

Large print guide to *Education Education*
Education which is entertaining Trafalgar Studio 1
until June 29th 2019.

Welcome to this large print guide to *Education Education* created by The Wardrobe Ensemble which graces the Trafalgar Studio 1 stage until the 29th of June 2019 with evening performances Monday till Saturday at 7:30pm with a matinee on a Thursday and Saturday at 2:30pm.

This is the first time it's been staged in London.

The running time is approximately 75 minutes long without an interval, there is an audio described performance on Monday the 17th of June 2019 at 7:30pm with a touch tour beforehand.

To express an interest and book on email access@traflagarentertainment.com putting audio description or touch tour in the subject line or enquire at the box office.

A large print version and a cd of this are also available on request.

This accompaniment gives you an overview of the synopsis, cast, stage, design, Props, costumes,

visual ambience, an extract from the programme, production credits and theatre Information. It has been written, performed and edited by Tim Calvert of Calvert Creative Concepts.co.uk.

The promotional material for the show states:

THE SMASH HIT PRODUCTION FROM ROYAL & DERNGATE, NORTHAMPTON AND SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

It's May 1997. Tony Blair has won the election and Katrina and the Waves have won Eurovision. The iPhone doesn't exist; no one knows who Harry Potter is and Titanic is on the shelves of every Blockbuster. Britain is the coolest place in the world.

At the local secondary school it's a different story. It's the last week of term and Tobias, the new German language assistant has just arrived in the UK. While political change occurs outside of the classroom, a revolution slowly starts to take place within it. Tobias is greeted by a group of eccentric schoolteachers just trying to make it through the day, including Miss Belltop-Doyle who can't control her year 10s and Mr Pashley who is trying to keep a confiscated Tamagotchi alive.

This whip-smart show is a love letter to education in the 90s and is jam-packed with more hits than

‘Now That’s What I Call 1997’ including Oasis, Katrina and the Waves, The Spice Girls. Crammed with Teletubbies references, jokes about Take That and the Macarena, ***Education Education Education*** is the new must see comedy of 2019 and plays a strictly limited 4 week season at the Trafalgar Studios.

This is a comedy drama unlike anything you’ve probably experienced before that although rehearsed has an improvisational feel to it, its madcap, refreshing and incredibly surreal and energetic that will transport you back in time to a well-crafted story that pays tribute to politics, the education system and more pop culture references than you could possibly remember.

As you enter the auditorium the Stage is open to you, There is just under 400 bright red seats on a single level that are on a slope going upwards,

The set consists of a 6 meter X 6 meter square of red floor that is stained and old. In the centre the stains form the shape of the British Isles. Along the back edge of the floor is a blue mottled wall with three white evenly placed notice boards. Above the set hangs a white suspended ceiling. Some of the ceiling tiles are missing and some have their corners missing. The ceiling is also fairly old and stained looking. Some of the stage lighting is

discreetly poking through the holes in the ceiling. The lighting is mostly a brilliant bright white throughout with a subdued blue light during some of the dream sequences.

The stage has two doors on wooden casters that can be moved around and which all the characters walk in and out of to signify a different setting. They are grey on one side and blue on the other. There are also two grey chairs and two grey tables on wheels that are used for all other locations and settings. These are used to great effect on stage.

In every staff room scene each character is carrying a mug. In the Lancelot & Guinevere scene the kids are acting out a battle using tennis rackets and hockey sticks as swords. Ben Vardy comes into the corridor in one scene carrying a basketball and is wearing a rubber chicken head hat.

The cast consists of 7 members, all alternate between a member of the teaching staff and a student.

The ensemble all also play students. The students are named after the actors' real names and can be changed accordingly.

For example, the character name Emily Greenslade should be Changed to the name of the actor playing that role.

As well as my description the cast will all give a little insight into their character.

Hanora Kamen portrays Louise Turner, she is 35 and is in charge of discipline, (From the 17th of June she will be portrayed by Kerry Lovell) She wears a plain white tops, with a red linen jacket and navy trousers, heeled black shoes, nail varnish and a head band.

Tom Brennan portrays Teacher Paul McIntyre age 35, He wears a blue shirt, and tie with navy chinos, and brown leather belt, with brown leather trainers and striped socks.

