

SHAW THEATRE ANNOUNCE NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Shaw Theatre is proud to announce, that under the new management of the Novotel London St Pancras, a new Artistic Director, John-Jackson Almond, has been appointed.

John-Jackson, known to most as JJ has worked at the Shaw Theatre for over 4 years, previously as the Associate Director and General Manager for the previous management company. He read Business at the University of Plymouth and then trained as a theatre director at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. London.

His directing credits have included *The King of the Castle* (Barbican Theatre - Plymouth/RNT) *One for the Road* (Ojemba Productions), the London Premiere of *Visiting Mr Green* (New End Theatre), *Willy and Rupert – The Musical* (Bridewell Theatre) as Assistant Director to Damian Cruden for *Neville's Island* (York Theatre Royal) and as an Associate Director for Lynn Redgrave on her play *Nightingale* (New End Theatre) Ruth (New Wimbledon Studio Theatre), and most recently a reading of *Joyful Noise* (Hampstead Theatre). He is currently working on a new musical, *Muscles the Musical*, for Autumn 2010.

“John-Jackson (JJ) is an outstanding young manager and an emerging creative director. JJ and the Shaw Theatre are strong supporters of the Camden Theatre Consortium, and will under JJ's creative leadership, develop a whole new local audience” said Chris Mellor, Senior Arts Development Officer with LB Camden.

A FEW WORDS FROM JOHN-JACKSON ALMOND

“The Shaw Theatre is an exciting mid-scale venue with huge potential to receive some great touring work and perhaps in the long term begin to produce.

I hope that we can build a theatre that can not only present the larger and more commercial shows but can also be a part of the local community and begin to re-create the strong local links that used to exist in the 60's and 70's. That local residents can feel that they have a local theatre that they are proud of and want to use.

My first hopes are to programme shows that are accessible to our local communities in both price and content, such as the forthcoming pantomime *Aladdin*, and to support our programme with theatre groups, a writers group and possibly a community choir. However, we are really starting from scratch with the theatre and so all these things will take time and commitment from the theatre and the local community.

For theatre producers it means that as we establish the theatre and develop a regular programme we can offer low theatre rentals to ensure we can attract productions with solid production values and clear strategic marketing plans.

I would really love to see the theatre as a busy, bustling and exciting centre for new and local writing, presenting works with a mix of professional casts and cast members from our theatre groups; my own particular tastes being reflected in the darker drama and musical theatre pieces.

So I am looking for local writers and potential writers that would like to explore their creative and factual writing in a professional theatre with a professional writer and director.

Also we are hoping to start a some theatre groups. These will be groups for anyone interested in performing – plays, musicals, poetry, singing – anything at all!”

If you would be interested in joining any of these new groups or for information on this year's pantomime, *Aladdin*, please e-mail info@shaw-theatre.com or write to JJ at Shaw Theatre, 100-110 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AJ.

www.shaw-theatre.com

