

In Praise of Love, by the English playwright Terence Rattigan, was loosely inspired by the true-life relationship between the actor Rex Harrison and his actress wife Kay Kendall. In the play, the couple are transformed into the egotistical left-wing literary critic Sebastian and his East European refugee wife Lydia. During the Second World War, some 30 years previously, Sebastian had served in military intelligence while the part-Jewish Lydia was with the Resistance and then survived on her wits and her feminine charms; each is shown using the aptitude for deception developed then to try to protect the other from the knowledge that Lydia is suffering from a terminal illness. Rounding out the cast are Mark, a best-selling popular novelist and a friend of Sebastian's, who has long carried a torch for Lydia, and Joey, the couple's 20-year-old son, himself an aspiring writer, who is in rebellion against his father's overbearing manner and professed Marxist views.



“While on the surface the play takes the form of a comedy of misunderstanding, it quickly builds into a situation of almost unbearable suspense as layer after layer of comedy and pretence is peeled away from each character to reveal the full measure of each one's unspoken love and pain. As well as being an outstanding dissection of the nature of love and pain, In Praise of Love is as fine a statement about the loss of idealism and illusions in the 1970s as any play by any of the younger British dramatists of the period. In Praise of Love is a small masterpiece.” - Michael Darlow

The original 1973 London production, at the Duchess Theatre, ran for 131 performances, and was described by The Sunday Times critic as *“the most piercing exposition of love under great stress that I have ever seen on the stage.”*

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Global Productions presents

In Praise of Love

by Terence Rattigan

A moving and powerful drama about concealed truths within a marriage, based, in part, on the real-life situation of the actor Rex Harrison and his wife, Kay Kendall.

“Few dramatists have written with more understanding of the human heart.”
(The Guardian)

Hertford Studio Theatre
 Friday 28th February 2020
 Saturday 29th February 2020
 7.30pm Tickets: £16 Concessions: £12
 Suitable for 10 years and above
 Duration 2 hours approx. inc. interval
www.hertfordtheatre.com
 Box Office: 01992 531500
 Hertford Theatre, The Wash, Hertford SG14 1PS

