

"Cry 'Havoc', and let slip the dogs of war..."

OTTC

Presents

Julius Caesar

By

William Shakespeare

15th ~ 17th June 2006
Swindon, Arts Centre

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

Revelation 13:12, 13

In our interpretation we have drawn a parallel between the themes of ancient Rome, 2,000 years ago, and the corridors of power in the 21st century.

We want to convey that the themes Shakespeare addresses in *Julius Caesar* are not only relevant today, they're all around us. What drives a person to win absolute power and then use it in a way they probably didn't intend initially? And, what turns a hero into a villain, in the eyes of those he thought he could trust?

Setting the play in modern times helps to make it more accessible to a modern audience! All the elements have a perfect fit – deception, betrayal, lust for power and the corruption of power that leads to the overthrowing of someone whom others regard as a dictator.

THIS MODERN DRAMATISATION

Old Town Theatre Company

The Company

Since the Old Town Theatre Company was set up in 1992, we've added another dimension to Swindon's drama scene. Particularly focused on the works of contemporary playwrights, we aim to offer entertainment appealing to the more adventurous theatre goer.

This has established OTTC as one of Swindon's most ambitious and innovative theatre companies. This reputation has been built from the desire of the members to challenge themselves as actors and from a common philosophy within the company to break down the barriers of what an 'amateur' company can, or should, perform.

The Website

Why not pay us a visit? Our extensive website is at:
www.swindonweb.com/ottc

Friends of OTTC

As well as helping to support your local theatre, becoming a Friend of OTTC will also entitle you to concessionary rates to all our shows. The minimum subscription to be a Friend of OTTC is £5 per year.

We're grateful to the Friends of OTTC for their support:

Joan Cheshire	Harry Bromley	Janice Thompson
Molly Tanner	Brian Carter & SwindonWeb	
Laurence Chase	Tony & Margaret Hyden	Jon Slade

Our Next Production

ART

The award winning comedy

By

Yasmina Reza

Translated by
Christopher Hampton

Could a white canvas destroy the bond of friendship between Serge, Marc and Yvan? Vicious humour and touching poignancy are the order of the day in this exposé of our attitudes towards 'culture'.

ARTS CENTRE

7th ~ 9th September 2006

Please switch OFF your mobile 'phone or pager
Thank you

How to join OTTC

Our membership is open to all. If you are interested in acting, directing or working behind the scenes, you're very welcome.

As an OTTC member you receive:

- Opportunities to audition for all OTTC productions
- OTTC Newsletters
- Concessionary price tickets for OTTC productions

Yearly membership costs £15 for adults and £5 for junior members under 18, however you are welcome to make an additional donation! To help cover production costs, we ask cast members to pay an acting fee of £6 per play.

To find out more, please write to us at:
Old Town Theatre Company, PO Box 594,
Swindon, SN1 3UQ.

Or visit our website and use the response form there.

Join our Mailing List?

If you'd like to receive details of other OTTC shows, please give your name and address to a Front of house member.

With grateful thanks

Please support those local businesses that support OTTC!

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103.6 FM
www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire

Sue Hodges
Arts Centre Staff

TOOMERS
Garden Centre
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- M P D -

Unit 5, Rivergate,
Rivermead Drive, Westlea,
Swindon,
SN5 7ET,
01793 495522
www.mpd-offset.co.uk



