

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yeovil College Presents:

‘NIGHTS AT THE CIRCUS’

Main Hall, Yeovil College

14-15th May 2009 at 7.30

Tickets: £5 (Concessions £4)

Box Office: 01935 845312

Yeovil College is proud to present ‘**Nights at the Circus**’, a new adaptation of the play based on the book by Angela Carter with new music composed by the students.

It is 1899 and a young journalist, Jack Walsner (**Ashley Ruston**), is on the trail of Fevvers, the legendary ‘Winged Woman of London’. Determined to expose her as a fake, Jack pursues her to the City, where she is working as a circus trapeze artist at Colonel Kearney (**Will Poulton**)’s circus. Jack meets Fevvers (**Natasha Wensley**) and as he learns her tragic story, he falls in love. A host of dynamic and poignant characters are introduced as Fevvers tells her tale, ranging from circus performers to brothel madams. The play looks at issues including women’s rights and exploitation while capturing the excitement of the turn-of-a-century and spirit of change it ignites.



**Natasha Wensley
as Fevvers**

‘**Nights at the Circus**’ is based on Angela Carter’s book and adapted from a production of the same name created by Tom Morris and Emma Rice for the Kneehigh Theatre Company (2006). The Yeovil College students have added self-composed music to the show, as well as elements of physical theatre and dance numbers. They also form the backstage crew, responsible for everything from lighting and direction to marketing. ‘Nights at the Circus’ takes advantage of the skill and talent of students from across the spectrum of Performing Arts.

Natasha Wensley (18) of Ilminster plays Fevvers. She said *“It’s nerve wracking having so much attention brought on me, but I’m really enjoying it. As this was the last production this term, I decided to go for the leading role and I was totally overwhelmed when the class chose me to do it. There are so many different elements to Fevvers and I’m discovering new aspects to her all the time.”*



**Ashley Ruston as
Jack Walsner**

Ashley Ruston (18) of Henstridge is playing Jack Walsner. He said *“This is my first proper leading role and it feels a bit weird at the moment. I’m nervous but enjoying it and very confident the show will be great. It’s a busy show, with a nice plot which is fast-paced and exciting. There are lots of interesting characters and the audience find out all about them.”*

The third main character is Lizzie, who discovers Fevvers in a brothel and adopts her. She is played by Kim Parker (18) of Yeovil, who said *"I'm really enjoying this role and very excited about the show. I really relate to my character and the way she puts on a front. She's a very strong person who is really hard faced towards men, but very protective and motherly towards Fevvers. I*



Kim Parker as Lizzie

wanted to get to grips with both sides of her character."

This production is the final major project by Yeovil College's graduating BTEC National Diploma Performing Arts



students. Programme Area Co-ordinator Phil Grant is directing the production. He said *"This is the climax to a year of exciting and diverse shows from the acting, music and dance students of Yeovil College. They have worked to persistently high standards throughout the year, attracting bigger and bigger audiences and regularly putting on sell-out productions. We expect 'Nights at the Circus' to be the best show to date and for the students' hard work to be clear from curtain up."*

'Nights at the Circus' is presented in Yeovil College's Main Hall on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th May 2009. It starts at 7.30 and tickets are £5 each (£4 for concessions). Please call Yeovil College on 01935 845312 for more information.

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Notes to Editors

All press enquiries to Eileen Furze, Marketing Officer t: (01935) 845428 e: eileen.furze@yeovil.ac.uk
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Cast List

Role	Actor
Jack Walser	Ashley Ruston
Fevvers	Tash Wensley
Lizzie	Kim Parker
The Creature of the Circus	Becky Richardson/Katrina Wake/Kelly Gribbin
Ma Nelson	Fiona Wasiewicz
Colonel Kearney	Will Poulton
Mr Sugar	Mike Potton
Samson the Strong Man	Gary Brooks
The Princess	Fiona Wasiewicz
Buffo the Clown	Joseph Portman
Vesta	Milli Edmed
Mignon	Georgina Chinn