



THE  
QUESTORS  
THEATRE



# THREE TALL WOMEN

Edward Albee was born in 1928 and at the age of two weeks was adopted by millionaire Reed Albee and his wife Frances. He was thrown out of several schools, and eventually left home at the age of 20 to live in Greenwich Village and become a writer.

He gravitated towards the theatre, and his first play, *Zoo Story*, built a cult following. Two years and several short plays later, his first full-length play, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* took Broadway by storm. By no means a critical success, it nevertheless aroused a great deal of excitement, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and so shocked some of the committee that they refused to award it the prize. Half the drama panel resigned in protest, and the Prize was not awarded that year.

Nevertheless, Albee has won the Pulitzer Prize three times since: for *A Delicate Balance* in 1966, *Seascape* in 1975, and *Three Tall Women* in 1994. Surprising as it may seem, *Three Tall Women* is the only one of Albee's 25 or so plays to have opened to entirely positive criticism. It was first performed in Vienna in 1991, in New York in 1994 and its British premiere was in 1995.

Albee has tended otherwise to remain controversial and innovative as a playwright. Many of his plays have received poor receptions, perhaps because he plays around with dramatic forms, pushes against boundaries and challenges taboos. His most recent play to be seen in London was *The Play About the Baby* (Almeida 1998). A double bill of new work, *Finding the Sun* and *Marriage Play*, opens at the National Theatre in May.

*Three Tall Women* is unashamedly autobiographical. The central character is not merely based on, but basically *is* his adopted mother. The facts of her life that emerge are almost entirely true to reality, except only that the son in this play is not adopted. Albee was indeed thrown out of his mother's life for 20 years, largely because she could not come to terms with his homosexuality. They were to some extent reconciled for the last 20 years of her life (this play would suggest not very genuinely). Almost every tiny detail is true - right down to the fact that her husband had previously dated a tall comedienne who did the splits!

It has been a stimulating play to work on. For a piece that is essentially about the process of dying to have so much to offer in terms of humour and humanity is quite remarkable. Perhaps it is the theme of reconciliation, both real and imagined, inward and outward, true and false, that gives it at the same time its depth.

DAVID EMMET

# THREE TALL WOMEN

By Edward Albee

First performance of this production on 17th February 2001

## Cast

A	ANNE NEVILLE
B	MONYENE KANE
C	LOUISE TIMONEY
BOY	PAUL DALZIEL

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THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES  
RUNNING TIME: ABOUT 2 HOURS INCLUDING INTERVAL

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## Production

Director	DAVID EMMET
Designer	SPENCER BUTLER
Costume Designer	SYLVIA WALL
Lighting Designer	FRANK WOOD
Dialect Coach	SUSAN GERLACH
Stage Management	NICK HAWKER
Stage Managers	PAUL AYRES SYLVIA WALL
Deputy Stage Manager	ANTHONY CURRAN
Assistant Stage Managers	LAURENCE PARKER JULIA PHARO
Construction & painting	NICK HAWKER WILL SUMNER EVAN RULE MIKE HAGAN ELAINE HAGAN ROGER BRACE BRIDGETT STREVENS GORDON MILLER
Lighting operator	MARTIN UDALL
Prompter	SUSAN GERLACH
Wigs	GREASEPAINT
Make-up	ANNE-SOPHIE OREB

Thanks to:

Colin Horne, Chris Sydenham, Tina Harris, Elke Blankenstein,  
Kerry-Ann Ladwa, Claire Whiteley, Kirsty Packham

THREE TALL WOMEN

# FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

## **HELEN OF TROY** *by Euripedes*

In the Studio, 24th February - 3rd March

After the huge success of 'Granville The Ugly Duckling', the Questors Youth Theatre brings you this exciting tale of conflict and intrigue in Ancient Greece.

## **TWELFTH NIGHT** *by William Shakespeare*

In the Playhouse, 10th - 24th March

Immerse yourself in the fun and frolics of the Feast of Fools in one of Shakespeare's lightest and most successful comedies. Masques and Jesters, Clowns and Courtly Love, this promises to be an enjoyable evening for everyone.

Voices from Ambridge in

## **COME RAIN COME SHINE** *by Gareth Armstrong and Malcolm McKee*

Sunday 18th March at 8.00pm

**Featuring cast members of THE ARCHERS** in the 50th year of this popular radio drama.

Have you ever wanted to see what Joe Grundy looks like?

Would you like to meet Linda Snell in the flesh?

Well this is your chance, as they will be appearing live on the Playhouse stage along with other well-loved Archers characters.

The show is a light-hearted celebration, in words and music of the British countryside, and features material from a wealth of famous authors and newly commissioned material from the cream of British comedy writers.

So don't risk missing out on this amazing opportunity...book your tickets now!

## **THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR** *by Nikolai Gogol*

In the Studio, 21st - 31st March

This unsentimental comedy is a masterpiece of Gogol's art and was regarded by Nabokov as the greatest play in the Russian language.

It is a satire of a corrupt society, so devastating that the resultant furore drove Gogol into exile.

On one level it is straightforwardly funny, on another level, however, it draws us into an absurd, grotesque universe, the product of a richly surreal imagination.

**The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, London W5 5BQ**

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