroyal.org .

- Ends -

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

Sponsored by



1. Cast

Alexander Caine – *J*
William Kenning - *George*
Simon Yadoo - *Harris*

Production team

Abigail Anderson - Director
Libby Watson – Designer
Peter White - MD/Composer

2. Performances at Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds

Dates: Wednesday 20 – Saturday 23 May
Times: 7.30pm, 2pm matinees on Thurs 21 & Sat 23
Tickets: £8 – £23.50
Audio described performance on Saturday 23 May at 2pm

3. National Tour dates

May

26 – 28 New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich

June

Weds 3 – Thurs 4 Winchester Theatre Royal

Fri 12 – Sat 13 Kendal Brewery Arts Theatre

Tues 16 – Sat 20 Greenwich Theatre

4. Rural Tour dates

Dates:

April

Thur 23 & Fri 24 The Quay, Sudbury 8pm

Sat 25 Wickhambrook Village Hall

Mon 27 Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall

Tues 28 Thurston Community Centre

Wed 29 Hawstead Village Hall

Thurs 30 Stradbroke Community Centre

May

Fri 1 Haverhill Arts Centre 8pm

Sat 2 Lakenheath Village Hall

Tues 5 Clare Town Hall

Wed 6 Regal Cinema, Stowmarket

Thurs 7 Walsham-le-Willows

Fri 8 Stansfield Village Hall

Sat 9 Hartest Village Institute

Mon 11 Charsfield Village Hall

Tues 12 Lavenham Village Hall 8pm

Wed 13 Newmarket Kings Theatre

Mon 18 Brandon Leisure Centre

Tues 19 Red Lodge Millennium Centre

Fri 29 Huntingdon Commemoration
Centre

Sat 30 Woolpit Village Hall

Tickets: **£10.50** (concessions **£9**) – local ticket outlets will also be available.
Start time for performances 7.30pm unless stated otherwise.