PASSION PLAY
By PETER NICHOLS
Directed by DAVID LEVEAUX

FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED

Opens at the Duke of York’s Theatre on Tuesday 7 May 2013

Previews from Wednesday 1 May 2013

Owen Teale, Samantha Bond, Oliver Cotton, Annabel Scholey, and Sian Thomas join Zoë Wanamaker in Passion Play, directed by David Leveaux. Peter Nichols’ provocative comedy about sex, love and infidelity will open on 7 May at the Duke of York’s Theatre with previews from 1 May.

Comfortably married for 25 years, James and Eleanor’s world is turned upside down when her husband begins an affair with their young friend Kate. As the lies mount up, the marriage is stripped bare, revealing illicit desires and hidden passions. A potent mix of desire, intimacy and deception, this modern classic and winner of the Evening Standard Award for Best Play makes a much-anticipated return to the West End.

Writer Peter Nichols’ other plays include A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg, The National Health and Privates On Parade, recently revived in the West End by Michael Grandage. His plays have won four Evening Standard Awards, a Society of West End Theatres Award for Best Comedy and two Ivor Novello Best Musical Awards.

David Leveaux reunites with Zoë Wanamaker for Passion Play, whom he directed in her Olivier Award-winning performance in Electra (Donmar Warehouse and Broadway). He has been nominated for five Tony Awards as a director of both plays and musicals. His recent play credits include Arcadia (Duke of York’s and Broadway); Through a Glass Darkly starring Carey Mulligan (Atlantic Theatre, NY); Jumpers (National Theatre and Broadway); and Cyrano de Bergerac starring Kevin Kline (Broadway). Other recent play credits include Simon Gray’s The Late Middle Classes (Donmar Warehouse) starring Helen McCrory and Robert Glenister as well as Harold Pinter’s Betrayal starring Juliette Binoche (Broadway).
Zoë Wanamaker has appeared extensively in film and on television including the Harry Potter films and the award-winning BBC series My Family. Her work on stage includes Much Ado About Nothing, All My Sons with David Suchet and The National Theatre’s The Cherry Orchard. She has won two Olivier Awards for Best Actress; for her performance in Electra at the Donmar Warehouse and her performance in Once in a Lifetime at the National Theatre. Zoë has received four Tony Award nominations for Piaf!, Loot, Electra and, most recently, the Lincoln Centre production of Awake And Sing!

Owen Teale plays James. He can currently be seen on stage in A Time to Reap (Royal Court). Owen won a Tony Award for Best Featured Artist for A Doll’s House (West End/Broadway). Recent theatre credits include The Country (Royal Court), Creditors (Donmar/Brooklyn Academy), The Dance of Death (Lyric, West End/Sydney Festival), Ivanov, Berenice (National). Work at the RSC includes Love’s Labour’s Lost, The Merchant of Venice, King Lear, Julius Caesar as well as Henry IV Part I. On screen his credits include Stella on Sky1, BBC’s Line of Duty, Game of Thrones (HBO) and Kidnap and Ransom (ITV). Films include The Last Legion, King Arthur, Conspiracy and Robin Hood.

Samantha Bond plays Nell, Eleanor’s alter-ego. Her extensive West End stage appearances embrace leading roles in What The Butler Saw and An Ideal Husband (Vaudeville), Michael Frayn’s Donkey’s Years (Comedy), Oscar Wilde’s A Woman of No Importance (Theatre Royal Haymarket), Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia (Royal Court), Macbeth (Albery), Three Tall Women (Wyndhams) and Shelagh Stephenson’s Memory of Water, which Bond subsequently directed on tour. At the National Theatre her starring role opposite Judi Dench in David Hare’s award-winning Amy’s View, led to a Tony Award nomination for Bond when it transferred to Broadway. On television she regularly appears as Aunty Angela in Outnumbered (BBC) and plays Lady Rosamund in Downton Abbey (ITV). Other credits include the ITV drama-comedy Distant Shores, Midsomer Murders (ITV), Inspector Lynley (ITV), Mansfield Park (BBC), Emma (ITV) and Miss Marple (ITV). Bond is perhaps best known for her role as ‘Miss Moneypenny’ in the James Bond films starring Pierce Brosnan. Other film work includes Bunch of Amateurs starring opposite Burt Reynolds.

Oliver Cotton plays Jim, James’ alter-ego. Most recently Cotton has appeared in the BBC’s television series Ripper Street. His extensive theatre credits include An Ideal Husband (Lyric), Benefactors (Vaudeville), The Homecoming (Garrick), Butterfly Kiss (Almeida), Richard II, A Flea in Her Ear and The Philadelphia Story (The Old Vic), The Syndicate (Chichester/tour), Twelfth Night, Henry IV Parts I and II (Shakespeare’s Globe), Captain Oates’ Left Sock and The Local Stigmatic (Royal Court). Other theatre work includes The Royal Hunt of the Sun, Summerfolk, Money, The Crucible, Despatches, The World Turned Upside Down, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (National) as well as Richard III, Edward IV and Henry VI (RSC). On television, Cotton has appeared in Money, Margaret, Hotel Babylon, Judge John Dee and Waking the Dead (BBC) The Commander (ITV), and The Camomile Lawn (Channel 4). His film work includes The Dark Knight Rises, Bone Hunter, Shanghai Knights and The Dancer Upstairs.

