



The Dice House

Written by: Paul Lucas

Directed by: Orna Joseph

Performed: Wed 20th - Fri 22nd July 2005 at 7.45pm, Sat 23rd July 2005 at 2.30 & 7.30pm at St. Anne's Hall, Wandsworth

Cast		Crew	
Dr. Ratner	Stuart Butler	Producer	Mark Stannett
Dr. Drabble	Robert Hartley	Stage Manager	Rachel Jones
Matthew	Richard Frampton	Lighting Design	Tracey Childs
Polly	Amanda Clarke	Lighting Operator	Lesley Tulley
Mr. Smith	David Russell	Sound Operator	Mike Ainsworth
Lisa	Rachel Tozer	Costume Co-ordinators	Susan Jones, Lesley Tulley, Amanda Clarke
Victor	John Laing	Prompt	Sarah Monk
Slow Assassin	Craig Abbott	Front of House Manager	Ian Pring
		Catering Manager	Clare Pepperell

Synopsis

The cult novel, *The Dice Man* by Luke Rhinart, which describes a world where people make all decisions on the basis of a roll of a die, has inspired a number of spin-offs including, believe it or not, a ballet. However, one of the most genius adaptations has to be *The Dice House*, a play by Paul Lucas. Debuting at the Edinburgh Festival and making its way to the West End last spring, it could be considered one of the most zany, clever, black comedies to hit the stage in some time.

Dr Ratner, a psychiatrist, has set up a 'home' for dice therapy in a derelict house in the middle of the English countryside. Patients are encouraged to give themselves completely over to the dice. The results include bizarre choices in dress and activities for most residents including Dr Ratner who spends most of the play dressed in a selection of women's apparel.

Dr Drabble, another psychiatrist, who has previously shown complete contempt for dice therapy in professional circles, must find a way to penetrate the Dice House when he discovers his wife is one of its newest residential recruits. He blackmails one of his former patients, Matthew, to enter the house with a cunning plan to kidnap his wife. As with all plans in a farce setting, things go spectacularly wrong from the second Matthew enters the house. Especially when he discovers that Dr Drabble's true intentions for his wife are far worse than kidnap. From that point onwards the play races down a number of parallel routes including love, genital hair shaving, impersonation, dismemberment and revenge to a satisfying, but by no means orthodox, nor, perhaps, legal conclusion.

NODA Review

'The Dice House' is a challenging piece of drama based on the 1970's novel 'The Dice Man' written by Luke Rhinehart. The play deals with the potential for self determination to be dictated by the roll of a die and the thin line that separates the rational from the irrational. The play demands a bizarre portrayal of two love stories told in a violent yet comic style. The Club created a good piece of theatre [\[more\]](#)

Production Photos

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