

A Little Night Music trivial pursuits

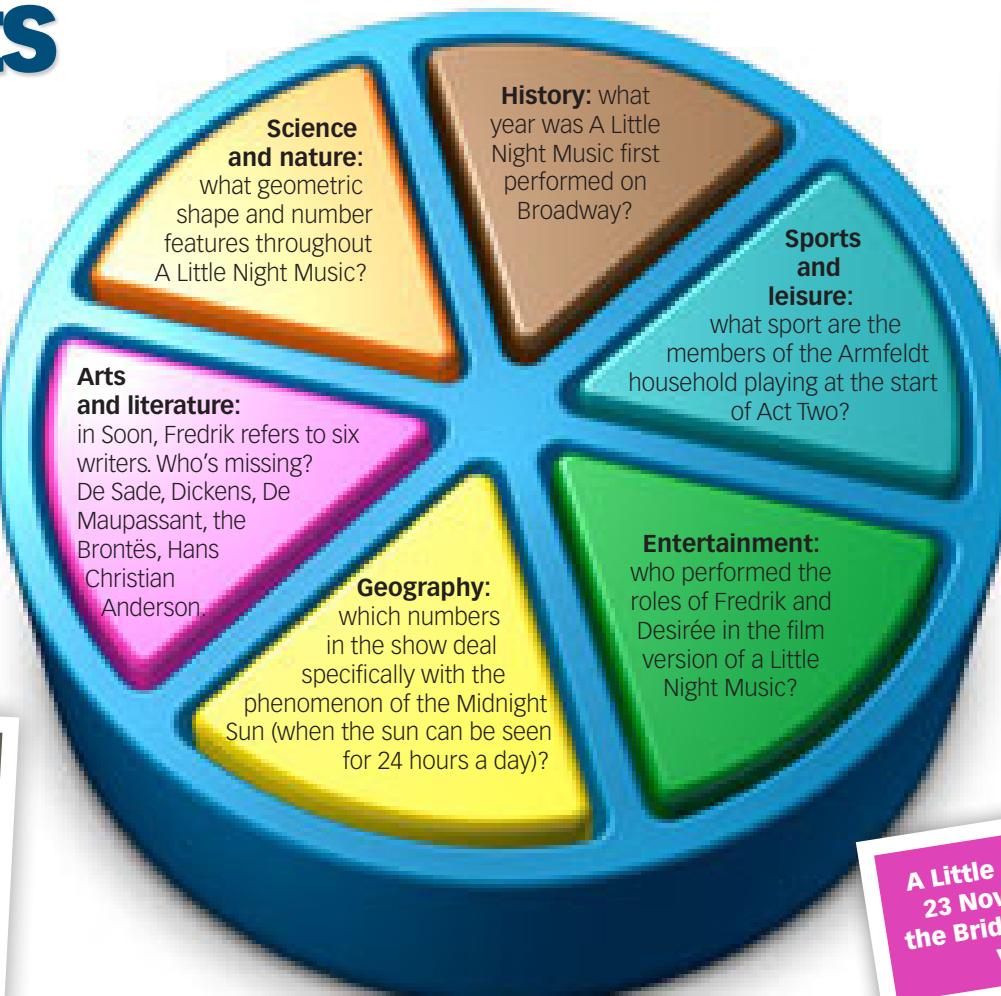
Sedos's final show of 2011, Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's masterpiece *A Little Night Music*, opens this Wednesday. Do you know all the answers to our *Night Music* trivial pursuits questions? Answers are on page seven.



Pictures by
Michael Smith



Kim Barker as Fredrika,
Joyce Lorinstein as
Madame Armfeldt and
Franciso Javier Orjales-
Mourente as Frid



Tim Garrad as Mr Erlanson and Kaytie Lee as Mrs Segstrom

A Little Night Music is on from 23 November-3 December at the Bridewell. Tickets on sale at www.sedos.co.uk

Get festive at the ball

What are you doing on the evening of Saturday 17 December? That's right — you're coming to the Sedos Bridewell Christmas Ball!

