

Chekhov with a smile at The Ironworks

Drama

THE successful Play Pieces season at The Ironworks continues tomorrow lunchtime with a playful take on a play by Russia's finest playwright, Anton Chekhov.

"Swan Song" is a vaudeville by Chekhov about an old actor and his prompter in a theatre after the lights go out.

Adapted from one of his own stories, the play made Chekhov's reputation in the theatre in 1888.

Highland based production company Open Book PW — Eden Court's partner in current theatre hit "Para Handy" — has been working

with Garry Collins, an actor and director from Elgin, to produce this adaptation.

Set in a fictional Inverness Theatre, this is played strictly tongue in cheek with an affectionate send up of actors and the acting world.

"This drama will be quite unlike the rest of the Play Pieces season," Play Pieces co-ordinator Lindsay Dunbar promised.

"'Swan Song' will show that a classic play can be set in a Highland context in Inverness and still be very relevant."

She also hopes that the informal nature of Play Pieces will appeal to an audience who are perhaps unfamiliar with the work of Chekhov.

Play Pieces is now more than halfway through its first season and Dunbar is confident that it will return in 2012.

"The audience feedback has been hugely positive," she said.

"They have enjoyed each show and the atmosphere is very laid back. The standard of work by each company has been exceptional and just proves there is a huge wealth of talent in the Highlands. Watch this space, some of these companies will go far!"

Doors open 1pm at the Ironworks. Tickets are £10 and include a free lunch from Inverness butchers MacDougall & Hastie. Vegetarian options are also available.