

About the play

"Pschitt!"

Thus Pa Ubu sets us off on a magical, savage and often filthily funny trip through a *Macbeth* for the Victorian equivalent of the happy slapping generation. With its bad language and schoolboy humour, Alfred Jarry's first and most influential play scandalised Paris in 1896 with its wicked story of Ma and Pa Ubu, two gloriously evil megalomaniacs, who spur each towards regime change in their native Poland. Aided and abetted by his wife, Pa Ubu rises to power by assassinating the King. But even the kingdom is not enough. Having increased his wealth through the execution of his subjects he is finally driven out by the Russian Army and flees. Widely recognised as the first step on the path to absurdism, Dadaism and Artaud's theatre of blood, Jarry takes us on a bizarre and chaotic journey across the worlds of *Macbeth*, *Don Quixote* and *Commedia* in a weird, wonderful and often vulgar world.

Alfred Jarry

Born in Laval, Mayenne, France in 1873, Jarry wrote 'Ubu Roi' at the age of twenty-three, and it remains his best known and most influential work.

Derived from a schoolboy play called 'Les Polonais', Ubu was inspired by M. Hébert, a school teacher and the butt of schoolboy jokes at the Lycée in Rennes which Jarry attended. Lacking both authority and dignity, the physically grotesque figure of M. Hébert became for Jarry the symbol of all the ugliness and mediocrity he already saw in the world, and in turn became the inspiration for Pa Ubu.

The figure of Pa Ubu was to be a potent one for Jarry, who became obsessed by his creation, to the point that he began to imitate him, adopting an odd way of speaking, referring to himself as 'Pa Ubu' and behaving in a highly eccentric, manner. He often wore a full cycling outfit in public, the 19th century equivalent of wearing an astronaut suit (cycling was another obsession in his life and art), lived opposite a mental hospital and decorated his house with human skeletons, and caused scandal in the streets of Paris with his excess, mad behaviour, drinking and drug taking. He carried a gun at all times, ordered dinner in reverse at restaurants, ending with the starter and challenged his friends to eat nothing but gherkins soaked in absinthe until the first one changed colour and was sick.

Absurdity became the hallmark of Jarry's style. He told a friend that "talking about things that are understandable only weighs down the mind and falsifies the memory, but the absurd exercises the mind and makes the memory work". It was through writing 'Ubu Roi' that Jarry became the creator of the science of Pataphysics, a logic of the absurd, and "science of imaginary solutions", enshrined since 1948 in the Collège de Pataphysique.

He died aged 35. His last words - "Bring me a tooth pick"

Youth Action Theatre

YAT has been established for over 30 years and offers the opportunity to take part in theatre to anyone aged 16 to 25, free of charge. If you are interested in getting involved you can visit the YAT website at www.yat.org.uk or call us on 0870 474 1970.

Thank you

June, Nick, Nigel and everyone at the Barn Theatre, Adam, Michael, Miles, Robert and the cast for building and painting the set, Tim Patrick for the swords and Chris Bailey for trumpet, Eirin for the kazoo, the YAT Management Committee, Margaret and the TTC stuffing team, Ryan Persaud for the picture of the loo, Steph's step dad for procuring the bath, Don and Lynn gale for Box Office, and Bill, Miriam, Emma and Rick for Front of House. (And anyone we've forgotten in the rush!)



The Barn Theatre 70 High Street
West Molesey KT7 2LY
Box Office 0870 474 1972 or
online at www.yat.org.uk

UBU REX

by Alfred Jarry



Pschitt!



Kate Fauset
Polish Army / Bear / John Siggurmund / Merry Man / General Laski / Conspirator
"Oh! I'm going to Ibiza!"



Daisy Jo Lucas
Ma Ubu
"I like to think there's something of myself in Ma Ubu... but there just isn't"



Sabrina Martin
A Russian Officer / Several Peasants / Echo / Queen Rosamund / People / Boggerlas' Men / A Russian
"Be beautiful and moan..."



Michael Bishop
Pa Ubu
"Like a clown in need of nicotine and children in tears"



James Harfield
Russian Dragoon / Stanislas / The Russian / Shade / Russian Army / King Wencelas / Phynanciers / Boggerlas' Men
"I originally auditioned for the Queen. I was gutted I didn't get that role!"



Tom Kirkin
Captain MacNure
" " (too cool for words)



Slowinska Magdalena
Tails
"Psiejsko czarodziejisko zaczaruj swiat dookola"



David Hookings
Renski / Polish Army / Gyron / Jan Sobierski / Counsellors / Ma's Guard
"What a brilliant bloke"



Robert Drummer
Boggerlas / Nobles / Another Peasant / Russian Army
"Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!"



Amy Cherry
Heads
"Some crazy cockney bird"



Trine Taraldsvik
Polish Army / Michael F. / Merry Men / Bear (operator) / Conspirator / Polish Captain
"Busy beyond belief."



Steph von Wiera
People / Boleslas / Registrars / Tsar Alexis / Boggerlas' Men
"Keep smiling."



Adam Brett
Ladislas / Russian Army / Sea Captain / Several Peasants / Judges / Messenger / People / Boggerlas' Men / A Russian
"I know exactly what's around the corner... I just don't know where the corner is."



Sarah Stewart
Director
"Whose love of painting, Monty Python, and profanity has come in quite useful."



Scott O'Brien
Director
"All those hours of Round the Horne, I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again have not been misspent after all."

Miles Orru
SM - "It wouldn't have happen without me."

Joe Olney
Sound - "Hi, I own a lot of moustaches."

Eileen Baker
Wardrobe - "Come on Eileen!"

Florian Bonte
Lights - "Let there be light!"

Den Baker
Production photography