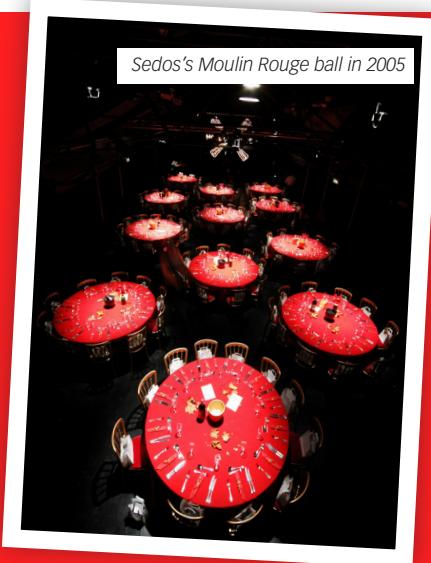
This glamorous event celebrates Sedos becoming the resident theatre company at the Bridewell. With tickets including fizz on arrival, a three-course dinner, a bottle of wine per person, coffee, entertainment during the meal and after-dinner dancing, it sounds like a great night out. The organisers also promise "a few surprises along the way" — mysterious...

If you haven't got your tickets, head to sedos.co.uk to secure your place at the Sedos social

event of the year. It costs £45 for members and £60 for non-members which includes a year's friends membership. Friends membership entitles people to all the benefits of normal membership apart from free auditions.

We asked Sedos treasurer Craig Topp what he's looking forward to about the ball: "It will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends old and new, to see highlights from past Sedos shows, and to drink wine and dance... and it's a good opportunity to get my kilt out."

Craig Topp in a kilt? Ladies, you heard it here first. What are you waiting for? Get those tickets!



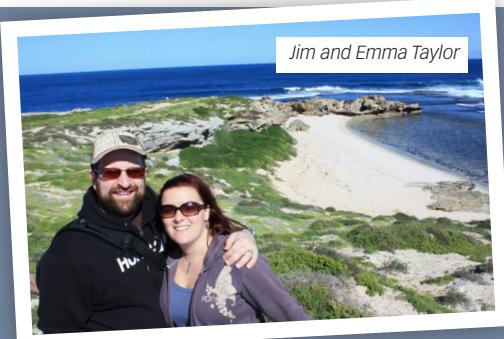
Welcome back — and good luck

Five Sedos members have recently returned from time away from London, while we say a (hopefully temporary) goodbye to another.

Liz Flint returns on 13 December after eight months in New Zealand, working as head of voice on the BA Performing and Screen Arts course at Unitec in Auckland.

"December is the end of the academic year in New Zealand and the woman whose maternity leave I was covering has resigned, so it made no sense to stay longer," she said. "I feel I'm ready to come home. It's hit me how much I love the dirty old grumpy busy city of London — because it's MY dirty old grumpy busy city."

Laura Capaldi returns from Manchester, where she headed off to in 2007 for work, with boyfriend Ricky Damiani. The couple sang and played through Romeo & Juliet in March.



"Now we're back full time and ready to get stuck into Sedos life," says Laura.

Emma (née Gosling) and Jim Taylor returned in August, having left London for New Zealand in 2009 when Emma was offered the opportunity to work in Auckland and then Sydney. While away, Jim set up an online company called Paperless Wedding, soon to launch in the UK.

The couple met on Jekyll and Hyde in 2005 and married in 2008 with Sedos members serenading them. Emma is now stage managing

A Little Night Music and Jim is in the ball choir. We say goodbye and good luck to Alex Oliver, who's gone to Los Angeles with fiancé Damian, who will be working as a sound engineer on The X Factor USA. What a job!

News in brief

- Don't forget our weekend workshop production, Fewer Emergencies, directed by Matt Hudson, is on at the Bridewell at 6pm on Sunday, 27 November. The cast consists of Tarani Ariyanayagam, David Keeley, Jacqui Adams, Todd Baker, Becca Adams, Karen Lister and Neil Forster. All are welcome and it's free, but donations will be welcome on the night.
- A producers' workshop is planned for January. It will be led by Dom Lindesay-Bethune, who produced The Water Engine for Theatre6 this year — in which Sedos's Will Harrison-Wallace performed. More details in due course...

