

The Genesian Theatre Company Inc
420 Kent Street, Sydney

by special arrangement with Dominie Pty Limited
presents

Educating Rita

by Willy Russell



Directed by
Karen O'Brien-Hall

Season - 20 May to 8 July, 2000

Friday, Saturday 8.00pm, Sunday 4.30pm

BOOKINGS 9873 3575

Director's Note

Liverpool lad, Willy Russell, was born into a family with a strong tradition of storytelling. Leaving school at 15 armed with one "O" level, Russell had a vague idea of being a writer, but drifted into hairdressing and labouring before returning, in his 20's, to full time education.

This background, coupled with Russell's strong views on the working classes' attempt to gain access to middle class culture, are reflected in *Educating Rita*. Originally commissioned by the RSC, *Educating Rita* was successfully produced in the West End, winning the award for Best Comedy of 1980. Still freely available on video, the play was adapted by Russell for the Oscar nominated 1983 film starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters.

Why has this play become a modern classic? I believe the answer lies in the beauty of the writing. Willy Russell's simple play about the drunken professor and the sassy hairdresser weaves together the best elements of theatre, and produces real, flawed characters. *Educating Rita*, is a play with heart, which survives the critical, analytical assessment of the director and actors who give the life to the words.

After examining the script of *Educating Rita*, the decision was made not to tamper with the text, as I believed the integrity of the play suffered through such cuts. I trust that after seeing our production you will agree that Rita's growth as a person is reflected through her changed use of language.

Karen O'Brien-Hall

Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1

Scenes 1 – 5

Lent Term

Scenes 6 – 8

Easter Term

There will be a twenty minute interval

Act 2

Michaelmas Term

Cast

Professor Frank Bryant

Rita White

Gregory Balcombe

Monica Brian

Many people assisted in the production of Educating Rita.

Apart from those specifically mentioned in the show's credits, Paula Bate, Tim Bennett, Eric Bicknell, Joyce Birch, Meg Carroll, Jan Fawke, Ruth Ford, Paul Gilbert, Caroleen Heaton, Dianne Henderson and James Wright, have generously shared their libraries, artistic talent, brawn and knowledge.

Pamela Whalan and Coralie Thew have been part of the production team from the start and to list their contributions would take more space than is available – thank you.

Crew

Director

Set Design

Stage Manager

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Set Construction

Costumes

Dialect Coach

Sound Operator

Lighting Operator

Dresser

Karen O'Brien-Hall

John Fitzsimmons & Grant Fraser

Coralie Thew

Grant Fraser

John O'Brien-Hall

Grant Fraser, Ben Truelsen, Brendon Cleary,

Members of the Genesis Theatre

Susan Carveth

Kate Horsley

John O'Brien-Hall

Grant Fraser

Carol Cleary

THE GENESIAN THEATRE HISTORY

The building, which houses the Genesian Theatre Company Inc., dates from 1868. It served as both a church and poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre Company, which was formed in 1944 and took its name from Saint Genesius, the patron saint of actors.

Over the years the Genesian Theatre Company has developed into a community theatre group providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts.

If you would like to add your name to our mailing list, or join the Genesian Theatre Company, please write to: GPO Box 1988, Sydney, NSW, 1043 or Email: genesiantheatre@hotmail.com.

COMING ATTRACTION

An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley, directed by Brian Donovan. Who is the Inspector? Why does he call on the respectable Birling family? What secrets will be exposed. *An Inspector Calls*, opens on 22 July and performs on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8.00 p.m. and Sundays at 4.30 p.m. until 9 September 2000.

WILSON'S CAR PARK

Wilson's Kent Street Car Park, diagonally opposite the Theatre, offers a \$5.00 flat rate to all our patrons attending Saturday and Sunday performances. For this discount rate present your Genesian Theatre ticket stub, together with your parking ticket, to the cashier at the Car Park as you leave.