

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

The Cat's Meow

By Steven Peros

Directed by Fiona Smith

Sun 12 Mar – Sat 18 Mar 2017

£1.50



Hampton Hill Theatre

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An infra-red hearing assistance system is available in the auditorium but not in the Coward room. Personal systems with a T-switch will require an additional unit available in the foyer. 'In ear' headsets are also available.

Wheelchair positions are available in both stalls and the balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the theatre, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

Teddington Theatre Club Ltd

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Company Registration Number 939448

Registered Charity Number 257265

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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to Arts Richmond.

This production is entered for the Arts Richmond Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

'WHEN THE LEGEND BECOMES FACT; PRINT THE LEGEND.'

The man who shot Liberty Valence

Sadly, the prevailing legend of the manner of Tom Ince's death has overshadowed his contribution to Hollywood film. In 1918 'The Father of the Western' established the first film studio, 'Inceville'. However, by 1924 he was rumoured to be filing for bankruptcy, aiming for a deal with millionaire press tycoon, William Randolph Hearst. Hearst owned the International news service, taking a sensationalist style of journalism to new depths, with hyperbolic headlines, of dubious veracity.

'TRUTH IS NOT ONLY STRANGER THAN FICTION BUT MORE INTERESTING.'

William Randolph Hearst

On November 16th 1924, Ince boarded Hearst's 280ft luxury yacht 'Oneida', at San Pedro, as guest of honour for his 42nd birthday party. Among the guests were Hearst's movie star mistress Marion Davies, newspaper gossip columnist Louella Parsons and Charlie Chaplin. Shortly after celebrations at dinner, Ince, who was known to suffer from angina and ulcers, was taken ill. Toriachi Komo, Chaplin's valet, claimed he saw Ince bleeding from a head wound. He was carried ashore on a stretcher, then taken by train to LA, removed from the train at Del Mar, and taken to a hotel for treatment. He died the next day, the 19th, at his own home. The death certificate stated heart failure. His cremation was two days later, attended by Chaplin and Marion but not Hearst.

'WILLIAM RANDOLPH'S HEARSE.'

Hollywood nickname for the 'Oneida'

'ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO MAKE HEARST TURN WHITE AS A SHEET, IS MENTION TOM INCE'S DEATH. THERE'S PLENTY WRONG THERE, BUT HEARST IS TOO BIG.'

DW Griffiths

There was no inquest, or autopsy. Police dropped the investigation after interviewing only two witnesses. Suspicion of foul play was further fuelled by the inconsistent statements of those aboard.

Hearst issued a statement that Ince had fallen ill while visiting his ranch. Chaplin denied being present at the party, but that he, Marion and Hearst had visited Tom at his home two weeks before his death, and 'Tom appeared to be making a recovery.' Davies stated that Nell Ince had called her on Monday afternoon to say that Tom had died. Ince's death certificate states time of death as Tuesday night. Parsons also denied being on board, despite numerous witnesses to the contrary.

'GIVE HER AN Ounce, AND SHE'LL TAKE A WHOLE COLUMN.'

Hollywood wit on Louella Parsons

Stories began to circulate through Hollywood that Hearst caught Davies and Chaplin 'in an intimate embrace' and shot wildly in a jealous rage, hitting Ince. No one can state with certainty the events of that night. Most likely Hearst wished to avoid the scandal of an investigation of a party on his yacht, with women who were not the wives of those present, drugs and free flowing champagne in flagrant disregard of prohibition laws. There was little tolerance in 1924 for those who brought adverse publicity to the industry. Hearst was at risk of being the target of the methods he used in his own papers.

'LIFE IS SEEN AS COMEDY IN LONG SHOT, AND TRAGEDY IN CLOSE UP.'

Charlie Chaplin

Stephen Peros, playwright, screenwriter and director, was born on May 5th, 1966, in Brooklyn, New York. His work includes *Footprints* (2009) and *A Country Christmas Story* (2013). In 1997 *The Cat's Meow* had its theatre premiere in LA. In 2002 Peter Bogdanovich directed a film version starring Eddie Izzard, Kirsten Dunst, and Joanna Lumley.

'THE TRUTH IS RARELY PURE AND NEVER SIMPLE.'

