

New Vic couple return for the ultimate girls' night out!

A Goodnights Entertainments production

Girls Night

Fri 30 April - Sat 15 May

A husband and wife team who found love at the New Vic Theatre are making a triumphant return to Staffordshire with their Off-Broadway theatre phenomenon, *Girls Night*.

Director Jack Randle wooed *Where the Heart Is* writer Lousie Roche at Staffordshire's theatre-in-the-round during his time as a New Vic actor in the Eighties.

The couple are returning to their theatrical home in Staffordshire to present smash hit *Girls Night*, the *Mamma-Mia* style show that has become the stuff of theatre legend.

Famously written by Roche at her kitchen table, the show following five forty-something friends on a karaoke night out, won fame after debuting at a community theatre in Milton Keynes and going on to become a hit around the world.

Direct from Off-Broadway in New York, the two-week run at the New Vic marks the start of the show's return to the UK, and the start of a national tour.

Jack, who acted in nine New Vic productions, was a member of former Theatre Director Peter Cheeseman's renowned New Vic company from 1987-88. *"It was an exciting time,"* says Jack, *"as I was here for a whole year just after the new theatre first opened. I didn't go to stage school and it was the first proper grown-up acting I had done, and a real step up the ladder of my career. I remember the fantastic response of the audiences to the shows like Our Day Out and Mr Whatnot, and working with some tremendous local actors, such as Steve Granville, Paul McCleary and Edward Clayton."*

Now married to Roche, the show's writer and his Goodnights Entertainment co-director, Newcastle-under-Lyme served as a romantic backdrop to their early days as a couple.

"I had digs in Sidmouth Avenue, and Louise used to drive over from Leeds to see me every Friday. We got to know each other around Newcastle and had some of our favourite times - I remember the best chicken tikka masala in the world being served at the Sonar Gaon."

Over 20 years later, Jack is proud to return to the place where he cut his teeth as an actor and even prouder that it is to direct a musical written by the very lady that he courted during that time.

"Since working at the New Vic I have visited and worked in a lot of theatres in this country and abroad, and I have to honestly say that this one is my favourite. The design is beautiful, and the intimacy you get with your audience is unparalleled. To say that I am excited about coming back to direct Louise's most successful show here is an understatement – it really is a dream come true."

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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, 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

Notes for Editors

A Goodnights Entertainment production

Girls Night

By Louise Roche

Fri 30 April - Sat 15 May

A theatre legend, this warm-hearted and hilarious look at female friendship comes from the wickedly witty pen of *Where the Heart Is* writer, Louise Roche. First performed at a community centre in Milton Keynes, now it's a major international hit touring non-stop in the UK and overseas. Director, Jack Randle, was a New Vic actor in the 1980s.

Laugh, cry and sing along as this touching and brilliantly funny musical comedy follows five forty-something friends on a karaoke night out. There's party-animal Carol, twice married but still looking for Mr Right; Liza who's got 'issues' and a rich husband; Prozac-popping Anita who tells it like it is; and boring Kate, destined to be life's designated driver. Not forgetting Sharon, the not-so-angelic angel who just can't resist tagging along.

It's a show bursting with energy and packed with all your favourite feelgood anthems. And amidst the laughs and the songs, these women have plenty to say about life, sex, success, heartache, kids, marriage and men. So grab the girls and enjoy a great night out!

"The ultimate girls night out!" Northern Echo

"Guaranteed to make you think, make you laugh and make you weep" Hartlepool Mail

Cast

Anita.....Katie Paine
Carol.....Lisa George
Kate.....Lizzie Frances
Liza.....Sarah Waddell
Sharon.....Hannah Woolley