

Teddington Theatre Club presents  
an amateur theatre company production of

# The Mandrake

By Niccoló Machiavelli  
Translated by Wallace Shawn

directed by  
Chris Burton &  
Karen Heyworth Taylor

21-27 \*November 2010  
7.45pm

\*there will be no performance  
on Friday 26 November, and there  
will be a matinee on Saturday  
27 November at 3pm

Hampton Hill Playhouse  
90 High Street  
Hampton Hill  
Surrey  
TW12 1NY



**ttc** teddington  
theatre club

## NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI

'Machiavelli's sense of what it is to be a person of *virtù* can thus be summarized by his recommendation that the prince above all else must acquire a *flexible disposition*.' (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Machiavelli's plays depict life lived according to the principles of *virtù*. During his lifetime his influence on theatre was stronger than his influence on government, and his plays have been called revolutionary. His characters, especially in his masterpiece *Comedia di Callimaco: E di Lucretia* (1518), later published as *Mandragola*, exhibit the characteristics of *virtù* in varying degrees. While purporting to be comic entertainment, they effectively propagandize Machiavelli's political theories and suggest radical changes in the status quo of Florentine society. The style of Machiavelli's plays revolutionised European theatre, inspiring an entire Elizabethan school of *Machiavells* that included some of Shakespeare's characters, notably Richard in *Richard III*.

The plays illuminate a transition between the fifteenth-century tradition of Latin comedy, derived from Plautus and Terence, and the great Elizabethan theatre that addressed local and social issues. The contemporary character of *Mandragola*, in particular, became a new model for dramatic construction that can still be seen centuries later.

In 1984 *The Mandrake* was produced at London's National Theatre in this translation by Wallace Shawn after having premiered in 1977 at the Public Theatre, New York.

## Production team

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Directors     | Chris Burton<br>Karen Heyworth-Taylor  |
| Stage Manager | Vicky Horder   |
| Sound         | Stephanie Wood   |
| Lighting      | Nick Osorio  |
| Set Design    | Chris Burton   |
| Set Build     | Chris Burton, Steve Taylor<br>Nick Osorio, Alan Corbett, Martin<br>Stonelake |
| Wardrobe      | Sally Kettle   |

With special thanks to Terry Stevens, Alice Fiorica and Joy McQuade.

## Performers

### James Hammond– Callimaco

This is James's 8<sup>th</sup> Show at TTC having joined in 2007. He was nominated for a Swan Award for his portrayal of Wilfred Owen in *Not About Heroes* in 2008. He has been performing since the age of 5, with his first performance at the Unicorn Theatre in Leicester Square.

### Chris Burton – Ligurio

Chris trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in the 1980's and has written and directed for the theatre, and cofounded Synergy Theatre Project, developing public theatre events with men in London prisons. *The Mandrake* is Chris's second production for TTC after directing *Not About Heroes* in 2008.

Cont .... 

### Barry Hill – Professor Nicia

Barry has acted for many years and has played a great variety of parts, many for Theatre West Four. Since joining TTC in 1994 appearances have included *Francisco Pizarro* 'The Royal Hunt of the Sun', the Burgomaster in *The Visit*, Nonno in *The Night of the Iguana* and Gregory Solomon in *The Price*. He has directed several productions for TTC receiving a Swan award for 'Blue Remembered Hills'

### John Bellamy – prologue/Brother Timothy

Following his debut as a foxglove at age 7, John's acting career has never looked back, however despite playing a variety of roles during the intervening six decades, he has never previously been cast as a man of God, so is much looking forward to playing a corrupt friar. This is his third appearance for HHP this year, his previous ones having been in OHADS' *Hancock* and *Noises Off*.

### Martin Stonelake – Siro

After many years behind the scenes in his usual job as Stage Manager, this is Martin's first venture on to the stage since he played a transvestite in a musical about the National Lottery. He hopes that his role in *The Mandrake* will lead to other small parts in future productions.

### Roberta Garcka – Madonna Sostrata

Roberta sang in the original West End production of *Evita*. Her work for TTC includes *A Christmas Carol*, *The Critic*, *Relative Values*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew*, and OHADS' production of *Hancock's Succession Son and Heir*. She will be heard in December as the voice of *Prince Charming* in *Cinderella on Ice* at Bracknell.

### Kelly Wood - Madonna Lucrezia

This is Kelly's first production with TTC. She has previously worked with Doncaster Little Theatre, and played a variety of roles including Katherine in *A View from the Bridge*, Queen Elizabeth in *Mary Stuart*, and Sue in *Rita Sue and Bob too*.

### Karen Heyworth-Taylor - Woman

Karen performed at The Buxton Opera House as Dandini in *Cinderella*. European Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Iron Man* at The Young Vic. Currently part of a vocal duo called The Melody Girls and sings with The Landmark Singers. At TTC, Corrie in Neil Simon's *Barefoot In The Park*, Sonya in Chekov's *Uncle Vanya*. She directed Patrick Marber's *After Miss Julie* for TTC in the studio last year.