

BROADWAY SMASH COMES TO BECKENHAM: BECKENHAM THEATRE STAGES MULTI-AWARD WINNING “LOST IN YONKERS”

Embargo: 00:01 hrs Thursday 15th April 2010
Opening night: Monday 3rd May 2010
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The first week in May sees Neil Simon’s 1991 Broadway smash play, *Lost in Yonkers* performed at Beckenham Theatre Centre for the first time.

This bittersweet family drama is directed by Tim James, and stars Matt Ryan, Christy Hinchliffe, Tim Harrison, Natalie Jones, Fiona Vail, Frankie Spires, and Louise Solts.

Lost in Yonkers won four Tony Awards when it first opened on Broadway in 1991, including Best Play. It also won Simon a Drama Desk Award for Best new Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The play, which tells the story of a family struggling under an overbearing matriarch (*Grandma Kurnitz*), is well-suited to the intimate atmosphere of BTC. Beckenham Theatre, which has only 47 seats, is one of the smallest permanent auditoria in the UK.

Director, Tim James, says: “This play has been such a pleasure to work with and everyone involved is delighted with the way rehearsals are going - we can’t wait to perform it now!”

The play is BTC’s entry to the Kent Drama Association Festival, and will be adjudicated by the KDA on Thursday 6th May.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

Lost in Yonkers is a coming of age tale that focuses on brothers Arty and Jay, left in the care of their Grandma Kurnitz and Aunt Bella in Yonkers, New York. Their desperate father, Eddie, works as a travelling salesman to pay off debts incurred following the death of his wife. Grandma is a severe, frightfully intimidating immigrant who terrified her children as they were growing up.

Bella is a sweet but mentally slow and highly excitable woman who longs to marry an usher at the local movie house so she can escape the oppressive household and create a life and family of her own. Her brother Louie is a small-time, tough-talking hoodlum who is on the run, while her sister Gert suffers from a breathing problem with causes more psychological than physical pain.

The play climaxes with a dramatic confrontation between embittered mother and lonely daughter that creates a permanent fissure in this highly dysfunctional family.

Lost in Yonkers will run at Beckenham Theatre Centre from Monday 3rd May until Saturday 8th May 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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