

JOE HARMSTON

Joe's production of Anthony Shaffer's *Sleuth* and Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, are currently on a six month and year long national tour respectively. As Artistic Director of Bill Kenwright's The Agatha Christie Theatre Company he has also directed the sell-out, critically acclaimed productions of *The Hollow* and *The Unexpected Guest* in 2006 and 2007.

Also in 2007 his production of Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* with Stephanie Beacham and Christopher Timothy toured the UK and in the USA he directed the first production of a new family show, *Magic Tree House: The Musical*. After its sold out trial run, this show will commence a three year US wide tour in October this year.

Joe's West End credits include *Wait Until Dark* (Garrick) with Peter Bowles, *The Birthday Party* (Picadilly) with Timothy West and Prunella Scales and *The Collection & The Lover* (Donmar) by and starring Harold Pinter, and *A Talent to Amuse* (Vaudeville).

Other recent credits include the critically acclaimed *Joe & I* at the King's Head again with Peter Bowles, the sell-out national tours of *The Blue Room*, *Relative Values*, *Wait Until Dark* and Alan Ayckbourn's *The Things We Do For Love*. Other credits include *Comus* (USA), *The Last Obit* (New End, Hampstead), *The Agatha Christie Festival* – for whom he directed *Go Back for Murder*, *The Unexpected Guest* and *Spider's Web* - and *Boorskale* (Palace Theatre, Westcliff), *String of Pearls* (Minerva, Chichester) *The Guests and Goodbye Kiss* (Orange Tree), *The Kingfisher* (Bath and tour), *The Birthday Party* (Salisbury and tour), *Play* by Samuel Beckett (Riverside Studios), *Blue Window* (Old Red Lion), *A Grand Knight Out* (Bath) and *Beethoven's Tenth* (Chichester Festival Theatre) - both with Sir Peter Ustinov, *The Craft of Comedy* with Patricia Routledge (Minerva, Chichester), *Our Song* co-directing with Ned Sherrin (Athens), and *King James' Ear* (Old Red Lion).

For his own company, Tour de Force, he has directed and produced: *Vortigern* (Bridewell), *Henry V*, *Macbeth*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* (for The Arundel Festival and on tour in the UK and USA).

He was Associate Director to Sir Peter Hall on *Hay Fever* at Theatre Royal, Haymarket with Dame Judi Dench, on *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* with Kim Cattrall at The Comedy Theatre and *You Never Can Tell* with Edward Fox and Diana Quick at The Garrick Theatre in 2005. In the same year he was also Associate Director on Brian Friel's award-winning play with Sir Tom Courtenay, *The Home Place*, at The Comedy Theatre.

Joe is Chief Executive of The Ideas Foundry, a company dedicated to commercially funding the development and production of new theatre writing. In 2006 The Ideas Foundry produced its first two plays at 59East59 in Manhattan.

He was Resident Director of Chichester Festival Theatre from 1994-7 and received a BA and MA from Birmingham University.