



Press Release: 14 November 2013

FORTUNE'S FOOL

By **IVAN TURGENEV**

In a version by **MIKE POULTON**

Directed by Lucy Bailey

Previews from 6 December 2013

Press night: 16 December 2013

Mike Poulton's adaptation of Turgenev's savagely funny play, *Fortune's Fool*, will open at The Old Vic on **Monday 16 December** with previews from Friday 6 December. Directed by Lucy Bailey, the new production will star Iain Glen and Richard McCabe.

Turgenev's charged satire of nineteenth-century Russian society is an explosive family drama played out over the course of twenty-four hours.

A pair of newlyweds arrive at their country estate to be welcomed by Kuzovkin (Iain Glen), the penniless gentleman-in-residence. Their wealthy and mischievous neighbour Tropatchov (Richard McCabe) calls by for a seemingly innocent celebratory lunch. Fuelled by champagne the proceedings degenerate, leading to a shocking revelation with far-reaching consequences.

Fortune's Fool was last produced on Broadway in 2002 with Alan Bates and Frank Langella, both winning Tony Awards. This Old Vic production of *Fortune's Fool* marks its West End debut.

Iain Glen plays Kuzovkin. Iain's theatre work includes *Uncle Vanya* (The Print Room), *The Crucible* (RSC/West End), *Hedda Gabler* (Almeida/West End), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (National), *The Blue Room* (Donmar/Broadway), *Martin Guerre* (West End), *Henry V* (RSC), *Macbeth* (Tron Theatre), *Hamlet* (Bristol Old Vic), *Road* (Royal Court). His film credits include *The Iron Lady*, *Small Engine Repair*, *Song for a Raggy Boy*, *Tomb Raider*, *Mountains of The Moon*, *Fools of Fortune* and *Silent Screem*. Iain's television credits include *Game of Thrones*, *Downton Abbey*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Jack Taylor*, *Into the Storm*, *Kidnapped*, *Glasgow Kiss*, *Wives and Daughters* and *Frankie's House*.

Richard McCabe plays Tropatchov. Richard's theatre work includes *The Audience* (Gielgud), for which he won an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role; *A Little Hotel on the Side* (Theatre Royal Bath), *A Tender Thing* (RSC), *Yes Prime Minister* (UK Tour/West End), *Critic* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Bingo* (Chichester Festival Theatre/Young Vic), *Twelfth Night* (RSC/Duke of York's), *King John* (RSC), *Othello* (RSC/Barbican), *Doctor Faustus* (Young Vic), *Beau Brummell* (Theatre Royal Bath/Haymarket) and various other productions at the RSC and National Theatre. On television, Richard has appeared in *Best of Men*, *The Minor Character* (Sky Arts), *Wallander* (BBC), *Spooks* (BBC) and *Lewis* (ITV). His film credits include *Invisible Women*, *The Duchess*, *The Constant Gardener* and *Notting Hill*.

Lucy Briggs-Owen plays Olga. Lucy's recent theatre work includes *Midsummer Night's Dreaming*, *Boris Godunov* and *The Orphan of Zhao* (all for the RSC) as well as the acclaimed Old Vic transfer of *Noises Off*, directed by Lindsay Posner (West End). Other theatre credits include *The Way of the World*

(Sheffield Crucible), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cardenio*, *The City Madam* (RSC), *Mrs Warren's Profession* (UK Tour/West End), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Regent's Park), *Private Lives*, directed by Lucy Bailey (Hampstead Theatre) and *Troilus and Cressida* (Barbican and International Tour). Lucy has also appeared on television in *Midsomer Murders*.

Alexander Vlahos plays Yeletsky. Alexander recently appeared as Mordred in *Merlin* (Shine/ BBC). His theatre credits include *Macbeth* (Manchester International Festival), *Britannicus* (Wilton's Music Hall), *The Ashes* (Latitude Festival), *Present Tense* (Nabokov Theatre), *Emperor and Galilean* (National) and *Hamlet* (Sheffield Crucible).

