

ROYAL CENTRAL
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PRODUCTIONS
AUTUMN SEASON 2023



CENTRAL'S AUTUMN SEASON 2023



Welcome to this year's wonder-filled classics. Each given new twists and reimagined perspectives. Each of the stories are connected to each other through themes of betrayal, identity, democracy and love ... always love in all its forms whether of family, friends, community, or country.

For diversity and boldness look no further than our exhibitions and screenings, and this year will be no exception. Details, vision and practice. All this is made possible together with, and led by, visiting professionals and creatives, our brilliant academic staff and of course, right at the centre of Central, our students.

The stories we tell are secret maps to a world that can so often feel in flux. They guide us and help to remind us that we are not alone: we are more connected than we realise. We are reminded that difference is to be celebrated, teamwork and community is everything.

This is Central. The place to be.

Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE
Principal

HOW TO BOOK

ONLINE www.cssd.ac.uk/events

CALL US 020 7722 8183



Information in this brochure is correct at publication.
Please scan the QR codes or check on www.cssd.ac.uk/events



26 – 28
SEPTEMBER
FOLLIES
PAGE 3



18 – 21
OCTOBER
**THE
WINTER'S
TALE**
PAGE 7



22 – 25
NOVEMBER
**SHAKESPEARE
IN LOVE**
PAGE 11



6 – 9
DECEMBER
RAGEDOM
PAGE 15



18 – 21
OCTOBER
WIDOWS
PAGE 5




15 – 18
23 – 24
NOVEMBER
**FUENTE
OVEJUNA**
PAGE 9



29 NOVEMBER –
2 DECEMBER
**AS YOU
LIKE IT**
PAGE 13



6 – 9
DECEMBER
MACHINAL
PAGE 17



Fantasies long dead rise up.

FOLLIES

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES GOLDMAN

Director **Julia Locascio**
Performed by **MA Music Theatre**
Production **MA Actor Training & Coaching & MFA Voice Studies: Teaching & Coaching**

Described as 'the musical to end all musicals' and 'an orgy of pastiche', *Follies* is Stephen Sondheim's great experiment with vaudeville as a weapon of chaos.

Two married couples reunite alongside dozens of now aged Follies showgirls for a final send-off to their theatre, slated for demolition. Fantasies long dead rise up through the floor and athletic tap, clowning and burlesque routines trace the breaking psyches of the main characters.

With a muscular and eerie approach to numbers including 'Broadway Baby', 'Losing My Mind' and 'I'm Still Here', *Follies* is a dynamic and gutsy showcase for this year's MA Music Theatre actors.

By special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh & Music Theatre International.



EMBASSY THEATRE, CENTRAL

TUESDAY 26 – THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM

WEDNESDAY 27 – THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 1.00PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/follies

They wait. They wait.

WIDOWS

BY ARIEL DORFMAN & TONY KUSHNER

Directors **Morwenna Rowe & Dan Sherer**

Performed by **MA Acting Contemporary**

The Civil War lasted eight years. Now, under a military occupation disguised as progress, the women wait on the River's bank for all their men – the murdered, the lost, the disappeared.

They wait. They wait.

And, finally, out of the darkness, the River brings forth a body to be claimed. But who is it? To whom does it belong?

And why is the army so fearful?

'Somewhere right now somewhere else in this country, maybe your last command, someone is losing a piece of paper, erasing a signature, burning a body to cover your ass. And you... cover mine.'

A brutal, absurd meditation on the consequences of over-reaching State Power, informed by Dorfman's own experience living in Chile under the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

By arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



WEBBER DOUGLAS STUDIO, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 18 – THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 20 – SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/widows

