

## IAN BROWN

Ian Brown has had his plays presented by companies ranging in scale from Prospect Theatre Company and the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh, to the studio theatres at the Traverse and Bush Theatres. His work has been presented throughout Britain and overseas. His one man show JOKER IN THE PACK was not only in the Edinburgh Festival and on tour, but also in Istanbul.

## CLARE VENABLES

Clare took a first class honours degree in Drama from Manchester University, since when she has acted and directed in regional theatres all over the country. She has been the artistic director of the Theatre Royal, Lincoln; the Library and Forum Theatres, Manchester; and the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. As a freelance she has also directed in Canada, America, Australia, and India. She took up her present post, as Artistic Director of the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, in 1981. While at the Crucible she has directed, amongst others: LENNON, ANYTHING GOES, FUNNY GIRL, HAMLET, THE RAILWAY CHILDREN, PRESENT LAUGHTER, GOLDEN BOY, WOMEN TALKING, SPRING AWAKENING, MYSTERY BOUFFE, ALADDIN, AMADEUS, CARMEN JONES, GYPSY, IT'S A BIT LIVELY OUTSIDE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, THE PARK, THE CHERRY ORCHARD, LADY BE GOOD, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, and most recently, WILLIAM TELL.

## MARY McCUSKER

Mary McCusker was born in Glasgow, and trained there at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. In 1975 she helped found Monstrous Regiment, and has appeared in twelve of its productions. She also worked extensively in repertory with such companies as the Glasgow Citizens, Edinburgh Ly-

ceum, Liverpool Everyman, Birmingham Rep, and Bolton Octagon. In London she has worked at the Half Moon Theatre, The Drill Hall, and the Soho Poly. Her recent work includes LADY MACBETH at Lancaster, Mary Stuart in MARY STUART at the Salisbury Playhouse, and Marceline in THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO at the Crucible Sheffield. She will be appearing at Derby Playhouse in LOVE GAMES by Arthur Schnitzler before bringing BEATRICE up to Edinburgh.

## ANNABEL LEE – Designer

Graduated from Wimbledon School of Art in June 1988. Her recent work includes, MACBETH for the Orange Tree Theatre, TOM THUMB & LEAVE HIM TO HEAVEN for Proteus Theatre Company, CLUB NITE at the Shaw Theatre, and was assistant designer on Lorca's THE PUBLIC at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

## GEORGE TARBUCK – Lighting Design

## LIZ AINLEY – Stage Manager/Technician

Liz is a freelance stage manager and has worked in many different theatres including the Sheffield Crucible, the Royal Court and many in the West End of London. This is her first show with Monstrous Regiment.

MONSTROUS REGIMENT would like to thank the Crucible Theatre for all their help and support. Emma Thistlethwaite for help on the set and Sean Hudson for the photographs.

# MONSTROUS REGIMENT

## THE COMPANY, AND IT'S WORK.

Monstrous regiment was formed in 1975 by a small group of professional actors who wanted to make exciting political theatre based on women's experience; tired of seeing that experience marginalised or trivialised, we wanted to take it out of the wings and place it at the centre of the stage.

Over the years we have explored a wide range of theatrical forms, and worked in many different venues. We have commissioned a large body of plays about women from such writers as Chris Bond, Caryl Churchill, David Edgar, Bryony Lavery, Claire Luckham, Rose Tremain, and Michelene Wandor.

For further information contact MONSTROUS REGIMENT, 123 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HN. Tel: (01) 387 4790

## WOMEN IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT

BEATRICE is the first production of our new season, which consists of plays both by, and about European women of the past and the present day.

### LOVE STORY OF THE CENTURY

BEATRICE will be followed in the autumn by LOVE STORY OF THE CENTURY, by Finnish writer Marta Tikkanaen. A story of love and anger, it concerns the struggle of a wife and mother to create a life for herself and her family, in the middle of the havoc wreaked by her husband's alcoholism. This will be the British premiere of a play which has received the NORDIC Women's Literary Prize, and has been presented on stage and television in many countries.

### THE NEW COLONY

Next spring will see our exciting new adaptation of THE NEW COLONY, written by the French writer Marivaux in 1750. A group of people fleeing a foreign invasion of their native land find themselves on a desert island, and decide to set up a government. Fine. Until the women point out that this proposed government, like the one that they left behind does not include them. A raging battle of the sexes ensues. This perennial debate will be continued in a companion piece specially commissioned by Monstrous Regiment.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE SPONSORSHIP FROM HILTON NATIONAL FOR OUR CURRENT SEASON OF WORK.

The Sponsorship of Monstrous Regiment by Hilton National has been recognised by an award under the Government's Business Sponsorship incentive scheme, which is administered by ABS

# BEATRICE

## Eavesdropping Across Time

In the 14th C, as now, differences of opinion divided communities, split families, and led to bloody revenge. Beatrice de Planissoles lived in Montailou, a small village in the middle of the Pyrenees - one of the last strongholds of the Cathers, A Christian sect deemed heretical by the Inquisition. She was a woman who valued her independence. Her friends included many of the leading families who secretly practised the Cather faith - including the local priest.

As the Inquisition tightened it's hold betrayals became commonplace. Property could be confiscated, and heretics burnt at the stake. Their fear was such that people gave evidence against their friends, husbands, and wives. Beatrice lived alone, but when the shadow of the Inquisition seized her lover the shadow of suspicion fell on her too.

Arriving in the 20th C. by a devious route which started with the Inquisition's own records, BEATRICE is like a shaft of light into the emotional life of a whole community. Wife, mother, mistress and heretic she speaks clearly across the centuries - outspoken, irreverent and full of humour even in her darkest hour.