

KWPR

PRESS RELEASE

"Boys who rub me up the wrong way come to a sticky end!" Stephen Fry

Pluto Productions and Activated Image present

STEPHEN FRY'S

LATIN! or, Tobacco and Boys

directed by **ADAM BARNARD**

with **DAVID BENSON**
and **MARK FARRELLY**

KING'S HEAD THEATRE

115 Upper Street, Islington, London, N1
BOX OFFICE 020 7226 1916

Tuesday 15 April - Sunday 4 May 2003

18 performances only

Tuesday - Saturday 9.30pm (ends 10.30pm) Sun mat 5.30pm

£12.50 / £10.00 concessions

call box office for information on special offers.

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 17 APRIL AT 9.30PM

In Chartham Park Preparatory School dark secrets lurk behind the façade of boiled cabbage and cricket whites. Dominic Clarke, an ambitious young Latin master, has designs on both the headmastership and a boy called Cartwright. Cantakerous senior master Herbert Brookshaw has suspicions - and his own way of getting to the bottom of things. Will it all end in *amo, amas, a mess?*

Stephen Fry's only stageplay is as colourful, outrageous and tooth-gnashingly brilliant as you would expect. This highly acclaimed revival delighted packed houses at the Edinburgh Fringe and Hampstead's New End Theatre last year.

Fry wrote his first version of *Latin!* aged 22, as a Cambridge undergraduate. At the 1980 Edinburgh Festival it won him a coveted Fringe First and led to his long standing collaboration with Hugh Laurie. Activated Image's sharp and stylish revival presents the play for a new generation and asks: what do Chartham Park's values of 'religion, sex and public school life' mean to us now?

The cast features **DAVID BENSON** as Herbert Brookshaw. Benson is best known for his acclaimed one-man shows about Kenneth Williams (the Fringe First-winning *Think No Evil of Us*) and Frankie Howerd (*To Be Frank*) and *Mourning Glory*, a sardonic examination of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. He played Noël Coward in the BBC sitcom *Goodnight Sweetheart*. **MARK FARRELLY** (who originated the role of Dominic in Edinburgh) played both lead roles in *A Tale of Two Cities* at the 2001 Fringe, the Camden People's Theatre and the Theatre de Nesle, Paris. He also appeared in *Body and Soul*, the inaugural production of the John Caird Company, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, and took the lead role in Activated Image's *The Straight Man* at the Fringe 2002. Mark currently appears in Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at the Union Theatre.

Director **ADAM BARNARD**'s previous work includes the Fringe First award-nominated *Amy Evans' Strike* ('one of the gems of 2001' - The List) and *The Straight Man* (5 stars 'directed with a precision that leaves the competition floundering... a reminder that real theatre isn't dead' - Metro), also at Edinburgh 2002. Adam is devising a new show *The Principle of Motion*, the life story of an 18th century automaton, to be premiered at this year's Edinburgh Fringe.

For further information please contact KEVIN WILSON or MARK WHITE at KWPR on 020 7721 7621
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★★★★

'Outrageously good stuff'

The Daily Mail

'An assured revival of a very funny, if flagrantly disturbing play... as provocative today as it was 22 years ago'

Dominic Cavendish *The Daily Telegraph*

CRITICS' CHOICE

'Cringingly well-observed with a biting line in sarcasm'

The Independent

'Adam Barnard's slick production is one of the sharpest and best acted hours of theatre I have sat through this year.'

Mark Farrelly has the audience hanging on his every acerbic word'

Fiona Mountford *Evening Standard*

'These actors are a pleasure to watch; their characterisation is complete and compelling, their every movement contributing to the play. Not only that, but when the big comic moments come, they hit their notes perfectly'

The Observer