

# ***Educating Rita***

## **by Willy Russell**

### **17th-26th March 2022**

Rita is a working-class hairdresser hungry to better herself. Frank is the alcoholic university lecturer who finds himself her tutor. Through the course of her tuition, both Rita and Frank learn and grow as people and poets. This touching two-hander, first performed in 1980 and brilliantly filmed in 1983 starring Julie Walters as Rita and Michael Caine as Frank, explores the effects of education on ourselves and our relationships.

Willy Russell was commissioned to write *Educating Rita* by the Royal Shakespeare Company and it premiered in 1980 running for years in the West End. It is one of the popular playwright's best-known works, among favourites *Shirley Valentine*, *Blood Brothers*, *Stags and Hens*, and *Our Day Out*.

Rita is played by the talented Lisa Gibbons, and MLT favourite Del de Lorme plays Frank. This is a classic play about people changing over time, and over the past weeks I have watched both actors develop strong and nuanced performances in roles that have garnered numerous awards and nominations over the years, making this play a real treat for audiences.

It has been an exciting journey putting this production together and it will be a pleasure to share this brilliant story with you. This absolutely classic play is a journey through a very human, universal story about life, love, and learning, expertly written to make you laugh, think, and maybe even shed a tear.

Mike Dickinson, Director

**Lisa Gibbons** has previously graced the Medway Little Theatre stage in *Dangerous Obsession* and *Sitting Pretty*.

**Del de Lorme** appeared as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sir Henry Baskerville in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Bill Sykes in *Oliver Twist*, Adam in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* as well as many other roles.

The play is set in Frank's office at an unnamed British university.

The bar will be open during the interval after Act I, and the show is expected to finish around 10pm. Members of the audience are welcome to stay after the show.

#### **CAST**

Rita Lisa Gibbons  
Frank Del de Lorme

#### **CREW**

Light & Sound Ronnie Titley  
Stage Manager Ian McWilliams  
Director Mike Dickinson  
Executive Producer Melody de Lorme

### Coming Next

#### LADIES' DAY

By Amanda Whittington

16th - 25th June 2022

An exuberant comedy about four likely lasses from the Hull fish docks on a day trip to the races. Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda, but their fortunes are set to change when Linda finds tickets to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York.

Out go the hairnets, overalls and wellies as the four ditch work, do themselves up to the nines and head off to the races for a drink, a flirt and a flutter. If their luck holds, they could hit the jackpot, and more besides.

Amanda Whittington's play *Ladies' Day* premiered at Hull Truck Theatre in 2005 and has been revived many times since, including at the Royal Court in Liverpool and the Oldham Coliseum.

This production is presented by special arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

### Medway Little Theatre Needs You!

Our theatre produces several shows a year and we always welcome new members, whether they are interested in acting, stage managing, set building, working lights and sound, or any of the dozens of other jobs needed to produce live theatre. If you are interested in moving from seat to stage, please ask our front of house team or bar staff for information on how to join, or just turn up at 8pm to our social nights, held every Tuesday evening in between show runs.

This amateur production of *Educating Rita* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.



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Doors 7pm

Show 7.30pm

Tickets £11 [www.mlt.org.uk](http://www.mlt.org.uk)



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