

PRESS RELEASE

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI

by John Webster

Directed by **Bruce Jamieson**;

Produced by **Alice de Sousa**;

Presented by **Galleon Theatre Company** at its home the
Greenwich Playhouse

DATES: 21st February – 18th March 2012
Tues-Sat @ 7.30pm - Sun @ 4pm

PRESS NIGHT: Thursday, 23rd February 2012 @ 7.30pm

Tickets: £13, £10 (concs.)

Box Office: 020 8858 9256 -

boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk

VENUE: **GREENWICH PLAYHOUSE**, Greenwich Station
Forecourt, 189 Greenwich High Road LONDON SE10 8JA
www.galleontheatre.co.uk

**'The Greenwich Playhouse is an enjoyably
ambitious venue and is a solid producer of
classics.'** – Evening Standard



The Duchess of Malfi will be the final production to be staged at the popular South London venue the Greenwich Playhouse which will close its doors on the 10th April 2012 after twenty years of service to theatre; following the landlord's - *Beds and Bars* - decision to not renew the venue's lease in order to exploit commercial opportunities offered by the Olympics.

In **The Duchess of Malfi** John Webster (1578-1634) created, through language that is rich in imagery and incomparable in dramatic power one of the greatest dramas ever written in the English language, outside of Shakespeare's canon of work. Webster's timeless masterpiece and heart rending love story is an intense study of a society that is broken: riddled with Machiavellian corruption, incest, madness and illicit sexual desire. It exposes issues which are of universal moral significance, and presents questions which have remained permanently elusive. **The Duchess of Malfi** daringly explores all that is magnificent and reprehensible in humanity. It does this in a bold and shocking manner that is tempered by beautiful and uplifting poetry.

Galleon Theatre Company's expertly directed, designed and acted production of Webster's much loved sexually and religiously provocative *obra-prima*, will offer a rousing and at times deeply moving quality theatre experience which will entertain and provoke.

The Duchess of Malfi is creatively spearheaded by the hugely acclaimed director/actor **Bruce Jamieson** (who also plays the *Cardinal*) and by award winning producer **Alice de Sousa** (who also plays the *Duchess*); they are co-founding directors of Galleon Theatre Company, the Greenwich Playhouse and Galleon Films. Their twenty three year creative collaboration has resulted in numerous internationally acclaimed theatre productions, delivered an unbroken legacy of high production values to the independent theatre sector and provided affordable and intelligent entertainment for dozens of thousands of people.

The Director: **BRUCE JAMIESON** - has directed over thirty previous Galleon productions and played leading roles in some sixty stage plays. As a television and film actor his credits include: *The Oxford Murders* (Tornasol); *Murphy's Law* (Tiger Aspect); *Monarch of the Glen* (Ecosse); *All G-Inda House* (Universal); *Roughnecks* (BBC); *In Suspicious Circumstances* (Granada); *Crime Solver* (BBC); and *Spongebob* (BBC).

The Producer - **ALICE DE SOUSA** - is a multi-award winning writer, producer and actress. She has created over seventy stage productions; played leading roles in some thirty plays; written numerous stage and screen scripts; won in 2009 two awards including the Portuguese government's '*Premio de Talento*'; in 2004 the American Biographical Institute awarded her with '*Great Women of the 21st Century*' and in 2005 as '*Woman of the Year*'. (These awards recognise the impact on society of the work of 1000 prolific women worldwide).

The talented Cast: **EMMA GRACE ARENDS** (*Cariola*); **BARRY CLARKE** (*Castruchio/Doctor*); **ALICE DE SOUSA** (*the Duchess of Malfi*); **MARTIN FOREMAN** (*Cardinal's Man*); **PHIL GERRARD** (*Cardinal's Man*); **ROBIN HOLDEN** (*Ferdinand*); **BRUCE JAMIESON** (*the Cardinal*); **ALEXANDER NEAL** (*Delio*); **DAMIAN QUINN** (*Bosola*); **ALEX REECE** (*Cardinal's Man*); **DARREN STAMFORD** (*Antonio*); and **TANYA WINSOR** (*Julia*).

The very experience Creative Team boasts: design-driven, contemporary Costumes by **NATASHA PIPER** (Costume Designer); evocative Scenery by **CHARLOTTE RANDELL** (Set/props Designer); atmospheric Lighting by **PHILIP JONES** (Lighting Designer); exquisite Production Photography by **ROBERT GOOCH**; and rousing Stage Combat by **IAN MCCRACKEN** (Fight Director).

Galleon Theatre Company has staged critically acclaimed theatre since 1989. Productions of the classics include:

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW by William Shakespeare

"With a cast that has no weaknesses the result is outstanding performances and a magical air of theatrical excellence." - [The Times](#)

A DOLL'S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen

"Bruce Jamieson's insightful revival of the Ibsen play, despite its 19th Century setting, always seems startlingly modern." - [The Guardian](#)

THE SEAGULL by Anton Chekhov

"Galleon has found the perfect intimate space in which to pull us right into Chekhov's milieu." - [The Independent](#)

MACBETH by William Shakespeare

"This is a spectacular and brilliantly-acted piece of work." - [The Independent](#)

HAMLET by Shakespeare (2000)

"A slim and sprightly Hamlet... pared-down to a taut two-and-a-half hours is sensitively done and satisfies with the domestic drama emerging strongly." - [Financial Times](#)

- For interviews or images - please contact the producer Alice de Sousa on 020 8858 9256 or by email at alice@galleontheatre.co.uk
- For further information on Galleon Theatre Company, the impending closure of Greenwich Playhouse and Galleon Films, please consult our website on www.galleontheatre.co.uk