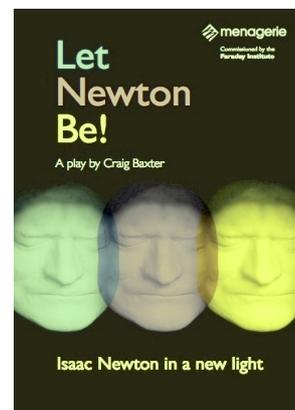


PRESS RELEASE



Let Newton Be!

by Craig Baxter

Isaac Newton... heretic, alchemist, genius

In spring 2011 Menagerie Theatre Company's play LET NEWTON BE! will begin a tour of the UK and the US.

Let Newton Be! brings the complex and controversial character of Sir Isaac Newton to life: a devout, difficult, obsessive man who sought and found God in universal laws of light and motion. Theatrical, entertaining and informative, the play gives a different way to see the world of Newton. It explores the life and thought of a genius whose scientific theories still provide the foundations for our understanding of the Universe today.

Newton is well-known as an iconic figure, but as a man, he remains a mystery to many. Award-winning playwright **Craig Baxter** shows how Newton's religious worldview was intimately involved in the process of discovery. The play uses only Newton's word and those of his contemporaries to tell a story about his passionate pursuit to understand the universe. **Let Newton Be!** is a verbatim play, with a script drawn entirely from letters, notes, published and unpublished works.

The show is directed by **Patrick Morris** (Associate Artistic Director of Menagerie) and uses three actors – all playing the part of Newton – with video and clever stage design by **Issam Kourbaj** (Artist in Residence at Christ's College, Cambridge) to bring Newton alive for a 21st century audience. **Let Newton Be!** is accessible for both specialist and general (16+) audiences.

Trained as a scientist himself, playwright **Craig Baxter** weaves a compelling narrative to show Newton in many different lights. Theatrically simple and powerful, three incarnations of Newton battle with each other for their place in history.

Let Newton Be! was commissioned by **The Faraday Institute at the University of Cambridge**, after seeing Menagerie's play *Re:Design* about Charles Darwin which was commissioned by the Darwin Correspondence Project in 2008.

Let Newton Be! was previewed last year in Cambridge, and was reviewed in Science Magazine:
Can theatre be a platform for science? In the hands of Baxter and Menagerie Theatre – yes, spectacularly yes... Baxter creates a unified Newton who will awe and move modern audiences.
Science, vol 326, 13.11.09

From Cambridge to Cambridge

The UK tour of **Let Newton Be!** will begin at the Cambridge Science Festival on 19 March 2011. After performances at Grantham (Newton's birthplace), Colchester, York, Glasgow & the Royal Society London, the show will travel to the US and the American tour will culminate at the Cambridge Science Festival at MIT in Massachusetts 30 April – 4 May.

www.menagerietheatre.co.uk

ends#

[Note to venues: please send 'Press resources & Notes to marketers & editors' from this pack as the second page of the press release]