

Vanity Fair



VANITY FAIR

Adapted from W. M. Thackeray's novel
by Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod

ACT I

MISS PINKERTON'S ACADEMY, CHISWICK MALL

Miss Pinkerton Andrew Collins
Jemima Pinkerton Martin Turner
Amelia Sedley Amanda Harris
Rebecca Sharp Sadie Shimmin

RUSSELL SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY

Joseph Sedley Martin Turner
George Osborne Duncan Bell
William Dobbin Simon Dormandy
Mr Sedley Andrew Collins
Mrs Sedley Anne White
Mr Osborne Martin Turner

QUEEN'S CRAWLEY, HAMPSHIRE

Sir Pitt Crawley Duncan Bell
Pitt Crawley,
his elder son Simon Dormandy
Rawdon Crawley,
his younger son Andrew Collins
Miss Crawley Anne White

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Mrs Major O'Dowd Anne White
Isidor, Jos's Belgian Valet Andrew Collins
Pauline, the maid Simon Dormandy

ACT II

THE SEDLEY LODGINGS, FULHAM

Georgy Osborne, Amelia's son Duncan Bell

LONDON SOCIETY

The Marquis of Steyne Duncan Bell
The Marchioness of Steyne Anne White
Lord Southdown Simon Dormandy
Mr Paul Jefferson-Jones,
London Correspondent of the
New York Demagogue Simon Dormandy

CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR

Rawdon Crawley, Rebecca's son Andrew Collins
Raggles Martin Turner
Mrs Raggles Amanda Harris

BUNDLEGUNGE MILITARY STATION, MADRAS, INDIA

Miss Glorvina O'Dowd, sister-
in-law to Mrs Major O'Dowd Andrew Collins

Director Declan Donnellan
Designer Nick Ormerod
Score and Musical Direction Jeremy Sams
Costumes Kim Kenny
Set built by Ken Marples (Scenery)
Set painted by Square Peg
Cartoons painted by Tim Dodd
Graphic Design Iain Lanyon

There will be one interval of 15 minutes

Act I lasts 80 minutes, Act II 75 minutes

FOR CHEEK BY JOWL

Artistic Directors Declan Donnellan &
Nick Ormerod
Administrator Barbara Matthews
Company Stage Manager Nick Kidd

DUNCAN BELL graduated in Drama and English from Glasgow University. His fringe work includes a tour of *MACBETH* with Triad Stage Alliance, a pantomime with Open View Theatre and *Iago* in *OTHELLO* for Floorboards Theatre Company at the Roundhouse and in London Schools. He joined Cheek by Jowl in July 1983.

ANDREW COLLINS studied drama at Bristol University and spent a year as a professional bingo caller. He trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art where roles included: Parolles in *ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL*, Konstantin in *THE SEAGULL*, Rev. Treherne in *THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON*, and Antipholus of Syracuse in *THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*. He joined Cheek by Jowl in June 1982, to play Cassio in *OTHELLO*.

DECLAN DONNELLAN Freelance theatre work includes improvised plays with the Activists at the Royal Court. Regularly teaches at the Arts Educational Drama School and has recently directed *DON GIOVANNI* for Scottish Opera Go Round and *BENT* for the Northcott Theatre, Exeter. Plans include *A MASKED BALL* for Opera 80.

SIMON DORMANDY studied English at Oxford and trained at the Drama Studio. Parts he played whilst still a student include: Woyzeck, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, the Duke in *MEASURE FOR MEASURE* and Andrey in *THREE SISTERS*. He has worked in Community and Children's Theatre in London and *TIE* in Harrogate. He has also run workshops for children. He joined Cheek by Jowl in July 1983.

DEIRDRE EDWARDS trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She was a co-founder of Platypus Community Theatre and has toured extensively in the Midlands playing a variety of roles in community and small-scale theatre. In London she worked at the Upstream Theatre and the Young Vic. Before joining Cheek by Jowl she was with the Oxfordshire Touring Company playing Elizabeth Jane in *THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE*.

AMANDA HARRIS graduated from the Arts Educational Drama School in April 1982. Whilst there she appeared in *LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST* as Rosaline, *THE SEAGULL* as Nina, *AFTER THE FALL* as Louise and in *THE INTERVIEW*. She joined Cheek by Jowl in June 1982, to play Desdemona in *OTHELLO*.

NICK KIDD has worked for many companies in different capacities, including Opera North, Royal College of Music, Interim, London City Ballet, London Festival Ballet, Opera Players, Opera 80, London Opera Group, the Northcott Theatre and many West End shows. Most recently he has been working on *PEG* at the Phoenix Theatre. He first toured with Cheek by Jowl in 1983.

