

sedos grapevine

april 2012

spring awakening



A scene from the 1917 English premiere in New York City

THE ORIGINS OF SPRING AWAKENING, A CHILDREN'S TRAGEDY

Many of us know Spring Awakening as the rock-tinged musical that's hitting the Bridewell in just two weeks time, but fewer of us know where the show was born — back in Germany in the late 1800's as Spring Awakening: A Children's Tragedy. For its writer Frank Wedekind (only 26 at the time) this was to be his first of many pieces challenging his society's repressed attitude towards sexuality.

To say the play was controversial, would be putting it mildly. Containing scenes of homoeroticism, masturbation, sado-masochism, rape and suicide — all concerning teenage boys and girls — the play was regularly banned. Its first performance in Berlin was not until 15 years after the play was written and it took another five years for the play to be given its first outing in English, in

New York City. Again, the show was threatened with closure in fear it was "pornographic". It was not until 1963 that the play was first staged (in a heavily censored form) in England.

Whilst tackling many of the same harrowing issues, the musical is able to tell another side of the story. By introducing modern pop-rock music to the text, the musical's creators highlighted that many of the issues facing the children in that day are issues still prevalent in modern society. As such, they are just as important and just as current, and make Spring Awakening one of the freshest and most exciting musicals around.

It's a show not to miss.

Tickets for Spring Awakening (9-19 May at the Bridewell) are available from www.sedos.co.uk.

Sedos gets into the Olympic spirit

A number of Sedos members were successful in the auditions to take part in the ceremonies for this summer's London Olympics.

Alexis Rose, Adam Moulder, David Meany, Karen Braganza, Karen Lister, Mark Londesborough and Grapevine designer Nicole Rush are dancing in the opening ceremony (27 July), with Ed Curry, Emma Butler, Max Wilson, Tom Leonard and Vaughan Watts in the closing ceremony (12 August). Natalie Pereech, who was in 6plays7days, is drumming in both cermeonies.

"I wanted to be part of the opening ceremony from the moment London won the bid," said Alexis, who was in Sedos's A Little Night Music last year. "I think it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of something really different and on such a massive scale."

I have no idea what to expect, but it will be

something to tell the grandkids."

Rehearsals are just beginning for most..

"If I told you exactly when they start, I'd have to kill you," joked Mark Londesborough, who was in Kiss of the Spider Woman: the Musical.

Alexis added: "At the first audition they checked our passports, photographed and measured us, and then we were put through a series of exercises including finding spots on a floor grid, walking in time to music, miming a series of choreographed movements and then finally a dance routine.

"At the first audition there were people from all walks of life, all ages; the recall audition was much more obviously people who were used to dance, and was much more like a regular dance audition."

In addition, Sedos regular Paula Mount is

Picture by Michael Smith



Alexis Rose and Paula Mount are both involved in this special summer

in the Diamond Jubilee

Pageant on 3 June. She will join 100 others representing the Commonwealth on a boat going down the Thames, performing original Orlando Gough music written for the event under musical director Mary King.

"We've already had a rehearsal on the river with mulled wine and soup," said Paula.

Did we miss you out of our list of "Sedosers" in the celebrations? Email grapevine@sedos.co.uk. We'll mention you in the July Grapevine.

Come to the AGM

Sedos's AGM is this Wednesday evening (25 April) at The Albion (2/3 New Bridge Street, EC4V 6AA) at 7pm.

As always, this offers an opportunity to review the past year — including the society's accounts — and vote in the new committee.

This year is also particularly special because the results of Sedos's The Next Five Years workshops will be presented. Following a committee day about the future of the society, members were invited to a workshop on 20 March, at which they took part in a series of exercises examining what the society might look like in 2017. Find out the results at the AGM.

In the workshop

We were lucky Andy Hind sent the Grapevine these pictures of set-building for Three Sisters taking place in Queensbridge House and in his back yard — can you spot the clock?

Sedos is lucky to have support from many



Online box office makeover

Everyone loves a makeover and Sedos is no different. Our website was given a fresh lick of paint a couple of years ago, our tickets are sporting a lovely new design thanks to Nick Chronell, and now we're adding a colourful feature wall to our online box office system!

