



PRESS RELEASE: SAMANTHA SPIRO, KEVIN BISHOP AND JENNIFER SAUNDERS JOIN CAST OF KATHY BURKE'S LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday 7 September

Classic Spring is delighted to announce that **Samantha Spiro** and **Kevin Bishop** will star in its forthcoming production of *Lady Windermere's Fan* at the Vaudeville Theatre. Director **Kathy Burke** brings together a talented comedic cast from her previous work on *Absolutely Fabulous* and *Psychobitches*, including **Jennifer Saunders** guest starring as the Duchess of Berwick. This marks Jennifer's return to the West End stage for the first time in over twenty years

Samantha Spiro plays Mrs Erlynne. Samantha first came to fame playing a young Barbara Windsor in *Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick* at the National Theatre, a role she recently reprised for the BBC drama *Babs*. Her other stage credits include *The House They Grew Up In* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe) and *Chicken Soup with Barley* (Royal Court). She won the **Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical** for *Merrily We Roll Along* at the Donmar Warehouse. Her other screen credits include *Carnage*, *Psychobitches* and *Grandma's House*.

Kevin Bishop plays Lord Darlington. Last year, Kevin starred in the BBC's remake of the classic comedy *Porridge*, which has now been confirmed for a six-part series. His other screen credits include *Tracey Ullmann's Show*, *Rebel Wilson's Super Fun Night* and *Peep Show*. He also co-wrote and starred in Channel 4's *The Kevin Bishop Show*, which ran for two series. His recent stage credits include a one-man show, *Fully Committed*, at the Menier Chocolate Factory, and *Once In A Lifetime* at the Young Vic.

Comedian, screenwriter and actor **Jennifer Saunders** guest stars as the Duchess of Berwick. Jennifer is best known for writing and starring in the sketch show, *French and Saunders*, for which she and Dawn French received a BAFTA fellowship in 2009,

and the BBC sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous*, which won international acclaim, a BAFTA and an Emmy. Her other recent stage and writing credits include the BBC series *Jam & Jerusalem* and *Blandings*.

Further casting for *Lady Windermere's Fan* will be announced in due course.

The first play of Classic Spring's year-long season of Oscar Wilde at the Vaudeville, Dominic Dromgoole's *A Woman of No Importance*, begins previews on Friday 6 October.

ENDS

For more information, please contact Emma Draper or Claudia Conway on emma@draperconway.com / claudia@draperconway.com or +44 (0) 7910 837008 / +44 (0) 7966 567701

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About Classic Spring: A Celebration of Oscar Wilde

Vaudeville Theatre, 404 Strand, London WC2R 0NH

A Woman of No Importance

Written by Oscar Wilde

Directed by Dominic Dromgoole

Designed by Jonathan Fensom

Lighting by Ben Ormerod

6 October to 30 December 2017

Press night: 16 October 2017

Live cinema broadcast: Tuesday 28 November, 7.15pm

Lady Windermere's Fan

Written by Oscar Wilde

Directed by Kathy Burke

12 January to 7 April 2018
Press night: 22 January 2018

Live cinema broadcast: Tuesday 20 March, 7.15pm

De Profundis

Adapted by Frank McGuinness
3 to 6 January 2018

Performance times

Monday-Saturday: 7.30pm
Thursday and Saturday matinees: 2.30pm

Please visit classicspring.co.uk for a detailed performance schedule

Please visit oscarwildecinema.com for more information about live cinema broadcasts

Box office: 0330 333 4814 / classicspring.co.uk
Tickets from £19.50, with reduced price previews