Oscar Wilde

CAST

ELINOR CLYN

Jane Marcus

THOMAS GICE

Ian Kinane

MARGARET LIVINGSTON

Jacinta Collins

GEORGE THOMAS

Stephen Boyd

MARION DAVIES

Trine Taraldsvik

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Peter Hill

LOUELLA PARSONS

Denise Rocard

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

Edz Barrett

JOSEPH WILLICOMBE

Tom Nunan

DR DANIEL GOODMAN

Luke Daxon

MRS GOODMAN

Susan Gerlach

CELIA MOORE

Lily Tomlinson

DIDI DAWSON

Rachel Burnham

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR	Fiona Smith
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Robin Legard
STAGE MANAGEMENT	Vicky Horder
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER	Meg Hird
STAGE CREW	Mart Stonelake Cath Messum Alice Metcalf
COSTUME DESIGN	Zoe Harvey-Lee
SCENIC & MAKE UP DESIGN	Junis Olmscheid
SET DESIGN & BUILD	Alan Corbett
CHOREOGRAPHY	Gita Singham-Willis
SOUND	Harry Jacobs
LIGHTING	Steph Pang Malcolm Maclenan Colin Swinton
PHOTOGRAPHY	Jennifer Laney
ARTISTIC LINK	Linda Sirker

THE BAR IS OPEN AFTER THE SHOW

The foyer bar remains open after the show and is well used by cast, crew and members. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who has been to see the performance - it is an ideal opportunity to meet the actors you have seen performing, find out more about our theatre and our club or simply relax over a drink.



Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones

PLEASE DON'T SPOIL THE PERFORMANCE

We respectfully request all members of the audience to make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance. Thank you.



ELINOR GLYN

Elinor Glyn (1864-1943), born in Jersey, was an English author and journalist best known for her novel *Three Weeks* (1907) which caused a scandal when published. One risqué scene gave rise to the doggerel:

Would you like to sin; With Elinor Glyn; On a tiger skin?

Or would you prefer; To err with her; On some other fur?

The plot was said to be inspired by her own affair with an English aristocrat following the collapse of her marriage to the wealthy landowner, Clayton Glyn. After the death of her husband, Elinor went to Hollywood where she started to write screenplays and direct films. She became a member of the Hollywood in-crowd and Anita Loos quipped: "*If Hollywood hadn't existed, Elinor Glyn would have had to invent it*".

Glyn coined the term 'it' to represent personal charm and allure. The term subsequently became a 1920s euphemism for sex appeal of which the actress Clara Bow was the 'it' girl.

THOMAS INCE

Thomas Harper Ince (1880–1924) was an American silent film producer, director, screenwriter, and actor. Known as the "Father of the Western" he was responsible for making over 800 films. He was the first mogul to build his own film studio and was also instrumental in developing the role of the producer in motion pictures. He co-founded the Triangle Motion Picture Company whose studios are the present-day site of Sony Pictures and then built a new studio about a mile from Triangle which is now the site of Culver Studios.



Ince had suffered from stomach ulcers for a while so whether they caused his demise, as the official version stated, or whether he was the victim of mistaken identity in a crime of passion remains a tantalising mystery.



MARION DAVIES

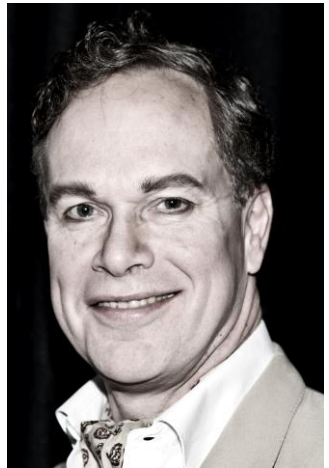
Davies began as a dancer working in a chorus line-up. She graduated to acting in films which brought her into contact with Hearst who fell for Davies, becoming her lover and patron for the next 30 years. He devoted millions of dollars to promoting Davies in "classic roles" in silent films which, despite making her famous, did not

fully exploit her charm and talent for comedy. It was Hollywood's 'worst kept secret' that Davies was living with Hearst in California while his wife Millicent lived in New York. Hearst's wife refused to divorce him so he could marry Davies.