We've already added a "How did you hear about us?" question to the booking page — making our marketing teams grin with pleasure — and now we're adding loads of new functionality to allow us to offer our audiences multi-buy tickets, voucher codes, helpful reminder emails packed with information about the shows they've booked to see, the possibility of premium seats and generally loads more ticketing flexibility. What's more, there's still not a booking fee in sight!

With lots of special offers already being planned for the Sedos Summer Season (see pages four and five) and House & Garden, expect to see some great deals coming soon.



Success for 6plays7days

Sedos's first 6plays7days workshop — the brainchild of Becky Smith — was a huge success. The group of six writers, six directors, three producers and 28 actors met for the

first time on Sunday, 25 March and at the end of that session the six writers were each allocated a group of actors.

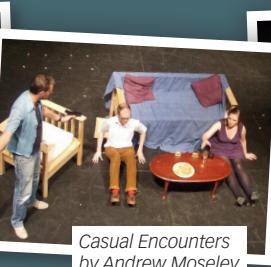
They then had until the morning of Friday 30th March to write a 15-minute play, which the actors and directors started rehearsing that evening. The challenge culminated in a performance at the Winterflood Theatre on the evening of Saturday, 31 March.

The workshop was a huge success, with an amazingly slick show staged including a remarkable number of actors "off book".

The event also offered an opportunity for members who do not have time to take part in a full production, have missed out on being cast or newbies who just want to get a taste of Sedos to become involved. Roll on next year!



What Does It Mean?
by Sarah Heenan



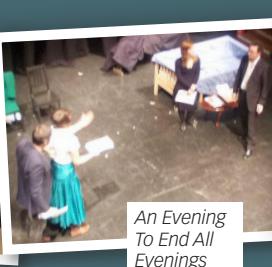
Casual Encounters
by Andrew Moseley



Sleepyhead
by Alan
Maddrell



*The Lads or
Stag Nation*
by Andrew
Marchant



*An Evening
To End All
Evenings*
by Amy Bird



*An Introduction
To The Modern
Play*
by Zoë
Thomas-Webb

Pictures by Fran Rafferty

From Gayle Bryans' desk at Mousetrap Theatre Projects

As your new Charity of the Year, this is my first missive, keeping you up to date with what we are up to in our small corner of Covent Garden.

I've just got back to my desk after a morning at the Lyceum Theatre with 30 deaf and hard of hearing children, exploring the characters of The Lion King through drama and music. They are right now touring the set and costumes before watching the matinée, which will be captioned.

They are all so excited about seeing the show!

This project, called StageSeen, is a brand new one and unique in the UK as far as we know. We ran

the first StageSeen day last week.

One teacher wrote to us to say: "All of the children had a wonderful time and I believe it really helped to inform and expand their knowledge of the wider world around them."

We recently took a few hundred London secondary school students to see the National's smash hit One Man, Two Guvnors — we had some brilliant pre-show "insight" sessions, exploring the themes of Commedia Dell' Arte using improvisation, physical theatre and storytelling. The pupils threw themselves into creating comedy characters (see left!).

Last night we were at a Lambeth youth centre for NextStage — another new project, using drama and improvisation to develop skills young people need when seeking employment and further education. Each

teenager gave a presentation which was filmed and then compared to films made at the start of the project, before

sessions on self-image, presenting your "professional side", getting a foot in the door and interview skills. They have made fantastic progress, we're proud of them!

We need funding for these projects in future so if your company has a community fund, charity committee etc that could help, I'd love to hear from you — gayle@mousetrap.org.uk.

Many thanks to all the Sedos members who came to the Three Sisters Charity Night. Hope to see lots of you at the next one for Spring Awakening on 10 May.