Annabel Scholey plays Kate. Her theatre credits include Antigone (National Theatre/Olivier), Lady Anne in Richard III with Kevin Spacey in the title role (Old Vic/BAM/World Tour), The Rivals (Theatre Royal Haymarket/UK Tour), Charley’s Aunt (Royal Exchange Manchester), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Rose Theatre, Kingston), The House of Special Purpose (Chichester Festival Theatre), Wallenstein (Chichester Festival Theatre), Hamlet (Bristol Tobacco Factory), The Taming of the Shrew (Bristol Tobacco Factory), Hobson’s Choice (Chichester Festival Theatre/UK Tour), The Cherry Orchard (Sheffield Crucible), Troilus and Cressida (RSC/Kings Theatre/Edinburgh International Festival) and The Real Thing (Theatre Royal Bath/UK Tour). On television Scholey has appeared in Personal Affairs, Being Human, Jane Eyre, Eastenders and Holby City (BBC) and Poirot: After the Funeral (ITV). Film credits include Light and Meeting Anna.
Sian Thomas plays Agnes. Her theatre work includes Blue Heart Afternoon and The Glass Room (Hampstead Theatre), Richard II (Donmar), Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Northern Stage/Sheffield Crucible), Spring Awakening (Lyric Hammersmith/West End), Small Craft Warnings (Arcola), Macbeth and Hamlet (RSC/Albery), The Price (Apollo/Tricycle), Feelgood (Hampstead/Garrick), King Lear (RSC) and Richard III (RSC/Savoy). Credits for the National Theatre include Fram, The Way Of The World, Mountain Giants, Sleep With Me and House And Garden. Sian has been awarded Best Actress on several accounts by What’s On Stage, Martini TMA and the Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland, as well as an Olivier Nomination for Best Comedy Performance in Countrymania. Her television credits include Merlin and Ruby in The Smoke (BBC), Thinspiration (Channel 4) and Lewis (ITV). She has also appeared on screen in Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Perfume, Vanity Fair and Prick Up Your Ears.

Passion Play marks the inaugural production in Tali Pelman Productions and the Ambassador Theatre Group’s producing partnership. Tali’s previous productions as in-house Producer at ATG include Olivier Award-winning new play The Mountaintop by Katori Hall (West End and Broadway); The Misanthrope starring Damian Lewis and Keira Knightley (West End); Neil LaBute’s Fat Pig (West End) and Pinter’s The Lover/The Collection (West End).

Passion Play is produced by Tali Pelman Productions for the Ambassador Theatre Group and Old Vic Productions.

Creative team:

Writer Peter Nichols
Director David Leveaux
Set Designer Hildegard Bechtler
Costume Designer Laura Hopkins
Lighting Designer Mark Henderson
Sound Designer Fergus O’Hare

LONDON LISTINGS INFORMATION

Dates: Duke of York’s Theatre: Wednesday 1 May - Saturday 3 August 2013
Press Night: Tuesday 7 May 2013 7pm
Monday – Saturday 7.30pm
Matinees: Thursdays and Saturdays 2.30pm except for Thursday 2 May

Ticket prices: £10 - £57.50 (previews £10 - £47.50)
£10 Mondays: every Monday performance fifty £10 tickets will be available to book in advance or on the day
Day Seats: Limited number of £10 Day Seats available in person at 10am on the day of the performance, Monday-Thursday
Premium seats available. Group discounts available.

Box Office: 0844 871 7623
Website: www.passionplaylondon.com
NOTES TO EDITORS

REGIONAL LISTINGS INFORMATION

Richmond Theatre

Dates: Friday 12 April - Saturday 20 April 2013
       Monday – Saturday 7.30pm.
       Matinees 2.30pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays except for Saturday 13 April.

Ticket prices: Tickets £15 - £35 (no per ticket booking fee)
               Premium Seats available
               www.atgtickets/richmond.com
               0844 871 7651

Brighton Theatre Royal

Dates: Tuesday 23 April – Saturday 27 April 2013
       Tuesday – Saturday 7.45pm.
       Matinees 2.30pm Thursday 25 and Saturday 27 April
       Ticket prices: Tickets £15 - £35 (no per ticket booking fee)
               Premium Seats available
               www.atgtickets/brighton.com
               0844 871 7650

For further information, please contact:
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Passion Play scores a mightily measly 4.4 on the IMDb, and as a rule, I don't even bother with films on Sky Movies that score less than 5 - and that's 5/10, hardly a great starting point. Mickey Rourke not so long ago was on Oscar nominated form in The Wrestler and whilst he's (apparently, I've not seen them) been in some awful movies in the past, was this an unfortunate return to that form for him? Select any poster below to play the movie, totally free! La La Land. Marie Antoinette.