She managed to make the transition to the talkies but, by the mid-1930s, Davies' films were losing their allure despite Hearst's best efforts to persuade studio executives to hire her. She made her last film in 1937 at the age of 40 when she retired to look after Hearst whose health was failing. After Hearst died in 1951, Marion married for the first time at the age of 54 and remained with her husband, Horace Brown, until her death in 1961.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin is considered to be one of the most pivotal stars of the early days of Hollywood. He is most recognized as an icon of the silent film era, often associated with his popular "Little Tramp" character; the man with the toothbrush moustache, bowler hat, bamboo cane, and a funny walk. He travelled west to California in December 1913 and signed on with Keystone Studios' popular comedy director Mack Sennett, who had seen Chaplin perform on stage in New York. While at Keystone, Chaplin appeared in and directed 35 films, starring as the Little Tramp in nearly all.



Chaplin's life and career was full of scandal and controversy. In the 1940s he was accused of communist sympathies, while his involvement in a paternity suit and marriages to much younger women caused scandal. An FBI investigation was opened, and Chaplin was forced to leave the United States and settle in Switzerland. In 1972, as part of a renewed appreciation for his work, Chaplin received an Honorary Academy Award for "the incalculable effect he has had in making motion pictures the art form of this century". He continues to be held in high regard, with several of his pictures ranked on industry lists of the greatest films of all time.



LOUELLA PARSONS

Louella "Lolly" Parsons (1881-1972) started her career in Chicago by writing a column about the interviews she did with movie stars passing through the city. This led to a move to New York where Hearst made her movie editor for the Universal News Service in 1925. Hearst suggested she move to Hollywood to write a column about Hollywood and its stars. She quickly established the law in Tinsel Town: "You tell it to Louella first".

She skilfully collected the low down on what was really going on in the private lives of stars outside the studio and wielded a pen that was often entertaining and sometimes vicious. The intense rivalry between Parsons and her fellow gossip-columnist, Hedda Hopper, became legendary. Her final by-line was written in 1964 although by then the power of Hollywood was already beginning to fade.

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

Hearst started his publishing career by turning around the fortunes of the ailing San Francisco Examiner in 1887. He moved to New York and took over *The New York Journal*. It soon attained an unprecedented circulation both for its style and content as well as its reduced price of one cent. By 1925 Hearst had established or acquired newspapers in every section of the United States, as well as several magazines. He also published books of fiction and produced motion pictures featuring Marion Davies. In the 1920s he built a grandiose



castle on a ranch in San Simeon, California. A combination of vast personal extravagance and the Great Depression so seriously weakened his financial position that by 1940 he had lost personal control of the vast communications empire that he had built.

He lived the last years of his life in virtual seclusion. Hearst's life was the basis for the movie *Citizen Kane* (1941).



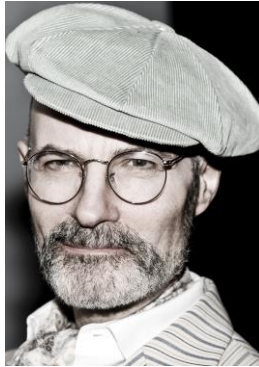
MARGARET LIVINGSTON



MRS GOODMAN



JOSEPH
WILLCOMBE



GEORGE
THOMAS



DR DANIEL
GOODMAN



CELIA MOORE



DIDI DAWSON

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at Hampton Hill Theatre

The Pillowman

By Martin McDonagh

A dark fable where not all fairytales have a happy ending

Sun 30 Apr 2017 – Sat 6 May 2017

Coward Studio

Jerusalem

By Jez Butterworth

Unarguably one of the best dramas of the 21st century. *The Guardian*.

Sun 14 May 2017 – Sat 20 May 2017

Auditorium



For up-to-date information on TTC and the Theatre, and to book tickets online, please check our website: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Postal bookings are accepted on publication of the booking form.

Telephone enquiries open two weeks before each production.

Call: 0845 838 7529 (10am-8pm)

To enjoy good theatre locally, join TTC today. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member.

Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Theatre. To find out more please visit our website

www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk or call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you can find in the Foyer.