Dates for the diary

23 November-3 December

A Little Night Music performances

3 December/10-11 December/ 17 December

Three Sisters workshop/auditions/recalls

27 November

Fewer Emergencies performance

17 December

Sedos Bridewell Christmas Ball

Contacts

In charge of the Grapevine (supposedly)

Pippa Roome

She makes it look beautiful

Nicole Rush

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Sedos website

sedos.co.uk

Find us at

facebook.com/sedostheatre

twitter.com/sedos

youtube.com/sedosvideo

flickr.com/sedos

Sedos committee

Chris de Pury (chairman), Matt Gould (secretary), Craig Topp (treasurer), Jacqui Adams, Stephen Beeny, Dawn Harrison-Wallace, Will Harrison-Wallace, Matt Hudson, Deborah Lean, Matt Prince

Contact the committee at:

admin@sedos.co.uk

The cream of the pitches

The Sedos 2012 season was revealed in a buzz of excitement to around 50 members present at the EGM at The Albion on 12 October.

Before the announcement, chairman Chris de Pury gave an insight into the difficult process of choosing shows.

"One of the biggest discussions the committee have each year is the balance of the season — trying to be fair to all the different types of people who want to be involved," he said. "A huge number of hours go into it from the committee."

Getting rights to shows has been particularly tricky this year, with the rights to around half the shows originally proposed not being available once Sedos tried to firm up the initial enquiry from the pitch.

"Rights have been a problem more than ever before," said Chris. "The quality of the theatre we are producing is starting to play against us from that point of view."

Despite this, Chris said the committee had been "spoilt by choice":

"We were blessed by quality in the pitches coming forward and I feel positive about what the committee has ended up with," he concluded. "The cream has risen to the top."

After this introduction, the successful creative teams were invited to introduce their shows.

Roger Beaumont, a new director to Sedos, spoke with passion about Three Sisters (more on page 4), while Chris Warner's appearance by video to introduce Spring Awakening, due to work calling him to Edinburgh, was a definite highlight of the evening.

The summer festival is a new initiative and Dawn Harrison-Wallace will be the co-ordinator. At present, the festival consists of a one-week play (*Push Up* directed by Chris de Pury), a one-act

musical (*Baby* directed by Dawn and Roger Harwood, who provided some marvellously babyish writing for the slides in his absence) and some one-act plays, still to be announced and likely to play in rep.

The summer continues with Zoë Thomas-Webb's take on *As You Like It* — with a London and Edinburgh run.

Our autumn play, Matt Gould's directing project, caused quite a stir. The show, *House & Garden* is based around "Two plays, two audiences, two theatres, but the same cast" — in our case the shows play simultaneously in the Bridewell Theatre and the Bridewell Hall. Apply to Matt for more details — my brain went into meltdown once he mentioned the tightest crossover for a cast member from one theatre to the other is 90sec...

The year ends with Becky Smith

and Chloë Faine directing *Guys & Dolls* — and we loved the set graphics, which suggested the cast will be made up entirely of cats.

There will also be some workshop shows.



Chris Warner: by video



Guys & Dolls: cast with cats



2012 Season

SEDOS, RESIDENT AT
BRIDEWELL THEATRE

Three Sisters, by Anton Chekhov

Classic tragicomedy about dreams, hope, work and love.
28 February-3 March

Spring Awakening, by Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater

A haunting coming-of-age musical about exploring life, love and sexuality.
9-19 May

Sedos Summer Festival

3-21 July, productions to include:

Push Up, by Roland Schimmelpfennig

An edgy modern play about power and sexual politics in the office today.

One-act plays

A rep season of exciting shows to delight, enthrall and intrigue.

Baby, by David Shire and Richard Maltby Jr

Musical in which three couples deal with the painful, rewarding and hilarious consequences of this universal experience.

