

BIRMINGHAM REP STUDIO THEATRE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

MONSTROUS REGIMENT

Presents the
PREMIERE PRODUCTION

of



ORIGIN of the SPECIES

A LOVE STORY by Bryony Lavery

DIRECTED BY Nona Sheppard



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It is late: a dark clear night: it is the last night of the year, and the first quarter of the New Moon.

Molly Starkey, famous archeologist and raconteur is awaiting the passing of 1984 with a mixture of excitement and dread.

As the clock ticks on towards midnight, she tells us a story – it is a love story – a historical romance, set in Africa and Yorkshire, an epic tale filled with excitement and adventure, explosions and upheaval – spanning those heady years from The Dawn of Time until Now – a story so very strange that even Molly's lifelong friend Victoria finds it difficult to believe it could possibly have happened.

But it is true.

Will you believe it?

20 MARCH - 6 APRIL

at The Drill Hall Arts Centre

16 Chenies Street WCI

Goodge Street

Box Office 637 8270

Tues - Sat at 8 pm (Wed 20 March at 7 pm)

Free creche Friday & Saturday Evenings

Access for people with disabilities

Bar & Restaurant

BIRMINGHAM REP Studio Theatre

Autumn
84

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE
PRESENTS

ABEL'S SISTER

1st - 6th OCTOBER

Following its run at the Theatre Upstairs, the Royal Court Theatre presents the premiere production of "Abel's Sister" by Yolande Bourcier and Timberlake Wertenbaker, directed by Les Waters.

When Sandra, a young disabled woman, comes to the country to visit her brother and his girlfriend, she inevitably disturbs their comfortable, rational lives. The appearance of Chris, a wounded American marine, complicates matters further. As they all begin to contend with their own mutually exclusive desires, no one is allowed to remain unscathed.

"This is really interpretative acting". The Guardian.

"Abel's sister is one of the most exciting and moving new plays I've seen this year. It is certainly the most honest and moving".
—City Limits.

HULL
TRUCK

PRESENTS

"UP 'N' UNDER"

12th and 13th OCTOBER

Leading national touring company Hull Truck presents: John Godber's latest new play "Up 'N' Under" which has just won its author his third Edinburgh Fringe First Award.

"Up 'N' Under" takes us into the world of amateur rugby league where the Cobblers Arms, Castleford, have never been beaten in the Amateur Rugby League Seven-A-Side tournament.

Assembled for this hilarious new play is one of the most athletic—and heaviest—company of actors ever. The cast of six weigh in at a total of 73 stone, 9 lbs. sufficiently bulky for them to appear on both sides at once in the rugby match which is the climax of the play.

Directed by Nora Sheppard

Two experienced actors (and embryonic ethnologists) enact the evolution of man and woman kind from the Dawn of Time to Now. Amoebas, hopeful monsters, beagles and fish-apes evolve to some form of homo sapiens—complete with his mortgage and credit cards.

Birmingham
Theatre Festival



"The only festival to concentrate
on new theatre writing"

MONSTROUS REGIMENT

in association with the Birmingham Rep
presents the PREMIER PRODUCTION of

ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

—A LOVE STORY by Bryony Lavery

22nd NOVEMBER - 22nd DECEMBER

Monstrous Regiment is one of the most well-known and longest established feminist theatre companies in this country. Bryony Lavery returns to work with this famous group after recent great success with Extraordinary Productions, Female Trouble and the National Theatre of Brent.

JIM VAN DER WOUDE

IN

"BRAINSTORM"

8th - 10th OCTOBER

Stichting Orkater (Holland) presents for the first time in this country Jim van der Woude in "Brainstorm on the Sea of Madness".

Jim van der Woude is one of Holland's leading theatre artists, and a tireless inventive performer of great skill. "Brainstorm" is a comic tale of city life gone mad, one man's day as he goes jogging, rides his bike, buys a present, visits his local bar. This hapless neurotic town-dweller is a unique comic creation in the mould of Buster Keaton and Jacques Tati.

