

## Award-winning trio present the London debut of their flagship production



After ten years of critically acclaimed new works, performed to sell-out crowds around the country, **the award-winning Three's Company** will open the new decade with their **first London season this January**.

From the **4<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010**, the **multi-award-winning PLAY ON WORDS** plays at the **Tristan Bates Theatre** – home of fresh and innovative new work in the heart of the West End. The company are also producing the two-week *Reactivity Season*, which runs alongside.

Described as “**Stoppard for the Gondry generation**” **Michael Grady-Hall, Tom Crawshaw** and **Yaz Al-Shaater** started working together in 2000, **aged 13**. Ten years and 25 productions later, the trio have established a reputation for inventive, experimental and emotional new work, with a cult following at the **Edinburgh Fringe**, following **four sell-out years**.

Through separate training (at **RADA, Oxford University** and **Central School of Speech and Drama** respectively) the three have developed different specialities. Tom's new writing has received numerous awards and performances around the world, Yaz's work in interactive theory has won academic acclaim and Michael recently made his *National Theatre* debut in ***Burnt By The Sun***. *Play On Words* sees the coming together of these divergent skills and ideas, as well as the continuation of a decade of collaboration.

The result in a thrilling theatrical mix of knockabout farce, quick witted punning and powerful storytelling. It follows Fred and Eddie, two unwitting halves of a comic double-act, whose ordinary day at the office becomes a race against time to save their long-lost friend Jen – facing cross words, dried fruits and a theatre technician who thinks he's seen the light!

Winner, **Cameron Mackintosh New Writing Award** for Tom Crawshaw, 2007

“**Stoppard for the Gondry generation**” – **Three Weeks** on the company, 2007

“Penetrates vast depths of insight... See this show. **If you are fully booked, cancel others.**” *Edinburgh Guide* on *Later Showers* by Tom Crawshaw, 2005

“An ingenious premise and a series of **brilliant little coups de theatre** make this a very watchable show from **an inventive young company**” – **The Stage** on *Auditorium* 2008

### Listings information

**Production** Three's Company present **PLAY ON WORDS**

**Venue** Tristan Bates Theatre | 1a Tower Street, London WC2H 9NP

**Dates** 4 – 23 January 2010 | press night Tuesday 5 Jan

**Time** 7:30pm (Sundays 4pm) | approx 1hr 05mim

**Tickets** £12.00 | concs £10.00

**Box Office** 020 7240 6283 | [www.tristanbatestheatre.co.uk](http://www.tristanbatestheatre.co.uk)

**Photocall** by arrangement. **For Press Tickets and information, please contact:**

**Natalie Eskinazi** | 07870 840 166 | [natalie@threescompany.co.uk](mailto:natalie@threescompany.co.uk)

**Images** at [www.play-on-words.net/press](http://www.play-on-words.net/press)

## Notes

1. Written by **Tom Crawshaw**. Directed by **Yaz Al-Shaater**, **Michael Grady-Hall** and **Tom Crawshaw**. Designed by **Amy Penrose**. Performed by **Yaz**, **Tom** and **Michael** with **Meriel Rosenkranz**.

2. **Three's Company** is an award-winning three-man theatre company founded in 2000 by Yaz, Tom and Michael, to date having produced shows in Manchester and at the Buxton and Edinburgh Fringes. Collectively, awards include the **Cameron Mackintosh New Writing Award**, the **One Minute Theatre Festival, Best Director** at the **Lost Theatre One Act Play Festival**, and Best Musical Comedy, Best Production by a Young Company and the **Fringe 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award** from the Buxton Fringe Festival. They pride themselves on an inventive, original and daring approach to creating a wide range of contemporary theatre productions.

"Any battle cries from miserabilist anti-Fringers who suggest that innovation is waning at this year's festival, should be silenced by this." – **The Scotsman** on **Auditorium**, 2008

[www.threescompany.co.uk](http://www.threescompany.co.uk)

3. **The Tristan Bates Theatre** is a thorn in the side of the West End. Their intimate studio has received critical acclaim for sell-out runs of *I Found My Horn*, *And Then You Die!*, *Louder Than Words*, and the **Midnight Matinees**. Other flagship projects include **Ignition**: now entering its third year, which has generated 35 pieces of work so far.

Their signature **Midnight Matinee** has run since spring 2008 on every third Saturday of the month. The regular sell-out nights, recommended in **Time Out's top things to do in 2009**, and were subsequently invited to **Latitude 2009**.

3. **Yaz Al-Shaater** is a director, actor, designer, musician and interactive theorist, recently graduating with a First in Alternative Theatre Practice from Central School of Speech and Drama. Yaz directed last year's critically-acclaimed Edinburgh hit *Auditorium* ('Ingenious' - *The Stage*). Other directing includes *Later Showers*, *Our Country's Good* and *After Magritte*. Yaz has written extensively on interactivity in theatre and will be exploring this work in a parallel event *The Reactivity Season* happening alongside *Play On Words*.

4. **Tom Crawshaw** has written 14 plays, won a place in four new-writing festivals, been nominated for Best New Writing at the Buxton Fringe three consecutive years and recently won the Cameron Mackintosh Award for New Writing. His work has been performed in Edinburgh, Manchester, London, Oxford, Carlisle and Texas. Plays include *Later Showers*, award-winning musical *Plane Of Existence* and acclaimed interactive comedy *Auditorium* (all Three's Company); *House Of Dreams* (Buxton Opera House) and *Most Suspect* (Oxford University Dramatic Society).

5. **Michael Grady-Hall** trained at RADA and has since appeared this year in *Burnt By The Sun* at the National Theatre and *Thyestes* at the Arcola Theatre. He recently finished filming for *Clash Of The Titans* starring Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes, due for release in March 2010. Michael has won awards for performances as Koko in *The Mikado* (International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival) and as Danny McKeilty in the one-man-show *Later Showers* (Buxton and Edinburgh Fringe).