NICK ORMEROD trained at the Wimbledon School of Art and spent a season at the Lyceum in Edinburgh. Recent work includes: *VILLAGE WOOING* and *1933, New End*; *BECOMING*, Nottingham Playhouse; *THE MAGIC FLUTE*, RACM, *DON GIOVANNI* for Scottish Opera Go Round; *BENT* for the Northcott, Exeter, and *THE HISTORY OF MR POLLY* for York Theatre Royal. Plans include *A MASKED BALL* for Opera 80.

SADIE SHIMMIN trained at the Arts Educational Schools and left in 1983. Whilst there she played a variety of parts including Masha in *THREE SISTERS*, May Daniels in *ONCE IN A LIFETIME* and Piaf. She joined Cheek by Jowl in 1983.

MARTIN TURNER trained at the Drama Centre. His previous experience includes six years as an Inter-Action worker and performer and plays in London at the King's Head, Almost Free and Pentameters. This is his first tour with Cheek by Jowl.

ANNE WHITE trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. Her professional stage roles include Beattie Bryant in *ROOTS*, Essie in *THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE*, Desdemona in *OTHELLO* and Frosine in *THE MISER*. She appears in the film *STATE OF WONDER*. She first joined Cheek by Jowl in 1982 to play Emilia in *OTHELLO*.

"The one supreme and even
sacred quality in Thackeray's
work is that he felt the
weakness of all flesh.
Wherever he sneers it is at
his own potential self . . ."

G. K. Chesterton.

THACKERAY'S OWN ILLUSTRATION
OF A CHEVAL-GLASS FROM
'THE BOOK OF SNOBS'



William Makepeace Thackeray was born in Calcutta in 1811, the son of a rich civil servant (the Collector of the Twenty-four Parganas in Bengal). He frittered away his father's legacy at Cambridge and the Middle Temple, and pursued a dilettante career of drawing and journalism, travelling extensively on the continent. The impetus for *VANITY FAIR* came from impending poverty, since by 1845 he had to support three daughters and a wife who was incurably insane. The novel began to appear in monthly numbers in 1847 for which Thackeray was paid £60 per instalment. It appeared in volume form a year later with the sub-title "A Novel without a Hero". *VANITY FAIR* was an immense success and Thackeray was lionised by the society he had satirized so astringently.

"Then I saw in my Dream, that when they were got out of the wilderness, they presently saw a Town before them, and the name of that town is Vanity; and at the Town there is a Fair kept, called Vanity Fair: it is kept all the year long; it beareth the name of Vanity Fair, because the Town where 'tis kept is lighter than Vanity; and also because all that is there sold, or that cometh thither, is Vanity. As is the saying of the wise, All that cometh is Vanity."

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

"Vanity of Vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes but the earth remains for ever.

All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Is there a thing of which it is said, "See this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us.

It is an unhappy business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes



CHEEK BY JOWL



PHOTO: PETER MARES

COMPANY HISTORY

1981

Cheek by Jowl Theatre Company formed by
Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod.

THE COUNTRY WIFE by William Wycherley tours to 23 theatres in England and Scotland.

"For sheer excellence of acting it is difficult to envisage anything surpassing this superbly compact production"

The Scotsman

1982/3

GOTCHA by Barrie Keefe and RACK ABBEY, a new musical by Colin Sell and Declan Donnellan tours throughout Belgium and Holland.

"A wonderful evening"

Nieuw Apeleoordnsd Courant

OTHELLO by William Shakespeare tours throughout Great Britain.

"One of the most harrowing Othello's I have ever seen"

The Times

"For sheer pace, verve and above all, clarity, this production deserves an award"

The Guardian

1983

VANITY FAIR, an adaptation of Thackeray's novel by Nick Ormerod and Declan Donnellan wins two awards at the Edinburgh Festival—a Fringe First and The Scottish Arts Club Writer's Award. During autumn alone it tours to 53 theatres throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1984

PERICLES by William Shakespeare and ANDROMACHE, the British professional premiere of Racine's seventeenth century tragedy in a new translation by David Bryer, tour in repertoire with VANITY FAIR visiting 72 theatres throughout the United Kingdom from Aberdeen to St Austell and from Canterbury to Coleraine.

In addition Cheek by Jowl tours Spain, Germany and Israel, performing at the International Festivals in Valladolid, Almagro and Jerusalem, finishing with a short season at the Donmar Warehouse, London.