The
Birmingham
Repertory Theatre
PRESENTS

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS

by RAYMOND BRIGGS

18th OCTOBER - 10th NOVEMBER

Directed by Clive Perry

Designed by Janet Scarfe

"When the Wind Blows" is Raymond Briggs' stage version of his famous anti-nuclear cartoon parable, is passionately on the side of sanity and survival. Jim and Hilda Bloggs, a retired couple who have moved to an isolated country cottage, are tidy, decent, house-proud and hopelessly behind the times. One tranquil day Jim hears on the radio that a pre-emptive strike is on the way. Armed with Government leaflets, in which he places all his faith, he constructs a refuge for them both, and gathers emergency rations. The Bloggses, who have brought to their task the solid cheerfulness of World War Two, emerge after the Bomb to find a devastated post-holocaust world. Trusting to the last in the Powers-That-Be, they wait for the arrival of the Services as their bodies suffer the effects of radiation sickness, and go gently into the dark loving each other utterly and uttering fragments of prayers. After its run in the Studio, this Birmingham Rep production will tour for four weeks throughout the West Midlands.

See
separate leaflet
for details.

BOOKING: Box Office 021-236 4455

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday

Performance Times: Monday to Friday 7.45 p.m., Saturdays 8.00 p.m.

By Post: Please give alternative dates and enclose an SAE with your remittance (cheques payable to Birmingham Repertory Theatre).

Address: The Box Office, Birmingham Rep, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2EP.

Prices: Mondays to Saturday £4.00 all seats, School Parties (10 or more), Students, Senior Citizens and Unemployed £2.50 all seats on presentation of proof of status (EXCEPT Saturdays).

By Phone: Please claim tickets within 3 days or 1 hour before curtain-rise if booked less than 3 days before performance. Tickets not collected in time will be sold.

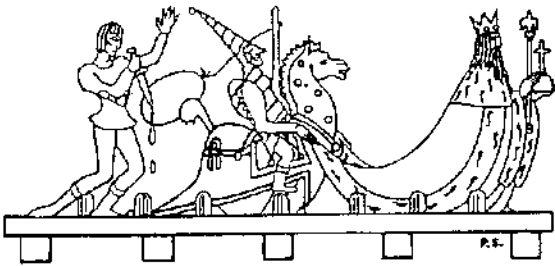
BOX OFFICE: 021-236 4455

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2EP.

The Birmingham Repertory Theatre receives financial assistance from the Arts Council of Great Britain and the City of Birmingham.

SUBSIDISED BY THE
Arts Council
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Designed and produced by James Dwyer Graphics. 021-236 4139



THE BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE

Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2EP.

Press Release

*BIRMINGHAM REP GOES INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH
LEADING FEMINIST TOURING COMPANY*

"ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES - A LOVE STORY"

by
BRYONY LAVERY

On a fresh Autumn morning in 1859 Charles Darwin published his "Origin of Species". By nightfall, the first edition was completely sold out.

125 years later, Monstrous Regiment in association with Birmingham Rep bring to the stage the two person version of this popular best-seller...

It is late; a dark clear night: it is the last night of the year, and the first quarter of the New Moon. Molly Starkey, famous archeologist and raconteur is awaiting the passing of 1984 with a mixture of excitement and dread.

As the clock ticks on towards midnight, she tells us a story. It is a love story, a historical romance, set in Africa and Yorkshire. It is an epic tale filled with excitement and adventure, explosions and upheaval which spans those heady years from The Dawn of Time until Now. It is a story so very strange that even Molly's lifelong friend Victoria finds it difficult to believe it could possibly have happened.

But it is true... will you believe it?

"ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES - A LOVE STORY" is Monstrous Regiments 16th production and its first co-production with Birmingham Rep. Its run in the Birmingham Rep Studio Theatre is from 22nd November to 22nd December. Bryony Lavery, among foremost feminist writers in the U.K., has written four previous plays for Monstrous Regiment, including their highly successful "CALAMITY".

'Bryony Lavery has an excellent ear for one-liners, pastiche and bizarre detail'...

