

Press Release

Playful Productions, Neal Street Productions and Robert Fox present

The Chichester Festival Production of

SOUTH DOWNS

By DAVID HARE

Director JEREMY HERRIN

THE BROWNING VERSION

By TERENCE RATTIGAN

Director ANGUS JACKSON



- **The hit Chichester Festival Theatre production transfers to the Harold Pinter Theatre from April 19 2012**
- **Anna Chancellor and Nicholas Farrell reprise their roles in this double bill**
- **Tickets go on sale today, Friday 3 February**

Following a critically acclaimed and sold out run as part of the 2011 Chichester Festival, the double bill of Terence Rattigan's one-act masterpiece and David Hare's specially commissioned companion piece will transfer to the Harold Pinter Theatre from April 19 with a press night on April 24.

Anna Chancellor and **Nicholas Farrell** will once again lead the casts in these plays which examine life in boarding public schools. Rattigan's own Harrow School and Hare's own Lancing College provide the backdrop for two moving and resounding stories, one told through the eyes of a master and one told through the eyes of a boy. Both revolve around unexpected acts of kindness which place the harsh and at times cruel worlds of these schools into stark contrast.

South Downs is set at Lancing College in Sussex where a pin sharp young pupil (a role reprised by celebrated young actor **Alex Lawther** in his professional debut) is cut off from the rest of the school by virtue of his own intellect, background and questioning spirit. The school in response presents an unyielding and rigid outlook on life that leaves the boy isolated and confused. In an unlikely meeting with the mother of another pupil, her generosity of spirit and sound advice present the boy with a world of kindness and possibility.

Rattigan's *The Browning Version* presents the retiring Classics master Mr Crocker-Harris, tired, dried up and an abhorred tyrant over his pupils. Stuck in a broken marriage and facing the prospect of a retirement with no money, a simple act of generosity by one of Crocker-Harris' pupils brings out the deep-rooted dignity and heartbreaking sadness that give this play its power.

South Downs is directed by **Jeremy Herrin** whose work in 2011 included Joe Penhall's *Haunted Child* (Royal Court), *Death and the Maiden* (Harold Pinter Theatre) and the critically acclaimed *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare's Globe). In 2007 Herrin directed the UK premiere of another play by David Hare: *The Vertical Hour* (Royal Court) as well as Polly Stenham's *That Face* (also Royal Court), which later transferred to the West End.

The Browning Version is directed by Chichester Festival Theatre Associate **Angus Jackson** whose credits at Chichester include *Wallenstein*, *Funny Girl*, *The Waltz of the Toreadors* and *Carousel*. At the National Theatre Jackson has directed *Elmina's Kitchen*, *Fix Up*, *Rocket to*

the Moon and *The Power of Yes* (by David Hare). His production of *Bingo*, starring Patrick Stewart, transfers to the Young Vic in February this year.

Anna Chancellor plays Belinda Duffield in *South Downs* and Millie Crocker-Harris in *The Browning Version*. She has recently been seen on screen as Lix in BBC 2's drama *The Hour* and onstage as Lady Caroline Blackman in *The Last Duchess* (Hampstead Theatre). Her theatre credits include *Creditors* (Donmar Warehouse and Broadway), *The Observer*, *Never So Good* and *Stanley* (National Theatre and Broadway), for which she received an Olivier Award nomination. Previous television credits include *Suburban Shootout*, *Spooks*, *Tipping the Velvet*, *Kavanagh QC* and the role of Caroline Bingley in the popular BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, which also featured Colin Firth. Film credits include the role of Duckface, Hugh Grant's jilted fiancée, in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Nicholas Farrell plays Reverend Eric Dewley in *South Downs* and Andrew Crocker-Harris in *The Browning Version*. His theatre credits include West End productions of *Birdsong*, *Kean* and *The Cherry Orchard*. Other theatre credits include *Stuff Happens* and *Dinner* (National Theatre) and *The Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet* (all for the RSC). His film credits include Airey Neave in *The Iron Lady*, *Bloody Sunday* (directed by Paul Greengrass), *Chariots of Fire*, *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan* and *Hamlet*. Television credits include the acclaimed production *The Jewel in the Crown*.

Joining Anna Chancellor and Nicholas Farrell in the company are Andrew Woodall, Mark Umbers, Amanda Fairbank-Hynes, Bradley Hall, Rob Heaps, Alex Lawther and Liam Morton.

www.website here.com

Box Office:

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

The Corner Shop PR - 020 7494 3665

Ben Chamberlain - ben@thecornershoppr.com

Charlotte Bayley - charlotte@thecornershoppr.com

Listings:

The Chichester Festival Production of

SOUTH DOWNS

By DAVID HARE

THE BROWNING VERSION

By TERENCE RATTIGAN

The Harold Pinter Theatre, Panton Street, London, SW1Y 4DN

19 April - 22 July 2012

Website

Box Office:

Age guidance:

Previews from: 19 April 2012, 7.30pm

Press Night: 24 April 2012, 7.00pm

Performance Times: Mon - Sat at 7.30pm; Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm

Ticket Prices:

Group rates:

CAST

BRADLEY HALL

COLIN JENKINS (South Downs)

Theatre credits include Ade in *First Person Shooter* (Birmingham Rep) and He in *Elevator* (New Diorama Theatre). Television includes *The Bill* and *Doc Martin*. Films include *Rite*, *Where the Monsters Go*, *Mercy* and *Spider*.

