

# AMY'S VIEW



by David Hare





## PROGRAMME NOTES

David Hare's playwrighting career first took off in 1970, when the Hampstead Theatre mounted a production of his play 'Slag'. Since then his output has totalled over 20 plays, adaptations and the notable collaboration, with Howard Brenton, that produced 'Pravda'.

His work in the theatre has not just been as a writer, but also as an actor and director. He has therefore transformed from specialist to a true Everyman of the theatre.

Following work in film and television over the years, it was perhaps inevitable that he would turn his attention to the conflict between his favourite medium of live theatre and the new, by comparison, infant media of film and television.

In 'Amy's View' David Hare has brought these conflicts to a dramatic representation. Esme Allen represents the traditional viewpoint of live theatre; Dominic Tyghe represents the new media of film and television. Amy, the title role represents the battleground over which they fight. The war, for war it is takes place over four acts and a sixteen year period, starting in Act 1 which is set in 1979, through to Act 4 in 1995.

The play itself is much more than just this central argument. David Hare doesn't set the play over a week-end or a month, but over a sixteen year period, so that we can, not only watch the argument develop, but also see the character development via changes in circumstances, career paths and fortune. This in turn allows us to witness shifts and changes and alternative viewpoints of almost Brechtian proportions. As a result the play works on a number of levels. It is a play that not only depicts this development of the characters and central argument, but in a deeper way it is another refraction of his continuing fascination with the nature of goodness by exploring a difficult life, lived by Amy, as a symbol of goodness in a world that seemingly, seldom seems to reward goodness.

The epigraph that David Hare uses for this play is a quotation from Seneca: 'When shall we live, if not now?' To this I would like add a more recent observation by John Lennon, 'life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.'

A lot of life has happened to Esme and Dominic during the course of the play, whilst they were busy with their respective careers. A lot has also passed them by. They can't regain what they've lost, but each seems to have come to a deeper sympathy for Amy's simple philosophy, as related by Dominic to Esme near the end of the play: 'You know Amy's view: you have to love people. You just have to love them. You have to give love without any conditions at all. Just give it. And one day you will be rewarded.'

The first three acts take place in Esme Allen's house in Pangbourne in rural Berkshire.

Act IV takes place in the dressing room of a small London theatre.

The action takes place over a number of years

ACT I The year is 1979

ACT II the year is 1985

Interval of fifteen minutes

ACT III the year is 1993

ACT IV the year is 1995

The total running time of the play, including interval is approximately 2hrs 30 mins.

The music used in this work is from the Piano Works of Erik Satie.

Please ensure all mobile phones and pagers are switched off while in the Theatre. Photography is not allowed during the performance, and food and drinks are not permitted in the auditorium



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First performance of this production: Saturday 22nd September 2001

## CAST

DOMINIC TYGHE  
AMY THOMAS  
EVELYN THOMAS  
ESME ALLEN  
FRANK ODDIE  
TOBY COLE

Richard Matthews  
Rebecca Hill  
Sibeal McGuinne  
Olive Braman  
Geoff Braman  
Trevor Hughes

## PRODUCTION

Director  
Stage Manager - Performance  
Stage Manager - Rehearsals  
Set Designer  
Sound Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Props  
Prompt  
DSMs

Sound Operator  
Lighting Operator  
ASMs

John Turner  
Tim Godfrey  
Katy Gallantry  
Spencer Butler  
Paul Wilson  
Chris Newall  
Evan Rule  
Gordon Miller  
Brin Parsonage, Evan Rule and  
John Turner  
Martin Bridges  
Chris Newall  
Donna Buchanan, Julia Cooke,  
Garvin Filbey, Jude Goode,  
Annabel Maurice, Terone McCalla,  
Harriet Parsonage, Dinah Squires,  
Joanne Taylor

Special thanks to Nigel Bamford, Peter Collins, Jim Craddock, Sylvia Wall, Katy Gallantry, Eric Lister, Martin Stoner, Gordon Miller and the SCREWU Team, without whose help, it is true to say, this production would not have happened. Apologies to anyone I've missed out due to time constraints.



SEPT 2001

## FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

### **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE** by Anthony Burgess

In the Studio, 5th - 20th October

Alex and his vicious teenage gang revel in horrific violence, mugging and gang rape. Alex also revels in the music of Beethoven. This is Burgess's own stunning adaptation of his dark masterpiece. The film shocked a generation and was banned for many years, this live version promises the same impact.

### **ABSOLUTE HELL** by Rodney Ackland

In the Playhouse, 3rd - 10th November

Artists, bohemians and misfits escape reality in a private drinking club in 1945. As the Second World War ends and the labour election victory promises new hope, they drown their sorrows in drink and sex. Ackland has been compared to Chekov, and this play, for which Judi Dench won an Olivier for her performance as Christine, is one of his best.

### **NEW WRITING DOUBLE BILL**

In the Studio, 17th November - 1st December

#### **CARRYING ON** by Roy Hyams

This is a gentle and touching piece about the relationship between brothers Ted and Tim, Ted's wife Doris, and Herbert, the man with whom she is 'carrying on'. Told in a poetic style reminiscent of Dylan Thomas, this is a comic fable for our time.

and

#### **A TOUCH OF ROSE MADDER** by Jim O'Connor

This warm and funny play won Questors' member O'Connor the Little Theatre Guild award for best one act play. It is a quietly moving character study telling of the interaction between Rose Carlyle, an elderly and feisty widow, and her new home help, who is, to her surprise, a man!

### **QUESTORS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION OF THE SNOW QUEEN** by Stuart Paterson, from the story by Hans Andersen

The Snow Queen will rule the world when a splinter of her evil mirror penetrates the heart of a child and turns it to ice. 'Give me a child with a heart of ice and you give me power over all the good magic in the world.' Join Gerda on a thrilling journey to rescue her best friend Kay from the clutches of the wicked Snow Queen and save the world from being frozen. Follow her in her perilous quest and meet a host of amazing characters along the way. Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale has enchanted children and adults alike for generations and will continue to do so in this stunning Christmas production. Tickets are selling fast so book now to avoid disappointment!

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