

Oscar Wilde was quoted as saying, "We must educate our critics". He thought most failed to grasp the real meaning of his new play *An Ideal Husband*, which opened at the Haymarket in 1895. Over a century later the Haymarket plays host to Peter Hall's interpretation of this classic and the now educated critics are left wanting more.

After a successful run in 1992, Martin Shaw recreates his role of Lord Goring, generating hearty laughter as the effeminate cad who leads an idle, yet charmed life. David Yelland is a powerful but

restrained Sir Robert Chiltern, a Foreign Affairs Secretary who gains his fortune selling cabinet secrets.

One of the most poignant lines in the play, "When women make ideals with men, they are really making idols out of them", truly captures Wilde's theme - the differences in the way men and women love and the damaging friction that occurs as a result.

Michael Denison plays a wonderfully bumbling Earl of Caversham, father of Lord Goring and an amusing thorn in his side. Exchanges between these two are a delight to behold as the Earl relentlessly pushes his son into proposals of marriage. Anna Carteret as Mrs Cheveley brings great humour to her narcissistic blackmailing. Dressed in garish pinks and greens, as opposed to the safe dress code of the other society belles, she manages to shock with her calls for "the higher education of men".

Grand sets in blue, gold and cream depict the opulence while managing to relay the stuffiness and isolation of parliamentary life. After its current run this production is crossing the Atlantic. Broadway can expect a witty, touching, warm and perceptive drama, impeccably acted. □

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

BY OSCAR WILDE

DIRECTOR	PETER HALL	LADY MARKBY	DULCIE GRAY
DESIGNER	CARL TOMS	VICOMTE DE NANJAC	DOMINIC HAWKSLEY
LIGHTING	JOE ATKINS	LADY BASILDON	KATE GIELGUD
		MRS MARCHMONT	CLAIRE NORDON
		MR MONTFORD	PETER GORDON
		MASON	ROBIN BROWNE
SIR ROBERT CHILTERN	DAVID YELLAND	PHIPPS	PETER GORDON
LADY CHILTERN	PENNY DOWNIE	JAMES	GILES FOREMAN
MISS MABEL CHILTERN	VICTORIA HASTED	DUCHESS OF	
THE EARL OF CAVERSHAM	MICHAEL DENISON	MARYBOROUGH	DIANA VAN PROOSDY
LORD GORING	MARTIN SHAW	MR BARFORD	GILES FOREMAN
MRS CHEVELEY	ANNA CARTERET	LADY JANE BARFORD	AMANDA WILDE

JULIE EAGLETON AT THE HAYMARKET

All the right ingredients were there. The shiny, blue girlie dress, a silver hairclip replacing the ribbons, the famous ruby red, glittering shoes and a passion for the project. Lala Scott's one-woman show was presented with great gusto. For just under an hour she raced around the tiny stage, generating a whirlwind of energy.

Today is Judy's birthday and her flatmate Doris is nowhere to be seen after a disagreement in a nightclub the night before. The set is crowded with giant birthday cards with messages from "Gene Kelly and the boys" and one from "Marilyn and the girls". As is now apparent, our heroine is Judy Garland who, instead of scaling the heights of Hollywood, is dreaming of stardom in her Liverpool flat. She calls

herself a "lousy rad tad trouble maker" and reminisces about her birth in a trunk in the Princes Theatre. Ms Scott shows off her vocal techniques at various intervals by singing *Get Happy* and *Que Sera Sera*, and by jumping on and off the table which dominates the set. As the character Doris isn't around to defend herself, we can only get snatches of her personality through Judy's interpretation which involves firing a pistol in a scene from *Calamity Jane*. I'll leave the identity to you to work out!

While watching I had flashbacks to school days when the class show-off would stand on a desk and belt out a song for attention, and the rest of the class would clap, partly in awe of his or her courage. Lala Scott gave her all but sadly the plot had ran out of steam before Judy could reach her Yellowbrick Road. This production by Glitteris had good reviews at the Edinburgh Festival but the crossover to London fringe will need a great deal more magic to turn this into anything more substantial. □

JUDY AND DORIS

BY LALA SCOTT WITH THOMAS FISHER
PERFORMED BY LALA SCOTT

DIRECTOR THOMAS FISHER

DESIGNER
LIGHTING DESIGNER
SOUND

LIZ LANDER
CHRIS VICTORY
WILL MOUNT

JULIE EAGLETON AT THE MAN IN THE MOON

Q. WHAT DO YOU BUY A MAN OR WOMAN WHO HAS
EVERYTHING??

A. A SUBSCRIPTION TO PLAYS & PLAYERS