



PRESS RELEASE

Thankfully there is Moonlight!

By Sttau Monteiro

Adapted, translated & produced by Alice de Sousa
Directed by Bruce Jamieson
Presented by Galleon Theatre Co. Ltd

13th February- 11th March 2007

Tues-Sat @ 7.45pm - Sun @ 4pm

PRESS NIGHT: Thursday, 15th February @ 7.45pm

TICKETS: £11, £9 (concs.)

BOX OFFICE: 020 8858 9256; boxoffice@galleontheatre.co.uk

**VENUE: GREENWICH PLAYHOUSE, Station Forecourt,
189 Greenwich High Road, LONDON SE10 8JA**

Galleon Theatre Company, with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, is delighted to announce that its first theatre production in 2007 will be the World Première translation of Sttau Monteiro's controversial play *Thankfully there is Moonlight!*; which continues the company's internationally acclaimed work in introducing unfairly neglected European writers to London theatre audiences.

"The Greenwich Playhouse is an enjoyably ambitious venue that is a solid producer of classics"
– **Evening Standard**

Sttau Monteiro (1926-1993) was one of Portugal's greatest 20th Century playwrights and *Thankfully there is Moonlight!*, written in 1961, is regarded as his finest theatrical achievement. Although initially published and distributed in a secret and clandestine manner; as it had been banned by Portugal's Fascist regime (1926-1974) one of the longest surviving European dictatorships; it nevertheless succeeded in securing international acclaim. The play's status and writer's reputation were further unwittingly enhanced by the PIDE's (Portugal's secret police) imprisonment of **Sttau Monteiro** in one of the country's notorious concentration camps. *Thankfully there is Moonlight!* was considered so controversial that it did not receive its Portuguese premier until 1978, some four years after democracy had been established, when nearly 16,000 people enthusiastically rushed to see the first national production of this extremely powerful and provocative play.

"This studio-sized venue has been put on the cultural map with productions of epic quality." –
South London Press

In *Thankfully there is Moonlight!* **Sttau Monteiro** issues an acerbic and universally relevant criticism of a society founded on political oppression and social inequality. Set in 1817 and based on entirely true events, **Sttau Monteiro** creates an allegory through which he is able to denounce the brutal political repression and crippling poverty of his own time. At the heart of his uncompromising play there is the remarkable story of woman's attempts to save her lover, General Gomes Freire de Andrade, from execution by a corrupt government, church and military (led by Marshall William Carr Beresford).

Thankfully there is Moonlight! is an epic tale of courage and love against insurmountable odds.

"Something must be said for the Greenwich Playhouse, it is remarkably refreshing to come across a theatre of such a high standard – one that exudes class."
– **indielondon.co.uk**

Galleon Theatre Company's World Premiere translation of *Thankfully there is Moonlight!* is directed by critically acclaimed actor/director **Bruce Jamieson** who has previously directed over twenty **Galleon** productions and played leading roles in some sixty stage plays; his television and film credits include: *Roughnecks* (BBC); *In Suspicious Circumstances* (Granada); *Crime Solver* (BBC); *Ali G-Inda House* (Universal); *Monarch of the Glen* (Ecosse); *Spongebob* (BBC); *Murphy's Law* (Tiger Aspect); and will this spring commence filming *The Oxford Murders*.

Thankfully there is Moonlight! is adapted, translated and produced by **Alice de Sousa** who has produced over seventy stage plays; played leading roles in some thirty theatre productions; written many highly acclaimed plays; and in 2005 won the American Biographical Institute's awards of 'Great Women of the 21st Century' and 'Woman of the Year Award 2005'. (These awards recognise the impact on society of the work of 1000 prolific women throughout the world). In 2007, she has been nominated for the illustrious award 'Prémio de Talento 2006' of the Portuguese Government's 'Gabinete de Estado das Comunidades Portuguesas'.

Galleon Theatre Company has been staging critically acclaimed theatre since 1995.
Recent Productions Include:

➤ **'A DOLL'S HOUSE' by Henrik Ibsen**

"In this insightful production, Bruce Jamieson's revival of the Ibsen play, despite its 19th Century setting always seems startlingly modern." – **The Guardian**

"This excellent production benefits from expert steerage from director Bruce Jamieson and producer Alice de Sousa. Highly recommended." – **Theatre World**

"If this were a Hollywood movie, we'd be cheering – and not just because the oppressed stands up to the oppressor." – **Time Out**

➤ **'THE HEIRESS OF THE CANE FIELDS' adapted by Alice de Sousa from the novel by Julio Dinis**

"Alice de Sousa has clearly done her work well. Some 15 characters are established with speed and clarity." – **Evening Standard**

"Alice de Sousa's hugely enjoyable adaptation of this tragicomic novel builds on her well-established reputation for communicating the greatness of Portuguese literature that deserves to be more widely known". - **The Stage**

"The Greenwich Playhouse never fails to present quality productions and I would argue that *The Heiress of the Cane Fields* is indeed one of their best yet!" - **indielondon.co.uk**

➤ **'THE SEAGULL' by Anton Chekhov**

"Galleon has found the perfect intimate space in which to pull us right into Chekhov's milieu. We can laugh the laughs of genuine Chekhovian discomfort, and squirm along with our characters caught in a net." - **The Independent**

"An impressive production that gives every actor, and indeed, every character, the space they deserve." - **Time Out**

"Galleon Theatre Company gives an excellent account of this much loved classic, capturing the sadness of unrequited love and failed aspiration, but finding the humour in it too." - **What's on in London**

"Stylish, engaging and subtle in a way that delights as it entertains, Galleon shoots and scores, yet again, with *The Seagull*." - **South London Press**

➤ **'THE CRIME OF THE OLD VILLAGE' by Bernardo Santareno, translated by Alice de Sousa**

"Alice de Sousa has uncovered another potent European classic in her spry translation of this enthralling tale of religious hysteria from the great Portuguese playwright, Bernardo Santareno." – **Time Out**

"The play is superbly directed by Bruce Jamieson and the cast of 11 performers give a master class in acting. A totally engrossing drama of great quality." – **Kentish Times**

"The highly dramatic plot and heartfelt performances are fully absorbing." – **The Stage**

➤ **For further information contact the Greenwich Playhouse Press Office on: 020 8858 9256 or the producer on 07957 548010 or alice@galleontheatre.co.uk**
Please consult our website on www.galleontheatre.co.uk