



(Photographs credit Nicholas Ripley)

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Written by Oscar Wilde, Directed by Peter Mimmack

Renowned for wonderful adaptations and imaginative open-air performances, Warwickshire based professional theatre company, Heartbreak Productions have been touring open air shows for nearly twenty years and have an exciting, if punishing, schedule planned for 2010.

This summer (June, July, August) Heartbreak make their incomparable contribution to the open-air theatre season with the ever popular Oscar Wilde classic:

- **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** – An Oscar Wilde favourite, full of intrigue, romance and razor sharp wit. A story of political corruption and blackmail. A tale for our times some might say! Sir Robert Chiltern, is a man up to his neck in a political scandal that could ruin his life. His wife, Lady Chiltern, has a strong moral code. If exposed, could she forgive her husband the sins of his youth? An ideal conundrum for a summer's evening. Heartbreak encourage you to gather friends and family pack a mouthwatering picnic and head out to see Heartbreak Productions performing in a picturesque settings close to you - tour details available on www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk - **Open air theatre at its best.**

Notes on the Direction:

"The relationship difficulties depicted in the play, Oscar Wilde's double life and the backdrop of political corruption, both fascinate and excite. The timing of our recent election intrigues coupled with the MP's expenses scandal is perfect for relevant parallels easily highlighting the major themes of the play.

Relationships have always fascinated me and Sir Robert Chiltern caught between his angelic wife and the more demonic or lamia-like Mrs Cheveley was always going to be an interesting dilemma to explore. In some ways Oscar Wilde's life echoes this dilemma although his experiences were not so strong in a political sense. However his wife Constance often played second fiddle to various temptations in the form of younger men.

Heartbreak's work is based on layered storytelling and I immediately felt that here we had the perfect opportunity to play with the upstairs downstairs aspect of Victorian society. The in-service characters associated with a country house became the perfect vehicle to tell the story of **An Ideal Husband** and in doing so highlight the hypocrisy of the High society figures in that era. Furthermore I wanted the story to be told from Oscar Wilde's perspective: an aesthetic view, almost as if he desired a friend's set of servants to put on his play at a private party. He could then portray the action the way he wanted, without fear of censorship putting across his subliminal message that idealistic marriages can be destroyed by secrets and saved by real love.

We know that we will be touring to some fabulous country house sites and gardens and thought a Victorian style garden party would be the ideal way to start the action. We want the audience to embrace this spirit and join the party, don the mask of a high society type and enjoy being looked after and entertained by a team of servants. Oscar Wilde himself if you are lucky might even make an appearance. Never one to miss a party unless otherwise detained!" (Peter Mimmack)

Notes on Peter Mimmack: Peter developed an interest in acting at Newcastle University while studying surveying. He trained at the Arts Educational School London and through forming Heartbreak Productions has since gained extensive experience in theatre. Early years were spent either developing the company or on tour but in the last decade Peter has focused on directing. Directing credits include most of the popular Shakespeare plays including *As You Like It* circa 1960's style and most recently his own adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma*. It is Peter's delight in making a connection with the audience and experimenting with layered storytelling that has led to Heartbreak's unique style.

Tour Schedule:

| Date | VenueName | Box Office | Time |
|-------------|---|---------------|------------|
| June | | | |
| Tue 08 | Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa | 01926 334418 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Wed 09 | Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa | 01926 334418 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 11 | Dalhousie Castle, Edinburgh | 01875 820153 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 12 | Hill of Tarvit Mansion House and Gardens (NTS), Cupar | 0844 4932185 | 7:15:00 PM |
| Sun 13 | Brodie Castle (NTS), Moray | 01309 641371 | 7:00:00 PM |
| Thu 17 | Lifford Hall, Broadway | 01242 691190 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 18 | Witley Court (EH), Worcester | 01299 896636 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 19 | Witley Court (EH), Worcester | 01299 896636 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Thu 24 | The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield | 0114 249 6000 | 6:30:00 PM |
| Fri 25 | The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield | 0114 249 6000 | 6:30:00 PM |
| Sat 26 | The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield | 0114 249 6000 | 6:30:00 PM |
| Sun 27 | The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield | 0114 249 6000 | 6:30:00 PM |
| Wed 30 | Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre | 01455 290429 | 7:30:00 PM |
| July | | | |
| Thu 01 | Nottingham Castle, Nottinghamshire | 0115 9895555 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 02 | Woolley Hall, Wakefield | 01226 392300 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sun 04 | Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford Upon Avon | 01789 751821 | 5:00:00 PM |
| Thu 08 | Chepstow Castle, Monmouthshire | 01291 625981 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 09 | Thornbury Castle and Tudor Gardens, Nr Bristol | 01454 281182 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 10 | Dunham Massey Hall (NT), Altringham | 0161 9411025 | 7:00:00 PM |
| Wed 14 | The Secret Garden, Ross-on-Wye | 01989 563883 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Thu 15 | Mottisfont Abbey Garden (NT), Nr. Romsey | 0844 2491895 | 7:00:00 PM |
| Fri 16 | Greys Court (NT), Henley-on-Thames | 0844 249 1895 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 17 | Cliveden (NT), Nr. Maidenhead | 0844 2491895 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sun 18 | Nymans (NT), Nr Haywards Heath | 0844 249 1895 | 7:00:00 PM |
| Wed 21 | Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens, Manchester | 0843 208 0500 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Thu 22 | Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens, Manchester | 0843 208 0500 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 23 | Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens, Manchester | 0843 208 0500 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 24 | Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens, Manchester | 0843 208 0500 | 2:30:00 PM |
| Sat 24 | Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens, Manchester | 0843 208 0500 | 7:30:00 PM |

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| Wed 28 | Helmsley Castle (EH), North Yorkshire | 01439 770442 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Thu 29 | Belsay Hall & Gardens (EH), Nr. Ponteland | 01661 881636 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 30 | Warkworth Castle (EH), Warkworth | 01665 711423 | 7:30:00 PM |
| August | | | |
| Thu 05 | St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0191 230 5151 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 06 | St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0191 230 5151 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 07 | St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0191 230 5151 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sun 08 | St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0191 230 5151 | 3:00:00 PM |
| Sun 08 | St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 0191 230 5151 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Wed 11 | Osmaston Park, Nr Ashbourne | 01335 360324 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Sat 14 | Standen (NT), East Grinstead | 01342 323029 | 6:00:00 PM |
| Sun 15 | MK Event Centre, Nr. Milton Keynes | 01908 511329 | 5:00:00 PM |
| Wed 18 | Shrewsbury High School Grounds | 01743 281281 | 7:30:00 PM |
| Fri 27 | Wimpole Hall (NT), Royston | 01223 206000 | 7:30:00 PM |

Heartbreak have two other shows on tour: THE SECRET and LOVE IN SHAKESPEARE.

For full information, please visit www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk

or call 01926 430307 and ask for a tour brochure.

For photographs and press enquiries visit www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/press

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