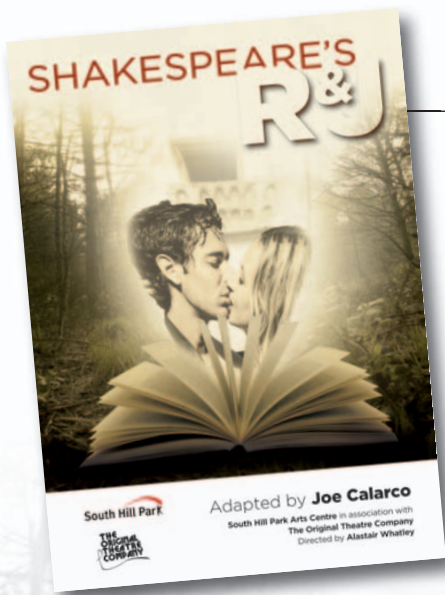




# Booking Brochure 2008/09





# SHAKESPEARE'S R&J

## Autumn 08

We have been awarded the rights to tour Shakespeare's R+J in the UK next autumn and would love to work with you on it. It is a co pro with South Hill Park Arts Centre and The Original Theatre Company and we are currently mid way through booking the 9 week tour.

This is the Joe Calarco's adaptation which was a huge hit on Broadway and in the West End in 2003.

*"Set in the 1950's at an exclusive boarding school, four pupils run into the chapel late one night in a bid to escape from their repressive school routines. One of them brings a copy of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and they start acting pieces out. Perceptions and understandings are turned upside down as the fun of play acting turns serious and the words and meanings begin to hit home and universal truths emerge"* **Joe Calarco 2002.**

The play has echoes of Dead Poet's Society, Lord of the Flies and the recent History Boys, yet is unique unto itself. Told entirely through Shakespeare's language, it is both the story of Romeo and Juliet but more importantly the journey of four lads who during the course of one thrilling evening discover the power of theatre and the new worlds it can open up.

Highly energetic, physical and packed with the energy of youth and beauty of Shakespeare language this really is Shakespeare at his most accessible and daring.

### Press quotes from 2003:

*"Prepare for a bracing and brilliant shock to the system...an inspired new theatrical take on this early masterpiece"* **The Independent**

*"R+J is a gem, the most inventive reimagining of a classic in years"* **The Wall Street Journal**

*"I'd forgotten the play could be so good...I seemed to hear the words for the first time"*  
**The Times**

*"This is a thrilling piece of work. Both study aid and gripping theatre"* **Sunday Times**

South Hill Park

THE  
ORIGINAL  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

Adapted by **Joe Calarco**

**South Hill Park Arts Centre** in  
association with **The Original  
Theatre Company**

Directed by **Alastair Whatley**

Guarantee for the week £11k, for split  
week £5.5k, a couple of shorter slots are  
available at £1.5k per night.

# Vincent in Brixton

by **Nicholas Wright**, Spring 09

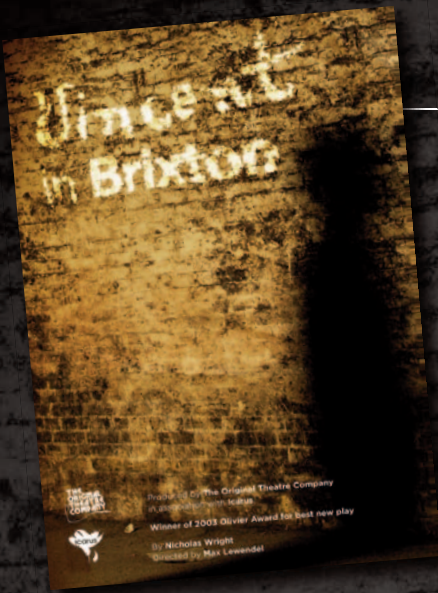
Artists see the world differently than others, inspiration is found in the most unusual corners. 87 Hackford Road is itself as much a character in the play as Ursula or Sam thus we are envisaging a working authentic kitchen where the smells, sights and sounds clash and react together with the characters to form a chaotic melting pot from which Vincent finds so much sustenance. However we are keen to portray the kitchen in Brixton very much through the eyes of the young man who would eventually become the painter we think we know today, thus the idea is to use canvas and colour to subtly imply how just beneath the surface of what seems so ordinary and mundane lies something much darker and extraordinary.

The play wrenches home the destructive qualities of both love and art and the sacrifices made by those who create it. Thus the play begins as a straight-forward love story but as the allusions between life at 87 Hackford Road and his subsequent art intensify climaxing with the painting of the boots, the love story turns tragic parable about the ruthless flame of art consuming everything in its path including eventually the artist.

**Winner of 2003 Olivier Award for best new play**

*"There are so many reasons to see this play, not least, of course, Wright's witty and compelling narrative \*\*\*\*\*" The Independent*

*"one of the best new plays ever presented by the National Theatre" John Peter, The Times*



Produced by **The Original Theatre Company** in association with **The Icarus Collective**.

By **Nicholas Wright**  
Directed by **Max Lewendel**

£9.25k for full week or £4.8k for split week



## What we do

Founded in 2004, we are a touring theatre company, producing both classical and contemporary works alongside new writing.

## In the past three years, we have:

**Won:** The Max Cary Award for Innovation

**Received:** \*\*\*\* review in Edinburgh's Three Weeks

Top five shows in London: The Observer

Countless other rave reviews

**Played:** Over Thirty UK towns and villages to over 5,000 people

## Artistic Policy

The Original Theatre Company produces work according to two simple criteria, firstly and most importantly to entertain and secondly to challenge. The Original Theatre Company was founded in 2004. Since then we have gained a reputation for work that is carefully conceived, crystal clear, challenging and always entertaining. We are and have always been, first and foremost a touring company, we produce a summer outdoor tour every year that takes theatre to unusual and exciting 'found spaces'

At the heart of everything we do is the passionately held belief that quality theatre does not have to be elitist, and that people everywhere expect and deserve the best.

We want our work to reflect the diversity of the cities and towns we play in. We have a deep commitment to creative learning and provide workshops, master-classes, seminars and talks to people of all ages throughout the country.

## Press acclaim

*"Innovative, fresh and bang up to date"* Joel Mapp, BBC Radio

*"One of the top five shows in London"*

Girl About Town, The Observer

*"Very Entertaining, enjoyable and strangely moving"*

Hugh Horman, The Stage

*"The production was outstanding."*

Jeremy Mailes, Plays International

*"Different at times unwieldy but throughout passionate, exciting and just plain fantastic. Very impressive!"*

\*\*\*\* Whatsonstage

*"An unforgettable experience of great theatre, great music and a great unique Venue, surely one of the UK's leading touring theatre companies"*

East Magazine

For full reviews see

[www.originaltheatre.com](http://www.originaltheatre.com)

To discuss booking our show, or for further information on our programme and activities, please contact **Alastair Whatley**

**The Original Theatre Company**  
Dovedon Hall Office, Chedburgh  
Road, Whepstead IP29 4UB

T **01284735447**

M **07957540097**

F **01638669289**

E [info@originaltheatre.com](mailto:info@originaltheatre.com)

W [www.originaltheatre.com](http://www.originaltheatre.com)