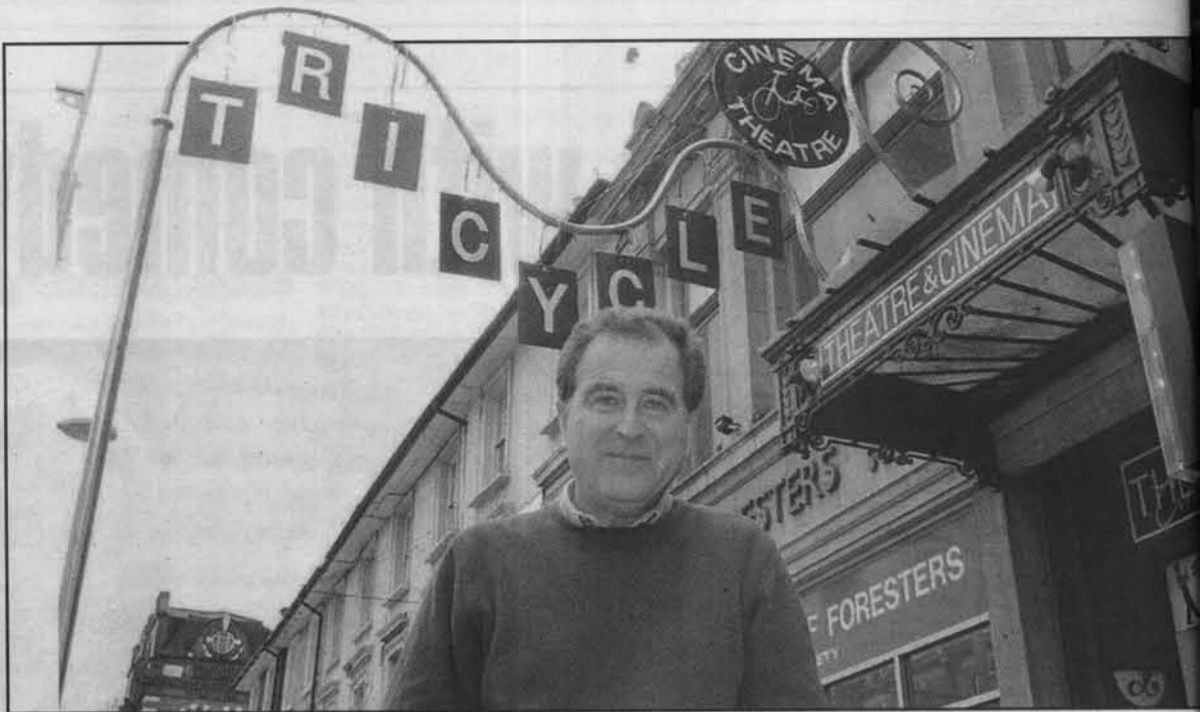


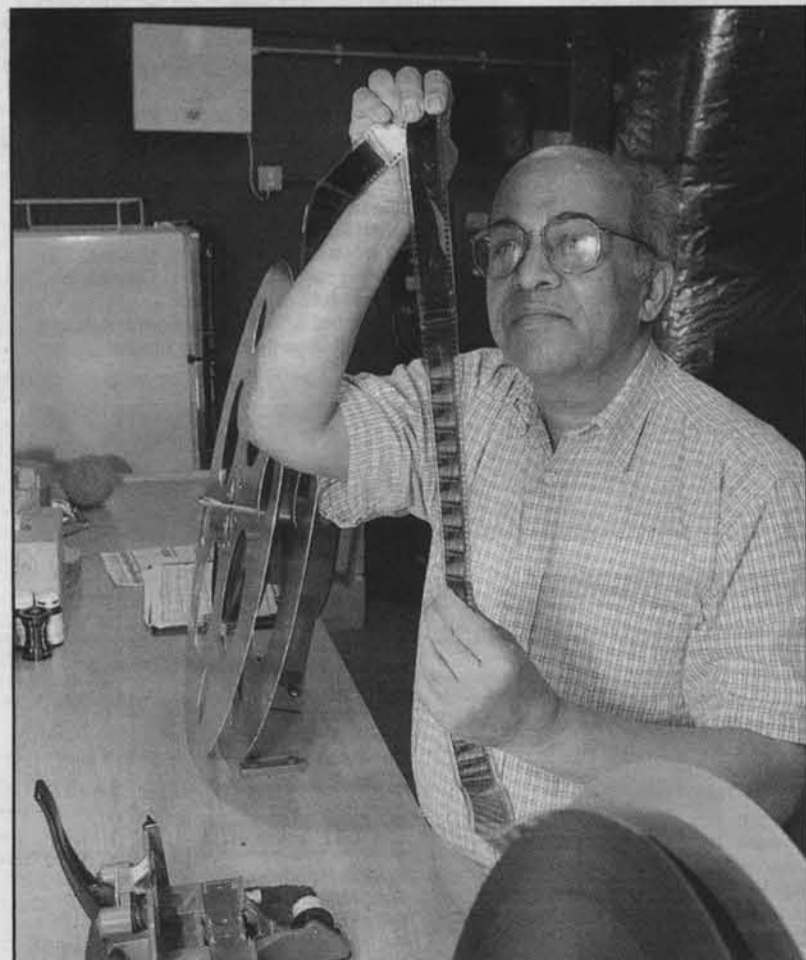


The hit West End show *Stones in His Pockets* being performed at the Tricycle in 2000