Lucy Bailey studied English at Oxford University where she directed the world premiere of *Lessness* by Samuel Beckett in consultation with the author. Recent theatre credits include *King Lear* with David Haig (Theatre Royal Bath), *The Winter's Tale*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Julius Caesar* (RSC/Roundhouse/New York), *Beggar's Opera* (Regent's Park), *Macbeth*, *Timon of Athens*, *Titus Andronicus*, *As You Like It*, *The Maid's Tragedy* (Globe), *Private Lives*, *Glass Eels*, *Comfort Me with Apples* (Hampstead), Tennessee Williams' *Baby Doll*, *The Night Season* (National/West End), *The Lady from the Sea* (Birmingham Rep), *Don't Look Now* (Crucible, Sheffield/Lyric Hammersmith), *Tonight at 8.30*, *Stairs to the Roof* (Chichester Festival), *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, starring Val Kilmer (West End) *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Manchester Royal Exchange). Opera credits include *Gudrun Fier Sang* (Copenhagen dry dock), *Jenufa* (English National Opera), *Cheryoumushki 1958* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Noyes Fludde*, *Triptych*, *Mary of Egypt* (Aldeburgh Festival), *Mitridate*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Wexford Opera Festival), and an adaptation of Pasolini's *Teorema* (Maggio Musicale Florence/Munich Biennale/Queen Elizabeth Hall). Lucy was co-artistic director of the gogmagogs (1995 – 2006) a music theatre company comprising seven string players. She has devised and directed seven shows with the company for the Royal Court, Royal Festival Hall, Lyric Hammersmith, Greenwich Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre, and has toured through the UK and Internationally. Lucy was co-founder and co-artistic director of The Print Room (2007 – 2012), a new venue in Notting Hill Gate. She directed four shows; *Fabrication*, *Snake in the Grass*, *Kingdom of Earth*, and *Uncle Vanya* with Iain Glen in the title role.

Mike Poulton's current and recent productions include *Wolf Hall: Bring Up The Bodies* (RSC); *Anjin*, *The English Samurai* (RSC with Horipro at Sadler's Wells - previously in Tokyo and Osaka); *Uncle Vanya*; *Judgement Day* (Print Room); *Luise Miller* (Donmar); *Bacchae* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Dance of Death* (Red Bull Theatre, New York). Other productions include *Morte d'Arthur*, *Canterbury Tales Parts One and Two*, *Saint Erkenwald* (RSC); The York Millennium Mystery Plays (York Minster); *Mary Stuart*, *The Cherry Orchard* (Clwyd Theatr Cymru); *King Lear (as dramaturg 2013)*, *Il Sindaco*, *Wallenstein*, *The Father*, *Cherry Orchard*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Fortune's Fool* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Don Carlos* (Sheffield Crucible and West End); *Don Carlos* (Aarhus Teater, Denmark); *Don Carlos* (Göteborgs Stadsteater, Sweden); *Lady from the Sea*, *Three Sisters* (Birmingham Rep); *Ion*, *Seagull*, *Three Sisters*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Dance of Death* (Mercury Theatre); *Ghosts* (Theatre Royal Plymouth and Kings Head); *Uncle Vanya* (Broadway); *Fortune's Fool* (Broadway); *Liars* (Old Fire Station, Oxford).

The full cast includes Lucy Briggs-Owen, Daniel Cerqueira, Patrick Cremin, Dyfan Dwyfor, Janet Fullerlove, Iain Glen, Paul Ham, Richard Henders, Simon Markey, John McAndrew, Richard McCabe, Bryonie Pritchard, Emily Tucker and Alexander Vlahos.