ROB HEAPS**PETER GILBERT (The Browning Version)**

Theatre credits include title role in *Wittgenstein (The Crooked Roads)* (Riverside Studios), Narrator in *Ivan the Terrible* (LSO at the Barbican), Francis in *Unrestless* (The Old Vic Tunnels), Dan in 'Dexterity' in *Coalition* (Theatre 503), Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Neuss Globe Theatre), Constantine in *The Notebook of Trigorin* (Finborough Theatre), Second Man in *Warm* (Vinterlys Festival at Nordland Theatre, Norway), Jaden Latimer in *Elder Latimer is in Love* (Arcola Theatre), Soldier in *The Odyssey in Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat* (National Theatre) and title role in *Dracula* and *MacHeath in The Threepenny Opera* (Edinburgh Fringe). Readings include *Danton's Death* and *The White Guard* (National Theatre). Television includes *Law and Order UK - Dawn Till Dusk*. Films include *Bright Star*, *Matches* and *Zen and Beyond*. Radio includes *Life Begins at Crawley*, *Skin* and *Cruikshank* on New Zealand. Trained at LAMDA and St Petersburg State Academy of Theatrical Arts Russia.

LIAM MORTON**ROGER SPRULE (South Downs)****JOHN TAPLOW (The Browning Version)**

Liam is making his professional debut.

MARK UMBERS**FRANK HUNTER (The Browning Version)**

Previously at Chichester Nick Arnstein in *Funny Girl* (Minerva Theatre). Theatre credits include Charlie/Vittorio Vidal/Oscar Lindquist in *Sweet Charity* (Menier Chocolate Factory and Theatre Royal Haymarket), The Gentleman Caller in *The Glass Menagerie* (Apollo Theatre), Tom Veryan in *The Vortex* (Donmar Warehouse), Freddy EynsfordHill in *My Fair Lady* (National Theatre and Theatre Royal Drury Lane), King of Eldorado in *Candide*, Solanio in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Troilus and Cressida* (National Theatre) and Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* (WYP, Theatre Royal Bath and Open Air Theatre Regent's Park). Television includes *Eternal Law*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Mistresses*, *Harley Street*, *Blackbeard*, *Princes in the Tower*, *Foyle's War*, *Midsomer Murders*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Casualty*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Berkeley Square*, *The Bill*, *Silent Witness*, *Trust* and *The Student Prince*. Films include *Che - Part Two*, *Cassandra's Dream*, *A Good Woman*, *Colour Me Kubrick*, *These Foolish Things* and *Love is the Devil*.

ANDREW WOODALL**BASIL SPEAR (South Downs)****DR FROBISHER (The Browning Version)**

Theatre credits include Harry in *The Knowledge* and Nick in *Little Platoons* (Bush Theatre), Guardiano in *Women Beware Women*, Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Booth Voysey in *The Voysey Inheritance*, Pope Barberini in *The Life of Galileo*, Knight in *Luther*, Andrei Zeitek in *The Shape of the Table*, Ewan Gilmour in *Racing Demon*, Al Randall in *Murmuring Judges* and Glazier in *Abingdon Square* (National Theatre), Judge Brack in *Hedda Gabler* (Gate Theatre Dublin), Jack Manningham in *Gaslight*, Edmund in *King Lear*, Constant in *The Provok'd Wife*, Harry/Martin in *Cloud Nine* and George Farrant in *Waste* (The Old Vic), Oliver in *As You Like It* (Wyndham's Theatre), Silvio Masperi in *As You Desire Me* (Playhouse Theatre), Tim in *The Sugar Syndrome*, Ted Mitchell in *Disappeared*, Kim Feston in *Search and Destroy* and Marcel in *Weldon Rising* (Royal Court Theatre), Hazeldine in *Burning Issues* (Hampstead Theatre), Christopher in *Certain Young Men* and Jackson Trouver in *Butterfly Kiss* (Almeida Theatre), Ian Ritchie in *A Letter of Resignation* (Savoy Theatre), Grant in *Our Late Night* (Ambassadors Theatre), Marquis of Posa in *Don Carlos* (Citizens Theatre) and Fielding in *Art of Success* (Paines Plough). Television includes *New Tricks*, *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, *Above Suspicion*, *Men Are Wonderful*, *Personal Affairs*, *Place of Execution*, *Heartbeat*, *Lawless*, *Hear the Silence*, *Charles II*, *Starhunter*, *Ultimate Force*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Murder Rooms*, *Hearts and Bones*, *Harbour Lights*, *Gimme Gimme Gimme*, *Nature Boy*, *Kavanagh QC*,

Degrees of Error, Seaforth, Headhunters, Prime Suspect, Between the Lines, Underbelly, Wish Me Luck and Hannay. Films include Johnny English Reborn, Hypnotic, Count of Monte Cristo and Regeneration.

AMANDA FAIRBANK-HYNES

MRS GILBERT (The Browning Version)

Theatre credits include Irina in Three Sisters, Lucy in Redundant, Elinor in Henry VI Parts I&II, Theresa in The Last Hurrah and Rose in The Sea (LAMDA). Television includes Shelfstackers, E20, Doctors, Casualty, Merlin, Holby Blue, Player, Empathy, Dogface, Princess Daffodil and Big Kids. Films include Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, One Day, Monte Carlo, An Education and The Boat that Rocked. Trained at LAMDA.