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PRESS RELEASE - 24th October 2008

Poonamallee Productions and Southwark Playhouse present

**The Scarecrow and His Servant
By Philip Pullman**

Adapted & Directed by Simon Reade
Music & Lyrics by Chris Lerner

Designer: Tom Piper Lighting: Johanna Town Sound: Andrea J. Cox

Cast includes:

Andrew Pepper as the Scarecrow, Finn Hanlon as the servant Jack,
Mark Leipacher and Stephanie Street

10 December 2008 to 10 January 2009

PRESS NIGHT: FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008 at 7.30pm

Simon Reade directs the World Premiere of Philip Pullman's brilliant modern classic *The Scarecrow and His Servant* this Christmas at Southwark Playhouse – for all the family aged 7 and up.

While a small boy, Jack, shelters from a thunderstorm, a flash of lightning strikes a pea-brained, turnip-headed Scarecrow - and he comes to life! Together they head off in pursuit of happiness, dodging bandits, surviving ship-wrecks and flapping about with a flock of birds. When the river-polluting Buffaloni tyrants catch up with them for the final show-down, who will save the day?

Philip Pullman is the master story-teller of such popular tales as the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, *The Ruby in the Smoke* and *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*. *The Scarecrow and His Servant* was first published in 2004 to instant critical acclaim. This is its world premiere stage adaptation.

Simon Reade has worked for the BBC, RSC and Bristol Old Vic. His many adaptations include Philip Pullman's *Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp*, Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful* (to be revived for a UK tour in 2009) and Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* which won the 2005 TMA Award for Best Show for Children and Young People.

The front-rank creative team includes: composer and lyricist Chris Lerner, who has previously written songs for *The Right Size*; Tom Piper, the RSC's Associate Designer responsible for *The Histories* – he also recently designed *Zorro* in the West End; Johanna Town who was Head of Lighting at the Royal Court; and Andrea J. Cox, former Resident Sound Designer at the RSC.

Andrew Pepper (the Scarecrow) appeared in *Mary Poppins* in the West End and has performed his own cabaret act in London and New York City. Finn Hanlon (Jack) played Romeo at the New Wolsey, Ipswich. Mark Leipacher and Stephanie Street both appeared in Geraldine McCaughrean's *Not the End of the World* at Bristol Old Vic adapted and directed by Simon Reade.

For press information, interviews with Philip Pullman and Simon Reade, and reviewing tickets please contact Chris Smyrnios on 020 7407 0234 or e-mail chris.smyrnios@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Rehearsal Photographs and Production Shots by Ellie Kurtz will be available from November 24th and December 12th respectively

Listings Information

PLEASE NOTE:

OUR BOX OFFICE NUMBER HAS NOW CHANGED TO 020 7407 0234

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Adapted & Directed by Simon Reade
Music & Lyrics by Chris Lerner

Southwark Playhouse
Shipwright Yard
(Corner of Bermondsey Street and Tooley Street)
London SE1 2TF

NEAREST TUBE: LONDON BRIDGE (NOT BOROUGH)

Performances

10 December 2008 to 10 January 2009
Monday to Saturday

Evening performances start at 7.30pm sharp
Matinee performances at 11am and 3pm

See website for full schedule

Box Office

Online

www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk
24 HOURS

By Telephone (New No.)

020 7407 0234
Mon-Fri, 10.30-18.30

In Person

The ticket office at Southwark Playhouse is open from 6.30pm Mon to Saturday
(and from 2pm on matinee days)

Ticket Prices

£15 Standard
£10 Concession (Under 16s, Students, Unemployed, Senior Citizens, Disabled)
£40 Family ticket (2 Adults + 2 Children)

Concessions

Disabled people can bring one companion free of charge
There are no other concessions