THE WINTER'S TALE

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Director **Jatinder Verma**

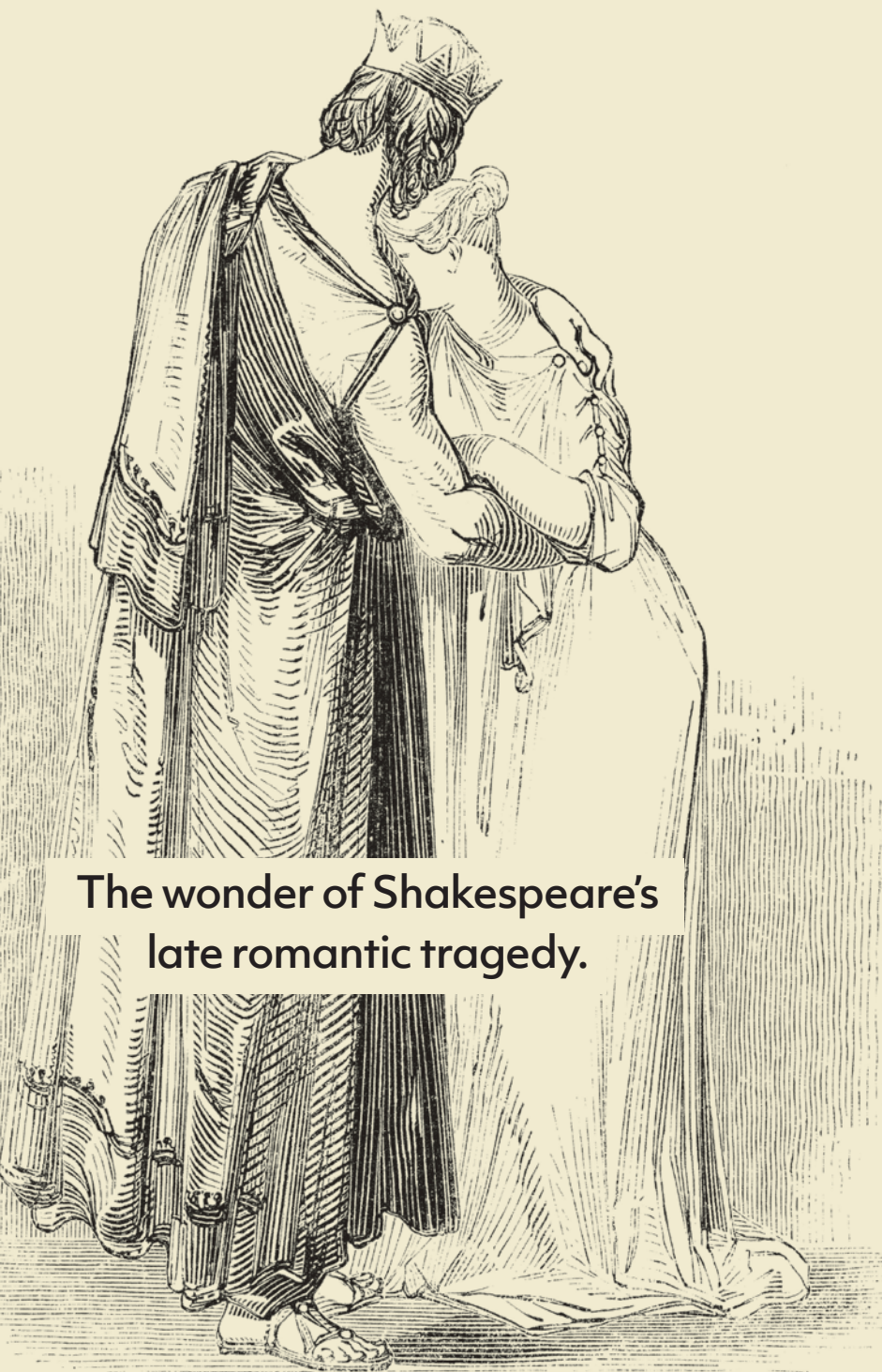
Performed by **MA Acting Classical**

Fearless Hermione challenges the suspicions of her husband Leontes, King of puritanical Sicilia - suffering death and separation from her daughter for her seeming intransigence.

Her rescued daughter Perdita is brought up by a farmer in the wilder, more earthy neighbouring country of Bohemia.

How mother and daughter are eventually reconciled and Sicilia and Bohemia return to amity, is the wonder of Shakespeare's late romantic tragedy - which even features Time and a Bear!

The heavens continue their loves.



The wonder of Shakespeare's
late romantic tragedy.



COURTYARD THEATRE, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER, 7.15PM

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2.15PM & 7.15PM

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER, 7.15PM

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER, 2.15PM & 7.15PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/the-winters-tale

A grim portrait of recycled violence and class division.

FUENTE OVEJUNA

BY LOPE DE VEGA

TRANSLATED BY ADRIAN MITCHELL

Director **Jim Manganello**

Music by **Adam Gerber**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting Musical Theatre**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice**

The farming town of Fuente Ovejuna rises up against a tyrannical overlord. This masterpiece from the Spanish Golden Age is as whip-smart as it is camp gory.