As You Like It, by William Shakespeare

A stylish and simplistic take on perhaps the most popular of the comedies.
August, Edinburgh Festival and London run, venues to be confirmed

House & Garden, by Alan Ayckbourn

Two plays, two audiences, two theatres, but the same cast!
24 October-3 November - playing simultaneously in the Bridewell Theatre and the Bridewell Hall

Guys & Dolls, by Frank Loesser, Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

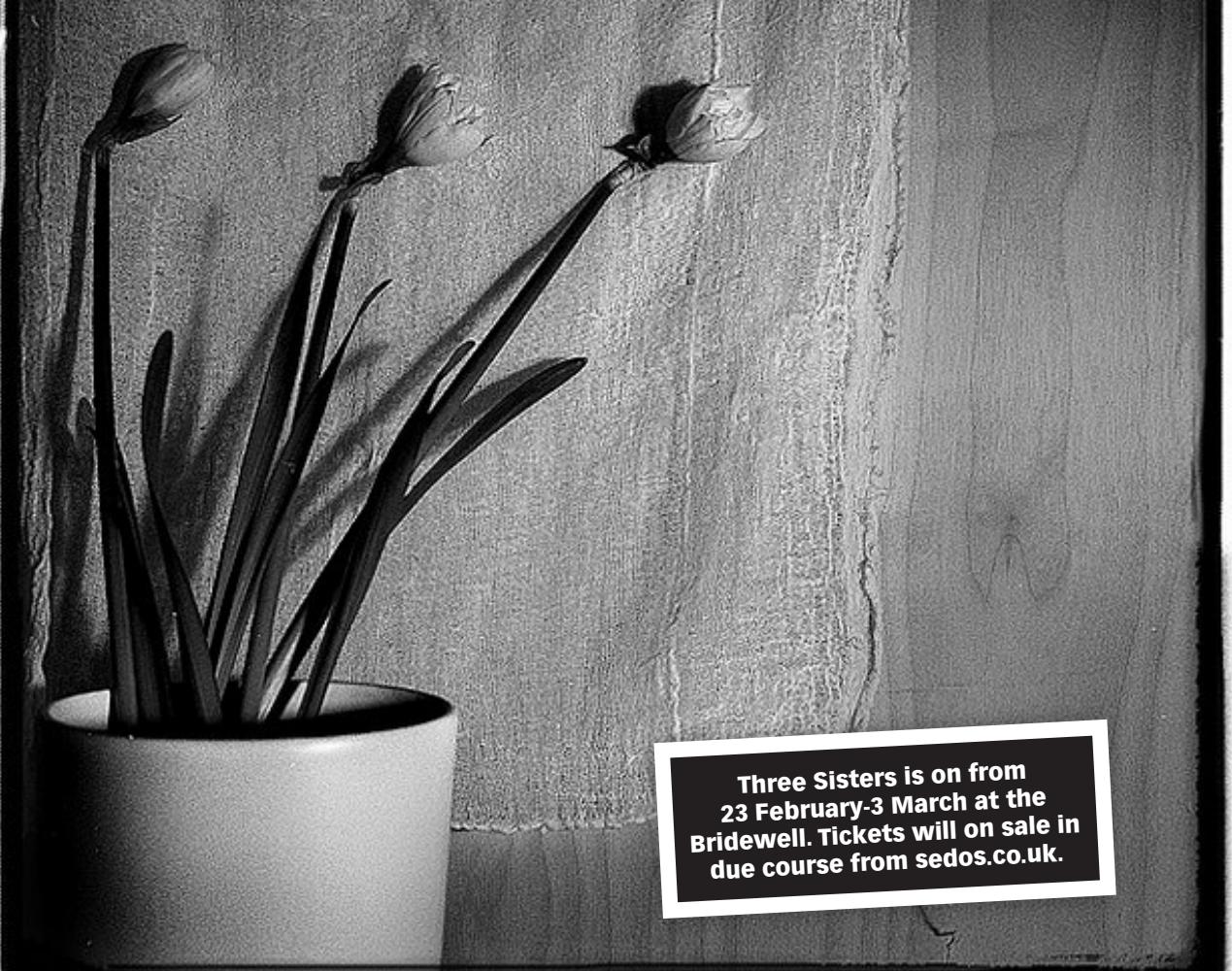
A musical fable of Broadway based on stories by Damon Runyon.
5-15 December

All these shows take place at the Bridewell Theatre, unless otherwise stated. Sedos will also put on a number of workshop productions during the year. Please check our website for more information on these, to buy tickets for all our shows and for any updates to the season: sedos.co.uk.