www.swindonweb.com

SwindonWeb™

Everything you need to know about Swindon

Previous Productions

March-06	THE LION IN WINTER
Festival 2006	FOXES IN THE EARLY LIGHT
December-05	STAGS AND HENS
October-05	WYRD SISTERS
April-05	A FEW GOOD MEN
Festival 2005	ORCA THE GOLDFISH
February-05	THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
December-04	REVUE - A STOAT CALLED NANCY
October-04	1984
May-04	DON JUAN & TARTUFFE
Festival 2004	THE OFFICE PARTY (adapted)
February-04	THE OFFICE PARTY
October-03	POPCORN
May-03	TWELVE ANGRY MEN
March-03	SHADOWLANDS
January-03	HENRY 10 th (PART 7)
May-02	MURDER AT RUTHERFORD HOUSE
Festival 2002	THE ROADS TO MOSCOW & UNSUNG
December-01	ALLO, ALLO
October-01	THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III
May-01	THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
Festival 2001	THE OPEN COUPLE
Comic Relief	SKETCHES
February-01	BUS STOP
December-00	MORT
October-00	CAN'T PAY, WON'T PAY
May-00	LIFE OF BRIAN
Literature Festival	SHORT STORIES
Festival 2000	BOUNCERS & SHAKERS (adapted)
February-00	BOUNCERS & SHAKERS
December-99	GREGORY'S GIRL
October-99	LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES
June-99	DEAD FUNNY
Festival 1999	AMELIA AND THE MAN
December-98	TALKING HEADS
October-98	MACBETH
July-98	AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER
Old town Festival	A VICTORIAN MELODRAMA
Festival/Tour 1998	P.V.T. WARS
December-97	THE DRACULA SPECTACULA
October-97	ELIZABETH
July-97	THE WOMAN WHO COOKED HER HUSBAND
Festival/Tour 1997	THE TRIAL OF KING JOHN
December-96	SPELLBOUND
October-96	ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE
July-96	OUTSIDE EDGE
April-96	BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE
December-95	STRIPPERS
October-95	LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS
May-95	THE ROSES OF EYAM
February-95	HAPGOOD
December-94	THE GRAND OLD DUKE OF YORK
October-94	WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY
May-94	THE POPE AND THE WITCH
February-94	DECEPTIONS
December-93	ROBIN HOOD
October-93	UP 'N' UNDER
May-93	WOMAN IN MIND
March-93	WHAT THE BUTLER SAW

What the Papers Say

"An enthralling flashback to the Christmas of 1183 in Michael Bull's excellent production"
Festival - 2006 "a taut and thought-provoking piece"
"OTTC have performed it with great gusto"
"I am never disappointed by anything this company produces"
"Excellent, enthralling, engrossing theatre"
Festival winners - 2005 "an absorbing array of diverse characters "
"The performance of a lifetime"
"Ba-da-da-duck-duck-banana..."
"Quite simply the most gripping performance I've seen on an amateur stage"
"A thought provoking evening"
Festival - 2004
"Perfectly captures slice of office life"
"Another fantastic hit-and-run production"
"Guilty of a great production"
"A truly stunning piece".... "OTTC give another tremendous performance"
Arts Centre – re-launch night
"Superb entertainment ".... "OTTC have the ability to amaze me at every opportunity"
Festival winners & Junior Festival winners – 2002 "This puts the group in the history books"
"Did they succeed? I think they did"
"OTTC produced theatre that not many amateur or professional companies would attempt"
"Forward thinking and never frightened of trying something different"... "They have a rare talent"
Festival winners - 2001 "This was impressive"
BBC – Comic Relief
"Another triumph for this established amateur company"
"OTTC manage to succeed, while others may fail"
"If this company were to get marks out of 10, I would give them 10
"Will leave you laughing your socks off"
Literature Festival
Festival winners – 2000
"Very lively and watchable"
"As smooth as a pass from David Beckham"
"OTTC excel themselves in this classic tale"
"A happy mix of poignancy and frivolity"
Festival winners - 1999 "Fascinating & highly original new play"
"A brave decision by OTTC"
"Magnificent"... "made excellent viewing"
"The audience is reduced to hysterics"
Old Town Victorian Festival
Festival - 1998
"Great family entertainment"
"History was never like this"
"Delicious farce with a twist"
Festival - 1997 " Full marks, for trying out works of their own"
"Swindon is Spellbound"
"Another triumph for OTTC"
"OTTC have done it again"
"We in Swindon should thank them for it"
"OTTC are neither amateur nor average"
"Funny and sad-a touching sequence of vignettes"
"A moving drama that brings history vividly to life"
"A pastiche of the Len Deighton school of storytelling"
"The panto tradition expertly upheld by production"
"An excellence that would be envied by long standing professionals"
"Subversive and savagely funny farce"
"Another bold and skilful attempt to add another dimension to the drama scene in Swindon"
"It was all fun and OTTC played it with gusto"
"It is a brave drama group that tackles Up 'n' under"
"Thoughtfully and meticulously delivered to great effect"
"An evening of riotous irreverent fun"

JULIUS CAESAR

Gaius Julius Caesar (100 - 44 BC) was a politician and general of the late Roman republic, who greatly extended the Roman empire before seizing power and becoming dictator at Rome. Caesar's family was socially distinguished: its members were patrician, and claimed descent from Venus and Aeneas. They were closely connected with the Marian faction in Roman politics.