Director	Lucy Bailey
Designer	William Dudley
Lighting	Bruno Poet
Music	John Eacott
Sound	Mic Pool
Movement	Leah Hausman
Casting	Sarah Bird

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BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

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FORTUNE'S FOOL

By Ivan Turgenev
In a version by Mike Poulton

Fri 6 December 2013 – Sat 22 February 2014

Previews: 6-14 December; Press Performance: Mon 16 December at 7pm
Mon–Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm

[Please note there are no matinee performances on Sat 7 December or Wed 11 December; no evening performance on Tue 31 December and no performances on Tue 24 December, Wed 25 December or Wed 1 January. There will be additional matinee performances at 2.30pm on Fri 27 December and Tue 31 December.]

Captioned Performances: Thu 16 January 7.30pm and Sat 8 February 2.30pm
Audio Described Performance: Thu 23 January 7.30pm

TICKETS: £11, £16, £21, £28, £42, £52

For more information regarding Premium Seats please call the box office.

CONCESSIONS

PwC tickets for Under 25s: 100 £12 tickets for all performances. Bookable in advance for the under 25s but tickets must be collected in person from the Box Office with proof of age.

Senior Citizens: Best available seats for £26 for all matinee performances only.

Groups 10+: £10 off top 3 prices for Mon - Wed eves & Tue, Wed & Fri matinees.

School Groups 10+: £12 for Mon - Wed eves & Tue, Wed & Fri matinees.

Disabled Patrons: Top 3 prices reduced to £21 for all performances

Previews Pricing: 6-18 Dec £5 off top 3 prices (Old Vic Friends £7.50 off)

All concessions are limited and subject to availability. All 2013/14 ticket prices (apart from the PwC tickets for Under 25s, local residents & schools tickets) include a £1 restoration levy.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Bank of America Merrill Lynch and the Arts

Developing substantive solutions for social and environmental challenges is at the core of Bank of America Merrill Lynch's mission, and the arts and culture platform is a key component of the company's integrated corporate responsibility strategy.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch helps a broad spectrum of arts programmes thrive, encompassing sponsorships, community grants and loans to museums from the company's own art collection. The Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project provides grants for the restoration of paintings, sculptures, archaeological or architectural pieces that are significant to the cultural heritage of a country or region or important to the history of art in order to preserve them for future generations. 2013 Art Conservation Project selections were announced in June this year - and supported 24 recipients globally.

Recent and upcoming sponsorships include, Americans in Florence: Sargent and the American Impressionists at the Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (March – July 2012), Jeff Koons: The Painter & The Sculptor at Schirn Kunsthalle and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, Frankfurt (June – September 2012), Roy Lichtenstein at Tate Modern, London (February – May 2013) and at the Centre Pompidou in Paris from July – November 2013. We are also the major sponsor of Song for Sekoto 1913 – 2013 on show at the Wits Arts Museum in Johannesburg (26 April – 2 June 2013). The company is Season Sponsor of The Old Vic theatre in London, as well as Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which travelled to Russia and Italy in 2012.

Through the company's Art in Our Communities programme, the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Collection has been converted into a unique community resource. The collection has grown in size and scope in recent decades with artworks from numerous legacy institutions, and offers museums and non-profit galleries the opportunity to borrow complete or customised exhibitions at no cost. This helps to secure vital revenue for those institutions that may lack sufficient resources to fully curate and manage exhibitions on their own, and also guarantees that the collection is shared with as wide an audience as possible. Since its launch in late 2008, more than 50 exhibitions have been loaned to museums around the world. Shows in 2012 included Conversations at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin, Shared Space, part of PhotoEspaña 2012, at the Real Jardín Botánico in Madrid (June – July 2012), Andy Warhol: The Portfolios at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (June – September 2012) which is currently showing at the Museo del Novecento in Milan (April – September 2013), and Gaze: The Changing Face of Portrait Photography, at Istanbul Modern Museum (October 2012 – January 2013). Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community.

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The Old Vic Season Sponsor



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The Old Vic gratefully acknowledges an award of £5 million in 2012 from the Catalyst Arts Endowment Fund, conditional on our raising £15 million match funding by 2015.

