

# Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

Written by Bryony Lavery

— inspired by the book of the same name by  
**Anita Loos**, first published in 1925

Directed by	Angela Hopkins
Music by	Paul Abrahams and Josefina Cupido
Designed by	Mary Moore
Choreography	Eva Darlow
Technicians	Meri Jenkins and Veronica Wood
Administrator	Gus Garside
Programme/ Poster Design	Jeff Jones of The Drawing Room

Our grateful thanks to:  
Andrea Montag, Hilary Lewis, Jessica Higgs,  
GLC Parks Department,  
Moët & Chandon, BAT (UK and Export) Ltd.,  
Lindt, and Hampstead Theatre Club.

There will one interval of 15 minutes.

## The Company

Paul Abrahams  
Chris Bowler  
Josefina Cupido  
Gillian Hanna  
Gabrielle Harding  
Mary McCusker  
John Slade

## The Life and Times:

"We have had booms and collapses in the past. But now we have no boom. Our progress is rapid — but sure. Buying is now larger than it ever was — but it is not frenzied. The kind of emotion which brings on a boom is absent.

**Samuel Crowther** *Collier's Magazine*, 1926

"Everybody calls me a racketeer, I call myself a businessman. When I sell liquor, it's bootlegging. When my patrons serve it on a silver tray on Lake Shore Drive, it's hospitality."

**Al Capone**

"From early colonial days, sex life in America had been based on the custom of men supporting women. The situation reached it's heyday in the 20's, when it was easy for any dabbler in stocks to flaunt his manhood by lavishing an unearned income on girls."

**Anita Loos** *Kiss Hollywood Goodbye*

"My candle burns at both ends;  
It will not last the night;  
But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends —  
It gives a lovely light."

**Edna St Vincent Millay** *First Fig*

## What they thought of Lorelei:

"In fact, if one examines the plot of **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes**, it is almost as gloomy as a novel by Dostoevski. When the book reached Russia, this was recognized, and it was embraced by Soviet authorities as evidence of the exploitation of helpless female blondes by predatory magnates of the Capitalistic System. The Russians, with their native love of grief, stripped **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes** of all its fun and the plot which they uncovered was dire."

**Anita Loos** *Introduction to 1963 edition of GPB*

"I reclined on a sofa reading **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes** for three days. I am putting the piece in place of honour."

**James Joyce**

"Without hesitation, the best book on philosophy written by an American."

**George Santayana**

"The great American novel."

**Edith Wharton**

## P.S.

"Last summer she shared a party for Andy Warhol. 'I looked round the room and everybody there was so beautiful. The girls, I always have pretty girls, nice girls not hustling types because they're decorative like flowers but since it was summer they looked particularly. . . you know, and the men were so good looking that night. I said to my co-host "We really should have asked just one ugly person. Just one.' ' ' "

**Lady Rothermere** *The Guardian*, 11 May 1979

"Vogue model Jo Perque from Paris cleared the floor with an interpretive dance, which involved being whirled round by Prince Kiko Hohenlohe while gripping his waist with her bronzed legs. Alas, he let go prematurely, catapulting her into the food tables and causing messy havoc."

*The Daily Mail*, 9 May 1979

(Report of a party held by President Marcos)