Carried by an ensemble of colourful characters, what begins as a comedy ends as something quite different: a prescient examination of democracy and revolution, a grim portrait of recycled violence and class division.

This production is a quick-moving, stripped-back, contemporary take on *Fuente Ovejuna*, which is as politically spiky now as it was in Spain, 1612.

By arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

COURTYARD THEATRE, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 15 – THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 17 – SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/fuente-ovejuna



CURVE THEATRE, LEICESTER

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 2.30PM (WITH POST SHOW Q&A) & 7.30PM

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER, 11.00AM (RELAXED PERFORMANCE & POST SHOW Q&A)

Booking: outreach@cssd.ac.uk

A love letter to the theatre
and the people who make it.



SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY MARC NORMAN & TOM STOPPARD

ADAPTED BY LEE HALL

MUSIC BY PADDY CUNNEEN

Director **Rob Styles**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice & MFA Scenography**

Shakespeare In Love is a fictional backstage tale set in and around the London theatres of the Elizabethan age - a tale of penny-pinching producers, barnstorming actors, swashbuckling sword fights, mistaken identities and false moustaches!

Young Shakespeare can't find the words nor put pen to paper. Christopher Marlowe's new plays are the talk of the town. Enter stage left, Viola de Lesseps - an aspiring thespian in masculine disguise - with the ability to breathe both truth and life into her acting.

A skilful reimagining of Shakespeare's playwriting process as he struggles to find inspiration for his next masterpiece, *Shakespeare In Love* is a love letter to the theatre and the people who make it.

By arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Originally produced on the West End by Disney Theatrical Productions & Sonia Friedman Productions, directed by Declan Donnellan, and designed by Nick Ormerod.



EMBASSY THEATRE, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 22 – THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

FRIDAY 24 – SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER, 2.30PM & 7.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/shakespeare-in-love

AS YOU LIKE IT

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Director **Neil Bartlett**

Performed by **BA (Hons) Acting CDT**

Designed & produced by **BA (Hons) Theatre Practice & MFA Scenography**

Take one professional comedian, one queer outsider, several aristocratic refugees, two gender-rebellious young women and one hormonally super-charged amateur wrestler - and dump them all in the same muddy forest.

What could possibly go wrong?

Neil Bartlett directs his first ever production of Shakespeare's four hundred and twenty-two year old investigation into the miseries, splendours and realities of falling in love against the rules.

What could possibly go wrong?



WEBBER DOUGLAS STUDIO, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 29 – THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER, 7.15PM

FRIDAY 1 – SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER, 2.15PM & 7.15PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/as-you-like-it



All hell breaks loose.

RAGEDOM

WRITTEN BY HASSAN ABDULRAZZAK

Director **James Meteyard**

Performed by **MA Acting Contemporary**

When a mysterious infection hits London, all hell breaks loose.

Where did this crisis come from?

What are the infected trying to communicate? And who is patient zero?

Written by Hassan Abdulrazzak (*Love, Bombs And Apples, The Special Relationship, Baghdad Wedding*) and directed by James Meteyard (*Tempest, Electrolyte, Redemption*), *Ragedom* is a comic zombie take on a divided Britain.



COURTYARD THEATRE, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 6 – SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER, 7.15PM

FRIDAY 8 – SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER, 2.15PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/ragedom



Enter the machine.

MACHINAL

BY SOPHIE TREADWELL

Directors **Anna Healey & Shani Erez**

Performed by **MA Acting Classical**

The plot is the story of a woman who murders her husband – an ordinary young woman, any woman.

Life around her is essentially hard, mechanised. The plan is to tell this story by showing the different phases of life that the woman comes in contact with, and in none of which she finds any place, any peace.'

These are the words which American playwright Sophie Treadwell uses in order to describe her 1928 play, *Machinal*.

We invite you to join the woman, any woman, and enter the machine.

By arrangement with Nick Hern Books www.nickhernbooks.co.uk



EMBASSY THEATRE, CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY 6 – SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER, 7.45PM

FRIDAY 8 – SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER, 2.30PM

Booking: www.cssd.ac.uk/events/machinal