

March 2010
PRESS RELEASE

Canolfan y Celfyddydau
Aberystwyth Arts Centre



Clwyd Theatr Cymru presents

Harper Lee's
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Friday 26 – Saturday 27 March 7.30pm

by Christopher Sergel

Director: Tim Baker

Designer: Mark Bailey

Composer & Musical Director: Dyfan Jones

Lighting Designer: Nick Beadle

To Kill A Mockingbird is the powerful story of a fight for racial justice in a community ruled by prejudice and discrimination. Tim Baker's award-winning production tours Aberystwyth Arts Centre from Friday 26th to Saturday 27th March, 7.30pm.

Harper Lee's **To Kill A Mockingbird** is one of the most successful modern books, with over 30 million copies sold since its publication in 1960. Her only published work, it won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961 and became a successful film the following year starring Gregory Peck as the courageous

lawyer Atticus Finch. Never out of print since then, the novel remains a perennial best-seller and a feature on school curriculums throughout the world.

To Kill A Mockingbird is set in the deep south, in Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression years of the 1930s. Momentous events unfold through the eyes of eight year old Scout Finch, growing up in a close-knit neighbourhood with her older brother Jem.

When their father Atticus, a well respected lawyer, mounts a vigorous case for the defense of Tom Robinson, a poor black man accused of the rape of a young white girl, an idyllic world of childhood is changed forever.

Through the drama of the trial and its aftermath comes a searching examination of freedom, justice, honesty and hypocrisy.

A compelling, moving story, told with warmth and humour, **To Kill A Mockingbird** is theatre that will leave a deep and lasting impression on audiences of all ages.

Atticus Finch is played by Gwyn Vaughan Jones, last seen at Clwyd as Robert Melville in Terry Hands's production of *Mary Stuart*. Gwyn, originally from Blaenau Ffestiniog, is an associate of Clwyd Theatr Cymru where he has been a member of the company since 1997. On TV he has appeared in *Torchwood* and is currently in the S4C drama series *Rownd a Rownd*. Gwyn's film credits include the Oscar-nominated *Hedd Wyn* and *Solomon and Gaenor*.

Amy Morgan takes the part of Scout. Amy played Jonesy in both the UK tour of *Deep Cut* and in the Radio 4 dramatisation, transmitted January this year.

Simon Armstrong plays the drunken bigot Bob Ewell. Simon was seen as *Julius Caesar* and Enobarbus in *Antony and Cleopatra* for the Tobacco Factory in Bristol and has recently starred as Vanya in *Uncle Vanya* for Bristol Old Vic.

Rhian Blythe plays his daughter Mayella. She took Best Actress award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2008 for the portrayal of Jonesy in the award-winning Sherman Cymru première of *Deep Cut*, which subsequently played at the Tricycle in London.

Oliver Wilson is Tom Robinson. Oliver graduated in 2008 and his recent work includes *All's Well That Ends Well* at the National Theatre.

Denise Orita, playing Calpurnia, is both an actress and musician, with her Jazz quartet performing sold-out concerts in Germany.

To Kill A Mockingbird features songs including blues, gospel and worksongs from the period performed live on guitar, acoustic bass and banjo. Original music is composed by Dyfan Jones.

Sets and costumes for **To Kill A Mockingbird** are designed by Mark Bailey.

Tickets for this performance are £12 (£11) Cardi Card £11.50 (£10.50) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

-ENDS-

Company: Simon Armstrong – *Bob Ewell*, Rhian Blythe – *Mayella Ewell*, Richard Elfyn – *Heck Tate*, Eva Fontaine – *Helen Robinson*, Gwyn Vaughan Jones – *Atticus Finch*, Joshua McCord – *Jem*, Amy Morgan – *Scout Finch*, Denise Orita – *Calpurnia*, Alex Parry – *Mr Gilmer*, Reginald Tsiboe – *Reverend Sykes*, Oliver Wilson – *Tom Robinson*.

Director – Tim Baker, Designer – Mark Bailey, Composer and Musical Director – Dyfan Jones, Lighting – Nick Beadle, Sound – Kevin Heyes, Dialect Coach – Sally Hague.

Notes to editors:

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk

Marketing Assistant *Cynorthwy-ydd Marchnata*

Aberystwyth Arts Centre *Canolfan y Celfyddydau Aberystwyth*

Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.