



**Edward Alderton Theatre**

Non-Professional

Programme  
50p

# ROSSUMS UNIVERSAL ROBOTS



**WORKING FOR YOU**

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



# EAT NEWS

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Edward Alderton Theatre will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 21st February 2012 at 8 p.m. The meeting is open to Full Members and Associate Members. Only Full Members are eligible to stand for the Committee.

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## **Brampton road closure Jan - March 2012**

Phase 3 of Crook Log roadworks are being carried out by Southern Gas Networks. Brampton Road will be closed at its junction with Crook Log and SGN will be digging a trench down the centre of the carriageway of Crook Log. The main local traffic diversions in place are via Avenue Road and Long Lane or Upper Wickham Lane and Okehampton Crescent. Access to Brampton Road (for residents and users of the adult education centre and leisure centre) is via Avenue Road, turning left into Glynde Road and then into Brampton Road. The traffic lights at the junction of Crook Log and Brampton Road will be removed and there will be three way temporary traffic lights in place at Crook Log/Park View Road/Danson Road, with a pedestrian facility. When this phase of the work is completed, a trench will need to be dug across Danson Road into Park View Road. The current works will take from January to March and congestion at busy periods is inevitable.

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## **Practise your improvisation and role-playing skills!**

Could you play a distressed, injured or shocked survivor of a rail crash? Want a chance to act unscripted and undirected?

Local emergency services and the London Borough of Bexley are looking for actors to play a vital part in an exercise testing their responses to a major incident. The exercise is during the day on Tuesday, 27 March 2012. It's unpaid but a chance to practise improvisation and role-playing as well as support your local emergency services. Please e-mail [emergency.planning@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@bexley.gov.uk) if you're interested.

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## **EAT Quiz night - Feb 18th**

Following the highly enjoyable Halloween quiz the EAT invites you to exercise those little grey cells one more time at our next quiz on the 18th February. The evening looks to be great fun and is suitable to all with a wide range of questions. Teams can be up to eight people but don't worry if you are not part of a team - get your ticket and come along and we will join you with others on the night. Please feel free to bring along your own nibbles and get your drinks from the EAT bar. All funds raised will go to the EAT. The evening will start at 7.30pm and tickets are just £5.00 per person. To book your place please contact Karen Friett on 07976 905437.

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If you have any news you would like to pass our way please email Kevin at: [coward.kevin@gmail.com](mailto:coward.kevin@gmail.com)

## Rossum's Universal Robots

*Rossum's Universal Robots* was written by Czech playwright Karel Capek (1890-1938) and published in 1920. It was first performed in Prague in 1921. The following year it premiered in New York, in a production that saw Spencer Tracy make his Broadway debut as a robot. There have been adaptations in other media: it has been televised twice by the BBC, in 1938 and 1948, and has been produced for radio in 1941 and 1989.

*RUR* is generally considered the first science fiction play, and certainly marks the first use of the word "robot" (from 'robota', meaning surf labour or drudgery). Austrian director Fritz Lang created cinema's most iconic robot, the beautiful-but-deadly Maria (Brigitte Helm), for his outstanding 1927 film *Metropolis*. Later films, such as *The Day The Earth Stood Still* (1951), *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) and *Westworld* (1973) continued the theme of robotic baddies. *Silent Running* (1971) and *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) showed that robots could also be cute.

The robots featured in *RUR* are rather closer to clones than mechanical beings. They are grown in vats and mass-produced. Early productions appear to show them as creatures of metal, but I have opted for the more 'grown' look in keeping with Domain's proud boast of *RUR*'s huge vats for mixing "artificial flesh" for a thousand robots at a time.

I was drawn to the play by its enormous influence on science fiction in general, and especially on *Doctor Who*, a subject I know more about than is truly healthy. A highly-regarded 1977 Tom Baker adventure, *The Robots of Death*, for instance, has its robotic slaves transform into cold-blooded murderers after being whipped into a robot revolt by one Taran Capel - sound familiar?

David Wyllie's modern translation brings the language up-to-date while retaining the inherent eccentricity of the text. In some respects, *RUR* is very dated, in others it is surprisingly prescient. I have made gender changes to various characters and dispensed with a trite epilogue that seemed to me unnecessary.

I very much hope that you enjoy this evening of robot drama as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to the stage for you.

**Mark Campbell (Director)**

# ROSSUM'S UNIV

by Karel Capek • Tran

## **The Cast** In order of appearance:

Harry Domain, General Manager, RUR .....	Kevin Coward
Sulla, a Robot .....	Louise Ody
Maria, a Robot.....	Stephanie David
Helena Glory, President of the League of Humanity .....	Geraldine Mullins
Dr Gall, Director of Physiology, RUR .....	Viv Stapleton
Fabry, Technical Director, RUR .....	Maureen Hardwen
Alquist, Head of Construction, RUR .....	Gill Peters
Busman, Commercial Director, RUR.....	Anne Hempstead
Dr Hellman, Director of Psychology, RUR.....	Eleanor McEnergy
Nana, Helena's Maid .....	Tina Crook
Radius, a Robot .....	Helen West

This production contains loud bangs, smoke effects and flashing lights

**Setting:** Central office at the factory of Rossum's Universal Robots.

The play will be in 3 acts, there will be a short interval between Acts 1 and 2, during which we would ask that you remain in your seat. There will be a 20 minute interval between Acts 2 and 3.