Box office: sedos.co.uk

'Directing? I can't imagine anything more exciting'



Three Sisters is on from
23 February-3 March at the
Bridewell. Tickets will be on sale in
due course from sedos.co.uk.

Roger Beaumont, a new director to our society, tells The Grapevine about Anton Chekhov's Three Sisters, the first Sedos show of 2012

Why did you want to direct this show?

Three Sisters is a great piece of writing which affords great opportunities to everyone involved in the production. It has a largish cast of great characters and importantly, it has quite wonderful parts for women at the very heart of the narrative.

Describe the show in 10 words .

Four young people dream of returning to Moscow — a place where happiness is possible. 14 words is the best I can do!

What will the audience love about the show?

Three Sisters is a classic that resonates for modern audiences just as it did for Russian audiences in 1901 because it deals with how we choose (or not) to give meaning to our lives.

It is sorrowful and frightening, but also very funny; Chekhov gives us a world that mirrors our own, a world of ambivalence and contradiction, where nostalgia mixes with anger, where ritual is overwhelmed by chaos, and where tragedy imposes itself in a burst of laughter.

What do you see as the main challenges of the show?

As with any show — to do the writing and the actors justice.

Tell us about your previous theatre experiences.

I've been acting and directing professionally and in amateur theatre for over 30 years. For Questors Theatre, Ealing: A Streetcar Named Desire, Closer, Duet for One, Waiting for Godot, Festen, Les Liaisons Dangereuses and Humble Boy. For the Tower Theatre Company: Speed-The-Plow, and more recently, The Birthday Party and A Doll's House among others. Recent acting credits include Magwitch in Great Expectations and Max in Tom Stoppard's Rock and Roll, both for Questors. My most recent project is directing Miss Julie for The Tower at Theatro Technis this week.

What do you enjoy about being involved in theatre and directing?

I love working with actors and can't imagine anything much more exciting or enjoyable than exploring a great text with an ensemble, trying to get to the heart of the play, to breathe life into the characters, honour the writer and help them speak to a new audience.

What's your day job?

I work as a technical consultant for a charity called Stagetext who seek to improve access to the arts for deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing people. We have been going over 10 years and use displays in theatres to caption over 600 shows a year throughout the UK including at The National Theatre, the RSC and most of the shows put on by the Ambassadors Theatre Group.

See page 2 for audition dates.



The joy of Judas

With a run at the Bridewell (27 September-1 October) and a show at the Royal Courts of Justice (13 October), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* was Zoë Thomas-Webb's well-received Sedos directorial debut. A review on www.thepublicreviews.com gave the shows the maximum five stars and came back to a theme we have seen regularly this year — that Sedos shows are a cut above most other "amateur" productions: "Billed as an amateur production, the Sedos' cast are anything but. The clever staging and superb costumes only amplify the wonderful work being put in by the actors, with exceptional performances from Tariq Bhatti, Deborah Lean, Alexander Baker, Jack Lowe and Ronan Harrington." It concluded: "A production that does real justice to the writing and ethos of the play, this is one you will be loath to miss."

Pictures by Edmund Stenson





Stop the music, change partners

Michael Smith's first directing project with Sedos was Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years* (20-23 October) at a new venue for Sedos, The Rag Factory off Brick Lane. The show was double cast — featuring Anthony Hagon, William Hazell, Alice Charlton and Abigail Williams — with each "Cathy" playing against each "Jamie", meaning there were actually four different takes on the musical to see! Michael's vision made for a much more interactive version of this show than is generally staged, with the characters present in each other's songs, Debs Lean showing her fabulous legs as the "other women" and the "slave Jamie" and "slave Cathy" changing sets on the nights they were not playing the main parts.



