

WEST END COSTS EIGHT TIMES AS MUCH AS BECKENHAM BECKENHAM THEATRE DELIVERS “JOLLY SUPER” COWARD PLAY FOR £8.00

Embargo: 00:01 hrs Monday 22nd March 2010
Opening night: Monday 22nd March 2010
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This week sees a brilliantly timed revival of Noël Coward’s classic 1929 play, **Private Lives**, at Beckenham Theatre Centre.

This brilliant comic drama is directed by Sarah Mann, and stars Andrew Bowes, Kimberly Datnow, Paula Alcalde Nosti, Clare Spencer and Darren Walker.

Director, Sarah Mann says: “When we first planned to produce *Private Lives* over a year ago, no one had any idea the play would also be produced at the same time, just a few miles away in the West End.”

The play is perfectly suited to the intimate atmosphere of Beckenham Theatre, which with only 47 seats, is one of the smallest permanent auditoria in the UK. Miss Mann laughs when asked about the comparisons which will inevitably be drawn between the two productions: “Unfortunately, we can’t offer audience members a Dress Circle to sit in, but then we don’t charge £64 for a ticket, so I think it’s a fair compromise!”

The West End production stars Sex and the City star Kim Cattrall and has garnered a huge amount of publicity over recent weeks, which has been reflected in Box Office sales for the Beckenham production. “Each of our shows runs for a week, but so many people have enquired about tickets, we were tempted to extend the run of *Private Lives*”, says Malcolm Jones, chair of the theatre’s production panel.

The play is BTC’s entry to the Bromley Theatre Guild Full Length Play Festival, and will be adjudicated by the Guild on Thursday 25th March.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

“I think very few people are completely normal really, deep down in their private lives.” - Noël Coward, 1929

Private Lives is Noël Coward’s classic comedy of manners. After brief courtships and lightning weddings, a divorced couple find themselves reunited by the adjoining balconies of their honeymoon suites. Originally performed by Coward himself and his muse, Gertrude Lawrence, this intimate play provides the opportunity for a small group actors to explore the style and character of the 1930s period.

Private Lives is running all this week at Beckenham Theatre Centre, until Saturday 27th March 2010. Performances begin at 8:00pm. Tickets cost £8.00 (adults) / £6.00 (concessions)

[Complimentary tickets for press reviews are available from Kevin Monk (details above).]

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ABOUT BECKENHAM THEATRE CENTRE:

- Beckenham Theatre Centre Ltd is a registered charity, staffed entirely by volunteers, which has been committed to serving, involving and delighting the local community for over 60 years. Registered number 236434 (England & Wales).
- Beckenham Theatre is a member of the Bromley Theatre Guild.
- Situated in the heart of Beckenham, this unusual Victorian building houses one of the smallest auditoria in the country - with just 47 seats - and the unique charm of the venue delights all who enter.
- Address: Beckenham Theatre Centre, 46 Bromley Road, Beckenham, BR3 5JD
- BTC is a traditional community theatre and membership is open to anyone interested in the dramatic arts, either as an audience member or as an active participant. Joining costs just £20.00 per year - more information is available on the website: www.beckenhamtheatre.co.uk.

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