

An Old Town Theatre Company Production

OTTIC

THE
VORTEX
BY NOEL COWARD

A MOTHER WITH A YOUNG LOVER PLUS
A SON WITH A NEW FIANCÉE MEANS
MOTHER & SON ARE BOTH BETRAYED

'GLAMOUR CAN ONLY MASK SO MANY SINS'

A play directed by Michael Bull

7.30 pm Thursday 26th –
Saturday 28th February 2009
The Arts Centre, Swindon.

Got your mobile with you?
Please take the time now
to check it's off, or silent!
Thank you!



Past Productions

Festival 2009	Nobody Knows I'm a Dog
December 2008	One for the Road
May 2008	Talking Heads
Festival 2008	On a Day in Summer in a Garden
February 2008	Breakfast with Jonny Wilkinson
December 2007	Hamlet
September 2007	Best of British
May 2007	The Importance of Being Earnest
March 2007	Frankie & Johnny in the Claire de Lune
Festival 2007	Autumn Terror
December 2006	Comfort & Joy
September 2006	Art
June 2006	Julius Caesar
March 2006	The Lion in Winter

What the Papers Say about OTTC

"...a lively and highly competent production"
Christmas comedy 2008

Sterling performances from 3 ladies of the company.
Best Play, Harold Jolliffe One Act Play Festival

"..well cast and extremely well played
..another winner."

"There was no doubt in my mind that this company
could pull it off; and they did."

"The audience loved it and so did I"

"As always, OTTC managed to put on a
performance that was entertaining"

"Duo pick up the gauntlet of tough play in style...
...cracking, the lines just flowed."
BBC 'Playwrite' winner

Christmas comedy 2006

"An hour and half of dynamic acting. I enjoyed this
more than the professional production"

"Inspirational"

"An enthralling flashback to the Christmas of 1183
in Michael Bull's excellent production"

For a full list of OTTC's past productions, please visit our extensive website at:

www.swindonweb.com/ottc

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

BEST OF BRITISH 2: REVENGE OF THE SIT-COM!

Following the roaring success of Best of British '07
OTTC returns with another triple-bill of classic British TV comedy

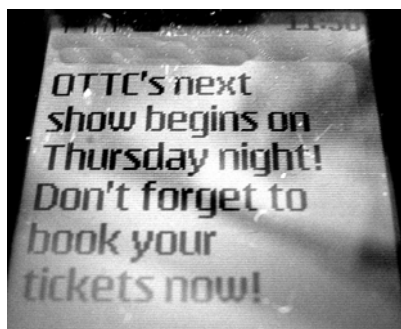
3rd – 6th June 2009

ARTS CENTRE, SWINDON, 7.30pm.

FOR TICKETS TEL: 01793 614837

Go to our website www.swindonweb.com/ottc for further details

Can we Text you?



*OTTC will not pass any of your details on to any third party!

Would you like a text message to your mobile phone so that you don't miss our next show? We'd like to know what demand there'd be for such a service so if you like the idea, simply add your mobile phone number to this form →

Win a pair of Opening Night tickets to our next show!

Simply write your name and address*, and post this slip in the Prize Draw Box in the entrance foyer.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Mobile Phone No.:

* OTTC will use this information to keep you updated of future shows.

THE VORTEX BY JOEL COWARD

The Vortex crystallises all the anxiety of the early 1920s, post-war twitchiness, glossed over by martinis and cigarettes. Coward explores the darker side of the Cocktail Party set; emotional blackmail, drug abuse and shattered relationships are minutely observed in this disturbing, early piece from a playwright whose sharp eye was more usually turned towards the light.

Coward's central characters are like specks of dirt approaching the plughole of a draining bath. The closer they get to the hole, the faster they spiral. Florence is desperate to hold onto her youth, even if it's only through her toy-boy lover. But when Florence's son returns with a fiancée in tow, a crisis occurs and the stage is set for a blistering confrontation.

The Vortex was the play that made Coward's name and firmly established him as both a dramatist and an actor - he'd been at pains to ensure the play included "a whacking good part" for himself - and it was the roaring twenties equivalent of today's so-called in-yr-face theatre, the 'Shopping and F***ing' of the jazz age.

'Firstly I'd like to thank OTTC and especially Michael Bull for the opportunity to work with such a fantastic company, talented actors and technicians and the expertise of Mike for an invaluable experience that has taught me so much. I've learned not only about directing but also the many skills required to bring a play like this to life and do it justice.

The reason I love this play so much is because it feels like we are transported back to an era and segment of society that has no parallel in modern times. Coward has captured for us a unique moment that has left me nostalgic for it and almost sad there are no Pawnies or Florences left in the world.

We can all relate to glamour, self deception and superficiality, and the characters and dialogue are so 'beautifully preserved' we feel we are getting a real glimpse of the times in which Coward lived and the darker side of his usually frothy world. So much so that sitting in the audience we could almost be another guest at Florence Lancaster's lavish house party.'

Vicky Coleman
Assistant Director

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

PRESTON	Jane Dale
HELEN SAVILLE	Fenella Harrop
PAUNCEFORT QUENTIN	Peter Edge-Partington
CLARA HIBBERT	Jayne Akrill
FLORENCE LANCASTER	Wendy Vickery
TOM VERYAN	Stuart Quinn
VICKY LANCASTER	Owen Fishwick
DAVID LANCASTER	Jack Sayer
BUNTY MAINWARING	Emma Cowdry
BRUCE FAIRLIGHT	Steve Wheeler

DIRECTOR	Michael Bull
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Victoria Coleman
STAGE MANAGER	Janet Lovell
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	Jane Dale Steve Wheeler
COSTUMES	Marta Leskerd
SOUND	David Howell
LIGHTING DESIGN	Matt Davis
LIGHTING	Mike Carpenter
SET	OTTC members
PUBLICITY	Ashley Heath
FRONT OF HOUSE	Victoria Coleman
CO-ORDINATOR	
FRONT OF HOUSE	OTTC members
VOLUNTEERS	

**THERE WILL BE TWO INTERVALS
OF 15 MINUTES EACH**

SPECIAL THANKS

Charlie King for her artwork,
Jenny Gadon, Cirencester Dance Club,
Emma Isaac, Matt Davis,
Les King at Manor Furnishings
and Jim Knott at B&Q

The Company

Since 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 performers, and from a common shared philosophy within the company that we should break down the barriers of what an 'amateur' company 'can' or 'should' perform.

How to Join OTTC

Our membership is open to all. If you are interested in acting, directing or backstage, you're very welcome!

As an OTTC member you will receive:




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

Yearly membership costs just £20 for adults and £10 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 £7.50 per play.

There are various ways of contacting OTTC:

-  Website www.swindonweb.com/ottc
-  Email ottcenquiries@googlemail.com
-  Post Old Town Theatre Company, P O Box 594, Swindon SN1 3UQ.

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 is £5 per year.

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

Brian Carter & SwindonWeb	Laurence Chase	Tony & Margaret Hyder	Jon Slade
Joan Cheshire	Mollie Tanner	Janice Thompson	Ross Nolan

The Website

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

Join Our Mailing List!

If you'd like to receive details of other OTTC shows, why not fill out the form on page 2 of this programme? We'll make sure you get to hear of our future shows, and you might win free tickets too!

'Thank you' to our supporters, be they big or small!



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Clarry Bean,
Matt Davis
and all the
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