

PRESS RELEASE

ICARUS

Icarus Theatre Collective presents:



Part of a National Tour & Edinburgh Run at the **Assembly Rooms**,
THE LESSON receives a 3-Week-Run at the **Old Red Lion Theatre!**

Old Red Lion Theatre, 418 St John's Street, London, EC1V 4NJ

Dates: 11 – 29 September 2007

7.30pm Tues – Sat, 6pm Sundays

Tickets: £12, £9 conc.; Tues: All tickets £9; Sat: All tickets £12

Previews: 11 & 12 Sept (All tickets £8)

Press Night: 13 September 2007

Box Office: 020 7837 7816 or www.ticketweb.co.uk

Running Time: Approx **65 minutes**

A daring re-invention of a classic **Theatre of the Absurd** masterpiece!

"Dark, disturbing and ultimately brutal".

Eugène Ionesco intended *The Lesson* as a brutal criticism on Nazi fascism invading the peaceful hearts and minds of the people in his homeland, Romania. We twist the text to show how the world goes wrong today: A sense of tradition, honour, and respect is being replaced by capitalist greed and consumer righteousness... **An elegantly subtle touch to a brutal script.**

"A daring production by an energetic new company, the London-based Icarus Theatre Collective, it pulls no punches in its visceral pursuit of pure absurdism".

At the play's opening we find a mild mannered, scatty scholar teaching his bright-eyed bonne-élève student that $1+1=2$. When the innocent pupil begins to displease the tutor, the pedagogue turns on her, becoming a bullying tyrant, a ferocious animal bent on her destruction.

An elegant classical score plays throughout the piece, reinforcing and enhancing the verbal ballet between the characters.

Subtle and powerful, comic and despairing by turns.

Young up-and-coming American director **Max Lewendel** recently directed *Coyote Ugly* ("An intense and wittily uncivilised evenings entertainment", Critics' Choice, *Time Out*) and *Albert's Boy* ("Theatre at its best", *The Stage*) as well as co-producing *Gates of Gold* (Critics' Choice, *Time Out*, Critic's Choice, *Evening Standard*).

The Lesson arrives at the Old Red Lion amidst a mid-scale tour including the Edinburgh Festival.

ENDS.

For more information, interviews and images, please contact **Max Lewendel** on **07792 428 820** or email icarus@icaruscollective.co.uk or visit www.icaruscollective.co.uk.

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THE LESSON

By Eugène Ionesco.

Translated by Donald Watson

Directed by Max Lewendel.

Designed by Christopher Hone.