'Insight' sessions

Dates for the diary

25 April

AGM

24 & 26 /29 April

The Man of Desiré auditions/recalls

23 & 27/29 April

Sink the Belgrano! auditions/recalls

9-19 May

Spring Awakening performances

13/20/27 May

As You Like It workshop/auditions/recalls

7/25 June

House & Garden workshops

28 June-1 July

House & Garden auditions/recalls

3-21 July

Summer Festival performances

Contacts

In charge of the Grapevine

Pippa Roome — grapevine@sodos.co.uk

She makes it look beautiful

Nicole Rush

Sedos website

sedos.co.uk

Find us at

facebook.com/sedostheatre

twitter.com/sedos flickr.com/sedos

youtube.com/sedosvideo

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@sodos.co.uk

summer festival

Let the Festival begin!

Tans and ice creams? Olympics?
No, summer 2012 is all about the Sedos Summer Festival. Read all about it here

Forget the Queen's Jubilee, forget the Olympics, THE EVENT this year is the Sedos Summer Festival.

Running from 3-21 July, not only will we be bringing you four productions but we'll also have lots of other fun festival activities going on — Festival Fun Mondays, The Show Off (our very own Festival Cabaret, see page five) and the grand finale The Summer Lovin' Festival Grease Sing Along...

So cancel that trip to top up your tan and make sure you come along and join in the party!

If want to be right in on the action are are interested in helping out with this first ever festival please e-mail dawn@harrison-wallace.com.

For more info, visit: www.sedos.co.uk/2012/summerfestival.htm

week one
The festival opens with Sedos chairman Chris de Pury and Matt Harrison directing Roland Schimmelpfennig's Push Up, a show probing the sexual politics of a workplace where competition is fierce, timing is everything and only the most ruthless survive. To celebrate, we bring you 10 of our favourite quotes about office politics

1. Ability has nothing to do with opportunity.

Napoleon Bonaparte

2. The person who says "I'm not political" is in great danger... Only the fittest will survive, and the fittest will be the ones who understand their office's politics.

Jean Hollands

3. However muted its present appearance may be, sexual dominion obtains nevertheless as perhaps the most pervasive ideology of our culture and provides its most fundamental concept of power.

Kate Millett

4. The caterpillar does all the work, but the butterfly gets

all the publicity.
George Carlin

5. When a fellow thinks he is putting it over on the boss, the boss is not thinking of putting him over others to boss.

C.K. Anderson

6. Never work just for money or for power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night.

Marian Wright Edelman

7. Let us work without reasoning... it is the only way to make life endurable.

Voltaire

8. Perfectionism is self-abuse of the highest order.

Anne Wilson Schaef

9. Your environment will eat your goals and plans for breakfast.

Steve Pavlina

And finally...

10. There are but two means of locomotion to the top. Either people must like you so much that they push you there, or you, yourself, are so good that you push yourself there.

Gerald Sparrow

week two

The second week of the festival brings us the musical Baby — directed by Roger Harwood and Dawn Harrison-Wallace — which follows three couples who are all expecting.

Given the name, we couldn't help but use this opportunity to be just a little gushy and feature some of the future stars of Sedos. They maybe just a tad young to audition for our shows at the moment but we're sure you'll agree they look like they're going to be a talented lot!

Want to win tickets to Baby? Send a photo to sedosbaby@gmail.com showing how talented you were as a child, the Baby cast will vote for the best picture and the lucky winner will win two tickets to the show.

If you have a Sedos Baby and we didn't feature them this month — it's not too late — you can send these in too and we'll include them in the June Grapevine.

Imogen and Ella Flint
Panasar, Victoria Flint's daughters



Daisy Chasemore,
daughter of Dan (Chase)
and Bridget



Cosmo Simpson,
Helen Lowe's
son, auditions for
Sweeney Todd



Sarah Noll's
son Elijah



Jemima Wilcock,
daughter of
Susan Wilcock



Anne-Marie
and Nick
Chronnell's
daughter, Maia



Mickey
Killaney's
son Leo

summer festival

week three

The festival concludes with two one-act plays playing as a double bill at each performance. Matt Hudson directs Steven Berkoff's *Sink the Belgrano!*, a satirical take on the British military decision to torpedo an Argentinean ship which started the Falklands war in 1982. Here are some fun facts about the prime minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher

