



FUNERAL GAMES by Joe Orton
Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th May 2007

Bradford College Old Building

Laura Milnes directs an adaptation of Joe Orton's *Funeral Games* in a production devised by former Bradford College Students. Paper Zoo Theatre Company comprises of seven actors, all of whom studied the BTEC National Award in Acting at the College last year. Having performed a showcase, *Road* by Jim Carwright and the self-named devised piece – *Paper Zoo* as part of the course, the students chose to continue the enthusiasm for acting and form the company. The company includes Ben Eagle, Martin Knowles, Damien O'Keefe, Julia O'Keefe, David Peel, Stuart Davies and Laura Milnes. *Funeral Games* is the company's fourth production outside of the college. Thus far they have performed *A Christmas Carol* (Dec 2005), *Waiting For Godot* (Sept 2006), and *Twelfth Night* (Dec 2006).

When Pringle, a religious conman and cult leader, receives an anonymous letter accusing his wife, Tess, of having an affair, he hires young thug Caulfield to investigate. Caulfield finds that Tess is visiting McCorquodale, a defrocked Catholic priest who has secretly murdered his wife and buried her in the cellar. Although her innocent visits involve nothing more compromising than a charitable blanket-bath, Pringle believes it is his right to kill her for committing adultery. Pringle is soon persuaded to tell his followers, his friends and the Press that Tess has left the country, in the hope that suspicions will be raised and he will develop a trendy reputation as a killer. To aid the deception, Tess agrees to live with McCorquodale. However, things go spectacularly awry when a journalist demands proof of the murder and accuses Pringle of being innocent...

Paper Zoo Theatre Company presents *Funeral Games* – the final play written by Joe Orton. An off-beat, surprising and wickedly funny play, *Funeral Games* is a true black comedy in the best Orton style, taking a wry swipe at religion and hinting at what the author might have achieved had he not died so violently and so young. 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of his death.

The production of this dynamic 60-minute play will be staged for three performances only in Studio 4 of the Bradford College Old Building, Great Horton Road, Bradford, BD7 1AY. Tickets are £3.

Cast:

Stuart Davies	McCorquodale
Ben Eagle	Pringle
Martin Knowles	Caulfield
Damien O'Keefe	Brotherhood
David Peel	Brotherhood
Kate Shackleton	Tess

Directed by Laura Milnes.

Press night is the opening night - Tuesday 8th May at 7.30

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