In 60 BC, Caesar made a pact with Pompey and Crassus, who had grievances against the senate and needed a co-operative consul. They used bribery to get him elected consul for 59 - this pact is known as the 'first triumvirate'. As consul, he forced through legislation favouring Pompey and Crassus and giving himself the governorship of Gaul. He married Calpurnia, and Pompey married Caesar's daughter Julia.

In 58 Caesar went to Gaul, which he conquered and added to the Roman empire. He also made two expeditions to Britain, in 55 and 54. Meanwhile, the 'triumvirate' broke up. Julia died in 54, Crassus was killed in Parthia in 53, and Pompey began to side more closely with the senate.

In 50 Caesar's command expired but, fearing prosecution for his actions in 59, he refused to disarm. He crossed the Rubicon (the stream marking the southern boundary of his province) and invaded Italy. In the civil war that ensued, he defeated the republican forces led by Pompey, who fled to Egypt after the battle of Pharsalus and was murdered on his arrival. Caesar, became involved with Cleopatra and embroiled in the internal politics of the Egyptian court.

As undisputed master of Rome, Caesar made himself consul and dictator for life. He used his power to carry out much-needed reform, relieving debt, enlarging the senate, building and revising the calendar. But his enemies, many of them republicans whom he had spared suspected aspirations towards kingship and divinity. A diverse group of conspirators - some of them idealistic 'liberators', others men with petty grievances - was formed against him, led by Brutus and Cassius. And on 15th ('the Ides') March 44, the conspirators stabbed him to death in the senate.

The assassination of Caesar sparked off another 14 years of civil war before his great-nephew and heir, Octavian could establish permanent monarchy as the first emperor Augustus. Caesar's name was adopted as a title by all the Roman emperors, as well as by later monarchs (including the Russian 'Tsars' and German 'Kaisers'). His own accounts of his military campaigns, the *Gallie War* in seven books and the *Civil War* in three, survive.

A presentation of one of **Shakespeare's** most famous tragedies.

A rollercoaster ride that all will enjoy.

Cast

Trebonius	Steve Johnson
Metellus Cimber	Lance Hodges
Julius Caesar	Mike Bull
Calpurnia/Flavius	Jane Dale
Marc Antony	Julian Smith
Portia/Volumnius	Fenella Harrop
Caius Cassius	Peter Edge-Partington
Marcus Brutus	David Howell
Casca	Richard Abrams
Cicero	Steve Wheeler
Lucius	Simon Heafield
Decius Brutus	Jez Rice
Artemidorus/Soothsayer	Marta Leskard
Lepidus/Popilius Lena/Carpenter	Chris Turpin
Octavius/Cobbler	Richard Large
Nero - Servant/Citizen/Soldier	Tanya Barker
Hadrian - Servant/Citizen/Soldier	Sophie Wallis

The Caesar Rap

Written by	Snoop dog Hodge and Puff diddy Howell (aka - Emin-em'pty)
Performed by	"The rapping Romantics "
<i>Richard Abrams</i>	<i>Simon Heafield</i>
<i>Chris Turpin</i>	<i>Jez Rice</i>
<i>Steve Wheeler</i>	<i>Richard Large</i>
	<i>Marta Leskard</i>

Crew

Directed by	Lance Hodges
Stage Manager	Janet Lovell
Lighting design	Richard Abrams
Lighting	Nancy Heath
Sound	Lynne Scragg
Set design	Lance Hodges
Built by	OTTC Members
Publicity	Wendy Vickery
Box Office	Rosemary Curtis
FoH Manager	Wendy Vickery
FoH Staff	OTTC Members