

## PRESS RELEASE

# THE CITY WIVES' CONFEDERACY



by John Vanbrugh  
presented by **the Lions part** in association with Fresh Glory  
productions  
directed by Sonia Ritter with Kali Peacock  
music arranged by Tamsin Lewis

DATES	9 December 2008 – 18 January 2009 (no performances on 24-29, 31 Dec, 1-5 Jan) Tues – Sat 7.30pm, Sun 4pm
PRESS NIGHT	Thurs, 11 December 2008 @ 7.30pm
TICKETS	£12, £10 (concs)
BOX OFFICE	0208 858 9256 boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk
VENUE	<b>GREENWICH PLAYHOUSE</b> Greenwich Station Forecourt, London SE10 8JA

**the Lions part** is delighted to announce their first full-scale London theatre production since the highly acclaimed *Lilies On The Land* in 2005.

First performed in London in 1705, **THE CITY WIVES' CONFEDERACY** mixes an elegant comedy of manners with a feisty touch of farce. In this world of want and desire, the men are all rogues and the women no better than they ought to be. Bored trophy wives torment their city-broker husbands and playboys chance their arm while older women are not always what they seem in this historic soap-opera world.

*"I always know what I lack, and I'm **never** pleased with what I have"*

Some things just never change...

Gripe and Moneytrap lust after each other's wives. Their wives lust after more money. A bogus gold-digging colonel has his eye on Gripe's daughter, and the servants have their eye on the main chance. A biting critique of marriage, money, make-up and missing diamond necklaces!

*"the want of a thing is bad enough, but the possession of it is intolerable!"*

This is a fantastic opportunity to see such a funny yet rarely performed restoration comedy in an intimate small-scale venue.

A London boy who lived in Greenwich's Maze Hill for much of his adult life, Vanbrugh led the kind of life today's biographers would fight over. After spells in India and the army, as well as five years in the Bastille (because he couldn't prove he wasn't Dutch), Vanbrugh took the theatrical world by storm and wrote some of the funniest, rudest and most influential plays of the time.

After losing money on the Haymarket Opera House, he turned to architecture in his thirties and his theatrical extravagance created some of Britain's most opulent Baroque houses, including Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace.

With everything he did Vanbrugh challenged the accepted views of his time, and just like his architecture his writing is confidently daring, bold and controversial. *The City Wives' Confederacy* is his last play and one that has more in common with the snappy city comedies of Middleton and Dekker than with those of his contemporaries.

*"an exceptionally talented and innovative company pushing the boundaries of dramatic invention" - Christopher Fry*

**the Lions part's** approach to theatre is lively yet authentic, loving the language of the text as much as the spectacle of the show. The company prides itself on its attention to period details but is never afraid to add contemporary details for clarity.

*"the grass roots of theatre" – London Review*

**the Lions part** has been producing theatre together since 1995. The company works on a wide variety of theatre in many settings from the street markets of Bankside and rural village halls to royal palaces and large theatres.

Every year **the Lions part** comes together to put on two free theatre-based seasonal celebrations on Southwark's Bankside – **October Plenty** and **Twelfth Night**.

Previous theatre projects include: *Lilies On The Land* (London & national tour), *A Sleep of Prisoners* (London churches), *Yours Ever, Jane* (national tour), *The Land* (national tour), *Death Of An Actress* (Southwark Playhouse), *15-minute Gunpowder Plot* (Globe Bankside), *The Story of Mann...And All That* and *Twelfth Night* (Isle of Man), *Dr Faustus* (Rose Theatre), *Second Shepherd's Pageant* (V&A Museum), *The Rape of Lucrece* (St Barts), *The Arraynement of Paris* (Hampton Court & Greenwich Palace), *The Spring's Glorie* (Globe), *A Phoenix Too Frequent* (Minerva, Chichester).

## THE CITY WIVES' CONFEDERACY

If you've seen enough pantos to last a lifetime...  
if you're a regular theatre-goer who loves classic drama...  
or if you prefer Footballers' Wives...  
...this is the Christmas Show for you!

For further information, to request interviews or production images please contact  
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