

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**THE SEAGULL**  
by  
**CHEKHOV**  
Translated by **Elizaveta Fen**

**PERFORMANCE DATES:**  
9<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2005

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

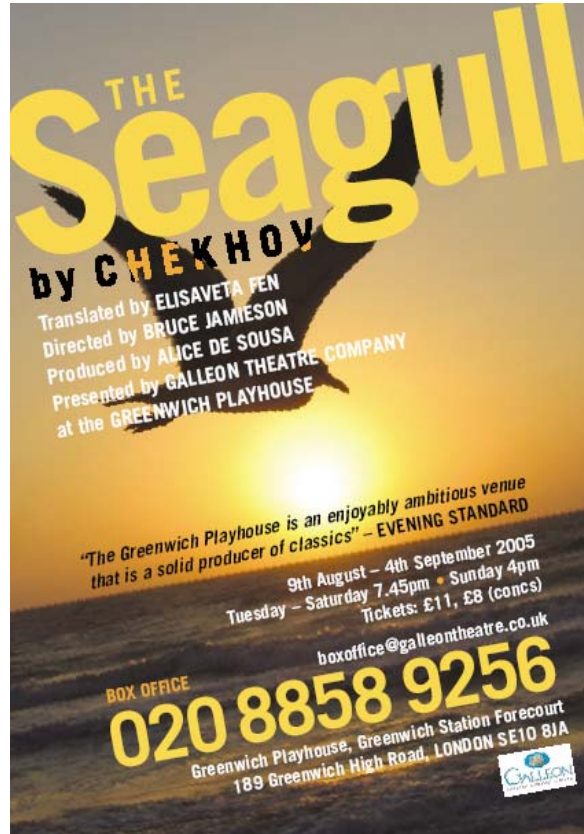
**PRESS NIGHT:**  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> August @ 7.45pm

**TICKETS:**  
£11, £8 (concs.)

**BOX OFFICE:**  
020 8858 9256;

**boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk**

**VENUE:**  
**GREENWICH PLAYHOUSE,**  
Station Forecourt, 189 Greenwich High  
Road, LONDON SE10 8JA



Galleon Theatre Company, the resident producing company at the Greenwich Playhouse, returns to the work of Anton Chekhov following previous critically acclaimed productions of *The Cherry Orchard* and *3 Sisters*.

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

In the last three hundred years, few playwrights have had a more remarkable impact on theatre than Anton Chekhov. He was born in 1860 in Russia and went on to be regarded one of the country’s most celebrated of writers. Whilst studying medicine at Moscow University he wrote farces, short stories, comic sketches, one-act plays and made regular contributions as a journalist. It was however his full-length plays which were to firmly secure his place alongside the world’s most renowned dramatists of all time.

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

Like most great dramatists, Chekhov was interested in exploring the human condition rather than presenting the specific problems of his time and society. His dramas reflect a mood of spiritual discouragement and his characters often speak as if they have lost their way; lost faith in the future and their own selves. Chekhov reveals an acute understanding of humanity and his plays are enriched with tolerance and a saving sense of humour. These are dramas of heightened emotional content and are driven by feelings of love, hate, rage, jealousy, frustration and passion. His characters constantly obsess over wasted opportunities and unfulfilled aspirations and they especially worry about work and love.

**The Seagull** was originally unsuccessfully staged in 1896 at St. Petersburg and after this disastrous opening a distraught Chekhov vowed to never again write for the stage. However, the formation of the Moscow Art Theatre was to irrevocably change his fate, and in 1898 under the supervision of Stanislavsky, **The Seagull** was restaged and went on to become Chekhov's first great theatrical success.

*"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)*

Elisaveta Fen's elegant and poetic translation with its faithful sense of period, time and place is staged by the internationally acclaimed **Galleon Theatre Company**. The production 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). **The Seagull** is 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'. These awards recognise the impact on society of the work of 1000 prolific women throughout the world.

*'For a feel-good experience where you walk home with a skip and a glow inside, just pop down to the Greenwich Playhouse' - Leisuretime*

'**The Seagull**' cast brings together hugely experienced actors with recent drama graduates and includes: **MATTHEW BRENHER** who plays Trigorin and has appeared in many theatre productions and played lead roles in popular soap operas such as *Eastenders* and *Brookside*; **JAN BRIDGMAN** is a recent graduate is making her professional theatre debut in the role of Arkadina; **EMMA CHOY** plays Nina; **AL FIORENTINI** plays Sorin, his numerous television credits include *Man and Boy*, *Clubland*, *If Tomorrow Comes*, *Agatha Christie's Poirot*, *Boon*, *The People's Princess- A tribute*; film work includes *Mojo* and *Loser takes All*; **TOM GOLDING** plays Konstantin and is a recent theatre school graduate; **MIKE HUCKS** plays Dorn, his vast theatre experience encompasses some eighty productions and his television work includes *Only Fools and Horses* and *Eastenders*; **ALEXIS LEIGHTON** plays Polena and was recently seen in *Taggart* and in film *A Small Success*; **EMMA LUCAS** plays Masha and is a recent drama school graduate; **PHILIP MANSFIELD** plays Medviedenko and will star in the soon to be released Woody Allen feature film *Match Point*; **PHIL MOYSE** plays Shamrayev, is also a writer and his novel *If Greedy* won the TSB Peninsula Prize.

➤ **Recent Theatre Projects staged by Galleon Theatre Company:**

**'3 SISTERS' by Anton Chekhov**

"True to previous form, Greenwich Playhouse's Galleon Theatre Company, directed by Bruce Jamieson, lovingly recreates a period atmosphere" – [The Stage](#)

"Bruce Jamieson gives us a spirited production of Chekhov's study of upper-class inertia" - [Time Out](#)

"This production brings out the truth-laden nature of Chekhov's work and makes the audience want to rush out and buy the play script." – [What's On In London](#)

"Chekhov's great play is superbly staged by Galleon Theatre Company."- [Leisuretime](#)

**'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; 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)**