

The Rat Trap

Noël Coward's first play in its first production for 80 years

Directed by Tim Luscombe. Designed by Chrystine Bennett.

Cast: Heather Chasen. Olivia Darnley. Gregory Finnegan. Catherine Hamilton. Federay Holmes. Steven O'Neill. Kathryn Sumner.

"I felt, for the first time with genuine conviction, that I could really write plays...I do not believe that it has ever been done since its original production which is a pity, as I would love to see it." - Noël Coward

Written when Coward was only 19, *The Rat Trap* explores the relationship between playwright Keld and his novelist wife, Sheila, as they struggle to balance the pressures of everyday life with work. When professional jealousy threatens to upset domestic harmony, will Keld and Sheila resolve their differences or will the situation end in a crisis? Full of Coward's usual wit and merciless banter, *The Rat Trap* is a moving and startlingly resonant exploration of the timeless struggles of marriage.

Sir Noël Coward (1899-1973). Actor, playwright, screenwriter, composer, lyricist, artist, novelist, short story writer, poet, cabaret artist. Plays include *The Vortex*, *Hay Fever*, *Easy Virtue*, *Bitter Sweet*, *Private Lives*, *Fallen Angels*, *Cavalcade*, *Design for Living*, *Tonight At 8.30*, *This Happy Breed*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*. His screenplays include *In Which We Serve* and *Brief Encounter*. His songs include *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*.

Directed by Olivier Award nominee **Tim Luscombe**, whose productions have been seen in the West End, all over the UK, On and Off Broadway, as well in the Netherlands, Sweden and Japan. London directing credits include Noël Coward's *Easy Virtue* (Garrick) and *Private Lives* (Aldwych), *Artist Descending A Staircase* (Duke of York's), *The Browning Version* and *Harlequinade* (Royalty), *EuroVision* (Vaudeville), and *Relative Values* (Savoy). Tim is also well known as a playwright whose plays include *EuroVision* (Vaudeville), *The One You Love* (Royal Court) and *The Schuman Plan* (Hampstead Theatre). Tim was nominated for an Olivier Award for his direction of *Easy Virtue* and *The Browning Version/Harlequinade*.

Heather Chasen received a Tony nomination for her performance in *A Severed Head* on Broadway. Other credits include *Hotel Paradiso* with Frankie Howerd, *Call Me Jackie* with Sybil Thorndike, *Picture of Innocence* with Robert Morley, playing Valerie Pollard in *Crossroads* and as all the female characters in *The Navy Lark*; **Olivia Darnley** was most recently seen in *Hay Fever* with Judi Dench, in Thea Sharrock's production of *Private Lives* and in Peter Hall's *Much Ado About Nothing*; **Gregory Finnegan** has most recently played the lead in Rattigan's *French Without Tears* (The Mill at Sonning); **Catherine Hamilton** has just played the lead in the Orange Tree's acclaimed production of Harley Granville Barker's *The Madras House*; **Federay Holmes'** credits include Chichester, Harrogate; **Steven O'Neill's** recent theatre includes the Royal Shakespeare Company, Birmingham Rep, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Manchester Library Theatre; Guildhall trained **Kathryn Sumner's** credits include Salisbury Playhouse and the Gate Theatre Dublin.

The Press on Tim Luscombe

"Tim Luscombe's faultless production" *The Independent*

"Tim Luscombe's brilliant production" *The Observer*

"Tim Luscombe's immaculate production" *Telegraph*

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 1PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED

Box Office 0870 4000 838 www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 28 November – Saturday, 23 December 2006

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 3.30pm.

Tickets £14, £10 concessions. Tuesday Evenings £10 all seats. Saturday evenings £14 all seats.

Previews (28 and 29 November) £8 all seats.

LISTINGS NOTE – Please note this production is no longer produced by Debut Theatre Company

For more information, interviews and images, please contact

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