

Isle of Shoals Productions, Inc.

119 West 72nd St., #457
New York, NY 10023
a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theatre company

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Edward the Second, the Passionate New Musical

In celebration of the 450th birthday of Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe (Shakespeare's great friend), Isle of Shoals Productions, Inc. introduces the World Premiere musical adaptation of ***Edward the Second***. This is a radically realized – yet faithful-in-spirit – adaptation by Lance Hewett and Bryan Williams. Featuring a diverse and dynamic contemporary score, in turn lyrical and dramatic, by Bryan Williams (winner of two 2012 New York Innovative Theatre Awards, for both Outstanding Original Script and Outstanding Original Music), this is a tempestuous, tilted, true-life love quintet involving not just the medieval King Edward II who lost his throne and his life for his “favourite” Piers Gaveston – married to his niece Margaret -- but also his vengeful Queen, Isabella, who invades England with her scheming lover Roger Mortimer. Set in a time when a queen's adultery was treason and same-sex relations heresy punishable by death, and when the “holy chains of matrimony” turned women into property “bred to breed their husbands heirs” (is it a wonder Margaret chose Gaveston over the brutal warlords coveting her fortune?), this story is as daring and controversial now as when Marlowe penned it, and deals with political and sexual themes of human rights and injustice ripped from today's headlines. Brought to life by 16 amazing actors with glorious voices, ***Edward the Second*** is a rarity in today's era of juke box and camp musicals helmed by tv personalities -- it is a genuine work of musical theatre!

“Forbidden love at first sight” is the theme of this year's Isle of Shoals season and soon to follow in rep – celebrating the 40th anniversary of its NYC premiere – is Milan Stitt's ***The Runner Stumbles***, based on the actual transcripts of the 1911 true-life murder trial (and told in flashbacks) of a priest accused of murdering the nun he falls in love with. . . and she with him. As Christopher Marlowe wrote all those centuries ago: “***It lies not in our power to love or hate, for will in us is overruled by Fate. . .***”

Edward the Second is an Equity Showcase Production and will be running 16 performances between October 9 and November 2 at the in-demand Robert Moss Theatre at 440 Lafayette Street across from the Public. Tickets are available at SmartTix.com, 212-868-4444.

Isle of Shoals Productions, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theatre company, now in its 19th year, “dedicated to producing works which celebrate the human spirit and unite music and drama in unique, innovative and adventurous ways.” Most recently, our musical farce ***That Lady from Maxim's*** was presented as part of the 2013 New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) and was nominated for 7 coveted New York Innovative Theatre Awards, winning 4 of them, including Outstanding Production of a Musical. In our 19 years, we have prided ourselves on producing works in virtually every genre of theatre -- thrillers (*Night Must Fall*), classics (*Romeo & Juliet*, *The Seagull*), new plays (*In This Fallen City*), new musicals (our 9/11 fable, *Occupation: Dragonslayer* and the Clinton era sex-and-politics romp, *American Nocturne*), modern classics (William Nicholson's *Shadowlands*. Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, Robert Sherwood's *Idiot's Delight*), and themed musical revues that explore America's rich musical heritage, like *Falling in Love with Love* (for Valentine's Day), *Autumn Leaves*, and *Blue Songs*, *Gray Songs*, our montage of songs and stories from the Civil War. Our original musical revue *Café Coward* (coupled with Noël Coward's *Still Life*) was later presented at Hofstra in an extended version.

Please join us at the Robert Moss Theatre for our most ambitious and exciting season ever!

visit our web site at www.isleofshoals.org