

# Press Release

## Danielle Tarento presents Alan Ayckbourn's **Drowning on Dry Land**



- **FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR ALAN AYCKBOURN'S SEARING COMEDY  
*DROWNING ON DRY LAND***

Making its London premiere, Ayckbourn's sharp and timely comedy about the cult of celebrity will be performed for four weeks at the Jermyn Street Theatre, with previews from February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011. First performed at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in 2004, *Drowning on Dry Land* will be directed by Guy Retallack and will run until March 19<sup>th</sup>, with a press night on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Playing alongside Les Dennis (Jason) will be Christopher Coghill (Charlie Conrad), Emma Swain (Linzi), Helen Mortimer (Marsha), Siobhan Hewlett (Gale), Mark Farrelly (Hugo), Russell Bentley (Simeon).

*Drowning on Dry Land* explores fame and celebrity through the rise and fall of Charlie Conrad, an injured sportsman and useless quiz contestant who becomes famous just for being a failure. Set in Charlie's vast Victorian folly, this sharp and pertinent comedy cleverly reveals the fickle nature of the fame game when he is caught in a compromising situation with the female clown at his son's birthday party.

Les Dennis returns to the stage to play Charlie's agent, Jason. Acknowledged as one of Britain's most popular entertainers as well as being well-known to TV viewers through ITV game show *Family Fortunes*, Les has a long list of theatre, film and television credits to his name. He joins the cast of *Drowning on Dry Land* following numerous West End and touring appearances including *Chicago* (West End), *Me and My Girl* (West End), *Hairspray* (UK Tour) and *High School Musical 2* (UK Tour). Other theatre credits include: *When We Are Married* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *The Servant of Two Masters* (New Theatre, Cardiff), *Art* (National Tour) and *Neville's Island* (Birmingham Rep).

Christopher Coghill is best known as Tony in BBC's *Eastenders* and Craig in Channel 4's *Shameless* and has worked extensively in television with roles in *Hotel Babylon*, *Secret Diary of A Call Girl* and *The Royal*. Film credits include *Nowhere Boy*, *Honeymooner* and *24 Hour Party People*.

Most recently Guy Retallack directed *Future Me* (UK Tour), *Micky Salberg* (Watermill Theatre, UK Tour) and *Worlds End* (Trafalgar Studios). A highly respected theatre director, Guy trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama (CSSD) and lives in London, where the majority of his work is based. His work is regularly seen all over the UK, as well as in Germany, Greece, and the USA. Guy has directed in the West End, at many of London's most prestigious venues, at Shakespeare's Globe and in various regional theatres. For two years Guy was Literary Manager at

Bill Kenwright Limited. Guy has worked with some of the UK's leading directors, including Stephen Daldry and Max Stafford Clark.

Guy has built his reputation through having created an eclectic range of productions, including new plays, devised work, musicals, opera as well as a strong body of classical work. His work is distinguished by a strong visual style, clarity, and attention to detail.

For further information please contact Chloe Pritchard-Gordon at The Corner Shop PR on 020 7494 3665 or email [Chloe@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:Chloe@thecornershoppr.com)

**LISTINGS:**

Feb 22nd - Mar 19th

Press night Feb 24th @ 7.30pm

Tues - Sat @ 7.30pm Sat and Sun matinees @ 3.30pm

(no perf Sunday 13th March, extra perf Monday 14th @ 7.30pm)

Tickets:

Previews (Feb 22nd & 23rd) all tickets £12

Saturday matinees all tickets £15

Full price £20 concessions £15

Box office 020 7434 1443 (Jermyn Street Theatre)

[www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)

**Notes to editors:**

- *Drowning on Dry Land* premiered in the round at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough on 4 May 2004 starring Stephen Beckett as Charlie Conrad.
- Alan Ayckbourn first explored celebrity culture and the media in *Man of the Moment*, one of his most significant plays of the 1980's.
- *Drowning on Dry Land* was published in 2005 as part of Faber's third collection of Alan Ayckbourn's plays and has also been published by Samuel French.