

NEWS

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Loadsamoney stirs up loadsatrouble...

Hull Truck Theatre presents

Lucky Sods

Written by John Godber and directed by Nick Lane

Mon 23 – Sat 28 March 2009

The New Vic play host to one of the nation's leading theatre companies this month, as Hull Truck return with another line up of TV faces and a 'winner' from BAFTA award-winning playwright John Godber!

Ooh, the lucky sods! Jean and Morris have only gone and won the lottery! But with the pressure of deciding what to do with the cash and jealous in-laws after a slice of the spoils, can Jean and Morris keep their lives from turning downside down? Are they truly all that 'lucky'? Or is it really 'a rich man's world'?

Lucky Sods is satirical and observational comedy about relationships, the highs and lows of life and the green stuff!

A fantastic cast of seasoned Hull Truck favourites including **Gordon Kane (BBC's *The Cup*)**, **Jacqueline Naylor (BBC 2's *Odd Squad*)** and **James Weaver (ITV's *Lewis*)** are joined by **Fiona Wass (BB3's *Grown Ups*)** who starred in Hull Truck's 2007 tour of *My Favourite Summer* (written and directed by Nick Lane).

Written by BAFTA award-winning playwright John Godber, *Lucky Sods* premiered at Hull Truck Theatre's home venue in 1996 before embarking on a UK tour. Updated in 1997 to reflect changing attitudes, playwright Godber commented: "*It strikes me that lottery fever has become lottery flu.*"

This production sees Nick Lane, who starred in the original, return as Director. As well as acting, writing and directing, Nick is also the Associate Director for Hull Truck. Last year, his production of Jim Cartwright's *Two* enjoyed sell out success throughout the UK.

John Godber is Artistic Director of Hull Truck Theatre and one the UK's most successful playwrights. Over the last 20 years he has had international success with his observational comedies: *Up 'N' Under* won the Laurence Olivier Comedy of the Year Award and *Bouncers* scooped seven Los Angeles Critics Circle Awards. Godber was awarded two BAFTAs for his film *Odd Squad*.

Tickets, which cost £8.50 – £17.50 (with concessions available), can be booked by calling the New Vic's Box Office on 01782 717962 or online at www.newvictheatre.org.uk

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For further press information, including interview and image requests, please contact Clare Hargreaves on 01782 717954 ext 317 or at chargreaves@newvictheatre.org.uk

Editors Notes:

Biographies

John Godber

Writer

John was born the son of a miner in Upton, West Yorkshire. He trained as a teacher of drama at Bretton Hall College. Whilst he was Head of Drama at Minsthorpe High School, the school he attended as a student, he won every major award at the National Student Drama Festival between 1981 and 1983. In 2005, John's 50th play *Wrestling Mad* marked his 21st anniversary with Hull Truck as Artistic Director.

One of the most performed writers in the English language, John has won numerous awards for his plays including a Lawrence Olivier award and seven Los Angeles Critics Circle Awards. His plays include: *Bouncers, Up 'N' Under, April In Paris, Teechers, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Cramp, Happy Jack, September In The Rain, Salt Of The Earth, Passion Killers, Happy Families, Up 'N' Under II, Gym & Tonic, Dracula, Lucky Sods, Hooray For Hollywood, Weekend Breaks, It Started With A Kiss, Unleashed, Thick As A Brick, Big Trouble In The Little Bedroom, Season In The Sun, on A Night Like This, Our House, Departures, Men Of The World, Reunion, Screaming Blue Murder, Black Ties & Tales, Perfect Pitch Going Dutch, Christmas Crackers, Crown Prince* and most recently *Sold*.

Within his extensive career in writing and directing in TV and Film, John also devised the BBC2 series *Chalkface* and his screenplay *My Kingdom For A Horse* starring Sean Bean was nominated for an alternative BAFTA award. John's first feature film *Up 'N' Under* was released in January 1998. In 2005, he co-wrote *Odd Squad* for BBC 2, with his wife Jane, which was shot in Hull using local actors. *Odd Squad* won two British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards in the Schools' Drama category and in the BAFTA original writer section.

John has an MA from Leeds University, an Hon D.Litt from Hull University, an Hon D.Litt from Lincoln University, a D.Uni for the Open University and was a PHD research student for five years at Leeds University. He is a Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Liverpool Hope University, a visiting Professor of Drama at Hull University and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Nick Lane

Director

Nick Lane was appointed as Associate Director of Hull Truck Theatre in 2006 but has been writing for Hull Truck since 2000, when he was given the opportunity to adapt and direct *Frankenstein*.

Since then other literary adaptations have followed including: *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (2002), *Moby Dick* (Co-written with John Godber, 2003) and *1984* (2005).

However, he is perhaps most associated with Hull Truck, in terms of writing at least, for the Christmas shows: *A Christmas Carol* (2000), *Beauty And The Beast* (2001), *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame* (2002), *The Snow Queen* (2003), *'Twas The Night Before Christmas* (2004), the 2005 double bill of *When Santa Got Stuck In The Fridge* and *Scrooge II: The 12 Days of Christmas, Snow White* (2006) and *Little Red Riding Hood* (2007).

Elsewhere he has written *The Elves and the Shoemaker* and *The Derby McQueen Affair* for York Theatre Royal.

For Hull Truck, Nick has directed a many plays including: *September In The Rain, Salt Of The Earth, Kicked Into Touch, Life's A Beach, Departures* and *The Glass Menagerie*. At York Theatre Royal, Nick has directed *Two, April in Paris, September in the Rain, Little Red Riding Hood, Little Italy* and remounts of *Beauty & the Beast* and *Hunchback*.

