

Faringdon Dramatic Society

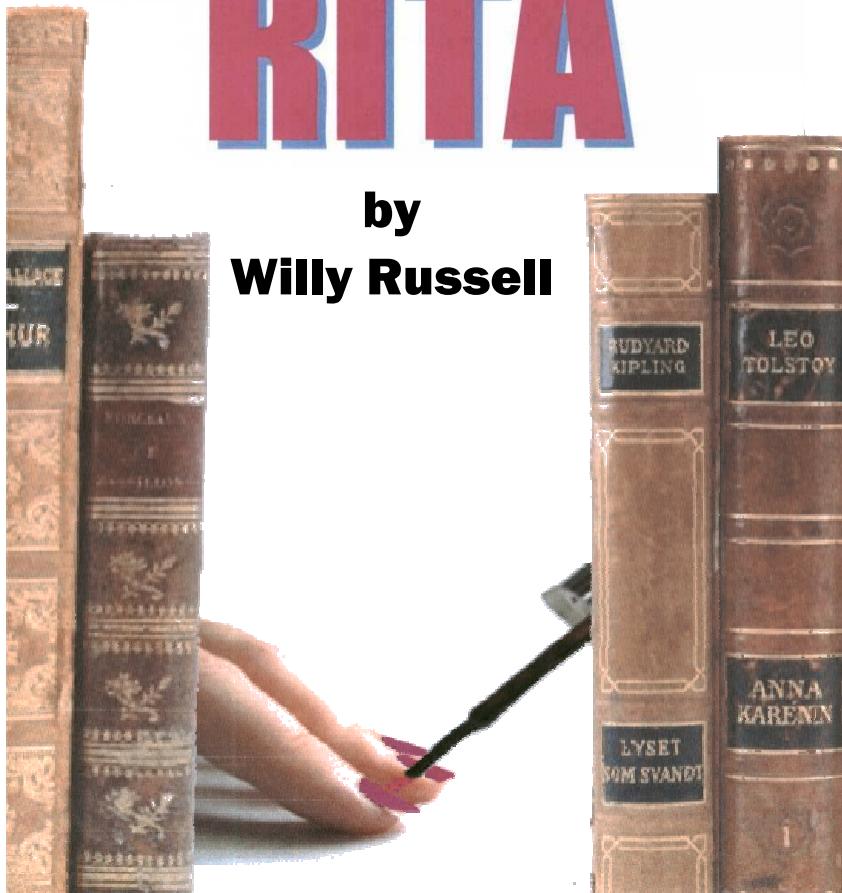
(affiliated to NODA)

presents:

Educating **RITA**

by

Willy Russell



Faringdon Junior School
November 10th, 11th, 12th 2005

Educating Rita is a play for only two actors: Rita (Lesley Phillips) and Frank (Simon Wisbey). Although the film version, starring Julie Walters and Michael Caine, is peopled by the many other characters in these individuals' lives, in the play we only hear of them and so focus on the two leads: their lives, their opportunities and their relationship with each other.

Rita is a hairdresser. Bright and interested by all around her she has conformed to the expectations of her community and so has left school with no formal qualifications and has begun to follow the seemingly inevitable path laid out before her towards work, marriage and babies. Despite her concern that she might have got it all wrong she tries not to worry and so defers the growing temptation to question whether this is all life has to offer:

“Till one day y’ own up to yourself an y’ say, is this it? Is this the absolute maximum I can expect from this livin’ lark?”

Which is the point at which she bursts upon the unsuspecting Frank.

Frank is a university professor. Jaded by an unhappy marriage and unsuccessful career as a poet, and made cynical by an unsatisfactory means by which to earn a living, he drinks whisky to console himself and nurses urges to throw his students out of the window. Rita is 'the first breath of air' that's entered his room in years - but can he educate her? Is her desire to know 'everything' to be too much for him to manage?

Rachel Coward



Lesley Phillips

This is Lesley's fourth show with FDS. She has also appeared in such diverse productions as **Under Milk Wood** (as Polly Garter and Lily Smalls), **Blithe Spirit** (Edith), **King Lear** (Cordelia), and **The Importance of Being Ernest** (Cicely). She also loves music and musicals and has sung in concerts from village halls to the Royal Albert Hall! “Playing Rita must be every actress’s dream come true” says Lesley, “so thank you to Rachel and Rob for giving me the opportunity, and thanks to all the crew for the fun we’ve had”

Simon has been with FDS for about ten years and has taken part in many productions, including **Blood Brothers** (Eddie), **The Crucible** (Rev. Parris), **Much Ado About Nothing** (Don Pedro) and most recently as “Nursie” in **Snow White**. Simon’s appearance as an inebriated scoutmaster in **Gosforth’s Fete** continues to be remarked upon by many, and he thinks may have stood him in good stead for the role of Frank!



Simon Wisbey

EDUCATING RITA

by Willy Russell

Rita
Frank

Lesley Phillips
Simon Wisbey

Directed by Rachel Coward & Rob Thorpe

The play is in two acts. There will be an interval of twenty minutes between acts when refreshments will be served and the raffle drawn.

Producer	John Taylor
Stage Manager	Tim Evans
Stage Management Team	Nick Coard, Cleve Forty, Rob Thorpe, Peter Webster
Set Design	Jo Webster
Set Construction	Nick Coard, Tim Evans, Gary Field, Cleve Forty, Rob Griffin, Carole Tappenden, Rob Thorpe, Jo Webster, Peter Webster
Lighting Design	Ian Chandler
Lighting Operator	Rob Griffin
Sound	Gary Field, Rob Griffin
Costumes	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee
Props	Clare Pinkney, Jo Webster
Prompt	Mary Mountford-Lister
Posters	Adrian Wells
Publicity	David Field, Ian Lee, Joan Lee
Programmes	Dave Headay
Front of House coordinator	Denise Monk
Front of House	Linda & Gary Bates, Katie Goodwin, Joyce Harrison, Jill & Dave Headay, Ann & John Taylor, Lynda Wisbey

We would like to thank Faringdon Junior School for their cooperation, Faringdon United Church for the rehearsal venue, and White Horse Country Wear for ticket sales.

Recent Awards to the Society

Ron Kench Shield awarded by the National Opera and Drama Association for the best amateur production in London and the South East:

2001 **The Crucible**

2004 **Dancing at Lughnasa**

Oxford Drama Network award for the best pantomime in Oxfordshire:

2005 **Snow White**

Wallingford One-Act Play Festival awards:

2004 Punters prize: **Shakers**

2005 Best production: **Albert**

New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed nearly sixty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. We currently have over 50 members, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors. For up-to-date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Or email us at webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Forthcoming Productions (at Faringdon Junior School)

Dreamers: a pantomime by Roger Leitch: 27, 28 Jan & 3, 4 Feb 2006

The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov: 11, 12, 13 May 2006