- Margaret Thatcher is from Grantham, Lincolnshire, and was born in 1925.
- Her middle name is Hilda.
- She graduated from Oxford in 1947.
- She acquired the nickname "Thatcher the Milk Snatcher" after she abolished free milk for school children in the 70s.
- In 1982 the IRA planted a bomb at the Conservative Party conference, in an attempted assassination.
- Margaret Thatcher only suffered one parliamentary defeat during her "reign" as

- prime minister — on Sunday trading laws.
- She is the longest serving British premier of the 20th century, serving three terms.
 - And here are some things Maggie said...
 - I can't understand all the fuss about student grants. Carol managed to save out of hers. Of course, we paid for her skiing holidays.
 - Defeat? I do not recognise the meaning of the word.
 - There's no such thing as society.
 - If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman.
 - To wear your heart on your sleeve isn't a very good plan; you should wear it inside, where it functions best.
 - Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.
 - If you want to cut your own throat, don't come to me for a bandage.
 - I usually make up my mind about a man in ten seconds, and I very rarely change it.

week three

Our second one act play is directed by Jacqui Adams. George Bernard Shaw's *The Man of Destiny* depicts a fictional meeting between a young Napoleon and a mysterious lady, where the evenly matched intellects take part in a savage battle of wits with liberty, honour and reputation at stake. Read on for all kinds of things you didn't know about the esteemed general...

Like most of his European neighbours, Corsica-born Napoleon Bonaparte started life hating the French — might he have been brought up to be resentful of the country's abundance of fair maidens, fine wine and scrumptious food by jealous parents?

Things didn't improve when he was forced to learn French "well proper" before entering the Academy and was laughed at for his slight Italian accent and struggle with irregular verbs — he never learned to spell properly but never the less pulled a Doogie Howser and graduated at the age of 16.

His notorious Small Man Syndrome then drove him to become one of the world's Uber generals and he was only defeated, not by Wellington as English history books would like us to believe, but definitively by haemorrhoids and constipation at Waterloo (no puns intended), when his being "delayed" that morning allowed the weather to worsen and his luck to turn.

Hoping to find asylum in England, he surrendered to Albion... but the concept of "fair play" was somehow lost in translation and Napoleon was instead exiled to an island called Saint Helena where he was only allowed a small group of friends and servants to keep him company. One of his guests was misguided enough to bring his attractive



young wife along with him. Her attentions to Napoleon and Gold Blend style midnight visits soon became the subject of island gossip... You can take a man out of France... So apart from the Napoleon Code, the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, the growth of art collections in the Louvre, urbanism projects that allowed for better traffic and water circulation in Paris, the democratisation and centralisation of education, and the Légion d'Honneur, what did Napoleon ever do for us? He had buttons sewn on the soldiers' sleeve jackets to prevent them from blowing their noses on them. Clever.

Picture from www.freakingnews.com

show off
/SHO/ /6/ vb (adverb)
1. (tr) to exhibit or display so as to invite admiration
2. (intr) Informal to behave in such a manner as to make one imprudent
n show-off
(Informal) a person who makes a vain display of
ORIGIN Middle English shewen, shouen, from Old
scavian, to look at, display.
6/7/13/14 July 2012 • Bridewell Theatre

THE SHOW OFF

The Show Off

The Show Off does just what it says — gives Sedos and Sedance members the chance to whop out that showstopper you've been keeping under the bed and join in a riotous evening of singing, dancing and anything else that you feel our audiences have been waiting for.

Put together by Chloë Faine, Becky Smith, David Griffiths and Paul Cozens, information about how to be a part of The Show Off will follow in the next couple of weeks.

The Summer Festival runs from 3-21 July at the Bridewell Theatre.