A glass of wine with... Sedos member Angharad Davies

When did you join Sedos and what was your first show?

I have many firsts — my Sedos performance was the Christmas choir at the Press House Wine Bar. My first "shoooow" was Sweeney Todd in the Ensemble. My first backstage show was Road.

Are you in a Sedos show at the moment?

No, I've just finished a Centre Stage show called Zanna, Don't! But I'm also co-organising the Sedos Ball (17 December) and we've just had our first Spring Awakening meeting which I'm producing for the 2012 season.

What's the best thing about Sedos?

It's a magical place where everyone knows your name :)

What do you do in "real life"?

I work in marketing at the Office of Fair Trading... not 30 seconds from the Bridewell — handy :)

What's the worst thing that has ever happened to you on stage?

Forgetting the third verse, freezing, bursting into tears and fleeing the stage to hide... followed by my mum who eventually persuaded me back onto the stage... Thankfully, as Mary is quite an important part in the nativity!

If you could choose any superpower, what would it be?

The ability to stop time (and get things from my "to do" list done) would be amazing.

Bearing in mind what Sedos stands for,



have you ever owned any stocks?

No, neither the financial nor the wooden kind.

And if you could exchange one thing, what would it be?

My bank balance for a substantially larger one.

Have you had any unusual dreams recently?

I dreamt of magpies a few nights ago, there were about three of them, then loads, and I kept saying the rhyme over and over again. No idea what that says...

Have you ever had a Hollywood diva moment?

Yes, sorry Ed ;) (we won't ask any more...)

Finish the sentence: a good production begins with...?

A great vision, awesome team, lots of energy AND plenty of budget :)

And ends with...?

An exhausting, spine-tingling sense of achievement, overwhelming and slightly cheesy love for your team and not getting liver failure!

Name that show

In each Grapevine issue we bring you a small part of a poster, prop, piece of scenery or costume from an old Sedos show. Your task? To name the show. Answer at the bottom of the page.



In the wings with... Sedos member Kaytie Lee

The Show Crush is pair of friendly eyes set in a noble visage, curly-silk hair your fingers ache to touch, an enigmatic personality you'll never truly know. On breaks you trail along to Pret and all the while you're imagining sunset walks through the Brompton Cemetery. One rehearsal, there's the unexpected joy of a spontaneous hug. You rest your head on a warm, hirsute chest and think, oh, this is good. But at the next rehearsal you're always on the opposite side of the room, your longing ignored as if that intimacy never happened...

Okay, yes, I'm talking about my Show Crush. Admit it, you've had one. Perhaps you've had several, and hey, no judgment. We all succumb to this seduction eventually — it's stitched into the art we're creating. Good theatre is built on the conflict of unfulfilled desire. It's titillating stuff and we're drawn to it because we're chasing that thrill like junkies, whether we're under the lights or hanging them.

It can't last. Sadly, inevitably, comes the final curtain. Theatre is ephemeral but a Show Crush stays under your skin — I still pine for mine.



We met a year ago, during Hapgood. We've passed in the Ocean House stairwell with no more than a fleeting touch. I miss that dark curly hair, black darling eyes, that broad chest, her cold moist nose...

My Show Crush is Henry, Craig Karpel's adorable dog.

Wait, whom did you think?

Kaytie is a bibliophile, urban archeologist and coffee drinker by day — at night, she prefers whisky. She plays Mrs Segstrom in *A Little Night Music* this week and next.

Answers to A Little Night Music trivial pursuits: entertainment — Len Cariou and Elizabeth Taylor; history — 1973; geography — Night Walkers and Repetual Anticipation; science and nature — the triangle/triée, in terms of relationships, a large part of the score is in triple time, trios and duets about a third person and, in our case, the set; sport — croquet, arts and literature — Stephenie.