



## ***Educating Rita***

Thursday 15 – Saturday 31 October

An Oldham Coliseum Theatre Production

Written by Willy Russell

Directed by Iqbal Khan

Designed by Florence de Maré

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PRESS NIGHT: Friday 16 October at 7:30pm

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Willy Russell's comedy about collision between class and culture comes to the Coliseum this October.

Frank, a disillusioned career academic, becomes a tutor for the Open University, mainly, to help pay for his prodigious booze habit. He doesn't know what to expect, but he certainly wasn't expecting Rita.

Rita, whose real name is Susan, is a down-to-earth hairdresser looking to make a better life for herself through

English Literature. She doesn't know what she wants, but she knows she wants more than what she has.

Both in and out of the classroom, a relationship develops between them. Rita falls for the world of bohemian privilege that is now open to her, and Frank falls more than a little in love with Rita's free spirit. But as her confidence grows, Frank begins to worry that her thirst for improvement might bury the fascinating woman who has brought him back from the brink.

Willy Russell is a multi-award winning writer also known for *Blood Brothers*, *Our Day Out* and *Shirley Valentine*. ***Educating Rita*** won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 1980, with the film adaptation later winning a BAFTA Award.

Oldham Coliseum's production will be directed by **Iqbal Khan**, who was last in Oldham for 2012's Manchester Theatre Award winning *Snookered*. It will star **Steven Elliott** (*Da Vinci's Demons*) as Frank alongside **Scarlett Brookes** as Rita.

- Ends -----

#### Notes to Editor:

***Educating Rita*** runs at Oldham Coliseum Theatre from Thursday 15 – Saturday 31 October

Tickets can be booked on **0161 624 2829** or at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)

Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/educating-rita/>

Press night is **Friday 16 October at 7.30pm**.

For further press information, please contact **Shelly Ramsdale** on **0161 785 7012** or [shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk](mailto:shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk)

The Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a cultural and educational charity that works with over 150,000 individuals per year.

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**Cast :**

**Scarlett Brookes** - *Rita*

**Steven Elliott** - *Frank*

**Images :**

Download the artwork for *Educating Rita*

via: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/m2ju02nr74uabdz/Educating%20Rita.jpg?dl=0>

Rehearsal photography will be available from w/b 5 October

Production photography will be available from Friday 16 October