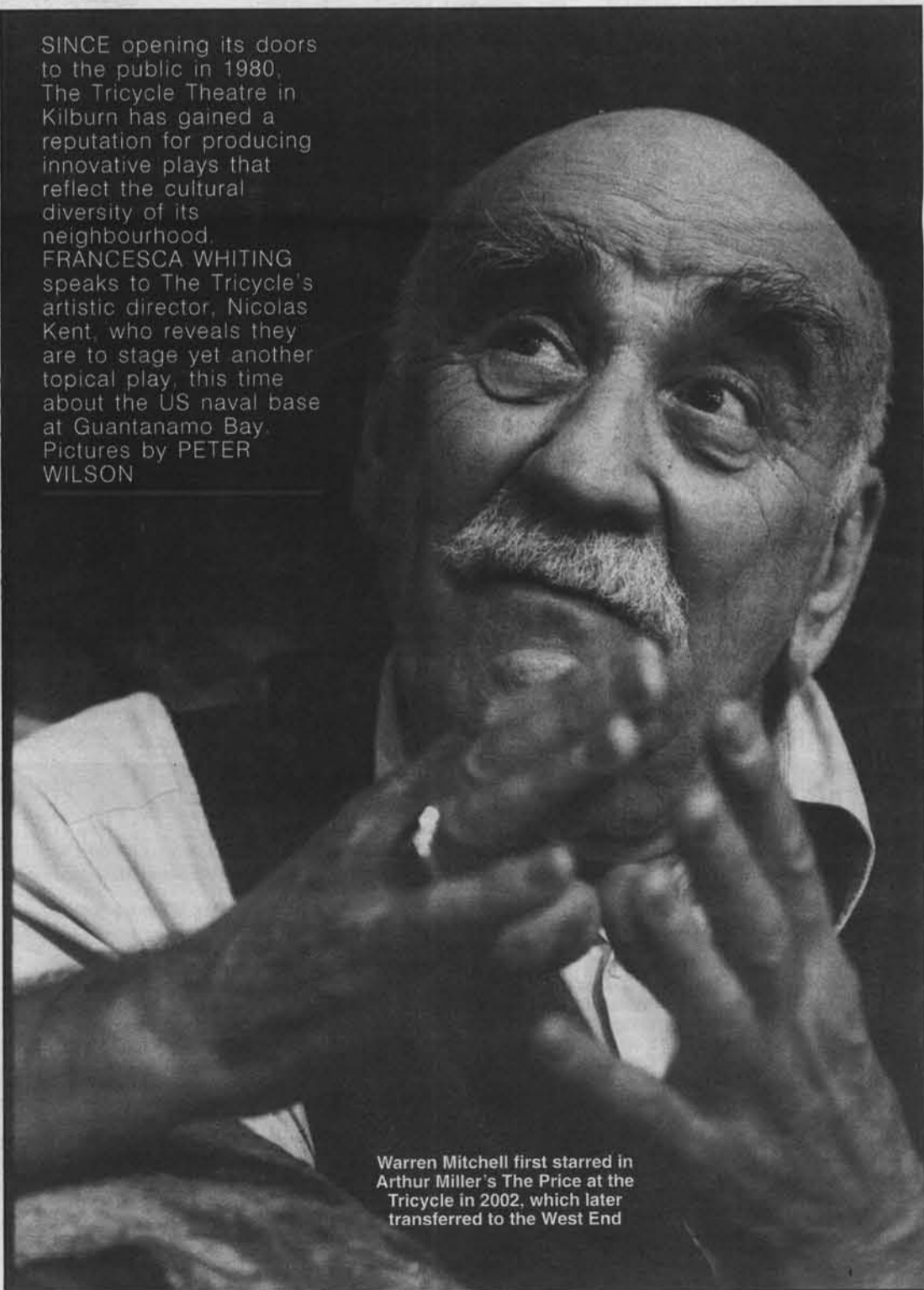


Making a dra

SINCE opening its doors to the public in 1980, The Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn has gained a reputation for producing innovative plays that reflect the cultural diversity of its neighbourhood. FRANCESCA WHITING speaks to The Tricycle's artistic director, Nicolas Kent, who reveals they are to stage yet another topical play, this time about the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay. Pictures by PETER WILSON



Chief projectionist Scobi Gobin gets ready for another show in the Tricycle's cinema



Warren Mitchell first starred in Arthur Miller's *The Price* at the Tricycle in 2002, which later transferred to the West End

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LEFT: Artistic director Nicolas Kent outside the Tricycle Theatre

RIGHT: Playboy of the West Indies by Mustapha Matura had its world premiere at the Tricycle in 1983 and was televised by the BBC



ma out of a crisis

The Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn has led with productions that focus on world justice.

In Lawrence Inquiry (The Colour of Justice) and Scott Arms to Iraq Inquiry (Half the Picture) and Inquiry (Justifying War) – The Tricycle has dramatised them all.

to stage yet another highly talked about production surrounding US naval base, Guantanamo Bay – Honour Bound to Defend Freedom, a play about stories with legal opinion and political views on the detention of more than 600 Cuban naval base.

time the detainees have not been termed as enemy combatants by the US government or seen as awaiting trial.

which questions at what cost the war on terrorism has personal freedom and civilised values, has been written by Victoria Brittain and Gillian Slovo and artistic director of The Tricycle, Nicolas Kent.

