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## PRESS RELEASE - 22nd May 2009

Looking Glass House presents

# The Rover

## by Aphra Behn

Directed by Naomi Jones, Production Design by Mika Handley, Music by Rob Shanks & Rebecca Shanks  
Lighting Design by Tim Bray, Sound Design by Carolyn Downing

**1 JULY TO 18 JULY 2009**

**PRESS PERFORMANCE: FRIDAY, 3 JULY 2009 at 7.30pm**

Naomi Jones directs a promenade production of *The Rover* by Aphra Behn.

*The Rover* is set in Venice, which offered a wild and welcome relief from the austere chill of Cromwell's England. For young men rich enough to afford it, it was the stag weekend destination of its time.

Wilmore is a banished Cavalier who arrives at carnival time. He charms two women: a beautiful courtesan, and a young aristocrat determined to enjoy her liberty before being forced to join a convent. Wilmore thrills in pursuing them both. But masks must come off, lanterns burn out, and even fantasy has dangerous consequences. *The Rover* offers a heady journey of seduction through the passageways and misty canals of a strange and magical city.

Aphra Behn was the first female professional playwright, a celebrated author in her own lifetime, who only turned to writing when Charles II failed to pay her for her work as a spy. Virginia Woolf wrote, 'All women together ought to let flowers fall upon the tomb of Aphra Behn... for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds'. How fitting then that Looking Glass House has been started by three women who have been inspired by Behn's words.

Performed en promenade, *The Rover's* audience will feel as though they have stepped into Venice as soon as they cross the threshold of the atmospheric Southwark Playhouse, housed within railway arches beneath London Bridge.

Looking Glass House is a new theatre company, whose aim is to produce work that draws audiences through the Looking Glass of their imagination and into theatrical experiences which blur the boundary between the actor and the audience. We aim to tell gripping narratives in innovative ways to find a happy marriage between experience and story-telling.

**For press information and reviewing tickets please contact Chris Smyrnios  
on 020 7407 0234 or [chris.smyrnios@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:chris.smyrnios@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk)**

### Notes to Editors:

Director NAOMI JONES won strong praise for her recent production of *Return to Akenfield* for Eastern Angles, which she also adapted with Craig Taylor from his book. She previously directed *Flight Path* for Max Stafford-Clark's company Out of Joint, where for several years she was assistant director working on shows including the world-touring, promenade, Africa-set *Macbeth*. She has also directed as part of Nabakov's *Present: Tense* project at Southwark Playhouse.

Looking Glass House's founders NATALIE MACALUSO and REBECCA SHANKS trained at The Oxford School of Drama. They formed Looking Glass House in order to produce *The Rover* and other ambitious, rarely performed classics.

# LISTINGS INFORMATION

**Producer**

Looking Glass House

**Production**

The Rover  
by Aphra Behn

**Venue**

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

**NEAREST TUBE: LONDON BRIDGE****Performances**

1 July to 18 July 2009  
Monday to Saturday  
Evening performances start at 7.30pm sharp

Saturday Matinee performances start at 3pm sharp

**Box Office****Online**

[www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://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 1 hour before the beginning of each performance.

**Ticket Prices**

£8, £13, £18  
'Airline Style' Pricing  
The earlier you book the cheaper the tickets!

**Concessions**

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