Jessie Meadows in reality is in her 30's but portrays the teacher Susan-Belltop- Doyle who is in her 60's she wears a sleeveless cream blouse, purple floral print skirt, dance tights and brown flat shoes.

Emily Greenslade portrays a student of the same name age 15, throughout most of the show,

although she does occasionally portray the School receptionist Donna who is in her 40's.

As Emily she wears a white polo shirt and blue jumper with badge on, Grey Pleated skirt Black Reebok classic trainers and white ankle socks.

As Donna she sports a cream top and a catching multi coloured skirt, and black court shoes.

Tom England is in reality in his 40's but portrays the Schools head teacher Hugh Mills who is aged 62. He has a full head of bushy black hair and a thick black beard. He wears a cream, brown and red checked shirt, Wool tweed, brown 2 piece suit, red tie and brown shoes. As King Arthur he wears a Tabard with a red Cloak.

Ben Vardy portrays PE teacher Tim Pashley aged 39, he wears a detailed navy and purple striped zip top, navy shorts and grey trainers with and black glasses. As a student he wears at one point a yellow baseball cap and a latex mask.

James Newton is the lead character of Tobias a German teacher on a placement in the UK, he has a lot of heavy dialogue monologues during the performance and is recognisable from his.

distinctive German accent, he wears a grey shirt, black 501 jeans, a black leather belt and hanging silver chain, a grey tie and a chunky silver ring. As a knight he sports a grey padded top.

When the actor's portray the student version of themselves the teenage photo is projected onto the back stage. They often dance as their younger selves to the music of the time when they do this it's extremely energetic and aggressive throwing their bodies around like someone possessed or they regress into the embodiment of a dreamlike catatonic state.

Extracts from the programme.

Directors note:

is 2017, twenty years since Tony Blair moved into his new home on Downing Street after a landslide victory underscored by the theme song 'Things Can Only Get Better'. It's been twenty years since we last felt the country was united in optimism; since the Union Jack was cool and Not inflammatory. Before nationalism turned nasty and the phrase 'War on Terror' existed. A time where a German language assistant on

placement in a school in England could reflect with sincerity 'You're shouting Cool Britannia from the rooftops and everyone else is happy to hear it.' Education, Education, Education takes us back to 1997, but through the rose-tinted lenses of those who are looking at it twenty Years on. The show is a reflection, from the generation that benefited from the Millions of pounds and myriad resources which were poured into the British education system, on the impact of Blair's education policies and the legacies of his government. In the process of making the show we interviewed, met, drank with teachers who worked in the nineties.

We were struck by the excitement with which they described going to work the day after the Blair election; how they felt their profession was valued. After our first work-in-progress showing of Education, Education, Education to a group of teachers, one reflected on how children had now become statistics, that their value lay in the grades they could produce, not the passions that they held. These opposing views are encapsulated in our characters, Miss Belltop-Doyle and Miss Turner, both wanting the best for their students, but who have different ideas of what 'the best' means. As a nine-strong devising company, we very much place ourselves in the show. The student characters have our names and the

events, although fictional, are infused with our memories. It is a love letter to our teachers; the good, the bad and the ugly, the ones who inspired us, the ones who made us laugh, the ones we bullied and the ones who bullied us. The show aims to weave a nostalgic tapestry of a time where The Spice Girls were the height of cool, where we ate innutritious junk food and no one batted an eyelid, where there was a new craze every week and Titanic was the most expensive film ever made.

And, of course, there's the music, the soundtrack of our childhood which pervades the play. One of our first research and development tasks for the show was to create a nineties playlist, we turned to it for both warm-ups and inspiration. A key feature of our work is how we look at human stories within Political contexts. Our student character, Emily Greenslade, undergoes a battle with authority over a decision which she perceives as being unjust. She is a vessel for our own feelings of powerlessness in the face of political change which we do not support. We can sign petitions, we can march, we can make banners and stage sit-ins, but this does not mean we will be listened to.

