
A TRUE STORY BY ALAN BENNETT

The **LADY** in the **VAN**

For release in November 2015

Pianist Clare Hammond appears in a new Alan Bennett film adaptation, *The Lady in the Van*, as the younger Miss Shepherd



Pianist **Clare Hammond** will appear in the forthcoming film adaptation of **Alan Bennett**'s play, *The Lady in the Van*, as the younger version of **Dame Maggie Smith**'s character, Miss Shepherd. The film tells the true story of the relationship between Alan Bennett and Miss Shepherd, an elderly woman who lived in a van. After 'temporarily' parking in the playwright's front drive, she continued to live there for the next 15 years. The film is directed by Nicholas Hytner and will be released in cinemas in the UK on the **13 November 2015**.

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High-resolution publicity photos available at <http://www.clarehammond.com/press.html>

Notes to Editors

More information on the film is available at the following websites:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3722070/>

<http://clarehammond.com/ladyinthevan.html>



Clare Hammond on set with composer George Fenton. Photo © Nicola Dove



Clare Hammond on set with the BBC Concert Orchestra. Photo © Nicola Dove

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Acclaimed as a pianist of “amazing power and panache” (*The Telegraph*), Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances and is developing a “reputation for brilliantly imaginative concert programmes” (*BBC Music Magazine*, ‘Rising Star’). In 2014 she gave debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the ‘Chopin and his Europe Festival’ in Warsaw, world premieres of works by 10 composers, and three broadcasts for BBC Radio. Her performance at the Barbican Hall in April 2015 led the *Guardian* to describe her as a “dazzling athlete”.

Hammond’s latest disc release, ‘Etude’, has received unanimous critical praise for its “unfaltering bravura and conviction” (*Gramophone*), was selected as Critic’s Choice by Classical Music Magazine, and the BBC Music Magazine stated that “this array of wizardry is not for the faint hearted”. Both ‘Etude’, and Hammond’s previous disc of music by Andrzej and Roxanna Panufnik, ‘Reflections’, were featured on BBC Radio 3’s ‘In Tune’ and ‘CD Review’. In 2014 Hammond recorded music by Sibelius and Rangström as part of a BBC Symphony Orchestra studio concert for ‘Afternoon on 3’ while in 2012 her live recital broadcast of Ravel’s *Le Tombeau de Couperin* from the Wigmore Hall was chosen as one of Radio 3’s highlights of the month.

Last year Hammond gave a Panufnik Centenary tour of Poland with a series of recital and concerto performances, under the auspices of the British Council’s ‘Artists’ International Development Fund’. Her debut recital at the ‘Chopin and his Europe Festival’ in Warsaw was recorded for broadcast on Polish Radio. Hammond also co-curated and managed the festival ‘Panufnik 100: a family celebration’ with the Brodsky Quartet at Kings Place in London which was hailed as the “culmination of this year’s Andrzej Panufnik centenary” (*The Telegraph*).

Hammond completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook doctoral study with Ronan O’Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London.

<http://www.clarehammond.com>