

A U S T E N ' S W O M E N

P R E S S R E L E A S E

DYAD PRODUCTIONS in association with Theatre Tours International presents:

Austen's Women

Adapted & performed by Rebecca Vaughan

Directed by Guy Masterson

Jane Austen created some of literature's most celebrated characters, defining her era, sex and class. Two hundred years on, her works continue to speak for the yearning heart as much as they did when they were written – so just how much has really changed for women since?

In a solo performance of extraordinary virtuosity – using only Austen's words – actor Rebecca Vaughan answers this question by boldly revisiting the most rewarding moments from all six major novels – including *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Emma* – plus those in lesser known works such as Austen's *Juvenilia* and the unfinished *Sanditon*.

In scenes of high comedy and profound pathos, Vaughan deconstructs the souls of Emma Woodhouse, Lizzy Bennet, Mrs Norris, Miss Bates and nine other beautifully observed women. Divorced from their historical context (and in the absence of their men), these women present a glorious distillation of 19th century feminism and speak volumes about love, friendship, and notorious improprieties.

Austen's Women was a sell-out success at Edinburgh 2009 & 2013, as well as Adelaide 2010. It is adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan whose *I, Elizabeth* and *Female Gothic* were five-star successes in Edinburgh 2010 and 2012 respectively. It is directed by Guy Masterson, whose credits include *Scaramouche Jones* and the Olivier Award-winning *Morecambe*. Costume design is by Kate Flanagan (*Dalloway*, *Female Gothic*, *I, Elizabeth*, *Bollywood Steps*). It is presented by Dyad Productions (*I, Elizabeth*, *The Diaries of Adam & Eve*, *Female Gothic*, *The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe*, *Dalloway*, *Christmas Gothic*), who create and tour classic theatre with an innovative and contemporary twist.

This brilliant, illuminating and – above all – entertaining evocation of Jane Austen's works is a treat for Austen lovers and the perfect primer for the uninitiated.

★★★★★ 'Truly extraordinary... one of the most exciting performers on the British Stage' (*British Theatre Guide*)

★★★★★ 'A theatrical masterpiece... utterly faultless and vastly entertaining' (*Three Weeks*)

★★★★★ 'Nothing short of breathtaking... You won't see too many one-woman shows as good as this' (*Adelaide Theatre Guide*)

★★★★★ 'Cleverly written and superbly performed' (*One4Review*)

★★★★★ 'A tour-de-force performance' (*Whatsonstage*)

★★★★★ 'A startling feat of performance, portrayal, writing & direction' (*Fringe Review*)

★★★★★ 'Vaughan's performance was unfaultable... Highly recommended' (*Edinburgh Guide*)

★★★★★ 'Triumphant' (*Broadway Baby*)