

## PRESS RELEASE

# JIGGERY POKERY

AN HOMAGE TO CHARLES HAWTREY

PERFORMED BY AMANDA LAWRENCE

BAC, 1<sup>ST</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009 (Mon- Sat), 8 PM

## PRESS NIGHT WED 2nd DECEMBER, 8 PM

Amanda Lawrence creates a striking homage to Charles Hawtrey, bringing his distinctive spirit to the stage in this funny and poignant tribute to the troubled *Carry On* star. Drawing on the accounts of the people that knew him, this one woman show interweaves extracts from the *Carry On* films with episodes from his life: from his days as a child star in *Peter Pan* and filming at the Pinewood Studios to his final days as a lonely and unpopular drunk on the Kent Coast.

**Charles Hawtrey** (1914-1988) had early success as a child actor and boy soprano in London's West End, and went on to find fame in the *Carry On* films. These were to become both his legacy and his prison. He died in 1988 following complications from gangrene, having refused to have his legs amputated. He remains a comedic hero to many but the gap between his public and personal persona could not have been more pronounced.

**Amanda Lawrence** is well known to theatre audiences through her work with Kneehigh (*Brief Encounter*, *Cymbeline*, *Nights at the Circus*, *Tristan & Yseult*, *The Wooden Frock*), Northern Stage and Told by an Idiot (*The Firework Maker's Daughter*, *Playing the Victim*).

**Paul Hunter** is a director and performer and has been devising and creating his own work for the last twenty years. He is the co-founder of Told by an Idiot and was, until recently, an Associate Director at the Octagon Theatre Bolton. Directing work includes: *The Comedy of Errors* (RSC); *Senora Carrar's Rifles* (Young Vic); *Cleo*, *Camping*, *Emanuelle and Dick*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Beauty Queen of Leanne* (Octagon Theatre). For Told by an Idiot, directing work includes, *I'm a Fool to Want You* (BAC, UK Tour, South America); Philip Pullman's *Firework Maker's Daughter* (co production Lyric Hammersmith); *Shoot Me in the Heart* (co-production Gate Theatre, UK tour, Mexico, France); *Casanova* with Carol Anne Duffy (co-production West Yorkshire Playhouse, Lyric Hammersmith). He is currently performing in Told by an Idiot's show *The Fahrenheit Twins*.

"Amanda Lawrence is a fabulously funny clown" *Independent on Sunday* (on *Brief Encounter*)

"The very last comic genius" *Morrissey*, *NME* (on Charles Hawtrey, in his obituary)

Commissioned by homotopia, BAC and The Corn Exchange, Newbury

[www.bac.org.uk](http://www.bac.org.uk) / Running Time: 1h10m approx (no interval)

### Company information

Directed by: Paul Hunter

Composed by: Jules Maxwell

Performed by: Amanda Lawrence

Designed by: Cathy Wren

### Listings Information

Venue:	Battersea Arts Centre
Address:	Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TN
Dates:	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> – Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 (Mon- Sat)
Times:	8pm
Price:	£12 (£8 conc)/ Tues Pay What You Can
Box Office:	020 7223 2223
Transport:	Clapham Junction overground station