

# **THE CRIME OF THE OLD VILLAGE** by **Bernardo Santareno**

**Translated & Produced by Alice de Sousa**

**Directed by Bruce Jamieson**

**Presented by Galleon Theatre Company at the Greenwich Playhouse**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

**Tues-Sat @ 7.45pm - Sun @ 4pm**

**PRESS NIGHT: Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.45pm**

**TICKETS: £11, £8 (concs.)**

**BOX OFFICE: 020 8858 9256; [boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk)**

**VENUE: GREENWICH PLAYHOUSE,**

**Station Forecourt, 189 Greenwich High Road, LONDON SE10 8JA**

Galleon Theatre Company with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Arts Council England, continue its internationally acclaimed work in introducing unfairly neglected European writers to London's theatre.

***"The Greenwich Playhouse is an enjoyably ambitious venue that is a solid producer of classics" – Evening Standard***

**Galleon Theatre Company**, the resident producing company at the **Greenwich Playhouse**, will next stage the world première of Alice de Sousa's translation of **Bernardo Santareno's** play ***The Crime of the Old Village***. This powerful play, based on a true story which took place in 1934 in the rural North of Portugal, dramatises the shocking events which led to the sacrificial burning of a woman accused of witchcraft. Published in 1959, ***The Crime of the Old Village*** posed a challenge to the oppressive Portuguese Fascist Regime and to the Catholic Church which legitimised it. In today's spiritually warring world, it retains its religious pertinence and political verve because of its exploration of fanaticism and faith driven crimes. ***"Alice de Sousa is surely London's leading exponent of Portuguese culture". - Time Out***

**Bernardo Santareno**, pseudonym of António Martinho do Rosário, was born in 1920 and was Portugal's foremost twentieth century playwright. In 1974 when the Portuguese revolution sounded the death knell on Europe's longest surviving Fascist regime, **Santareno** was amongst a group of intellectuals who used literature and theatre as a vehicle for social change and for the educating and enfranchisement of the masses. Influenced by Brecht, Pirandello and Lorca amongst others, **Santareno** was amongst a group of vanguard playwrights that were responsible for regenerating contemporary Portuguese theatre, which had been decimated by fifty years of Fascist repression. On a personal level **Santareno** had experienced brutal homophobic persecution by the State and the Church. Consequently, his characters often face insurmountable spiritual and social obstacles in their quest for love, and the possibility of it is frequently denied them by the finality of death.

***"This studio-sized venue has been put on the cultural map with productions of epic quality." – South London Press***

***The Crime of the Old Village*** provides a shocking indictment on fanaticism and by blurring the boundaries between Christianity and witchcraft **Santareno** raises timeless and universal questions about the role of religion, its interpretation, application and impact on mankind. Rich in characterisation and dramatic content **Galleon's** production is abundant with religious iconography and bursting with sexual tension.

***"Something must be said for the Greenwich Playhouse, it is remarkably refreshing to come across a theatre of such a high standard – one that exudes class." –***

[indielondon.co.uk](http://indielondon.co.uk)

*The Crime of the Old Village* is directed by **BRUCE JAMIESON** who has directed over twenty previous **Galleon** productions and acted some sixty stage plays. His television and film work includes: *Roughnecks* (BBC); *In Suspicious Circumstances* (Granada); *Crime Solver* (BBC); *Ali G-Inda House* (Universal); *Monarch of the Glen* (Ecosse); *Spongebob* (BBC); and *Murphy's Law* (Tiger Aspect); and it is translated and produced by **ALICE DE SOUSA** who has produced over sixty stage plays; played leading roles in some thirty theatre productions; written numerous critically acclaimed theatre scripts; and was recently awarded by the American Biographical Institute, the distinction of 'Great Women of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' and nominated for the 'Woman of the Year Award 2005'.

➤ **Galleon Theatre Company productions in 2005:**

**'THE SEAGULL' by Anton Chekhov**

"Galleon has found the perfect intimate space in which to pull us right into Chekhov's milieu. We can laugh the laughs of genuine Chekhovian discomfort, and squirm along with our characters caught in a net." - [The Independent](#)

"An impressive production that gives every actor, and indeed, every character, the space they deserve." - [Time Out](#)

"Galleon Theatre Company gives an excellent account of this much loved classic, capturing the sadness of unrequited love and failed aspiration, but finding the humour in it too."

- [What's on in London](#)

"Stylish, engaging and subtle in a way that delights as it entertains, Galleon shoots and scores, yet again, with *The Seagull*." - [South London Press](#)

**'A DOLL'S HOUSE' by Henrik Ibsen**

"In many ways this is an insightful production. Bruce Jamieson's revival of the Ibsen play, despite its 19<sup>th</sup> Century setting, always seems startlingly modern." – [The Guardian](#)

"Something must be said for the Greenwich Playhouse, it is remarkably refreshing to come across a theatre of such a high standard – one that exudes class. Galleon's production is simply one of those not to be missed!" – [indielondon.co.uk](#)

"This excellent production benefits from expert steerage from director Bruce Jamieson and producer Alice de Sousa. Highly recommended." – [Theatre World](#)

"If this were a Hollywood movie, we'd be cheering – and not just because the oppressed stands up to the oppressor." – [Time Out](#)

**'THE HEIRESS OF THE CANE FIELDS' adapted by Alice de Sousa from the novel by Julio Dinis**

"Alice de Sousa has clearly done her work well. Some 15 characters are established with speed and clarity." – [Evening Standard](#)

"Alice de Sousa's hugely enjoyable adaptation of this tragicomic novel builds on her well-established reputation for communicating the greatness of Portuguese literature that deserves to be more widely known". [The Stage](#)

"The Greenwich Playhouse never fails to present quality productions and I would argue that *The Heiress of the Cane Fields* is indeed one of their best yet!" - [indielondon.co.uk](#)

➤ **For further information contact the Greenwich Playhouse Press Office on: 020 8858 9256 or the producer on 07957 548010 or [alice@galleontheatre.co.uk](mailto:alice@galleontheatre.co.uk)**  
**For further details on the company, please consult our website**  
**[www.galleontheatre.co.uk](http://www.galleontheatre.co.uk)**