

Press Release for Death and the Maiden

Chance encounter with a stranger brings the past back to haunt a tortured woman in Sutton theatre's latest offering

Death and the Maiden – Highbury Theatre Centre, 13-17 May and 20 – 24 May, 7.30pm

An intriguing story of a woman whose husband brings a stranger to their home and its consequences comes to Highbury Theatre Centre in Sutton Coldfield this month.

Ariel Dorfman's play, *Death and the Maiden*, runs at Highbury Theatre Centre's main stage from 13-24 May.

Set against the backdrop of a post-dictatorship state the play tells the story of Paulina, a woman who has been a political prisoner.

When a stranger, who has helped her husband, turns up at the couple's home she becomes convinced that the man before her - Dr Miranda - is one who tortured her while held by the authorities.

She decides to take matters in to her own hands and prove it is the same man - but is he innocent or guilty?

Nigel Higgs, director, said: "This thrilling play has proved a stunning challenge for all those involved. The psychological twists and turns have had us all working long rehearsals and the play deals with some challenging and difficult themes - torture, betrayal, the repression of painful memories to name a few.

"The cast - Susie May Lynch, Rob Hicks and Kerry Frater - have each taken on the challenges of this play and risen to them. There are also some, unexpectedly, lighter moments and we've worked hard to bring these out too. So people can expect some points at which they may laugh as well as being gripped by the events that change a couple's lives forever."

He added: "We hope audiences will enjoy *Death and the Maiden*. It has been a pleasure to be able to direct and to work with such a dedicated cast."

During the run there will be two special events for audiences. On 14 May, prior to the performance, there will be a performance of music by Schubert – a composer whose music is very significant to the story – while on 17 May, there will be an opportunity to meet the cast and director after the show.

Death and the Maiden runs at Highbury Theatre Centre (main stage), Sheffield Road, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, from 13 to 17 May and 20 to 24 May. Tickets are available now from the box office on 0121 373 2761 or online at www.highburytheatre.co.uk.

