

Press Release June 9th 2010



Celebrating the centenary of the performance at Twickenham Town Hall in 1910

Play Reading:
'How the Vote Was Won'
by **Cicely Hamilton & Chris St John**
Directed by **Imogen Bond**

Saturday 19th June 2010, 11am
Orange Tree Theatre, 1 Clarence Street, Richmond TW9 2SA
Tickets: £10 / £8 concs, Box Office: 020 8940 3633
www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk

Post play reading talk by curators Irene Cockroft and Susan Croft.

"In a new campaign, women throughout Britain unite and down tools, turning for support to their nearest male relative, which in this case is Horace Cole, a Brixton clerk. When Horace's house fills up with a frightening parade of female relatives who demand he support them financially, he is rapidly converted to eager pro-suffragist, joining thousands of other men to march on the House of Commons."

Aurora Metro in association with the Orange Tree Theatre presents the sparkling comedy 'How The Vote Was Won', Saturday 19th June, 11am at the Orange Tree Theatre. Written by Cicely Hamilton and Chris St John, the play was originally staged by suffrage groups all over Britain and in the USA.

Cicely Hamilton (1862-1952) was one of the most prolific and successful of the suffrage playwrights. She spoke at rallies and published widely on suffrage topics. Like her novel *Marriage as Trade*, her play *Diana of Dobson's* dealt with the economic options open to women.

Christabel Marshall (1871-1960) assumed the name **Christopher St John** upon her conversion to Catholicism and because she felt herself better suited to a man's name. Chris was a novelist, playwright, translator, critic and the partner of actress Edith Craig (Ellen Terry's daughter), with whom she set up home. With Craig she established The Pioneer Players which produced many of Chris's plays along with feminist and experimental European works.

Director **Imogen Bond** started her professional career at the Orange Tree Theatre, as Trainee Director in 2005/06, following on as Assistant Director in 2007/08, responsible for directing short plays, play readings and education projects which supported the theatre's *Female Playwrights Season*. As part of this season, she directed the main house production *De Monfort* by Joanna Baillie.

Recent directing work for the Orange Tree includes Judy Upton's *The Girlz* and Arthur Miller's *Clara*. Other directing credits include *Words, Words, Words* and *Birdsong*, at the New Wimbledon Studio, and *Cigarettes and Chocolate* for The Convent Productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Aurora Metro Arts and Media Ltd.
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The play reading accompanies the exhibition *How The Vote Was Won: Art, Theatre and Women's Suffrage*, running at the Museum of Richmond until 4th September 2010. The exhibition celebrates the incredible artistic and political work of the suffragettes, how the movement inspired the work of artists, writers and theatre-makers, as well as the involvement of local people in the suffrage movement.

Organised by Aurora Metro and the Museum of Richmond, the exhibition is curated by **Irene Cockroft**, writer, lecturer and specialist in Arts and Crafts of the 19th and 20th centuries, and **Susan Croft**, writer, academic and formerly Contemporary Curator at the Theatre Museum. Their book *Art, Theatre and Women's Suffrage* is available from June 2010.

www.suffragette.org.uk

For further info contact: Stacey Crawshaw, stacey@aurorametro.com



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