

Last chance to catch young theatrical trio in London residency

This is the final week of Three's Company's acclaimed 2010 residency at the Tristan Bates Theatre.

The multi-award-winning young theatrical trio - behind work such as 2008's surprise Edinburgh smash hit *Auditorium*, and the acclaimed *Later Showers* - are running their flagship production *Play On Words*, and curating *The Reactivity Season*, a new festival of interactive theatre, at the subversive central London theatre.

In the past two weeks, the company have received great press for *Play On Words* (winner of the Cameron Mackintosh Award for New Writing and the Buxton Fringe Special 30th Anniversary Award). **The Times** described the play as "an ingenious little box of tricks from precocious theatre innovators Three's Company", and "a metatheatrical game of dramatic forensics... both smart and funny". **The Stage** agree, praising the "clearly inventive company...", the "anarchic tone, intriguingly breaking down established boundaries" and the "terrifying but impressive tirade". **TimeOut** reviewed the piece as "linguistic and conceptual pyrotechnics... light-footed [and] adept at scrambling the act of theatre", adding that "Crawshaw's script telegraphs its own artifice with twisty verbal gags and neat symmetries."

The blogs agree, with strong reviews on **AllTheFestivals.com**, **FringeGuru**, **Remote Goat** and the **London Theatre Blog**. In summary, "this is short, sharp... just about the perfect format" (*The Stage*).

The bumper final weekend includes the conclusion of their Symposium on Interactive Theatre, with a huge panel of renowned names, including theatre critics **Ian Shuttleworth** and **Roger Foss**, the RSC's **Steve Marmion**, **Esther Smith** from The Royal Court's *The Author* and BBC's *Material Girl*, **Stuart Nolan** from Hex Induction, plus a variety of artists from companies such as **Non Zero One** and **Three's Company** themselves.

Running alongside the Symposium on Saturday 23rd January are a host of interactive artworks, included in the ticket price. These include *Bineural Performance*, a one-robot play; *The Story Exchange* trading books for tales from the audience; Dan Somerville's beautiful and stirring interactive dance *First Piano Concerto*; and National Arts Services' *In The Dark*, and Three's Company's own *A Live Transmission of 'Adventure Time'*.

Three's Company are also garnering an extra-ordinary response - during and after the show - for their riotous interactive comedy series *A Live Transmission of 'Adventure Time'*. The thirty minute episodes, performed after *Play On Words* on certain evenings, follow the hapless **Comedy Trio** as they try to broadcast episodes of their spoof radio series live. Rebellious technology, jealous DJs, unreliable guest stars and a run of ludicrously bad luck leave the trio calling on the audience for more than just the traditional laugh track...

With so many events, plus staged readings and guest performances, the final week of Three's Company's residency promises to be the biggest yet. If you've not been down, don't miss your last opportunity to catch this emerging and intriguing company in action.

For Press Tickets and information, please contact:

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Images and Editors' Notes at www.play-on-words.net/press

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 05min

Tickets £12.00 | concs £10.00

Box Office 020 7240 6283 | www.tristanbatesthreatre.co.uk

Production A LIVE TRANSMISSION OF 'ADVENTURE TIME'

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

Dates 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22 & 23 January 2010

Time 9pm | approx 30min

Tickets £5

Box Office 020 7240 6283 | www.tristanbatesthreatre.co.uk

Production THE INTERACTIVITY SYMPOSIUM and THE INTERPLAY SESSION

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

Dates 9, 16, & 23 January 2010

Time 1.30pm – 9.30pm (with breaks)

Tickets £10

Box Office 020 7240 6283 | www.tristanbatesthreatre.co.uk

Notes

1. *Play On Words* is 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. *A Live Transmission of 'Adventure Time'* is written and performed by **Yaz Al-Shaater, Tom Crawshaw**, and **Michael Grady-Hall** as **Jazz L. Carter, Jon Grimshaw** and **Martin Brady-Small** (aka **Comedy Trio**). MC Phail is voiced live by **Kyle McPhail**.

3. **Three's Company** (threescompany.co.uk) 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. 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 30th 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

4. The Interactivity Symposium explores ideas and issues surrounding performance work that challenges the traditional audience-performer relationship. Each week explore a different topic. The 23rd January focuses on **Realities & Responsibilities in Interactive Theatre**: examining the potential to mix realities in interactive performance, and the duties that exists between spectator and performer. The event includes a formal panel discussion, a Q&A, and an open audience debate, plus performances and events happening throughout the day, and a free ticket to the evening's episode of *A Live Transmission of 'Adventure Time'*.

5. 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**.

6. 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*.

7. 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).

8. 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).