In 2007, Nick wrote and directed both *My Favourite Summer* and *Blue Cross Xmas* for Hull Truck. His original children's play, *A Christmas Fairytale* will premiere at Hull Truck at Christmas this year.

Jackie Naylor Jean

Jacqueline was born in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire and trained at Mountview Theatre School.

Previously for Hull Truck Theatre she has appeared in: *Perfect Pitch*, *Be My Baby*, *Salt Of The Earth*, *Frankenstein*, *Passionkillers* (tour), *The Glass Menagerie*, *On The Piste* (tour) and *Young Hearts*.

Other theatre credits include: *Wuthering Heights*, *The Wizard Of Oz*, *When We Are Married*, *Stirrings In Sheffield...*, *Richard The Third*, *The Passion*, *All The Fun Of The Fight*, *The Adventures Of Mr. Toad* and *What The Butler Saw*. In 2008, Jacqueline starred Mrs Viney in *The Railway Children* for York Theatre Royal. Jacqueline has also done multi-various roles in Christmas shows over the past 25 years.

Film and television credits include: *Brassed Off*, *The Mixer*, *1914 All Out*, *How We Used To Live*, *Instinct*, *Oddsquad*, *Vincent*, *Hollyoaks*, *Coronation Street* (several appearances), *My Parents Are Aliens*, *Emmerdale* and *The Royal*.

Most recently she played The Cat in a new version of *Pinocchio*, which will tour later this year.

James Weaver Norman

James's theatre credits include: Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Christopher in *Up On Roof* and Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights* (for Hull Truck Theatre), Gerry in *Get Ken Barlow* (Watford Palace), Giovanni in *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* and Tony in *Up 'n' Under* (for Derby Playhouse), Sam in *Making Waves* (Stephen Joseph Theatre), Dromio of Ephesus in *A Comedy of Errors*, Thomas Nestor in *Odysseus Thump*, Bob in *The Life and Times of Young Bob Scallion*, Peter in *Seeds Under Stones* (for West Yorkshire Playhouse), Nicky in *Accomplices* and Gregory in *Romeo & Juliet* (for Crucible Theatre), Carl in *Wish* (Oval House), Deccy in *The Resurrectionists* (Croydon Warehouse & Bolton Octagon), Porthos in *The Three Musketeers* (Dukes in the park, Lancaster), Kite in *Death of an Elephant* (Orange Tree Room) and Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet* (Custard Factory Theatre Co).

Television credits include: John Chain in *Red Riding 1980* (Channel 4 Films), PC Baxter in *Lewis*, Jamie Fisher in *Survivors*, DC Edmundson in *Outside the Rules* and Terry Kinnaird in *Dalziel & Pascoe*. James has also appeared in *Heartbeat*, *The Bill*, *Rose & Maloney*, *Doctors*, *Where The Heart Is*, *Red Cap*, *Holby City*, *Peak Practice*, *Casualty* and *The Hello Girls*.

Radio credits include: Büsher in *Conquest of the South Pole* and Walsh in *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance* (for BBC Radio 3).

Gordon Kane Morris

Gordon is delighted to be returning to Hull Truck.

Most recently Gordon appeared in three episodes of BBC's *The Cup* where he played the football coach.

His television credits include: *Emmerdale* (YTV), *Coronation Street* (Granada), *Legless* (Granada), *The Royal* (YTV), *Doctors* (BBC), *Eastenders* (BBC), *Rock Face* (Granada), *Burn It* (Red Productions), *Heartbeat* (YTV), *My Parents Are Aliens* (YTV), *Taggart* (STV), *Hannay* (Thames TV), *Danger UXB* (Euston Films), *The Cost of Loving* (YTV), *Macbeth* (BBC), *Secret Army* (BBC), *Comedy Playhouse* (BBC), *The Comic Strip Presents – More Bad News & Mr Jolly Lives next Door* (C4).

Gordon's film credits includes: *Murphy's Stroke* (Euston Films), *The Praying Mantis* (Film Four), *Time Bandits* (Handmade Films), *Callan* (Central).

His theatre credits include: *Sold, Back Tie and Tails*, *Reunion* and *Thick As A Brick* for Hull Truck, *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Leeds City Varieties), *Naked Justice* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *The Caretaker* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Love Off The Shelf* (Stephen Joseph Theatre), *Lysistrata* (Peter Hall Company), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Basingstoke Haymarket), *Yonadab* (RNT), *Dr Faustus* (Perth Rep), *Outskirts* (Leicester Haymarket), *Black Friars Wynd* (Edinburgh Lyceum).

Fiona Wass

Connie/Annie/Mother

Most recently, Fiona has played the regular character of Claire in *Grownups* for BB3.

Work with Hull Truck includes: *It Started With a Kiss Frankenstein*, *September in the Rain Reunion*, *Screaming Blue Murder*, *Black Tie and Tales* and *Our House* (all directed by John Godber), *Teechers* (directed by Kate Bramley and Gilly Tompkins), *Beauty and the Beast* (directed by Nick Lane) and *Twas the Night before Christmas* and *Macbeth* (directed by Gareth Tudor-Price).

Fiona has also worked extensively at York Theatre Royal including: *September in the Rain*, *April in Paris* and *Snow White* (all directed by Nick Lane) and *Dead Funny* (directed by Damien Cruden). At Sheffield Crucible, she appeared in *Bedevilled* (directed by Stephen Wrentmore).

Television credits include: *Oddsquad* (written and directed by John Godber), *Linda Green*, *The Royal* and *Heartbeat*.