

Gin. Skin. Sin. Fun

Since 1905

April 2009

sedos grapevine

The Wild Party

The box office is now open for the sedos summer musical – The Wild Party!

It's 1928 Manhattan. Queenie, a beautiful but jaded Vaudeville artiste lives with her lover, Burrs, a black-faced minstrel performer. In an effort to lift their stale relationship, they decide to throw a wild party. As night descends, an eclectic mix of characters arrive, including Queenie's conniving rival, a cocaine-sniffing bisexual playboy, a washed-up heavy-weight boxer, a brother act, a has-been diva, a naïve 14-year-old, a

lesbian actress and her drug addled girlfriend. With music, drugs and alcohol flowing, the revellers' artifice falls away and their most desperate desires emerge. What started as a whim to lift a lazy Sunday descends into a frenzied orgy. A tender romance blossoms amid the chaos, but not everyone is happy and someone will be dead before the night is over.

The show will be at the Bridewell theatre from the 27th May – 6th June, and you can buy your tickets [here](#).



Inside this issue:

Sedos AGM 2

Antigone 2

Cuckoo 3

RSC 3

Festen 4

ent 5

Stuff that's happening

- Wild Party—27th May—6th June at the Bridewell
- Cuckoo Auditions—20th June
- Shakespeare Auditions—26th June
- AGM 22nd April
- Directors Workshop—17th May
- Parade Announcement—26th April

Twittering into the 21st Century



Along with the website and this newsletter, there are other, more modern ways, in which to keep up to date about sedos and sedos productions. Firstly you can join our facebook group and receive updates, bulletins and share photographs. If you have signed up to the facebook phenomenon, [click here to join the group](#). Secondly, we have a sedos twitter account, which will give you bite sized updates on everything sedos. Twitter also has the advantage of information about what Stephen Fry is having for breakfast. To sign up to twitter, go to www.twitter.com.

sedos AGM—22nd April

SEDOS AGM 2009

Date:

Wednesday 22nd April 2009

Time:

from 6.30, (official proceedings
7.30, social until late)

Venue:

The Albion Pub, Ludgate Circus,
EC4V 6AA

[http://](http://www.thealbionlondon.com/)

www.thealbionlondon.com/

For more information
on the people stand-
ing for the commit-
tee, [click here](#)



The sedos AGM is upon us again. It's the time of year when we gather over a few drinks to look back over the last year, and vote on the committee who will look after the society for the next 12 months.

It is also a great chance to come along and hear more about the society, about our plans going forward, to ask any questions, and venture any opinions you might like to share.

The main business of the evening, however, will be the nomination and election of the new committee. This year there are 11 people standing for 10 positions, so your vote counts!

The SEDOS constitution means that there needs to be a member vote for the Committee of between 7 and 10 members this year. Those present at the AGM will be able to vote YES for the people you would like to see on the committee. **The 10 candidates with the most votes will form the committee for 2009-2010.**

If less than 10 people receive any votes the committee will consist only of those who have re-

ceived a vote.

Once the committee has been voted on, those who are standing for the positions of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary will be voted on with a majority show of hands.

To see who is standing for each role, click [here](#). On the 22nd members will be asked to vote on this. If you are unable to attend on the 22nd please complete the online voting process by clicking [here](#). You may only vote once for each position but are not required to vote for any. If there are no votes for any of the roles, new nominations will be sought.

See you at the AGM!

It's Antigone be great!

Apologies for that awful headline, but it was our way of letting you know that from the 20th—24th July, sedos will be presenting Antigone at the Bridewell Theatre.

Jean Anouilh's play is based on the Sophocles tragedy of the same name and originally starred Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. It tells the story of Antigone, the daughter of King Oedipus, who defies the king and the state to grant a decent burial to her dead brother.

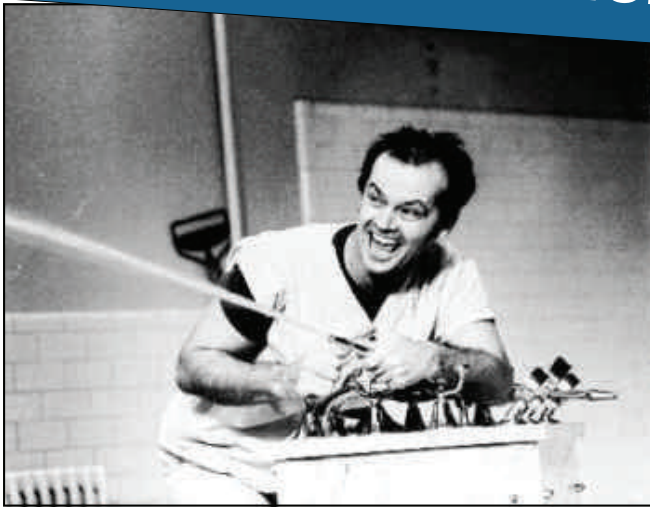
The production will be directed by Chris DePury and Matt Harrison, and auditions are planned for the first week in May, so watch this space for more information.

