



RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY

Presents

A NATIONAL TOUR

MARCH - JUNE

2012

**MONSIEUR DE
COUBERTIN'S
MAGNIFICENT
OPYMLIC[©]
FEAT!**

MONSIEUR DE COUBERTIN'S MAGNIFICENT OLYMPIC® FEAT!

...sprinting backwards to start the Games

As London hosts the 2012 Olympic® Aims, none other than Baron Pierre de Coubertin (Sports enthusiast, French aristocrat and Devotee of English schools) welcomes you on a whirlwind trip to where it all began.

Take a deep breath as he whisks you back to the far-from-straightforward birth of the Modern Olympics®... to 1896 in Athens. In the smoke-filled rooms and at glittering banquets of Paris, plans are being laid to re-ignite the Olympic® flame which fizzled out 1500 years before. Big meals, big moustaches, big ideas – the men of the Olympic® Committee have them all, and none more so than your passionate, ever-so-slightly-crazy host, the Baron. Soon, the US jocks of Princeton and Harvard are limbering up, a speedy Greek shepherd is legging it over Mount Parnassus, and the Baron is getting last-minute tips from the organisers of the Much Wenlock Olympics in Shropshire (whose programme includes folk-dancing, knitting and competitive spelling).

Monsieur de Coubertin is bursting to share his gleaming vision for the new Games: he wants everyone to join in, he wants peace and friendship to rule the day, he wants to re-invigorate us all in body, mind and spirit - no politics, no arguments and certainly no cheating. He wants to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony... but this time round he wants everyone to wear clothes.

It's glorious fun and games. Epic, energetic and home-made, de Coubertin's show celebrates the true Olympic® spirit, free of drugs and corruption, where the athletes village has a water pump, a lame donkey and Marathon athletes pound along in Greek national costume. Through a true story that everyone will want to know, with thrilling live action, crackly film, magical projection and frankly incredible stunts, the discus of history is given a hilarious new spin, appealing to sports fans and theatre nuts... everywhere!

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Between March and June 2012 Riding Lights will be touring nationally a new, extra-ordinary piece of theatre about the revival of the modern Olympic Games. This will obviously capture the mood of the country in the build-up to the London Games and it will also bring together the Company's natural church-linked audience with a new audience of people who are passionate about sport. The show will provide a really enjoyable meeting point for outreach in the local community. We hope it will bring people together in a way that will kick-start relationships that become much more than bronze, silver or gold.

Why should Riding Lights tell this story?

Apart from the desire to serve the Christian community nationwide by providing this kind of high-quality 'meeting point' event, there are other reasons why Riding Lights is an appropriate company to present this virtually unknown story that has led to such a spectacular global event:

...They came in peace

The roots of the Olympic Games grew in times when sport was a way to honour far greater things than physical prowess. The Games in the ancient world were a watchword for inter-tribal peace and the laying aside of violence. Athletic competition was part of a summit festival of poetry, music, theatre, socialising, conversation, philosophy and religion. It was a celebration of civilisation – spirit and mind, as well as body.

...They grew in Paris

The story in the modern era introduces audiences to Monsieur De Coubertin, the surprising Parisian father of the Modern Olympics. Sports enthusiast, French aristocrat and devotee of English schooling, De Coubertin's gleaming vision defined the 'Olympic Spirit'. In Athens in 1896, this was several marathons away from the commercialism and drug scandals of the current age. He's eccentric, passionate and unstoppable in his enthusiasm for holistic endeavour!

...They drew strength from a Midlands public school

The show will reveal some hilarious sources of De Coubertin's inspiration (the Much Wenlock Olympic Games and the 17th c. Cotswold Olimpicks). It will hugely entertain with the comedy of those first competitive events in 1896. But it will also celebrate the Christian legacy from British history which flows directly into De Coubertin's Olympic movement from *Tom Brown's Schooldays* (of all surprising things). Here De Coubertin found the perfect civilising mixture of God, education and sport. It's a root which some might well wish to play down, but naturally Riding Lights has the opportunity to play up.