# UNIVERSAL ROBOTS

translated by David Wyllie

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## **The Crew**

<b>Director</b> .....	Mark Campbell
<b>Stage Manager</b> .....	Sarah O'Hanlon
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b> .....	Roz Betts
<b>Set Design</b> .....	Mark Campbell
<b>Set Construction</b> .....	John Vinnels, Ron Andrews
<b>Set Painting</b> .....	Sarah O'Hanlon, Mick Taylor
<b>Lighting Rigging &amp; Programming</b> .....	Jerry McKeon, Chris McKeon
<b>Lighting Operator</b> .....	Mick Taylor
<b>Sound Design</b> .....	Mark Campbell
<b>Sound Operation</b> .....	Ken Swan, Mark Campbell
<b>Costumes</b> .....	Laura Lockwood
<b>Properties</b> .....	Sarah O'Hanlon
<b>RUR Logo</b> .....	Kevin Coward

**Music:** **Peter Howell:** The Leisure Hive

**Klaus Schulze:** Ludwig II von Bayern

**Frédéric Chopin:** Nocturnes Op 9 Nos 1 & 2

**Dudley Simpson:** The Tomorrow People

Thanks go to my splendid cast and crew, in particular my tireless stage manager Sarah O'Hanlon - one in a million.

# OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



## Edward Alderton Theatre

5 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4EZ

Bar Opens 7.30pm

Performance begins 8.00pm

Box Office: **020 8301 5584**

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

Tickets £8.00

A VERY BLACK COMEDY



by Joe ORTON

24 - 31 MARCH 2012

Directed by Viv STAPLETON

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

## Type of Membership – Full (£15) / Associate (£10) *(please delete as appropriate)*

Both Associate and Full Members will receive the newsletter and a discount of £2 from the normal ticket price (one ticket per production). If you wish to take an active part in the theatre either on the stage or helping behind the scenes, you will have to become a Full Member, in order to be covered by the insurance.

Name:

Address:

Tel. No:

E-mail address:

I would like to become a Full/Associate member of the Edward Alderton Theatre for the **2011 - 2012 Season** (membership ends 31st August 2012).

I enclose subscription of **£15/£10** (*cash or cheque payable to "Edward Alderton Theatre"*). If you wish to pay by card you can do this over the phone via the Box Office or in person at the theatre.

I would like to receive the newsletter by post/email (*please delete as appropriate*).

If applying for active membership, please complete this next section:

Please indicate below in what areas of the theatre you would be willing to work.

The Management Committee expects all Full members to make some contribution other than their acting talents.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT RUNNING  | <input type="checkbox"/> SET BUILDING   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACTING         | <input type="checkbox"/> SOUND          | <input type="checkbox"/> SET PAINTING   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STAGE MANAGING | <input type="checkbox"/> PROPERTIES     | <input type="checkbox"/> BAR            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROMPT         | <input type="checkbox"/> COSTUMES       | <input type="checkbox"/> FRONT OF HOUSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT RIGGING  | <input type="checkbox"/> BACKSTAGE CREW | <input type="checkbox"/> BOX OFFICE     |

Signed:

Date:

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Please give/send form and payment to:

**Maureen Hardwen, C/O Edward Alderton Theatre, 5 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EZ**

Cheque/Card:  Cash:  Receipt Issued:  Membership Number:

# FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

## This Season

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A black farce masterpiece, *Loot* follows the fortunes of two young thieves, Hal and Dennis. Dennis is a hearse driver for an undertaker. They have robbed the bank next door to the funeral parlour and have returned to Hal's home to hide out with the loot. Hal's mother has just died and the pair put the money in her coffin, hiding the body elsewhere in the house. With the arrival of Inspector Truscott, the thickening plot turns topsy-turvy.

### LOOT

24-31 March 2012

Black Comedy by Joe Orton  
Directed by Viv Stapleton



### STRIPPERS

19-26 May 2012

Drama by  
Peter Terson  
Directed by  
John Hart

## Next Season - To be announced

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Keep up to date with news from our theatre at [www.edwardalderton.org](http://www.edwardalderton.org), add us as a friend on **Facebook** or follow us on **twitter@EdwardAlderton**.



An induction loop system has been installed in the auditorium. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position

Thank you for coming to see our production. Have a safe journey home.  
Please come again soon.