

# ***Withering Looks***

A LipService Theatre production

Tuesday 16 – Saturday 20 October 2018

By Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding

Directed by Noreen Kershaw

Designed by Wrench & Franks

Composed by Ian Heywood

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## **Press Night: Tuesday 16 October, 7.30pm**

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In the 200th anniversary year of Emily Brontë's birth, Britain's favourite literary lunatics, LipService, are back with their cult Brontë spoof, ***Withering Looks***.

Peopled with some of the great characters from the Brontë canon – and some, quite frankly that LipService have made up - ***Withering Looks*** is an irreverent and hilarious theatre event to savour. It takes us behind the grim façade of the Haworth Parsonage for an intimate look at the lives and works of the three famous sisters. Well, two of them, actually – Anne's popped next door for a cup of sugar.

Who is the Brontë's mysterious neighbour, Mr Moorcock of Ravaged Heath House? Do Lost Souls really wander the wild and heather clad moors? Who should Cathy marry? Heathcliff or David Niven? Plus, Manchester's very own Mrs Gaskell drops by for tea and sympathy.

Described as "*literary specialists and comedy duo par excellence*" LipService, otherwise known as Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding, have been writing and performing together since 1985, touring nationally and internationally. They have written 19 original comedies for the stage, and have twice won the Critics' Award for Comedy and the Stage Door Foundation Award.

The duo's previous productions include: *Very Little Women*, a comic version of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*; *Hector's House*, an epic tale of togas and taramasalata; the Aga Saga *Women on the Verger*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Move over Moriarty*, an impenetrable case for Holmes and Watson, and, most recently *The Picture of Doreen Gray*.

***Withering Looks*** won a Manchester Evening News Theatre Award and the Critics' award for Comedy at the Edinburgh Festival.

- Ends -----

### **Notes to Editor:**

***Withering Looks*** runs from Tuesday 16 – Saturday 20 October 2018 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

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/withering-looks/>

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 *Withering Looks* is available to download from Dropbox via: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/qnml9c62cjc1/Withering%20Looks.jpg?dl=0>

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### LipService Theatre Company

LipService's Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding have been writing and performing since 1985.

They have written 19 original comedies for the stage, had their own series on Radio 4 – nominated for a Writer's Guild Award - and have twice won the Critics' Award for Comedy at the Edinburgh Festival.

LipService have toured nationally and internationally, with a reputation for their high quality and idiosyncratic comic take on popular culture.

After 32 years, LipService remain fresh and vibrant, attracting a large and loyal audience.

### 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 original productions, 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.