

# EDUCATING RITA

By Willy Russell

**Room:** Sunnybank Theatre

**Date:** 30 May – 14 June, 2014

<b>Working Time:</b>	<b>120 min</b>
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Directed By:	<i>Dierdre Robinson</i>
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In association with ORiGiN Theatrical!	Act 1	/70
	Intermission	/20
	Act 2	/50

**General Instructions to Patrons:**

1. Silence must be maintained in the Examination Room at all times – except when clapping or cheering.
2. You are not permitted to talk or otherwise communicate with other patrons or call out to warn the actors of impending doom.
3. You may not borrow equipment or programs from another patron.
4. If you require more writing paper or any other assistance, please remain in your place and raise your hand quietly.
5. You may not leave this Examination Room in the first hour of the production, nor may you leave in the last ten (10) minutes – that is the best bit.
6. Your response(s) to the production must be your own work.
7. You may not have any prohibited materials with you during the course of this production and you must turn your mobile phone OFF!
8. Follow completely any directions or instructions given to you by the theatre ushers.
9. Pay particular attention to any instructions printed in the space below.

**Specific Instructions from the Director:**

It is customary for the Director to pen words of thanks and praise for all those who have made a production possible. I am no exception, and I am in awe of the talents that I have been blessed to work with. Ashley took my indecipherable scribbles and turned them into an amazing set, which he also executed. Brad has lit our actors to great advantage, and Loretta’s attention to detail ensures that all runs smoothly backstage.

A play such as this places great demands on actors, not only because of the incredible volume of lines they must learn, but also because it takes a rare talent to be able to interpret a character, totally get inside that character, make us love and hate the character, and have us believe that what we see is wonderful, believable, frustrating, happy, sad, entertaining, annoying and very, very real, all at the same time. Paul and Sarah both have that rare talent.

Thank you to all these dedicated people.

Dierdre.

**Question 1:**

**What role does Sarah Mehmet play in the 2014 production of Educating Rita?**

**Answer:** Rita

Sarah was active in theatre during the '80s, playing many lead roles and winning several awards, including 'Anne', in *Anne of Green Gables* and Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*. Then with work, study, marriage and a steady succession of babies she waited another 23 years to tread the boards again and after playing 'Kate' in *Holmes and the Ripper* at STG has stepped into the challenging role of Rita. She also enjoys singing and hopes to do musical theatre in the near future. Sarah is a study support worker for the disabled but feels that her greatest role is as mother of three great kids and she particularly enjoys facilitating their interests in music and the performing arts.



**Question 2:**

**What role does Paul Marshall play in the 2014 production of Educating Rita?**

**Answer:** Frank

Paul was last seen on the STG stage in 2012 in *Same Time Next Year* which introduced him to the exquisite agony of playing in a two hander – and now he is back for more of the same. A long standing member of the theatre Paul has also directed, stage managed, pushed the buttons for sound and lighting and gotten in the way while other more competent people built sets.

Paul wants to thank you for continuing to support live theatre and coming along to see the show.



**Question 3:**

**Name the other people involved in the production and the role they played.**

**Answer:**

Director - Dierdre Robinson (That's her on the right!)  
Stage Manager - Loretta Donnelly  
Lighting - Brad Wyeth  
Set Design & Construction - Ashley Worsman  
Properties - Loretta Donnelly, Dierdre Robinson  
Photography - Kayleen Gibson  
Tour Coordinator - Chris Guyler



**Question 4 (Bonus Marks):**

Suggest how one might resolve the staging difficulties inherent in a production of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*.

**Answer:**