

Dacre, Hughes and Frayn:  
an award-winning trio in  
New Vic mini rep

The New Vic Theatre presents

*Alphabetical Order*  
and  
*Copenhagen*

Thursday 20 May – Saturday 12 June, 2010

PRESS NIGHTS:

*Alphabetical Order* – Tuesday 25 May at 7.30pm

*Copenhagen* – Wednesday 2 June at 7.30pm

*The Mountaintop*'s James Dacre and *Once On This Island*'s Gwenda Hughes are the Olivier victors taking on a Michael Frayn mini rep at the New Vic this summer.

One of the UK's brightest young creative talents, New Vic trainee director James Dacre became part of a theatre legend when the play he discovered in America and directed in London, Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop*, scooped a surprise Olivier earlier this year.

Currently at the New Vic on the ITV Theatre Director Scheme, the exciting young director returns to Staffordshire to take on his first project since *The Mountaintop* - Frayn's masterpiece, *Copenhagen*.

A psychological thriller exploring a mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel prize-winning scientists, *Copenhagen* is often referred to among the most important plays of the last century.

Joining James is acclaimed director Gwenda Hughes, whose accolades include an Olivier award for her production of *Once On This Island*. The former New Vic Artistic Director will be taking on Frayn's first major play, hit comedy *Alphabetical Order*.

Making a welcome return to the New Vic for the double bill is another award-winning creative talent, designer Patrick Connellan (*The Marriage of Figaro*), whose work was recently seen in David Thacker's highly-acclaimed *Ghosts* and *All My Sons* at Bolton's Octagon Theatre.

The cast includes writer, actor and director Andrew Pollard (*Emmerdale*, *Heidi: A Goat's Tail*), Jamie Hinde (Nicholas Hytner's *The Madness of King George III* at the National Theatre), Northern Broadside's regular David Bowen, Laura Doddington (last seen at the New Vic in Conrad Nelson's *Oleanna*), Deborah Maclaren (*The Price*, *Be My Baby*), regular TV face Isobel Middleton (*Doctors*, *Lewis*), and award-winning actor John O' Mahoney (*Law and Order*, *Father Ted*).

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Winner of the 1975 Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy, Frayn's *Alphabetical Order* heralded the arrival of a major new playwright. Beginning his career as a journalist on the *Guardian* and the *Observer*, Michael Frayn has since gone on to win an armful of awards as both a playwright and novelist, including a Tony Award for Best Play (*Copenhagen*) as well as being shortlisted for the 1999 Booker Prize (*Headlong*).

The New Vic's Michael Frayn mini rep runs from **Thursday 20 May – Saturday 12 June, 2010**. Tickets for *Alphabetical Order* and *Copenhagen*, which cost £8.50 – £17.50, can be booked by calling the New Vic's Box Office on 01782 717962, or online at [www.newvictheatre.org.uk](http://www.newvictheatre.org.uk)

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For further press information, images or to arrange review tickets, interviews, photography or filming, please contact Clare Hargreaves on 01782 717954 ext 317 or e-mail [chargreaves@newvictheatre.org.uk](mailto:chargreaves@newvictheatre.org.uk)

#### Notes for Editors:

- **Useful links**

**James Dacre**

[Dacre celebrates Olivier victory](#)

**Michael Frayn**

[British Council: Michael Frayn - biography](#)

[The Guardian: The interview - Michael Frayn](#)

- ***Alphabetical Order***

a New Vic production

***Alphabetical Order* by Michael Frayn**

**Thurs 20 May - Sat 12 June**

**Winner of the 1975 Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy, the superbly witty *Alphabetical Order* heralded the arrival of a major new playwright. His plays include the brilliant farce *Noises Off* and the other half of our Frayn double-bill, the compelling *Copenhagen*. Our production is directed by Gwenda Hughes.**

Eccentric and much-loved Lucy presides over the cuttings library of a local newspaper. She has her own curious way of doing things – mountains of newspapers, unanswered telephones, the chairs, tables, cabinets and floor a sea of files. Not to mention the daily distractions of hard-bitten old hacks, amorous admirers and sundry waifs and strays with lives as messy as the library itself.

Into this cosy chaos steps Lucy's new assistant, the fastidious Lesley. Young, clever, passionately tidy, it won't be long before she's got everything into apple pie order. But clearing up the emotional complications of their muddled lives will be quite another matter. And that's before the news that threatens all their futures.

#### **Cast and Creative Team**

Geoffrey.....David Bowen  
Lesley.....Laura Doddington  
Wally.....Jamie Hinde  
Nora.....Deborah Maclaren  
Lucy.....Isobel Middleton  
Arnold.....John O'Mahony  
John.....Andrew Pollard

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Director.....Gwenda Hughes  
Designer.....Patrick Connellan  
Co-Lighting Designer.....Daniella Beattie  
Co-Lighting Designer.....Peter Morgan  
Sound Designer.....James Earls-Davis  
Casting Associate.....Anji Carroll

- **Copenhagen**

a New Vic production  
***Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn**

**Fri 28 May - Sat 12 June**

**A psychological thriller exploring a mysterious wartime meeting between two Nobel prize-winning scientists. Among the most important plays of the last century, it remains frighteningly relevant to a world still living with the nuclear threat. James Dacre directs his first New Vic production.**

In 1941, at the height of the Second World War, German physicist Werner Heisenberg travels to *Copenhagen* to visit his friend and mentor, Niels Bohr. Their work together had revolutionised atomic physics; but now they are on opposite sides in a terrible war. With Denmark under German occupation, Heisenberg heading the Nazi nuclear programme and the half-Jewish Bohr a world expert, the question is - why has he come?

Is he warning Bohr of Germany's atomic ambitions? Or looking for intelligence on Allied nuclear weapons research? Will he try to convince Bohr to join him in working for the Nazis? Or does he want advice: how to stay loyal to science, to family and friends, and to your country - even when it is in the wrong?

**Cast and Creative Team**

Werner Heisenberg.....Jamie Hinde  
Margarethe Bohr.....Deborah Maclaren  
Niels Bohr.....John O'Mahony

Director.....James Dacre  
Designer.....Patrick Connellan  
Lighting Designer.....Daniella Beattie  
Sound Designer.....James Earls-Davis  
Casting Associate.....Anji Carroll