For more information check out the [Wikipedia pages](#) on the play, and for a New York Times review of a production, [click here](#).

By the way, it's pronounced Ann-Tig-On-Knee.



One Auditioned for the Cuckoo's Nest



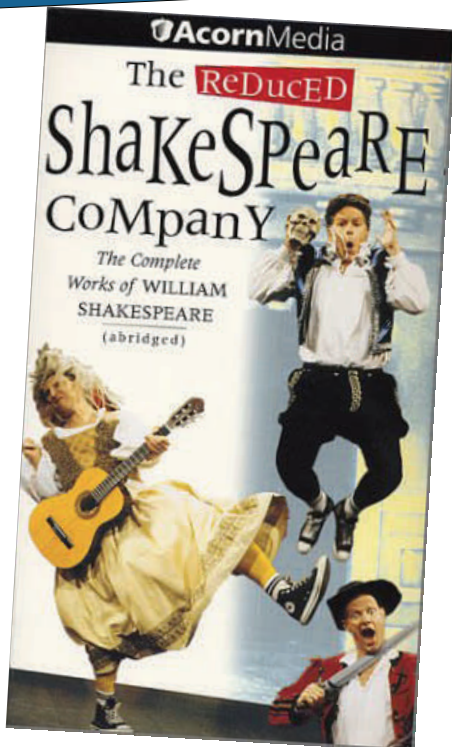
Auditions sign-ups are now open for our September production of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, by Dale Wasserman. The production will be at the Bridewell theatre, and will run from the 8th – 12th September.

The auditions will be on the 20th June, with possible callbacks on the 21st. In order to register for an audition slot, please email amy_daw@fastmail.fm

Set in a state mental institution in America the 1960s, our hero is Randle P MacMurphy, a loving, fighting, gambling life-affirming brawler who swaggers into the hospital, rallies the other patients and challenges the dictatorship of the Big Nurse. But this defiance, which starts as a sport, soon turns into a grim struggle; an all out war between authority and free will, ending in a shocking climax. At once hilarious and heroic, tragic and liberating, sedos is delighted to present this all time classic play.

For more information, [click here](#) to go through to our auditions pages.

Audition for 37 plays at once



It must be auditions season, because there's another on the way.

Yes, it's time to audition for the annual sedos 'Shakespeare in the City' play, which this year should be in performance around the end of September/ beginning of October.

This year's chosen Shakespeare classic will be.....all of them! We shall be performing The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) – all of Shakespeare's plays in approximately an hour and a quarter.

The show was devised and made famous by the Reduced

Shakespeare Company, and ran for a record breaking 9 years at the criterion Theatre in the west-end.

The auditions will be held on the 27th June, with possible recalls the next day. There will also be a workshop nearer the time, so keep an eye out for that.

For more information about the play and the auditions, please [click here](#). To listen to the reduced Shakespeare Podcast, [click here](#), and if you want to sign up to audition, please email Bridget at bridget@sedos.co.uk.

Well acted, dark, disturbing drama



A review of FESTEN

by Philip Herbert for remotegoat on 25/02/09

It is a special celebration. It is Dad's Big Day. He is 60 and although the family have recently been bereaved the show (and party) must go on - come what may!

The table is laid, candles lit and glassware polished to perfection.

Nothing must go wrong - but plenty does.

Here is a really well acted, beautifully directed rendition of this haunting disturbing play. The entire cast give their all and ease us into this deep dark secret that can never be spoken of , never admitted to, never acknowledged.

This party is a time for speeches and songs and plenty of food and drink too- why spoil it with sordid sexual secrets, allegations and denials.

Panny Skrivanos is spellbinding as Christian, Craig Karpel as Helge the Father has an edge of cruelty and corruption , Maggie Robson as Else his wife was brilliant and I



could not take my eyes off her internal turmoil and constant pain. Likewise Georgina Thompson as the sister Helene had so many very touching moments, in fact everyone deserves a mention - even the waiting staff who filled glasses, removed used crockery , re-set tables and moved about with a quiet ease and confidence.

This company should be so proud of their efforts. I saw this play in the West End a couple of years ago - and this version was better.



I saw this play in the West End a couple of years ago - and this version was better.

Wonderful, Life Affirming Musical Theatre Production—A review of Rent

By Leon Conrad for Remotegoat
on 14/11/08

It's wonderful what theatre can do.

