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**THANKS TO THE ABOVE FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT**

If you would like to become a patron,  
please get in touch with Martin Smith on:  
01902 651828 or [studio61martin@gmail.com](mailto:studio61martin@gmail.com)

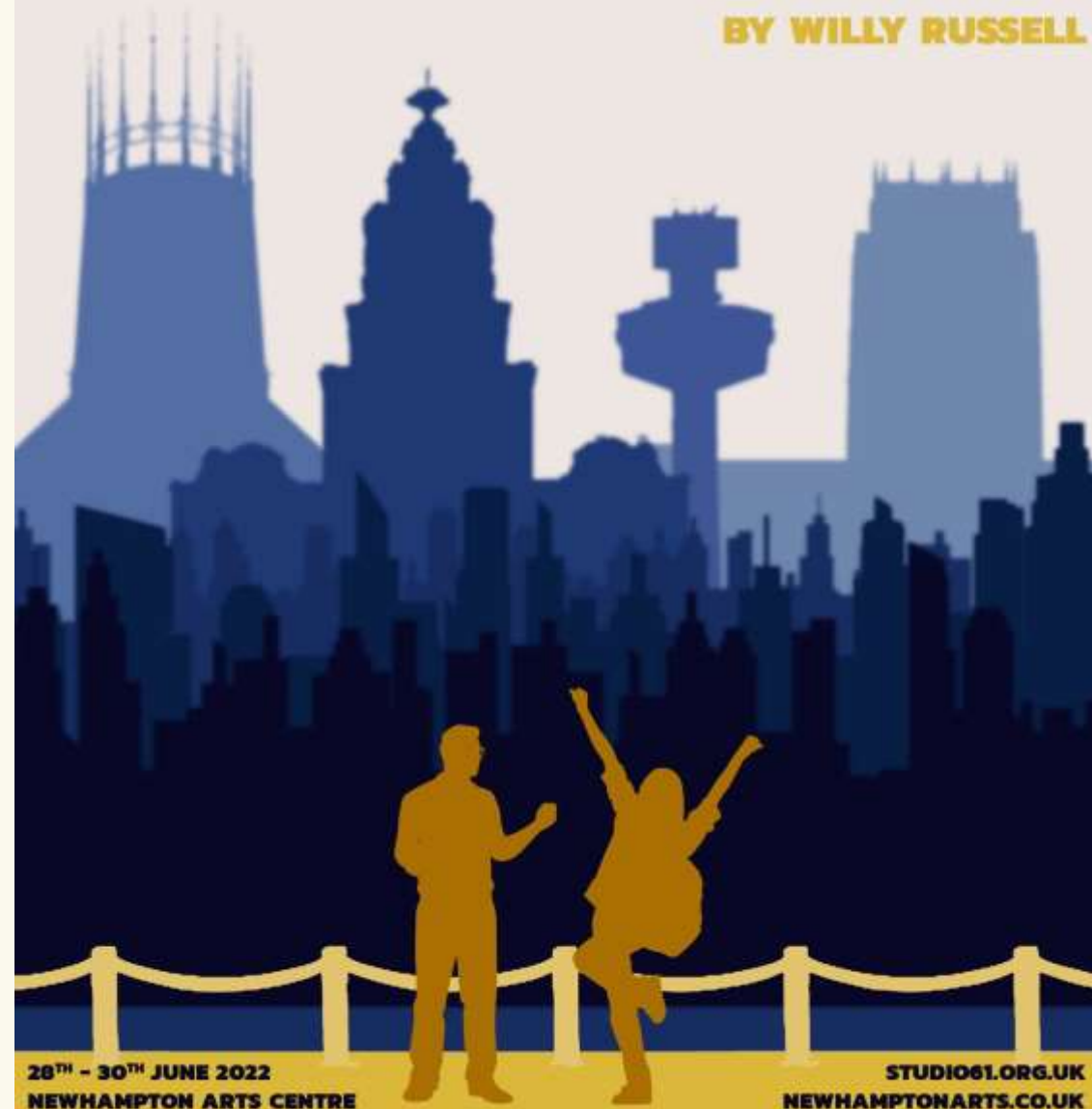
**ADDITIONAL THANKS**

Thanks to Clare and Alex at Newhampton Arts Centre for helping to make our move to the new venue as smoothly as possible.



