



About Us
Reading Repertory Theatre, in Reading, for Reading

Vision

Reading Rep strives to become a regional theatre with a national reputation. Our residency at Reading College's Performing Arts Centre has given us a fully flexible 60 seat black box studio space, just ten minutes walk from the town centre. This intimate venue will give us the opportunity to build a loyal audience as we cement our place as Reading's only professional producing house. We will utilise the flexibility of the space by producing an ambitious range of work designed to create an ongoing dialogue with the community; challenging and provoking them in a way that only live performance can.

Mission Statement

Reading's resident professional theatre will combine high-class productions with ground-breaking education and community engagement to help transform Reading's cultural landscape.

Theatre - Reading Rep will present plays from classics to new writing, revivals to musicals; producing outstanding productions of world class plays for the widest possible audience.

Education - Reading Rep's outreach work will transform Arts education in the UK by placing enterprise, experience and employability at its centre.

Community - Reading Rep invites community involvement in every aspect of our work both onstage and off – in so doing Reading Rep will reflect and represent Reading's diverse cultural community.

About Cook



Show this advert and get a complimentary bar snack with the purchase of a drink - with offerings like baked brie & ciabatta, mini pork sliders, salt & pepper squid you can't go wrong!

Valid for one transaction - manager's decision is final

Abbot Cook
153 London Road
RD1 5DE
01189354095
Over 18's after 7pm

Daily changing fresh seasonal menu, real ales and an exciting mix of draught beers - the best you'll find in Reading. With a line-up of entertainment as eclectic as it's top-drawer drinks list, there's also plenty going on inside this Cemetery Junction pub. Don't get us wrong, though: we're more 'gently buzzing' than rowdy and raucous. Our comfy surroundings are perfectly conducive for unwinding over a post-work pint, or kicking back over a hand-carved Sunday roast and a generous serving of chilled out tunes.

AUGUST STRINDBERG



Monday 1st - Saturday 13th April 2013



Tired of her constrained existence as the daughter of a wealthy count, Miss Julie begins an illicit affair with her servant Jean. August Strindberg's timelessly provocative *Miss Julie* is a fascinating exploration of love, lust and power. It remains as resonant now as it was in 1888.

Synopsis

It is a hot midsummer night. In the wake of her broken engagement the beautiful and free-spirited Miss Julie feels alone and frustrated by her stifling existence as the daughter of a count.

Deigning to dance at the servant's party, she becomes captivated by Jean, a handsome and rebellious footman. While his fiancée Christine sleeps, Jean and Miss Julie talk through the night, revealing secrets to one another and reflecting upon their differences in status.

Miss Julie is enthralled when Jean confesses that he once attempted suicide for love of her, and desire overcomes duty as servant and mistress begin an illicit affair that soon begins to eclipse their disparity in social standing.

As the night wears on, their relationship sours when Miss Julie learns that Jean has lied to her, and the pair struggle for power as they realise that the differences between them are far greater than they had even imagined.

Miss Julie's deep animosity towards men makes Jean wary, and when the infatuated pair plan to run away together, Jean commits an act of brutality that leaves Miss Julie reeling.

The lovers now have decisions to make that will shape the rest of their lives...

Work with us / Education Programme



'My placement with Reading Rep was extremely valuable to me as a literature student with a particular interest in drama. I learnt so much about the processes involved in transforming a script into a brilliant piece of theatre, and everyone was so kind and helpful to me. It has also resulted in further opportunities for me within the company, so I am delighted and feel much more confident about my prospects working in this industry.'

Jennifer Jope – Academic Placement Student for A Christmas Carol, December 2012

Work Placements

Reading Rep provides an ideal work placement scheme for those looking to gain experience in the development of a play from script to production. From those looking for a better understanding of how a script is developed and rehearsals are run, to the more technical-minded who may want to expand their knowledge on how costume, props, lighting and sound are united to enhance the production, Reading Rep can provide a tailor-made placement scheme to suit every candidate. Each person taking on a placement will have a mentor within the company who will ensure they gain a range of experiences to suit their particular interests. Placements are an ideal way of expanding knowledge in an area of interest and can help guide people towards the jobs they want.

If you are interested in our work placement and academic placement scheme, please email info@readingrep.com for more details. Please email your CV with a short covering letter outlining availability and what you'd like to gain from the experience.

Go further with Reading College

Reading
College

Open Evening
6pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 15 May 2013
Kings Road, Reading

Join us! Come to an open evening, meet our teaching staff and students and have a look around. **You'll like it.**

Find out more at www.reading-college.ac.uk or call 0800 371 434



Support Us

Your gift matters

As a registered charity, we count on the generous support of individuals, trusts and foundations, and businesses who help make our work happen. With ticket revenues comprising just 40% of our budget, it is these donations that help to raise the curtain on exciting and innovative theatre. Help us to transform Reading's cultural landscape!

Why give? Your contribution enables Reading Rep to keep ticket prices affordable for the entire community – from students to seniors, and everyone in between. It provides free and low-cost educational outreach programmes. And it ensures we maintain the artistic excellence you have come to expect at Reading Rep.

We invite you to show your support of Reading Rep's artistic excellence and innovative arts education programs by becoming an individual or corporate sponsor. For more information, please contact Aidan Grounds at aidan@readingrep.com.

Supporters

Reading Rep are extremely grateful to our current supporters, without whom our work would not be possible:



Championing, developing and investing in the arts and culture in England.



UnLtd support Social Entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey with advice and resources.



Reading Borough Council's Cultural Partnership celebrates arts and culture in Reading.



