

Press Release

Mark Goucher, Wimpole Theatre and Matthew Byam Shaw for Playful Productions present

Yes, Prime Minister



- THE WEST END'S HIT COMEDY *YES, PRIME MINISTER* MUST END ON 15 JANUARY
- 2011 UK TOUR ANNOUNCED WITH NEW CAST STARRING SIMON WILLIAMS AND RICHARD MCCABE

The sell-out production of Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay's play *Yes, Prime Minister* will end its London run at the Gielgud Theatre on 15 January, before beginning a UK-wide tour on 31 January at Brighton Theatre Royal featuring a new cast which stars **Simon Williams** as Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby and **Richard McCabe** as Prime Minister Jim Hacker.

The production will then tour to Leeds, Newcastle, Bath, Edinburgh, Southampton, Nottingham, Leicester, Malvern, Plymouth, Aylesbury, Norwich, Manchester, Sheffield, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Northampton, Richmond, Glasgow and Cardiff.

Acclaimed English actor **Simon Williams** is best known for playing James Bellamy in the period drama *Upstairs, Downstairs*. He also appeared in three series of the sitcom *Don't Wait Up* as Dr. Charles Cartwright and in the medical drama *Holby City* as Sir Charles Merrick from 2000-2003. Throughout his career, Williams has appeared on stage in numerous productions, most recently in David Hare's production of *The Power of Yes* at the National Theatre.

Richard McCabe is an Olivier award-nominated classical actor who has been an Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) since 1997. He has performed in numerous productions for the RSC, National Theatre, Barbican and performed in playhouses throughout the country. He recently appeared at the Chichester Festival Theatre in *Bingo: Scenes of Money and Death* alongside Patrick Stewart and the double bill of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* and Richard Sheridan's *The Critic*. McCabe's recent TV roles include BBC One's *Wallander* and *Spooks*.

Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, the original writers of the classic TV series *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister* have reunited for this anniversary production which has received great critical and public acclaim during both its initial season at Chichester Festival Theatre and current run at the Gielgud Theatre. In both locations the production has played to capacity audiences, with Britain's political elite among those tempted through the doors, including the Chancellor George Osborne, the Home Secretary Theresa May, Ian Hislop, former Home Secretary David Blunkett and Sir

David Frost. A range of high-profile celebrities have also attended the show including Stephen Hawking, Gloria Hunniford and *The Apprentice's* Margaret Mountford.

Prime Minister Jim Hacker and Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby face a country in financial meltdown. The only prospect of salvation comes from morally dubious allies - leading to deliciously comic consequences.

Antony Jay has enjoyed a distinguished career as writer, broadcaster and producer. He was founder and editor of the BBC's legendary *Tonight* programme, is the editor of *The Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations*, and author of *Elizabeth R* and two acclaimed documentaries on the Royal Family. He is a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Jonathan Lynn's prolific career spans more than four decades as a director, screenwriter, producer and actor in films, television and theatre, as well as best-selling author and novelist. As well as co-writing, he will be directing this stage version of *Yes, Prime Minister*. His film credits as director include *The Whole Nine Yards*, *The Fighting Temptations*, *The Distinguished Gentleman*, *My Cousin Vinny* and *Nuns on the Run* (which he also wrote).

Jay and Lynn's BAFTA award-winning political comedy *Yes, Minister* first aired on BBC2 in 1980 and ran until 1984. The sequel, *Yes, Prime Minister* ran from 1986 until 1988.

Lynn and Jay also wrote three novels, *The Complete Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister, Volumes 1 and 2*, which cumulatively sold more than a million copies in hardback, were on the British top-ten bestseller list for three years and have been translated into numerous languages.

The recession-busting West End production of *Yes, Prime Minister* recouped within five weeks of opening, taking over £2.5 million by mid-November, proving that the brand of *Yes, Prime Minister* remains one of the strongest in UK comedy.

The West End transfer of the Chichester Festival Theatre production of *Yes, Prime Minister* is produced by Mark Goucher (*The Vagina Monologues*, *The Reduced Shakespeare Company*, *Rent* and *Fame*), Wimpole Theatre (*Whipping It Up*, *A Christmas Carol*) and Matthew Byam Shaw (*Frost/Nixon*, *Mary Stuart*, *Boeing, Boeing*, *Legally Blonde* and *Enron*) for Playful Productions.

For further information please contact The Corner Shop PR on 020 7494 3665 or email chloe@thecornershoppr.com or ben@thecornershoppr.com

Notes to editors:

Creative Team

Jonathan Lynn	Director
Simon Higlett	Designer
Tim Mitchell	Lighting Designer
Sam Jones	Casting Director

Yes, Prime Minister
Written by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn

PTO for tour dates

TOUR DATES

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL

3 - 12 Feb

Box office 0844 871 7627

LEEDS GRAND

14 - 19 Feb

0844 848 2706

NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL

22 - 26 Feb

0844 811 2121

BATH THEATRE ROYAL

28 Feb - 5 Mar

01225 448844

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL THEATRE

7 - 12 Mar

0131 529 6000

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER

14 - 19 Mar

02380 711 811

NOTTINGHAM THEATRE ROYAL

21 - 26 Mar

0115 989 5555

LEICESTER CURVE

28 Mar - 2 Apr

0116 242 3595

MALVERN THEATRE

4 - 9 Apr

01684 892277

PLYMOUTH THEATRE ROYAL

18 - 23 Apr

01752 230440

AYLESBURY WATERSIDE

25 - 30 Apr

0844 8717607

NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL

2 - 7 May

01603 630000

MANCHESTER LOWRY

9 - 14 May

0843 208 6000

SHEFFIELD LYCEUM

16 - 21 May
0114 249 6000

ABERDEEN HIS MAJESTYS

23 - 28 May
01224 641122

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

30 May - 4 Jun
0844 338 5000

NORTHAMPTON DERNGATE

6 - 11 Jun
01604 624 811

RICHMOND THEATRE

13 - 18 Jun
0870 060 6651

GLASGOW THEATRE ROYAL

20 - 25 Jun
0844 871 7647

CARDIFF, WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

27 June - 2 July
029 2063 6464