



An Evening with Joe Orton:
Funeral Games &
THE RUFFIAN ON THE STAIR

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNERAL GAMES and *THE RUFFIAN ON THE STAIR*

SQUARE CHAPEL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
Sunday 9th September 2007

Paper Zoo Theatre Company presents *An Evening with Joe Orton: Funeral Games and The Ruffian on the Stair* at the Square Chapel Centre for the Arts on Sunday 9th September for one performance only. The evening will comprise of two of Orton's best loved plays – *Ruffian On The Stair* and his final play *Funeral Games*.

Laura Milnes directs the adaptations of Joe Orton's *Ruffian on the Stair* and *Funeral Games* in a production devised by former Bradford College Students. Paper Zoo Theatre Company comprises of eight members; three tutors from the college, four graduates and a company manager. Having performed a showcase, *Road* by Jim Cartwright 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 Stuart Davies, Ben Eagle, Martin Knowles, Laura Milnes, Jonathan O'Connor, Damien O'Keeffe, Julia O'Keeffe, and David Peel. Thus far they have performed *A Christmas Carol* at The Priestley (Dec 2005), *Waiting For Godot* at the Yorkshire Craft Centre (Sept 2006), *Twelfth Night* at The Priestley (Dec 2006) and *Funeral Games* at Bradford College (May 2007).

Two dark and twisted comic plays from British Theatre's most notorious witty prankster.

In "Ruffian..." a nervous woman, neglected by her questionable lover is tormented by a ruffian with a score to settle. "Funeral Games" meanwhile, is a macabre romp through religion, adultery and murder, loaded with farcical sin.

This celebration of sinners and their secrets is being staged to commemorate the 40th anniversary of writer Joe Orton's tragic death. Orton's combination of claustrophobia, immorality and mischief is temptingly, deliciously wicked, like the writer himself.

Cast (in alphabetical order):

Funeral Games
Stuart Davies - *McCorquodale*
Ben Eagle – *Pringle*
Martin Knowles – *Caulfield*
Damien O'Keeffe – *Brotherhood*
David Peel - *Brotherhood*
Kate Shackleton - *Tess*

The Ruffian On The Stair
Damien O'Keeffe - *Wilson*
Julia O'Keeffe - *Joyce*
David Peel - *Mike*

Directed by Laura Milnes.

The production of this dynamic double bill will be staged for one performance only at the Square Chapel Centre for the Arts, 10 Square Rd, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 1QG. Tickets are £9 / £7.

For more information, interview requests, press previews and more photographs please contact the Paper Zoo Company Manager: Jonathan O'Connor – jonathan@paperzootheatrecompany.co.uk – 07734 179801

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T : 07734179801
E : jonathan@paperzootheatrecompany.co.uk