

Joan Rivers

A Work in Progress by a Life in Progress

Direct from her sold-out triumph at the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where she played to more than 8,000 people, added extra performances to cope with unprecedented demand and received ecstatic reviews, comedy icon Joan Rivers is to make her West End acting debut in the self-penned autobiographical play **Joan Rivers: A Work in Progress By a Life in Progress**.

It will be the premiere production at the 400-seat newly refurbished and re-named Leicester Square Theatre (formerly The Venue) from August 29 to September 18, then December 2 - 23 and January 15 - 29, before embarking on a Broadway season in 2009.

Press night is Thursday September 4 at 7.00pm

Directed by Olivier Award-winner Sean Foley (multi award-winning *The Play What I Wrote*), **Joan Rivers: A Work in Progress By a Life in Progress** is a four-handed, part-confession, part-performance comedy drama based on Joan's own larger-than-life rollercoaster life. While it hilariously presents the Joan that we know, from her biographies, TV appearance and live stand-up shows, it also, quite movingly, reveals the woman behind the public face that the public have never seen before. It's fierce, funny and unforgettable... Set in Joan's dressing room backstage at the Oscars ceremony, Joan is preparing for one of her legendary annual TV catwalk commentaries on the fashion hits and disasters at Hollywood's biggest night of the year. But all is not well... her dressing room is B, not A!!; her complimentary cheese is puny, not plentiful; and her producer is the bigwig's nephew, not the bigwig! The tension and drama are the catalyst for an introspective look at aging, going through life's ups and downs and being a woman in Hollywood. After Joan's five amazing decades in showbusiness, the topics fly by - some familiar, some not. The famous breakup with Johnny Carson is there, her husband's suicide, the feuds and firings, several backstabbing, sidesteps and full frontal calamities. You may think you've heard it all before, but you'd be wrong...

Cast also includes Emily Kosloski, Nathan Osgood and Carrie Paff.

Joan Rivers is a true force of nature, and one of the hardest working celebrities in the world: comedienne; Tony Award-nominated actress; best-selling author; Emmy Award-winning TV chat show host; playwright; screenwriter; motion picture director; columnist; lecturer; syndicated radio host; jewellery designer and cosmetic company entrepreneur; red-carpet fashion laureate; businesswoman and, most importantly to her, mother and grandmother. She is exhausted! The first sole permanent guest hostess of *The Tonight Show*, Joan went on to become the first woman host of a primetime evening chat show for Fox TV and then on to win an Emmy for her work on her daytime show, which ran for seven years. From her signature question, 'Can we talk?' (now a Federal trademark), to her red-carpet mantra, 'Who are you wearing?', the woman who asks the questions gets the answers the world wants to hear. Joan was nominated for the Best Actress Tony Award for her last appearance on Broadway in *Sally Marr and Her Escorts* and gained international acclaim for her one-woman show, *Broke and Alone*, both of which she co-authored as well. In addition to her other accomplishments, Joan has experienced unprecedented success with the sales of her own Joan Rivers Classics Collection of jewellery and her Joan Rivers Beauty skin care products and signature fragrance on the QVC Shopping Network, but most joyous triumph is being grandmother to Melissa's son, Cooper (Edgar Cooper Endicott), who was born on December 1, 2000 - and she's enjoying that immensely!

Sean Foley (director) is a co-founder and Artistic Director of The Right Size, whose production *The Play What I Wrote* won every major theatre award on its West End debut. He has devised and performed in all of their productions, touring nationally and internationally, including *Bewilderness*; *Mr Puntilla and His Man Mafia*; *Do You Come Here Often* (for which he won an Olivier Award) and *Stop Calling Me Vernon*.

Joan Rivers: A Work in Progress By a Life in Progress was originally produced as a workshop at the Magic Theatre, San Francisco, August 16 - September 2, 2007. It had its world premiere at the Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles from February 13, 2008.

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LISTINGS INFO

Joan Rivers A Work in Progress By a Life in Progress

Leicester Square Theatre
6 Leicester Place
LONDON WC2H 7BX

**Friday August 29 -
Thursday September 18**

Tuesday to Sunday at 7.30pm
except Thursday Sept 4
press night at 7.00pm

Wed, Sat & Sun matinee at 3.30pm
extra matinee Thu Sept 18
at 3.30pm

Sun Sept 7 at 2.00pm & 5.00pm
Wed Sept 10 matinee only
at 3.30pm

Tickets: £35.00, £42.50,
£47.50, £75.00
(£75.00 VIP diamond package
includes an aftershow 'meet and
greet' with Joan Rivers, best seats
in the house, glass of champagne &
Joan Rivers goody bag)