



Educating Rita

REPERTOIRE

THE HOBART REPERTORY THEATRE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

Chapter One

From the President

Educating Rita is a play which holds fond memories for me. It was one of the early plays which I stage managed for Hobart Rep. It is a delightful play. Many will remember the film version starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters.

I am excited to see this production and welcome Scott Burns and Anastatia Ward to Hobart Rep. I am sure they will bring the characters of Frank and Rita to life. It's always great to see new talent grace our stage. I would like to wish the entire cast and crew a successful and enjoyable season.

On August 26th, we held our annual dinner at the Black Buffalo. 65 people attended the 60's night. Music was provided by the talented Gabriele Dagezio. Entertainment was provided by Pip Tyrrell and Helen Edwards. Thank you, Helen and Pip, very much. I sincerely hope you enjoy the production of *Educating Rita*.

Chapter Two

The Annual Dinner (Retro 60's Theme)



Chapter Two

The Annual Dinner (Retro 60's Theme) (cont.)



Chapter Three

Educating Rita

This Spring a modern-day *My Fair Lady* will light up the Playhouse Theatre stage, as the Hobart Repertory Theatre Society presents the classic British two-hander *Educating Rita*.

Willy Russell's clever class comedy focuses on brash, straight-talking Rita, who bursts into university night classes determined to change her life.

Her tutor Frank is an alcohol-fueled lecturer, a failed poet and a self-acknowledged 'appalling teacher of appalling students' who has just about given up.

In need of some extra cash, he agrees to tutor Rita, totally unaware of the whirlwind that's about to enter his world.

Director Danni Ashton has set this production of *Educating Rita* in 1979, the year Russell started writing the play and also the year she was born.

"There is something exciting about hopping into a time capsule and going back to the year you were born, to see and feel what it was like," Danni says.

"I feel the play holds strong to its roots. Although it is 38 years old, the themes and content haven't dated – women's education and equal opportunities are still at the forefront of today's social issues."

Educating Rita stars Anastatia Ward as Rita and Scott Burns as Frank, both experienced performers but relative newcomers to the Hobart theatre scene – in fact, Anastatia arrived from WA just a week or two before auditioning!

"I have been lucky enough to be given the opportunity to delve into this brilliant play with a strong dedicated crew and two exceptional actors," Danni says.

Director Danni Ashton (right) promises an unforgettable theatrical experience for Playhouse Theatre goers.



Chapter *Three*

Educating Rita



Anastasia Ward as Rita and Scott Burns as Frank during early rehearsals

Educating Rita is at the Playhouse Theatre, Bathurst Street, Hobart from 1– 16 September 2017. Performances are 8:00 pm Wednesday to Saturday, with matinees on Sunday 10 September at 3:00 pm and Saturday 16 September at 2:00 pm. Book at Centertainment on 6234 5998 or www.centertainment.com.au.

Chapter *Four*

Educating Rita: Fun Facts



Who could forget the wonderful movie adaptation of **Educating Rita** with **Michael Caine** and **Julie Walters**? Experience the magic again at The Playhouse in September.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The play was adapted by Russell for radio in 2009 – It starred **Bill Nighy** and **Laura Dos Santos**, directed by **Kirsty Williams**, and was a 90-minute play broadcast on **BBC Radio 4** on **Boxing Day 2009**.

DID YOU KNOW ?

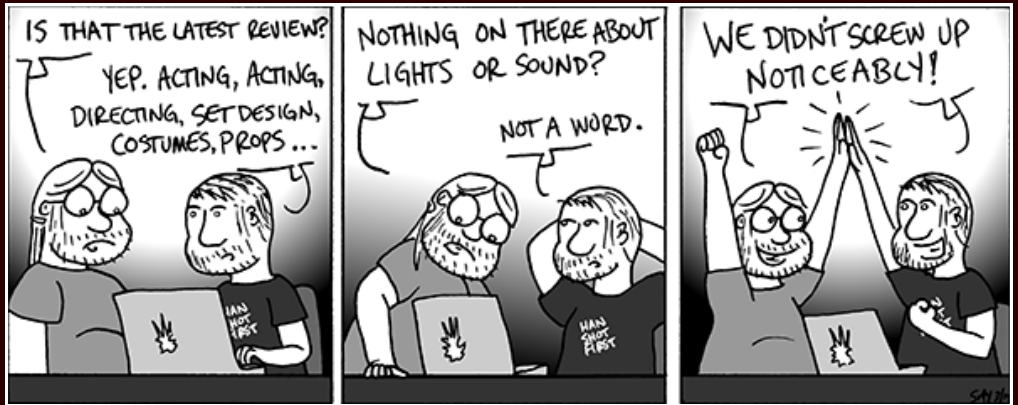
Educating Rita premiered in London, in 1980 and won the Society for West End Theatres (SWET) award for Best Comedy of the Year.

The highly successful film with Michael Caine and Julie Walters won the 1983 BAFTA award for Best Film.

"Russell's astute comments... still remain as relevant in 2017 as they were in 1980. Rita is a wonderful character and I loved the way the dynamics in the relationship between Rita and Frank slowly change over the course of the play as she becomes more confident and educated .."

[Online review of the play script.](#)

Epilogue



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*Student tickets are just \$10 each when purchased 30 minutes prior to a performance at The Playhouse Box Office only. Student must show a valid Student Card.



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