



MEDIA RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS JANE SEYMOUR MAKES HER ASIAN THEATRICAL DEBUT *IN THE BEST OF BRITISH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, NOEL COWARD'S "THE VORTEX"*

Singapore, November 2016 – Making its mark in the regional arts scene as the leading production house that brings the best of live British entertainment, the British Theatre Playhouse will be presenting its 15th production in Singapore and the region in April 2016 – Noel Coward's celebrated play "The Vortex". The play will open its Asian premiere in Singapore at Raffles Hotel, Jubilee Hall on 27 April and run until 15 May 2016.

"The British Theatre Playhouse productions made in the West End of London are distinctively symbolic of British sophistication. Every show has featured stars, directors, costume and set-designers from London's West End theatres to ensure top quality production. Our aim is to provide great entertainment from London and in the process, we hope to also stimulate young theatre audiences here who may potentially be tomorrow's writers, directors and actors, and contribute to the grooming of local talents in the arts scene in Singapore," said Cecilia Leong-Faulkner, Founder and Managing Director of The British Theatre Playhouse.

“Our shows have also provided a platform to raise funds for charity. With our upcoming art-for-charity gala to be held on Friday, 29 April 2016 in conjunction with "The Vortex", we will be supporting the Red Cross organisation to help Syrian refugees who desperately need medical and critical aid. Organised under the patronage of our Patron, the British High Commissioner, HE Mr Scott Wightman, Jane Seymour OBE who is Red Cross Celebrity Cabinet Member will be gracing the event as our guest of honour,” commented Cecilia.

A Star-Studded Line Up

Award-winning British actress, **Jane Seymour OBE**, will be making her Asian debut in live theatre, starring in the lead role of “Florence Lancaster”. As the winner of the prestigious Emmy Award as well as two Golden Globe Awards, Jane Seymour’s outstanding work has been recognized and honoured with a ‘star’ on the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame, on Hollywood Boulevard.

Her career and path to stardom was launched by the James Bond movie “Live and Let Die”, in which she starred opposite Roger Moore. Subsequently she starred in a succession of hit movies on television and the big screen, including “Onassis - The Richest Man in the World” (Emmy Award); “East of Eden” (Golden Globe Award), “Somewhere in Time” and “War and Remembrance”. Her television series “Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman”, won her a second Golden Globe Award and has endeared her to audiences worldwide. Seymour also starred in the original Broadway production of Peter Shaffer’s “Amadeus” opposite Ian McKellan. Making a return to the big screen, Seymour’s latest movie “Bereave”, in which she

stars opposite Keith Carradine and Malcolm McDowell, will be released worldwide in January 2016.

Acclaimed West End director Bob Tomson, will be directing "The Vortex". Bob's impressive directorial portfolio includes "Blood Brothers" in London: a production which won every UK Best Musical Award and was nominated for three Olivier Awards. On Broadway the show earned him a Tony Award nomination. In the West End, he also directed "Dreamboats and Petticoats", "Scrooge", productions of "Evita" and the Olivier Award nominated comedy "On The Piste".

The set designer will be **Michael Holt**, whose West End credits include "The Woman in Black"; "Absurd Person Singular" (Whitehall Theatre), "The Glory of the Garden" (Duke of York's Theatre), "Rough Justice" (Apollo Theatre) and "June Moon" (Vaudeville Theatre), also designed "Julius Caesar" at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre as well as the highly successful centennial touring production of "Charley's Aunt".

The Synopsis

"The Vortex" is set in the sophisticated world of London 1920's high society and the elegant home of glamorous socialite *Florence Lancaster*. But all is not as it seems and a storm is brewing, threatening to engulf the Lancaster family.

Returning from Paris after a long absence, *Florence's* son, *Nicky*, is shocked to discover that his mother has acquired notoriety for her promiscuous lifestyle and now has a lover of his own age, scandalising society. But while *Nicky* battles with

the conflicting emotions that his mother's behavior arouses, *Florence* is horrified by her son's equally devastating revelations.

"The Vortex" created a public sensation when it premiered on the London stage in 1924, and created a star out of its playwright and leading actor, Noel Coward. As an unflinching exposé of the hedonistic social elite of the time, it retains its force as a provocatively modern drama.

Tickets will go on sale via SISTIC effective 1 December 2015, with early bird discount of 10% through till 31 January 2016. All ticket holders can also enjoy our "See & Save" promotion with 20% discount off their bills at Tiffin Room, Raffles Courtyard and Bar & Billard Room on the day of the show at Raffles Hotel, Singapore.

For our "See & Stay" promotion, ticket holders can enjoy a special rate of S\$395++ per room per night with breakfast for Raffles Inc Suite and S\$495++ per room per night with breakfast for Courtyard Suite at Raffles Hotel, Singapore.

Ticket prices:

Tue, Wed, Thu & Sun	\$135, \$125, \$115
Fri & Sat	\$155, \$145, \$135

ABOUT BRITISH THEATRE PLAYHOUSE

The British Theatre Playhouse (BTP) is a professional theatre production company headquartered in Singapore, and is internationally focused with a strong British connection. A long-standing member of the British Chamber of Commerce and the European Chamber of Commerce, the eleven-year old business established its UK branch office in 2012, in order to work more closely with established British

playwrights, writers, actors, directors, musical directors, set and costume designers. The company has produced and presented a series of highly successful British productions in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the UK.

The BTP takes pride on high standards equivalent to London's West End theatres and offers UK casts comprising prominent stage, television and film actors. Every one of BTP shows has featured stars from London's West End. The first show, Alan Ayckbourn's "**How The Other Half Loves**", in a dinner-theatre setting at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel from April 27th - 30th, 2004, was a sell-out production. Other productions included Oscar Wilde's "**The Importance of Being Earnest**" at the Jubilee Hall Theatre at Raffles Hotel Singapore in October 2004.

The phenomenal success of the show led to the transfer of the production to the Greenwich Theatre, London, in April 2005. Following Singapore, the production went on tour to Kuala Lumpur (Hilton Kuala Lumpur), Penang (Eastern & Oriental Hotel) and to Bangkok (The Oriental, Bangkok) with great success.

Other notable milestones include the public nomination of "**Private Lives**" for "**Best Leisure Event**" 2006 Tourism Award by the Singapore Tourism Board. October 2013 saw the theatre's most successful production since its inception with sell-out audiences in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur as well as well-received response in Bangkok, with the play Agatha Christies' "**The Mousetrap**". This production was part of the worldwide celebrations of the Diamond Anniversary of the first performance in London and the continuous sixty year run since then. In May 2014, the British Theatre Playhouse produced "Yes, Prime Minister" and presented "Leo Sayer Live in Singapore" in January 2015.

The BTP also believes in giving back to the community, by creating its own "Art for Charity" programme, where it dedicates one performance and evening to help raise fund for a chosen charity. Charities that the BTP has supported include The Community Chest of Singapore, Make-A-Wish Foundation, MILK (Mainly I Love Kids), Business Times Budding Artist Fund, Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund, Viva Foundation for Children with Cancer and KK Hospital Health Endowment Fund.

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