Tucked away, deep in the heart of the historic legal part of the City of London, there's a basement theatre not many people know about. London Plane trees and church spires tower over it. It's deep, slightly damp, and reeks of history absorbed through the walls. Inside, the heavy London atmosphere is rent apart to create a heavy brownstone atmosphere which ends up reaching right up to the stars.

The venue and atmosphere are ideal for the show, which famously started out at a relatively small off-broadway theatre, with a cast of hopefuls. This production recreates the youthful energy of the original production perfectly.

Based on Puccini's *La Bohème*, which it references, *Rent*'s lyrics depart from Giacosa and Illaca's libretto in a number of ways. Taking on the best elements of the story, they help them evolve into something totally different. Inversions and contractions abound. In *La Bohème*, Colline sells his coat to pay for Mimi's treatment. In *Rent*, his counterpart, Tom Collins is mugged and robbed of his coat in the first act. He gets given a new coat later on by Angel, who helps him out after the mugging and they fall in love.

M. Benoit, the landlord in *La Bohème* is an older man, whom the main characters have a hold over. In *Rent*, it's Benny Coffin III, the main characters' former roommate who seemingly has the power. Puccini's Bohemians

are sustained by fantasy. The characters in *Rent* are grounded in reality - although that can sometimes be experienced in an altered state. In *La Bohème*, Mimi dies. In *Rent*, she survives; Angel dies. And then there's the gay/AIDS theme. In many ways, *Rent* is a much more powerful story than *Bohème*. Developed between 1989 and 1996, it's a musical of its time, which goes beyond its immediate setting of New York in the late 80s still has the power to speak to us today.

Better described as 'professional in all but name', Sedos, the so-called 'amateur' company behind this production of *Rent* should be given a standing ovation for putting together such a well-balanced, well-rehearsed, well-produced show.

The company have the audience whooping and stamping at the end,

crying in the middle, completely engrossed in the drama all the way through. The principals are completely credible, with the ensemble being blessed with a few stars who shine out, without stealing

the limelight: Karen Braganza, a feisty lass with brains, dance moves to die for and a powerful way of putting across a musical number wows the audience in *La Vie Bohème*; Mark Rowney's small role overflows with charisma.

Tourists - forget the West End. Go see Sedos do *Rent* at the Bridewell!

"Tourists - forget the West End. Go see sedos do Rent at the Bridewell!"



Austentatious!

Jane Austen fan Hannah Nepil is unexpectedly charmed by a brilliant tap-dancing tribute show at the Landor Theatre

I take my Austen neat. No ice, lemon, or even novel necessary. I find it interferes in my communion with Ms Austen, courtesy of the BBC. I clench my fists when Mr Collins mops his glistening brow. I draw the curtains when Elizabeth spits Darcy's proposal back in his face, and when they first make eyes at each other over the Pemberley pianoforte I rewind like a fiend possessed. It's all part of the joy of television.

Since very little gets me quite as riled as the desecration of other Austen adaptations, 'Austentatious' should really have me fuming. Here's the plot summary: stage manager Sam is putting on a production of 'Pride and Prejudice', but the cast is not up to scratch. Mr Bingley is struggling to bin the narcotics, Elizabeth Bennet is battling to conquer her Australian accent and Mr Wickham is there only in figurine form. I can truthfully say that I wasn't expecting Jane Bennet to get kidnapped by a marauding bear. Nor did I foresee Elizabeth taking relationship counseling from the Statue of Liberty. Maybe my ignorance was bliss because had I known, I might never have gone. And if I hadn't gone I would never have realised how Jane Austen and musical theatre could make such an attractive crossbreed.

Punctuated by spangly musical numbers, this is a satirical ode to all the foibles of classic novel adaptations. From laughable plot embellishments, gratuitous violence, cringeworthy simulations of Austen's syntax, and even Colin Firth's wet shirt, nothing gets overlooked. While ostensibly as Austenian as a Big Mac, this parody defends the importance of the original novel by puncturing the cult of the adaptation. Somehow between the glitter and fuschia jump suits, the main plot-line of the book merges seamlessly with the show's as the level-headed Sam herself begins to take on the character of Elizabeth. She's scoffed at by the cast for her merely managerial position. Yet she manages to bag the leading man (who plays Darcy) right under the nose of his girlfriend, whose vanity



would render her a perfect Miss Bingley if that part was cast.

This is just as much a send-up of the cut-throat rigours of musical theatre as it is a tribute to Austen and these two strands work together: the brazen Lydia doubles up as the self-promoting, competitive stereotype associated with luvvies. Boasting sharp lyrics, super-slick acting and an utterly hilarious script, this is exactly the kind of London fringe musical that ought to get snapped up by the West End.

