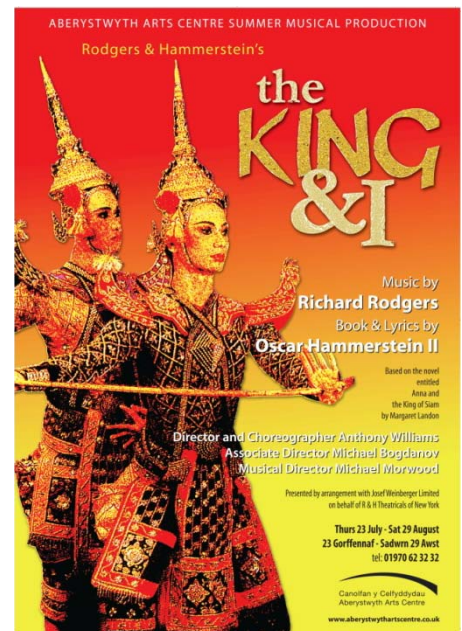


22 JUNE 2009
PRESS RELEASE

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE
SUMMER SEASON MUSICAL
THE KING AND I
23rd July to 29th August 2009

Bhudda Late Than Never!



To celebrate their 25th anniversary Aberystwyth Arts Centre presents their most ambitious summer season production to date: Rodgers & Hammerstein's timeless classic *The King & I*.

Set within the Royal Palace of Siam, building the lavish set is proving to be even more of a challenge than was originally anticipated. Having constructed a giant 5m by 5m gold Buddha in the Drill Hall in Aberystwyth, where the set is being built, Aberystwyth Arts Centre's Technical Team were dismayed to discover the Buddha was too large to fit out of the hall door. The Team now face the challenge of removing part of the Drill Hall wall in order to extract the Buddha.

This is not however the end of difficulties the team face. They must also overcome the problem of transporting the huge gold statue up the hill to the Arts Centre. The statue is too large to be transported using a standard lorry as was originally planned. Thankfully, Travis Perkins, who have a branch in Aberystwyth, have offered to help out. They will be supplying a large crane, to lift the Buddha onto one of their lorries, and then will carefully transport the Buddha from the Drill Hall in town up the hill to Aberystwyth Arts Centre on the university campus.

Nick Bache, Technical Manager at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre, says "We are very grateful to Travis Perkins for helping us move the statue up the hill and there will be a lot of relieved faces all round once the Buddha is safely installed on the stage ready for the show!"

The King and I will run at Aberystwyth Arts Centre from Thursday 23rd July to Saturday 29th August. Evening performances are from Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm with matinees on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2.30pm.

For individual ticket bookings, tickets for evening performances are £19.50 (£18.50) and for children £16; and for Matinees £17.50 (£16.50) and children £16. Family Tickets are available for matinee performances at £55 to cover 2 adults and up to four children. All tickets are £15 for the Opening Night on Thursday 23 July! Bookings can be made by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

Notes to editors:

- A significant discount is available on tickets for groups of 8 or more. Bookings from 16 June and after are £16. It is possible to make group bookings in the Arts Centre's award winning cafe – for either a light meal or for a special Summer Strawberry Cream Tea.
- Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk
- Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.