Of course this fascinating, brilliantly entertaining story, which captures 'the moment' in the build up to London 2012, is not a purely religious piece. Maybe that, however, is its great attraction to a wide audience: it looks into the heart of a world which will be suddenly interesting to everyone and reveals the sturdy roots of godly values that have given us the greatest event on the planet – the Olympic Games. It will also be glorious *Fun & Games* in typical Riding Lights style and both the 'meeting point' and the 'talking point' that so many Christian communities are looking for.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Who Are Riding Lights?

Riding Lights Theatre Company was established in York in 1977. Although the company's main work takes it on tour across the UK, Riding Lights also own Friargate Theatre, a 100-seat studio theatre space in York. The company presents a wide range of work, all of which is rooted in Christian belief and understanding – not so much evangelistic but best described as *theatre with a spiritual heart*. Further information about Riding Lights can be found at www.ridinglights.org

What Do I Need To Book *Monsieur De Coubertin's Magnificent Opymlie*® Feat!?

- As the production has not yet been designed we are looking for venues which are flexible.
- The performance space should be at least 6.5m x 6.5m, and completely flat.

- The venue should be able to accommodate an audience of between 150 and 400.
- Ideally we would like to perform in sports venues and would therefore encourage you to discuss a possible performance with your local leisure centre, if they have a suitable space. Alternatively, we are also able to consider performances in other venues such as schools, halls and churches.
- We will be bringing some stage lighting and sound equipment with us and will need two 13 amp sockets. We will need to be able to use up to 26 amps in total. The sound desk will be positioned in the audience area.
- Bed and breakfast will be required in local homes for up to 7 cast and crew members for one or two nights.
- Please check with us before booking your choice of venue.

When Will The Show Be Available?

- March - June 2012
- We need to ensure that the company moves in a logical way around the country and therefore the date that we will be able to offer you may depend on your geographical location. Please see the map to find out when we will be in your area.

What Will The Performance Cost Me?

- You will need to pay a non-returnable booking fee of **£250**, payable on confirmation of your performance date.
- Riding Lights will return 25% of all ticket sales (less VAT and any payment card commission) to the organiser.
- We anticipate that you will recover your booking fee at around 120-130 tickets, depending on the split between full price and concessionary tickets. The more tickets you sell, the more you earn.
- Tickets will be priced at around £12 with discounts available for the usual concessions and groups.
- We will also consider hiring venues in situations where we take all box office income. However, as local ticket sales are crucial, we need to be sure that we are working closely with either the venue or another partner to ensure there is good local promotion of the performance. In these circumstances, the financial arrangements listed above will be subject to negotiation to ensure the best situation for all involved.

- Your participation in promoting the tour and selling tickets locally is crucial to the success of the tour and particularly to the performance you are hosting. We look forward to working hard with you to ensure that we sell as many tickets as possible for all performances.

What About Publicity?

- Each venue will be provided with printed posters and flyers to advertise the performance locally. We will also provide marketing information and PR support and act in partnership with each venue to publicise performances.
- If at any point you have questions about publicising your performance, you can phone the Riding Lights Marketing Manager on 01904 655317.

Why the Need for Local Organisers?

- We have found that having an enthusiastic local organiser helps to ensure success and having someone on the ground who shares in the vision of what we are trying to achieve is very important. After all, you know your own area far better than we do.

Do I Need A Public Entertainments Licence?

- This depends on where the performance is being held. Some venues already hold Public Entertainments Licences and you should check this at the time of booking.
- Other venues may require an application to be made for a temporary licence. You should always have a discussion with your Local Authority about this matter and follow their advice.
- Please note that Riding Lights cannot be responsible for any costs involved in obtaining the appropriate licences.