**EDUCATING RITA**

**BY WILLY RUSSELL**



28<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022  
NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE

STUDIO61.ORG.UK  
NEWHAMPTONARTS.CO.UK

This amateur production of "Educating Rita" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.  
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Earlier this year I mentioned to my daughter that after some 15 years of doing most jobs within amateur theatre I felt that I might "consider having a go at directing at some time in the future". Within a couple of weeks she got back to me asking if I would still be interested as Studio 61 were looking for a director for this production of Educating Rita. I was a little surprised at how quickly this opportunity came along but I'm so glad that I agreed to do it as it has been an exciting and ground breaking experience: It is Studio 61's first full length play without scripts in hand since February 2020, it is our first production in our new venue, Newhampton Arts Centre, and it introduces two new members to our team. Carol Beard has joined us as prompt and Nikki Ellis in her first acting role for Studio 61 as Rita. I was also fortunate enough to be gifted an amazingly talented cast and crew for the production.

Educating Rita, written by Willy Russell, was first performed as a stage play in 1980 and was followed by a successful film in 1983 with Julie Walters playing Rita in both productions. We have decided to keep to this time frame for our interpretation and have focused on the year 1981. This raised questions about historical accuracy and social references which were deemed unacceptable in current times but these questions generated many reminiscences and lots of laughter for both cast and crew.

So please sit back, let your minds wander back 40 years to a time when a woman's life was measured by her husband and children and see how ahead of her time Rita actually was!

**CHRIS PORTER**



# EDUCATING RITA

BY WILLY RUSSELL



## CAST

Frank Ian Hartley  
Rita Nikki Ellis

## CREW

Director Chris Porter  
Assistant Director Sarah Carter  
Stage Manager Maggie Smith  
Prompt Carol Beard  
Sound/Lighting Martin Smith  
Properties Jane Fosbrook  
Dresser Ann Bickley  
Front of House Members of the society

The total running time will be approximately 130 minutes. This will include an interval of 20 minutes.

Please ensure that all mobile phones are turned off during the performance.

In the event of an emergency the front of house staff will guide you to the emergency exit.

## JOIN US AT STUDIO 61

We meet twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays at Bradmore Arms, Trysull Road from 7:30pm until 9:30pm.

[www.studio61.org.uk](http://www.studio61.org.uk)

Follow us @studio61drama on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and TikTok



## STUDIO 61 AFFILIATES

We want to champion all amateur drama! Take a look at some of the upcoming productions from our friends:

### Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society

#### Comedy Night

11th August 2022

Royal British Legion, Kingswinford

Box Office: 01384 270228

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



### Dudley Little Theatre

#### To Be Announced

22nd - 25th September 2022

St Peters Church Hall, Netherton

Box Office: 07954 424555

[www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org)



### Wombourne Players

#### To Be Announced

19th - 22nd October 2022

Wombourne Community Centre

Box Office: 01902 881184

[www.wombourneplayers.org.uk](http://www.wombourneplayers.org.uk)



### Pattingham Drama Group

#### To Be Announced

16th - 19th November 2022

Pattingham Village Hall, Pattingham

[boxoffice@pattinghamdramagroup.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@pattinghamdramagroup.co.uk)

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



## GORMENGHAST

by Mervyn Peake,  
adapted by John Constable

15th - 17th November 2022

In a world bound by iron laws and dead rituals, two young men are struggling to make their way: Steerpike, the renegade kitchen-boy who seduces and murders his way up the social ladder, and Titus Groan, heir to Gormenghast, who comes to threaten its very existence.

## AUDITION

We will be holding an open audition for our November production of Gormenghast on Monday 4th, Wednesday 6th and Monday 11th July at Bradmore Arms at 7:30pm. Please contact the director via email ([sarah@sarahcarter.me.uk](mailto:sarah@sarahcarter.me.uk)) for more information.

Is your drama group interested in becoming an Studio 61 affiliate?  
Email Sarah ([sarah@sarahcarter.me.uk](mailto:sarah@sarahcarter.me.uk)) for more information.