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## ***Whisky Galore***

Oldham Coliseum Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre and New Vic Theatre present a Pallas Players production

Friday 16 March – Saturday 7 April 2018

By Compton Mackenzie

Adapted by Philip Goulding

Directed by Kevin Shaw

Designed by Patrick Connellan

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**Press Night: Friday 16 March, 7.30pm**

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As Britain marks 100 years since women first gained the right to vote, Oldham Coliseum Theatre, Hull Truck Theatre and New Vic Theatre present a brand new, all-female adaptation of Compton Mackenzie's ***Whisky Galore*** by Philip Goulding.

Partly inspired by the true story of the Osiris Players, a troupe of female actors who toured the British Isles from 1927 – 1963, this new production is a tribute to the feisty, fearless all-female touring companies of the post war years. Under the dogmatic direction of the redoubtable Flora Bellerby, witness the Pallas Players – Win, Doris, Flora, Bea, Aileen, Connie and Juliet – as they play all the hilarious and diverse characters from Compton Mackenzie's comedy classic.

The islanders of Great and Little Todday are dismayed to find their whisky supply dwindling, as the government diverts the precious stuff to the Americans in an attempt to bribe them into supporting the British war effort. When a 50,000 whisky bottle cargo shipwrecks close by welcome relief seems to be at hand. Conflict is guaranteed, however, once stuffy Paul Waggett of the Home Guard takes it upon himself to try and prevent the thirsty islanders from taking advantage of their good fortune.

Meanwhile, as in the finest of Shakespearian comedies, two weddings are planned; one hinges on timid George Campbell finding the (Dutch?) courage to stand up to his disapproving mother; the other involves a leading English Officer's love for the daughter of a leading whisky filcher.

This production's all-female cast includes: **Christine Mackie** (*Downton Abbey's* Daphne Bryant); Coliseum favourite **Isabel Ford**; and **Joey Parsad**, who recently completed a national tour of *Around The World in 80 Days* (New Vic Theatre).

Compton Mackenzie's ***Whisky Galore*** was published in 1947, inspired by the sinking of the SS Politician off Eriskay in 1941. It was adapted into an Ealing comedy film in 1949 and became an instant success.

Writer Philip Goulding is a Coliseum favourite, whose previous work includes: *Our Gracie*, *A Fine Bright Day Today*, *The Road to Nab End*, *Wake Up Little Suzie!*, *Feels Like The First Time* and *Horse or River*.

- Ends -----

### Notes to Editor:

**Whisky Galore** runs from Friday 16 March – Saturday 7 April 2018 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

Following its run at Oldham Coliseum Theatre, **Whisky Galore** will embark on a national tour.

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/whisky-galore/>

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

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### Images:

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for **Whisky Galore** is available to download from Dropbox via: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ga6kja3abg0ku9h/Whisky%20Galore.jpg?dl=0>

Rehearsal photographs will be available from Wednesday 7 March 2018

Production photographs will be available from Friday 16 March 2018

### Cast:



**Sally Armstrong** –  
*Flora Bellerby*



**Lila Clements** –  
*Aileen McCormack*



**Isabel Ford** –  
*Bea Cornford*



**Christine Mackie** –  
*Win Hewitt*



**Alicia McKenzie** –  
*Juliet Mainwaring*



**Joey Parsad** –  
*Doris Sanderson*



**Shuna Snow** –  
*Connie Calvert*

#### **Production Team:**

**Kevin Shaw** – Director

**Patrick Connellan** – Designer

**Jason Taylor** – Lighting Designer

**Lorna Munden** – Sound Designer

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#### **Oldham Coliseum Theatre**

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

The Coliseum has a rich history in Greater Manchester dating back to 1885. It provides a wide variety of distinctive theatre performances and participatory activities for people from all communities in Oldham, Greater Manchester and beyond. It creates eight original productions each year, of which up to half are newly-commissioned work, which are presented at the Coliseum and on tour. Intrinsic to the town's on-going regeneration, the theatre works with its local communities and young people to develop creative programmes to facilitate learning, engagement and community cohesion.

The Coliseum is actively engaged with Oldham Council and Arts Council England to deliver a new theatre in the town by 2020.

#### **Hull Truck Theatre**

Hull Truck Theatre is a pioneering theatre with a unique Northern Voice, locally rooted, global in outlook, inspiring artists, audiences and communities to reach their greatest potential.

We produce and present inspiring theatre that reflects the diversity of a modern Britain. We provide the resources, space and support to grow people and ideas, are an ambassador for our city, a flagship for our region and a welcoming home for our communities.

Through our work with schools and local communities we engage with thousands of young people, disabled groups and adults, offering opportunities to participate in the arts, whether as the first step into a career, a way to build confidence and meet new people, or as part of a rounded education.

We are continuing the momentum of Hull 2017 to tell inspiring stories dug from the heart of our city, alongside tales from the wider world, that reflect the diverse range of communities and

creative voices that populate our nation. We are ambitious and bold, committed to our core values of Inclusion, Innovation and Integrity.

Hull Truck Theatre gratefully acknowledges support from Arts Council England and Hull City Council.

### **New Vic Theatre**

Founded in 1962, the New Vic is the producing theatre for Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. With around eight major productions a year, it presents a varied and adventurous programme which includes contemporary drama, new commissions, innovative adaptations and accessible classics.

Recent productions have toured nationally and internationally and have transferred to London and Manchester. The theatre enjoys a relationship with the RSC's Associate Schools programme; and has been an Affiliate Company of the National Theatre Studio. The theatre also regularly works with partners including the Manchester Royal Exchange, the Oxford Playhouse, the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Bolton Octagon, Oldham Coliseum and Northern Broadsides.

The New Vic has developed extensive and award-winning community involvement, working regionally, nationally and internationally through its Education Department and ground-breaking New Vic *Borderlines*, which works to change the lives of the most disadvantaged members of the community. The New Vic also leads *Appetite*, an initiative to increase engagement with the arts within Stoke-on-Trent.

The New Vic Theatre operates thanks to a unique partnership between Arts Council England, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

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### **Whisky Galore national tour 2018:**

Oldham Coliseum Theatre	Friday 16 March – Saturday 7 April
The Haymarket, Basingstoke	Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21 April
York Theatre Royal	Tuesday 24 – Saturday 28 April
Hull Truck Theatre	Wednesday 2 – Saturday 12 May
New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme	Wednesday 16 May – Saturday 2 June
Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds	Tuesday 5 – Saturday 9 June
Cast, Doncaster	Wednesday 13 – Saturday 16 June
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry	Wednesday 20 – Saturday 23 June
Salisbury Playhouse	Tuesday 26 – Saturday 30 June