Push Up: 3-7 July

Baby: 10-14 July

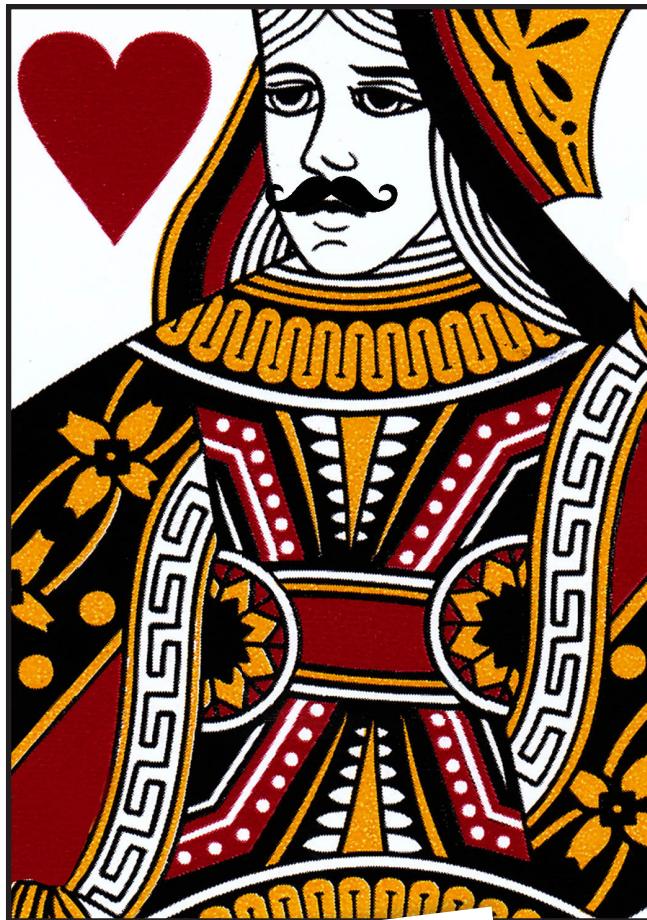
The Man of Destiny and Sink the Belgrano!: 17-21 July

The Show Off: 6, 7, 13, 14 July

Tickets on sale soon:

www.sedos.co.uk

as you like it



The Edinburgh run of As You Like It is from 19-27 August at Monkey House at Zoo Venues. Information on the London run will follow soon. www.sedos.co.uk

On the Edinburgh trail

Director Zoë Thomas-Webb tempts our appetites with a little about the roles on offer in Sedos's 2012 Edinburgh Festival show, As You Like It

Roll up! Roll up! Audition for the greatest show on earth!

Alright, we're blowing our own trumpets a bit, seeing as we don't even have a cast yet, but we can aim high, can't we? The greatest show on earth we may not be, but the greatest cast at Edinburgh we can certainly achieve. We are looking for actors and actresses who enjoy being part of a company, building characters from scratch and having a giggle on and off stage. With a variety of characters there is a role for everybody — here are just a few:

Rosalind — the largest female role in the Shakespearean canon, a head-strong romantic who finds a new found strength in her stick-on moustache.

Celia — one of the most cynical characters in the play, Celia doesn't get

"love", and quite frankly doesn't want to. She likes mocking people, gossiping and a bit more mocking, but recently she's been made to feel like rather a third wheel.

Orlando — a hopeless romantic, however when Orlando comes across the boy of his dreams he's unsure what to tell the fairy tale princess at home.

Duke Frederick/Duke Ferdinand — two characters for the price of one, a role perfect for anyone who really wants to exercise their acting muscles by playing two brothers at opposite ends of the personality spectrum.

Sylvia — a shepherdess, besotted with fellow sheep-herder Phoebe, but Sylvia's love is horribly unrequited. How would you feel if the girl of your dreams fell in love with a very girly looking boy?

Our setting: the circus, a place where things aren't quite as they seem, where people go to change their fortune, where life seems magical and things can be just as you like them. What better place to set our multi-venue As You Like It? Using inspiration from the circus and Edwardian music hall acts, we are building up a all-singing all-dancing production of one of



Just in case you haven't been to Edinburgh...



Or your memories are a bit blurry...