(originally at www.timeout.com)

Coming soon from Tower

The Breath of Life

by David Hare

At Theatro Technis, 26 Crowndale Road, Camden, London NW1 1TT

'Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge'

Frances and Madeleine, two mature women, have both knowingly loved and shared the same unseen man, Martin, for 25 years. Now he's left both of them, wife and mistress, to start a new lease of life with a younger American woman in Seattle.

A deceptively simple but multi-layered portrait of two mature women faced with a dilemma.

Can they face up to their long past, or will they be defined by it for their future?

Directed by Lesley Strachan

**Performances at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday 21 April to Saturday 25 April**

Box Office: 020 7353 1700

Online booking: www.towertheatre.org.uk/boxo.htm

Socials

Well everyone seems to be a bit spoiled for socials at the moment, what with the AGM on the 22nd, the directors workshop on the 17th May and of course plenty of drinks in the Bridewell bar before and after Wild Party.

There's another two to add as well. We shall be holding a playreading on the 10th June. The text we shall be reading is as yet unconfirmed, but keep an eye on your inboxes for more information. Another thing to add to your growing list of social engagements will be our sedos summer barbeque at CDP mansions. Again, keep an eye on your inboxes for more information. And keep your fingers crossed for the sun.

What shall we read?

Below is a shortlist of the plays we might read at the next playreading. If you have any preference, email rebecca.weymouth@gmail.com with your choice!

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Macbeth

The man who came to dinner

Death of a Salesman

Doubt

Loot

The House of Bernarda Alba

Angels in America

Acting and Directing Workshop 17th May

A chance for anyone who wants to stretch their acting or directing chops over an informal days workshoping some of the English languages greatest plays.

This free workshop offers aspiring and experienced directors alike the chance to direct scenes and then gain valuable feedback from actors and peers. It also offers the chance to watch other directors work. The day will take the form of a selection of short scenes, covering different playwrights and genres, a short rehearsal period with actors followed by performances and feedback from actors and audience.

If you are interested in acting or directing at this workshop please email :

rebecca.m.smith@gmail.com.

A week before the workshop you will be sent two short scenes to prepare.

The timetable for the day is as follows:

9.30am - Arrival, Introductions and actor allocation

10am - Each director to take his/her actors to a room to rehearse scene

11.30am - Each scene performed for the group followed by feedback from the actors and audience

1pm - Pub Lunch

2pm - Each director allocated actors and sent to rehearse new scenes

3.30pm - Performance of second scenes and feedback

5pm - Pub

Please register by the 1st of May. If anyone has any questions, please contact Becky at

Rebecca.m.smith@gmail.com.

sedos member and professional photographer Nick Chronnell is offering all sedos members an introductory offer

The number of sedos members asking me for headshots is on the increase. With this in mind, I am reducing my rates for sedos members to £50 (from £100).

To take advantage of this offer, please quote "sedos" when contacting.

e-mail:
info@nickchronnell.com
phone: 07977 070059 /
0208 333 7058

Kytes Theatre Presents

The greatest lover that ever lived and the worst sex addict in theatrical history,

'Don Juan In Soho' by Patrick Marber (after Moliere).

Starring sedos' own Panny Skrivanos as the infamous amoral hedonist

Brentwood Theatre 14th-16th May.

Info & Booking
www.kytes.net

KYTES THEATRE GROUP
**DON JUAN
IN SOHO W1**
BY PATRICK MARBER
AFTER MOLIERE

Parade

Confederate Memorial Day, 26th April, is the official holiday in parts of the U.S. South to honor those who died fighting for the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War. During the town parade held on this day in 1913, 13-year-old Mary Phagan, a factory worker at the National Pencil Factory in Atlanta Georgia, was murdered. Factory manager Leo Frank, a Brooklyn-born Jew living in Georgia, was put on trial for the murder.

Parade, the Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry musical of this story, opened on Broadway in 1998 directed by Harold Prince. Daring, innovative and bold, *Parade* won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score in 2000. Its subject matter offers a moral lesson about the dangers of prejudice and ignorance that should not be forgotten. In 2007, it was revived to much acclaim at the Donmar Warehouse.



This autumn, *Parade* comes to SEDOS under the care of Matt Gould as musical director, seasoned newcomer Alan Pavis directing with Matt Gould and Alex Sandercock producing.

Alan, Matthew and Alex have chosen this year's Confederate Memorial Day to make a full announcement detailing cast-breakdown, workshops, auditions, rehearsals and staging – so keep an eye on the SEDOS website and your email inbox on that day!

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, the website, or anything else, contact Chase at press@sedos.co.uk