A local grant-making charity which was founded over 300 years ago. It serves Earley and east Reading, and is now one of the largest local grant-making charities in central southern England.



A partnership between the private, public, voluntary and community sectors that work together to address areas of need within Greater Reading.

www.jamesworthington.net
CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Creating promotional media to strengthen the brand and image of companies.



Signs, Decals, Digital Printing, Custom Signs, Sign Solutions.



Reading College is a forward thinking and thriving further education college located at the edge of Reading town centre.



Jelly is an energetic charity championing the creative arts. It enables art to appear in unexpected places and creates opportunities for people to look on and join in.



Healthy Planet is a charity set up to inspire, encourage and support people around the world and allows you to make a positive and measurable difference.



The Hexagon is a well established multi-purpose venue in the heart of Reading. They have an exciting programme of events, including Rock, Pop, Comedy, Classical Music and Dance.



St. George's is a place where girls flourish academically, creatively, physically and morally. A place where risks can be taken, lessons are learnt and challenges are welcomed.



A Note About August Strindberg

August Strindberg was a man of contradiction. Born of noble descent, but the bastard child of a chambermaid; a feminist before his time, yet a violent misogynist; a man of many love affairs, but who perhaps never knew how to love. These contradictions eat at his mental stability and find voice in his plays. In this way his plays serve as the unfolding of his own psychological struggle - they are his dreams.

These contradictions are best exemplified in *Miss Julie*. The play is a struggle between aristocrats and their servants. It is a struggle between his two idealisations of women, one positive the other negative: the maternal carer in Christine and the vampiric mistress in *Miss Julie*. But most of all it is a play concerning the struggles within and between a man and a woman: a man's struggle to choose between these two conceptions, the mother and the mistress; a woman's struggle over which role to occupy; and the violent convulsions between the two people as they battle with one another's choices. The genius of Strindberg is to draw the audience into these contradictions. We root for Christine but we quietly fantasise about *Miss Julie*. The infidelity depicted in the play is our own infidelity. The tragedy, perhaps for Strindberg himself, is in the failure to appreciate - to settle for - nuance; to accept that life never unfolds as an ideal but as reality with all its compromises.

By digging into Strindberg's life we can again come to understand the cause of this tragedy. Strindberg was a lonely man who often quite literally felt people were out to get him. Loneliness and a life devoid of trust, a lack of authentic communication with other people, must be an anathema to compromise. The heart-wrenching beauty of the play is in the failure of Gene and *Miss Julie* to communicate. The result is that neither can fully trust the other and so neither can compromise.

The current interpretation by Paul Stacey will invite the audience to be a part of Strindberg's contradictions with slick simplicity. The atmosphere will be somewhere between a boxing rink and a strip club – what better settings for depicting the lost art of communication? We will be forced to choose between the contradictions whilst knowing in reality the choice is a misnomer. Strindberg's tragedy becomes our own.

Article by Timothy James



Cast



Miss Julie: Valene Kane

Valene Kane trained at The Central School of Speech and Drama.

Her first starring role was, *The Fading Light*, directed by Ivan Kavanagh, which won Best Irish Film 2010 at the Dublin International Film Festival.

Film Credits include *Jump*, *War Games*, *New Yorker at Paris* and Television credits include *The Fall* (BBC).

Stage Credits include *Autumn Fire* (The Finborough), *The Tunnel* (The Old Red Lion), *Punchdrunk*, *The Lonesome West* (The Mercury Theatre) and *20 Cigarettes* (Soho Theatre).

Jean: Jamie Champion

Jamie trained at The Drama Centre.

Theatre includes: *Timon of Athens* (National Theatre), *The Robbers* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Silence* (The Old Red Lion), *Never Saw the Day*, *Wasted* (Walking Forward), *A Time for Everything* (Jackson Lane Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare in Shoreditch), and *The Highwayman* (The Curious Room)

Film includes: *W.E* (dir: Madonna), *More than Neptune*, *A Beautiful Impurity*, *Flowers*, *Angel*, *Bound South*, *Further Down the Road*



Christine: Kate Gilbert

Kate trained at Bretton Hall. Theatre credits include the *Wicked Stepmother* in *Cinderella* for Halle Productions, *Twirlies and Girlies* (Lowry Studio), *Jessica* in *The Merchant of Venice* (Lancaster Castle for Demi Paradise); *Faith* in *Watching Stars* (John Thaw Studio) and *Sophie* in *Seasaw* (Library Theatre).

Kate has also written and starred in her own urban fairy-tale *Tin Girl Story*, directed by Andy Rogers which debuted at Studio Salford in 2011 and went on to the Edinburgh Fringe festival.

Kate is also co-founder of Duckdown Theatre Company and *The Script Sessions* based in East London.



Team



Adapted & Directed by Paul Stacey
Designed by Victoria Spearing
Lighting and sound design by Russell Pearn
Choreography by Hannah Moore

Producer – Aidan Grounds
Education & Community Director – Katia Cole
Company Manager – Ana Becker

Assistant Director – Annie Fawke
Stage Manager – Danni Brunwin
Costume Supervisor – Anna Lewis
Marketing Assistant – Jenny Jope
Front of House Manager – Mandi Brown

Reading Repertory Theatre would like to thank:

All at Reading College, All at Colemansmoor, Linda Stacey, Emily Precious, Rick Romero, Sophie Stephenson-Wright, Ruby Thomas, Krishna & Adrian Grounds, Patrick Doyle, Richard Kingdom, Ian Legge, Kate Shaw, Lauren Hall, Lucy Collins, James Worthington, and everyone else who helps to make our productions possible.