

The UEA Drama Society
at the Maddermarket Theatre

widows

by ariel dorfman

"During the first weeks of October, I had to cross Bulnes bridge to get over the Mapocho very early every morning. The first time I could not believe my eyes. It couldn't be true. From a distance I could see lots of people gathered along the bridge's railing and the riverbanks. They were looking at half-floating corpses, four men's bodies. I still remember, one was wearing a red shirt."

Widows is a play rooted in the suffering of the people of Chile following the bloody military coup that brought Augusto Pinochet to power in 1973. The words of an unnamed Chilean journalist, above, show how Ariel Dorfman's haunting, almost mythical play is based on very real events.

But **Widows** is also about the type of human repression that has occurred and continues to occur across the world. It is about the choice between continuing to fight for one's freedom or accepting peace on an aggressor's terms - and the impossible mountain a once repressive army must conquer if it wishes to impose peace on its people.

As a company we do not believe that **Widows** needs complicated set, lighting or make-up. Its story is strong enough not to warrant any other distraction. Throughout tonight's performance please remember we are a group of young men and women telling a very simple story about some of the most complex and difficult choices imaginable.

The UEA Drama Society is funded by the Union of UEA Students and run by an elected committee. It has over 250 members and produces between ten and fifteen full length and one act plays every year. **Widows** is the Drama Society's first ever production at the Maddermarket Theatre.

Recently the **University of East Anglia** announced that it is planning to close its Drama and Languages departments. Several members of the **Widows** cast study either Drama or Modern Languages. For more information, or to offer your support to the students, please visit www.stu.uea.ac.uk.

Ariel Dorfman is a Chilean novelist, playwright, essayist, journalist and human rights activist. He was born in Argentina but his family moved to the United States shortly after his birth, returning to Chile in 1954. He attended and was later a professor at the University of Chile. From 1970 to 1973, Dorfman was part of the administration of President Salvador Allende. He was forced into exile in 1973.

We have asked a representative from **Amnesty International** to attend each performance of **Widows**. Amnesty International work to increase awareness of human rights and also oppose specific abuses of human rights, such as those that occurred in Chile.

Alice Birch

Sofia mother of Alonso and Emillano

Daisy Bowie-Sell

Katherina a valley woman

Andy Davies

The Captain

Tim Demetris

Emmanuel an orderly, boyfriend of Cecilia

Kate Forrester

Yanina married to Alonso

Jess Goddard

Fidelia daughter of Alexandra

Rachel Grundy

Teresa a Valley woman

Keith Hatton

Father Gabriel; Kastoria; Alonso son of Sofia

Lewis Hunt

Alexis son of Alexandra

Elle Jones

Beatrice Kastoria; Alexandra married to Emillano

David Rubyan-Ling

The Doctor; Kastoria's Brother

Seth Sinclair

The Lieutenant

Taniel Yusef

Rosa a valley woman; *Cecilia* girlfriend of Emmanuel

Produced by
Kate Catchesides

Directed by
Ned Glasier

Stage Manager
Cat Clark

Assistant Stage Managers
Laura Coombe
Helen Perry

Lighting Design
Chris Howcroft

Technical Assistants
Stewart McKane
Jack Robson

Sounds by
Larry Holmes

'Absent Soul' composed by
Simon Anderson
based on a poem by Garcia Lorca

Sound Operator
Adam O'Brien

The Production Team wishes to thank
Val Baker, Peter Beck, Lizzie Green, Tom Hines, Jon Hyde, Michael Lyas and all at the Maddermarket Theatre, Paul Youngs, Becky Warner, Hannah Walker, the Drama Society Committee and everyone at the Union of UEA Students.

Please support these
forthcoming UEA Productions:

UEA Drama Society Presents

How I Learned to Drive by *Paula Vogel*
16 - 19 March, UEA Drama Studio

Minotaur Student Theatre Company Presents

La Ronde by *Arthur Schnitzler*
30 March - 1 April, UEA Drama Studio

UEA Drama Society Presents

Guys and Dolls by *Frank Loesser*
28 - 30 March, UEA Union LCR



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