Here are a few reminders of what a great time can be had touring with Sedos in Scotland

Shakespeare's most popular comedies. So if you like the sound of stick on moustaches, high jinks and a good old-fashioned knees-up come along to our workshop on 13 May or better still, get yourself and audition slot on 20 May. The full audition notice will be online soon.



Anton Chekhov's Three Sisters was Sedos's first production of 2012 and marked Roger Beaumont's Sedos directorial debut. Claire Boynton, Aurora Bowkett and Emily Lake gave particularly strong performances in the title roles — a review on remotegoat.co.uk said: "There were few moments when the sisters were all together, yet when they were, those scenes stood out, and showcased how well the three fitted with each other." Another review, on onestoparts.com, commented: "There is little evidence of Sedos theatre company's amateur status in its charming production which neatly balances the characters' loneliness and frustration with a sense of hope and humour." Both reviews were complimentary about the production's "look" — a credit to the production team, particularly set designer Philip Lindley and head of costumes Abigale Lewis.



A glass of wine with... Pip Deppeler

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

My first Sedos show was in 2006, Merrily We Roll Along. It was fate — I cancelled my first audition due to being "under the weather" but due to the lack of men in musicals at the time Dawn Harrison-Wallace called a few weeks after rehearsals had started to see if I was still interested. The rest, as they say, is history.

Are you in a Sedos show at the moment?

No, however I am involved in the overall producing of the Sedos Summer Festival (Dawn hasn't given me a title yet!). It's time to call in a few favours.

What do you do in real life?

I'm a registered nurse and I manage the endoscopy department and an operating theatre at London Bridge Hospital. People may have heard of my alter ego, Endoscopy Phillip.

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

It's a toss up between two incidents. Firstly, after singing "Gary, Indiana" in my first role as Winthrop Paroo in The Music Man a kid shouted out. "Mum, why is he so fat?" The second one is standing centre stage in a pantomime dressed as a penguin and forgetting the lyrics to Food Glorious Food. That two and half minutes felt like two and half years!

If you had 24 hours before the world combusted, what would you do?

Finally admit that I like Chris Warner's version of Defying Gravity! (Get off my broomstick).

It's our round — what are you having?



Oh, sorry I don't drink. (Ed says: really?)

What is one food you couldn't live without...?

I'm going to cheat because I have two favourites. So I'm going to have to say chocolate pizza.

Name the first and last show you ever saw and were they any good?

First, The Pirates of Penzance. Loved it, I think it was the Broadway version. Last, Lucky Stiff at The Landor, I like this flawed show but I didn't like this flawed show.

Have you ever won anything in a competition?

I won a bike for selling the most chocolates in a school chocolate drive. Oh the irony.

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

Passion

And ends with?

Passionfruit schnapps shots!

Picture by nickchronnell.com

Name that show

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



**In the wings with...
Chris Warner**

dive headfirst into new scenes and scenarios. Have you heard of theatre sports? Devised in the late 70s (according to source-of-all-modern-knowledge Wikipedia), theatre sports is a competitive set of theatre games where opposing teams challenge each other to win audience affection and ultimately — points. The audience gets involved too, cheering, jeering and "setting up" some of the games themselves — shouting out suggestions of settings and plot twists.

It's pretty big in the States, with teams competing in tournaments and leagues. Not so huge over here in the UK — although a

little research does show the odd team or performance.

If you're looking for a game (or two!) to try out with your production, I recommend the following:

Freeze! — team members act out a scene of their choosing, while their team-mates wait for the right moment to scream "freeze". The screamer then assumes the exact position of one of those currently onstage and uses it as inspiration to start an entirely new scene.

Alphabet — a scene whereby each time someone speaks, the first word they utter must begin with the next letter in the alphabet.

Genre shift — audience members submit some genres (horror, romance, western etc) and during an improvised scene, at random intervals, new genres are read out and the scene must adapt. Enjoy!

Anyone up for challenging our friends at one of the other London theatre groups to a friendly round of theatre sports? Let us know — grapevine@sedos.co.uk.

Chris works in marketing for an online TV production company, sits on the Sedos marketing committee and is currently directing Spring Awakening. Note: that is not his own hair. No, really.