- CITY LIMITS 3-9 FEBRUARY 1984

Gillian Hanna and Mary McCusker, both founder members of Monstrous Regiment (last seen together in 'CALAMITY'), are directed by Nona Shepphard. Jenny Carey is the designer.

GILLIAN HANNA has worked with 'Monstrous Regiment' since its foundation in 1975. She has, however, done a lot of work outside the Company including playing Mrs Lovatt in Stephen Sondheim's musical 'Sweeney Todd' at The Liverpool Playhouse and Watford Palace Theatre, appearances at the Edinburgh Festival, and T.V. appearances which include 'GRANGE HILL' and 'BROOKSIDE'.

MARY McCUSKER has worked with 'Monstrous Regiment' on twelve productions over the past nine years. She is no stranger to the Birmingham Rep where she played the Ullin/Luther character in 'The Triumph of Death'. Her TV work includes 'View from Daniel Pike', 'Play for Today' and a part in a film for Channel 4.

NONA SHEPPHARD, the director of 'ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES - A LOVE STORY' has been acting, writing and directing in theatre since 1973 when she worked at Liverpool Playhouse. She was Tour Director and then Associate Director at the Gateway Theatre, Chester. During 1982 - 3 she directed and choreographed 'KINGDOM COME' at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, directed 'LOVE AND DISSENT' for the Women's Theatre Group and wrote, directed and choreographed 'FORCES FAVOURITES' for M6 Theatre Company.

This is the second show Nona has directed for Monstrous Regiment, after the success of 'CALAMITY' which she directed in September, 1983.

JENNY CAREY, the designer of the play trained as a fine artist at the Slade School. She started in the theatre in 1972 in Sir Peter Hall's 'TEMPEST', working with John Bury. Her most recent work is ANIMAL FARM with Sir Peter Hall, currently playing at the National Theatre.

Although this is the 5th play to be written for MONSTROUS REGIMENT by Bryony Lavery - she has written a total of twenty-seven stage plays including ZULU and FEMALE TROUBLE. Bryony has also written a series for television 'REVOLTING WOMEN' and for radio 'CHANGES AT WORK'!

For further information contact

Ian Mean on 0789 66912

or

Joy Harris on 021 - 236 6771



DRILL HALL ARTS CENTRE

16 CHENIES STREET · LONDON WC1E 7ET · ADMINISTRATION 01 631 1353 · BOX OFFICE 01 637 8270

MONSTROUS REGIMENT present ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES by BRYONY LAVERY

directed by NONA SHEPPHARD

designed by JENNY CAREY

in the cast : GILLIAN HANNA and MARY McCUSKER

at The Drill Hall Arts Centre 20 March - 6 April 1985

On a fresh Autumn morning in 1859 Charles Darwin published his ORIGIN OF SPECIES. By nightfall, the first edition was completely sold out.

One hundred and twenty five years later, Monstrous Regiment took a look at this popular best seller to see where women fitted in to the master theory - a look which led them to the works of other master historians, evolutionists, archeologists, sociologists. They came across views like that of Gustav Le Bon (a leading French scientist and one of the founders of social psychology) who wrote in 1879 -

~~All psychologists who have studied the intelligence of women~~
recognise today that they represent the most inferior forms of human evolution and that they are closer to children and savages than to an adult civilised man. They excel in fickleness, inconstancy, absence of thought and logic, and incapacity to reason.'

And so, Monstrous Regiment's two person version of this popular best seller comes to the stage.

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MONSTROUS REGIMENT are pleased that ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES - A LOVE STORY was undertaken as a co-production with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and ran in the Studio there from 22 November to 22 December 1984. They are delighted that this joint venture has been such a success.

Although this is the fifth play to be written for MONSTROUS REGIMENT by BRYONY LAVERY, she has written a total of twenty seven stage plays including ZULU (National Theatre of Brent), FEMALE TROUBLE and material for THE WANDSWORTH WARMERS.

For further information please contact : MAVIS SEAMAN/SHARON DUNNE on 631 1353