

Monstrous Regiment was created in 1975 by a group of women who wanted to make high energy, exciting political theatre; to produce plays which present the richness of women's lives and experience, and to place that experience centre-stage. Over the years the Company has commissioned a large body of plays from such writers as Chris Bond, Caryl Churchill, David Edgar, Bryony Lavery, Claire Luckham, Rose Tremain and Micheline Wandor.

'MONSTROUS REGIMENT IS ONE OF THE LEADING POLITICAL THEATRE GROUPS IN THE ENGLISH SPEAKING WORLD'

BOSTON GLOBE (USA) MARCH 1987

"MONSTROUS REGIMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN REMARKABLE FOR THE CHALLENGING DISTURBING AND OFTEN ARTISTICALLY BRILLIANT QUALITY OF ITS WORK" ...GLASGOW HERALD MAY 1987.

"MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE IS AN EXCELLENT EVENING. HOW EXCITING TO BE PART OF MONSTROUS REGIMENT" ...LONDON EVENING STANDARD MAY 1987.

"THE POLICY OF MONSTROUS REGIMENT IS TO PLACE WOMEN CENTRE-STAGE, NOT A NEW POLICY TODAY, BUT THIS COMPANY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO STATE THAT PARTICULAR PRIORITY. ALMOST 15 YEARS LATER, THE THEATRE IT PRESENTS IS MATURE AND SELF CONFIDENT" ...THE SCOTSMAN FEB 1990.

This Summer the Company initiated a series of workshops for writers under the title Theatrical Nomads. Part Two will take place this Autumn. For details of these and monthly rehearsed playreadings contact Tash Fairbanks, Writer in Residence or Rose Sharp, Administrator.

MONSTROUS REGIMENT, 190 Upper Street, London N1 1RQ. Tel: 071-359 9842.

Monstrous Regiment is a Member of ITC  
Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts

## MONSTROUS REGIMENT

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH  
SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE  
PRESENTS

# THE COLONY

COMES A CROPPER!



Arts Council Funded

An eighteenth century comedy with a twentieth century ending,  
this action packed adventure story brings together  
Marivaux's witty elegance and Archer's  
abrasive comedy.

## ACT I



# THE COLONY

BY MARIVAUX, translated by Gillian Hanna.

In the romantic setting of a desert island, the battle of the sexes unfolds. Shipwrecked by the winds of fate, a group of survivors shake the seaweed from their shoes and prepare to build a new life. A New Constitution! Wrongs will be righted, oppression banished, and justice and equality will prevail.

But who will make the new laws? And who will lead this new society? The women have no doubts...But the men have no scruples.

MARIVAUX, born in Paris in 1688 published the one act play 'The Colony' in 1750'. As far as we know it was not performed until 1929. Some people have pointed out the affinity between The Colony and Aristophanes' Lysistrata. But it is more likely that the ideas in the play were suggested by the fierce debates about women's emancipation that were raging at the time – especially in Madame de Lambert's salon where Marivaux was a frequent visitor. He died in 1763.



Directed by **NONA SHEPPHARD**

Designed by **JENNY CAREY**

Music by **LINDSAY COOPER**

## ACT II



# COMES A CROPPER!

BY ROBYN ARCHER

On a desert island, centuries later, the women smell a rat and begin to plot. Meanwhile, in the opposing camp, the men continue to plot. Both plots thicken...and start to curdle.

Are there traitors in both camps?  
Will this battle never end?

In a series of twists and turns – unlikely alliances, mistaken identities and cowardly collusions – women and men run amok, as they race to solve one of life's trickier problems.



ROBYN ARCHER is best known to British audiences for her long running West End show "A Star is Torn" and her successful cabaret "The Pack of Women". As a writer she has created eleven major works for the stage, four of which have been adapted for television. In addition to "Comes a Cropper" her current projects include "Opera Mambo" for Nexus Opera and "Club Nocturne" a musical thriller for understudies.

For those with sight or hearing difficulties Monstrous Regiment can supply tape of text with details of the play.