1985

Cheek by Jowl will mount a new production of
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

Cheek by Jowl gratefully acknowledges financial support from The Arts Council of Great Britain, The British Council, Lincolnshire and Humberside Arts, Southern Arts and West Midlands Arts.

ON TOUR TA

Vanity Fair

"Above any praise
... a fluid, bubbling and dazzling show
... one of the central, theatrical experiences of
the (Israel) Festival."
YEDIOT ACHRONOT

"The outstanding adaptation on this year's Fringe was
Declan Donnellan's direction of *Vanity Fair* for Cheek
By Jowl. This company's odd name is a barely
sufficient indication of the closeness and mutual
confidence with which six actors worked together,
apparently omniscient at the creation of moods."

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

"Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* is one of the masterpieces of
Victorian fiction showing both the frivolity and sadness
of human vanity and desires.

Cheek By Jowl's adaptation does full justice to this
great novel and is a superb show in its own right. A

cast of six use energetic doubling roles, mime to
capture with extraordinary gusto and intelligence the
comic yet harsh flavour of the novel.

The brilliance of acting is matched by an ingenious
set, imaginative staging and elegant costumes.

This is a stunning production which is witty, moving
and excellent in every way." CF.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL TIMES

"Both the panache of the direction and flair of the
acting made it the best thing I saw at this year's
Edinburgh Festival."

COSMOPOLITAN

"Very sophisticated, miraculously preserving the epic
flow of the novel."

DAVAR (ISRAEL)

"A brilliant team."

MORNING STAR



ANDREW COLLINS AS GLORVINA O'DOWD.
PHOTO: PETER MARES

CHEEK BY JOWL צ'יק ב"ג'אול



חשן מאור
תאטרון תל אביב
12.00, 18.00, 12.00, 11.00

PERICLES
PRINCE OF TYRE
JERUSALEM KHAN THEATRE
JUNE 11 (8.30 p.m.)
12.00, 10.00 p.m.)

יריד החבלים
12.00, 18.00, 10.00, 11.00

VANITY FAIR
GERARD BEHAR CENTRE
JUNE 9 (9.00 p.m.), 10.00 p.m.), 11.00 p.m.)

בשיתוף עם המועצה הבריטית
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Pericles

"An undoubted success."
AL HAMISHAR (ISRAEL)

"A magnificent lesson in theatre ... it is clear that a
sustained system of physical discipline endows the
company with a total mastery over mind and body ...
total perfection."

LA LANZA (SPAIN)

"The company speaks the verse with characteristic
clarity and vigour. Andrew Collins's *Pericles* is
convincingly upright and honourable ... the anger
when he rejects his long lost daughter ... is
especially fine."

THE FINANCIAL TIMES

"A brilliant British theatrical experiment."
ABC (SPAIN)

"At the end, with a great shout of jubilation, the actors
call the public to celebrate 'new joy' for indeed the
entire performance has been a joint and joyous act—
the sheer essence of theatre."

YA (SPAIN)

"The value, originality and excellence of their stage
activity is such that I am passionately convinced they
could do the Peking telephone directory and make it
charismatic. If a better group exists on the mainland it
certainly doesn't come our way, and Ireland, North or
South has nothing to compare with Cheek by Jowl. If
you miss their *Pericles* you will miss a masterpiece of
dramatic presentation."

THE CHRONICLE (NORTHERN IRELAND)

HIS SEASON

Andromache



AMANDA HARRIS AS ANDROMACHE
PHOTO: PETER MARES

"Riveting . . . As Andromache, Amanda Harris was superb—all dignified defiance at her gaoler's love, torn between saving her son by becoming an accomplice to her husband's humiliating death. Duncan Bell gave Pyrrhus a modern Machiavellian conviction—a cold-eyed politician letting his heart rule his head. Sadie Shimmin's manipulative mercurial Hermione threatened to upstage them all."

THE GUARDIAN

"An impressive achievement."
FINANCIAL TIMES

"The translator, David Bryer, has rightly rejected Racine's Alexandrines, which would just sound silly in English now, for a freer form that still retains a sense of poetry. Strong and sinewy without being showy, it takes you briskly and smoothly to the sense and the dramatic purpose."

THE GUARDIAN

"Tension is built, crisis upon crisis breaks. All against the simplest of settings: an inlaid figured star patterning the floor; constant light and costumes of grey, black and white. Declan Donnellan's direction stealthily produces an electrifying effect in today's terms."

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

CHEEK BY JOWL

Administrator: Barbara Matthews
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London W1R 3PE. Tel: 01-439 0978



SADIE SHIMMIN AS HERMIONE, DEIRDRE EDWARDS AS CLEONE. PHOTO: PETER MARES