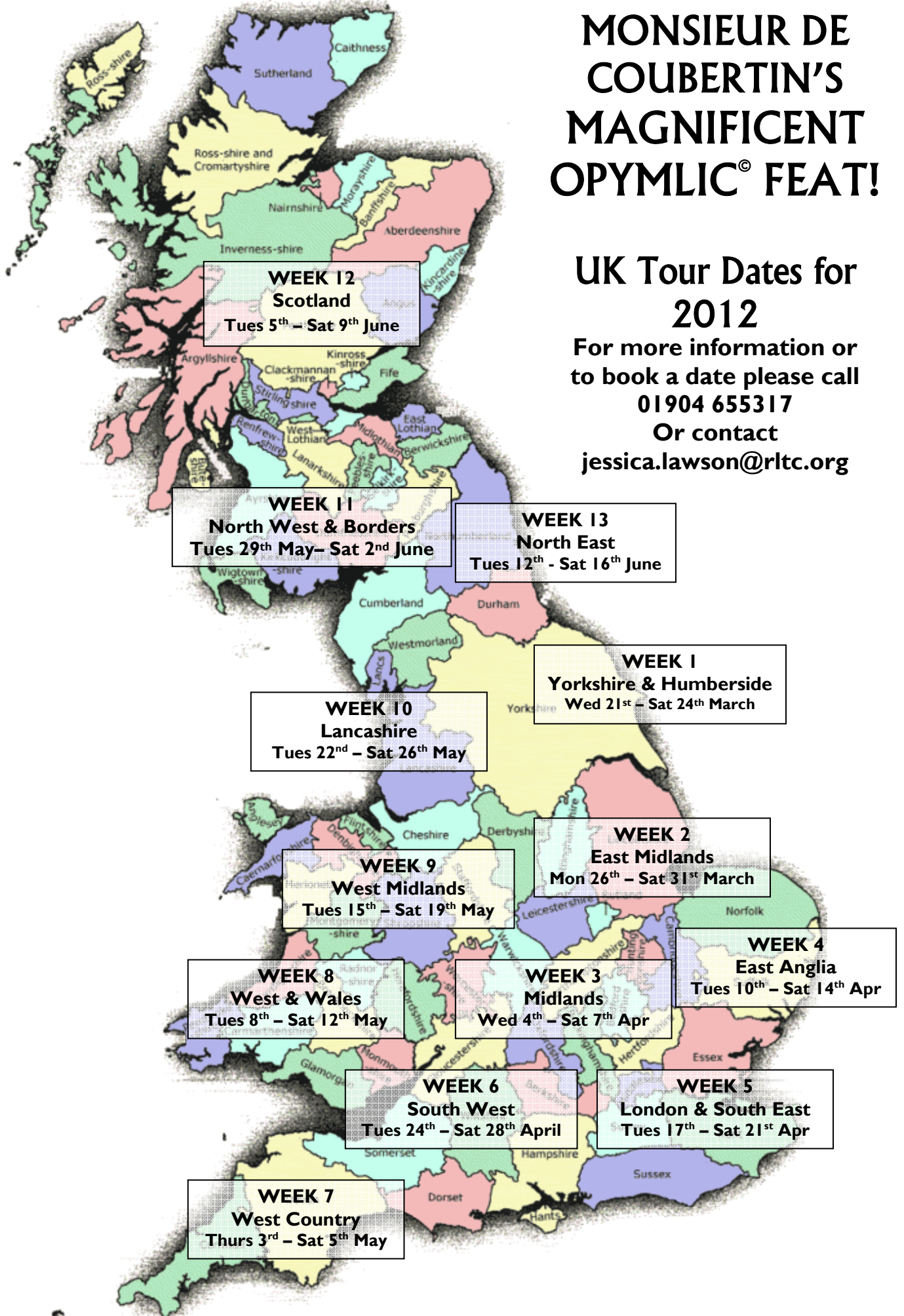
How Much Help Do You Give Me?

- Jessica Lawson, administrator for this tour, is based in York and will guide you through the necessary steps you need to take.
- Your strength will be in publicising the performance and selling tickets in your immediate area.
- We may be able to put you in touch with some of our local members who might be able to help with accommodation or other tasks.
- We are always here to try and answer your questions and provide as much support and help as we can.

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UK Tour Dates for 2012

For more information or to book a date please call 01904 655317
Or contact jessica.lawson@rltc.org



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