

## PRESS RELEASE



### **“Playhouse Creatures”**

by

**April De Angelis**

Oldbury Rep’s next production tells the story of the first actresses to ‘tread the boards’ in English theatres. It is 1663 and Charles II has returned to the throne after 17 years of Puritan suppression under Cromwell. It is a time of glittering opulence, decadence and excess – and one of Charles’s first acts is to re-open the playhouses. For four women, this signals the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. On stage, the women become household names. The King and many others would come to see the newest beauties, often with the hope of taking one home. This joyous play brings historical characters to life; Mrs. Betterton (wife of the actor manager), Elizabeth Farley and the brash youngster Nell Gwyn (orange-seller-come-actress) are among the characterful company.

Behind-the-scenes, they develop strong friendships and fierce rivalries. As the camaraderie and chaos of the dressing room ignites their ambitions to play a bigger part in the theatre, can the women stick together to negotiate greater roles? And will their new-found fame bring with it better fortunes? This moving and often comic play takes us backstage in a Restoration playhouse to celebrate a bold moment in the history of modern theatre. Telling the story with bawdy comedy, theatrical flair and emotional poignancy, April De Angelis’ *Playhouse Creatures* will make you laugh and cry in equal measure.\*

The production runs in our Main House from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May until Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May and performances start at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm and every night of the production from 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £10.00 with the usual concessions at £9.00 with a special price on Monday and Tuesday evenings of £8.00 (no concessions).

Box office can be contacted on 0121 552 2761. **And you can now book online at [www.oldburyrep.org](http://www.oldburyrep.org)**