Jesse Jones and Helena Middleton

Production credits

Cast

PAUL MCINTYRE/LANCELOT **Tom Brennan**

HUGH MILLS/KING ARTHUR **Tom England**

EMILY GREENSLADE/ DONNA **Emily**

Greenslade

LOUISE TURNER/GUINEVERE **Kerry Lovell**

SUE BELLTOP-DOYLE **Jesse Meadows**

TOBIAS/GARETH **James Newton**

TIMOTHY PASHLEY **Ben Vardy**

Directors **Jesse Jones**

Helena Middleton

Designer **Lucy Sierra**

Lighting Designer **Katharine Williams**

Sound Designer **Ben Grant**

Costume Supervisor **Felicity Jones**

Dramaturg **Bea Roberts**

Producer **Hannah Smith**

Theatre information

The Trafalgar studio's is situated on 14 Whitehall, in London, postcode SW1A 2DY not far from Charing Cross train station, and Trafalgar square

An audio introduction to each show is available on sound cloud searching for – Trafalgar Studios or by requesting a Cd using the email

address above or visiting the box office. A large print version is also available

There are bag checks at the Theatre on arrival and the box office is in close proximity to the entrance.

Studio 1 has around 380 seats in total and can be accessed upstairs and downstairs.

If you require any assistance please ask a member of staff.

There is an accessible toilet that can be reached by using the lift.

Guide dogs are permitted in the auditorium with prior arrangement and can also be looked after in accordance with guide dogs for the blind guidelines.

To book tickets call the access line on 0800 912 6971.

Trafalgar Entertainment Group

Trafalgar Studios is owned and operated by Trafalgar Entertainment Group, a live entertainment business launched in 2017 by Sir Howard Panter and Dame Rosemary Squire DBE. For more information on the company and its flagship venue Trafalgar Studios, see www.trafalgarentertainment.com or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

The manager of the venue is Martin Scorer.

Coming soon to Trafalgar Studio 2 (on in studio 2)

Dark Sublime is on from the 25th of June until the 3rd of August with performances Monday to Saturday at 7:45pm and matinees on Thursday and Saturday at 3pm.

The Running Time is 2hours including a 20 minute Interval

By **Michael Dennis**
Directed by **Andrew Keates**

Starring **Marina Sirtis Kwaku Mills Jacqueline King Simon Thorp Sophie Ward**

Oli arrives at the door of Marianne, a fading jobbing actress. He's impatient to make an impression, to make a friend. Marianne knows about waiting – for her turn at something more substantial than a half-remembered role on a cult TV show, for her best friend to see her differently. As Oli forces her back into the past, and a strange, outrageous world she hasn't visited in almost 40 years, Marianne must find her own way into the future – and together they begin to discover what every good relationship needs: time and space.

Michael Dennis' debut comedy boldly explores what later life is like for older gay women as well as the next generation, testing the outer limits of how far friendships and relationships can be pushed. Fans will do anything for their heroes – but what if your biggest fan is your closest companion?

Making her West End debut, **Marina Sirtis** (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*) stars alongside **Kaku Mills** (*Good Dog*, UK Tour; *The End of Eddy*, Unicorn Theatre & UK Tour), **Jacqueline King** (*Doctor Who*, BBC One; *Spring Storm*, National Theatre), **Simon Thorp** (*Hard Sun*, BBC One; various leading roles, RSC), **Sophie Ward** (*Young Sherlock Holmes*, Amblin Entertainment; *Jane Eyre*, BBC Films) and the voice of **Mark Gatiss** (*Sherlock* and *Doctor Who*, BBC One; *The Madness of George III*, Nottingham

Playhouse). The production is directed by **Andrew Keates** (*As Is* and *Dessa Rose*, Trafalgar Studios).

Sign Interpreted Performance

Wednesday 17 July 2019 7:45pm

Tuesday 30 July 2019 7:45pm

The performance on 8 July will be a Supporters Gala with the cast and creative team.

Relaxed Performance

Tuesday 2 July 2019 7:45pm

Touch tours are also available on request subject to availability.

For access requirements email access@trafalgarentertainment.com

Putting caption or touch tour in the access line.

To book tickets, pop into the box office or call the Freephone access line on 0800 912 6971.

This hotly anticipated new drama starring Star Trek's Marina Sirtis and Doctor Who's Jaqueline King is on for a limited run of 6 weeks only get your ticket now.. Don't miss it!