sign outside Guantanamo Bay with the words 'Honour Bound to Defend Freedom' which is the words above Auschwitz are 'Arbeit Macht Frei'.

ing all the time to do plays that are relevant to the world. Guantanamo Bay will be of interest to the population."

Tricycle's reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry - The Colour of Justice received critical and public acclaim. It was broadcast on television and transferred to the West End. It is the latest dramatisation of an inquiry was staged in the Hutton Inquiry, which was directed by Gillian Slovo.

the 1994 production of Half the Picture by David Hare and John McGrath (a play about the Scott Arms to Iraq Inquiry) which has never to be performed in the Houses of Parliament was later filmed for the BBC.

the Hutton Inquiry was public, because it was quite difficult for members of the public to follow from start to finish, so we tried to give them what happened," says Nicolas.

John Cook MP (who features in the play) came to the theatre and saw Justifying War and he said it was absolutely right. People were angry at the system rather than at him and they were relieved so much hate mail over the affair that it was important for him that people were angry at the system.

he was to put the Inquiry in front of the public so they could judge for themselves."

seen many changes since he started the Tricycle 20 years ago.

Tricycle first opened its doors in the Kilburn Road in 1980 it used to be a converted garage.

theatre was almost totally destroyed by a fire in a neighbouring timber-yard. After it was rebuilt and in 1998 the building was completely rebuilt.

The new Tricycle comprises a 240 seat cinema, a large rehearsal studio, a bar and cafe for educational use (The Paint Box)

and a smaller theatre/workshop space (The James Baldwin Studio) as well as a cafe bar and art gallery.

"About 240 people used to come here at weekends and now 2,400 people pass through the doors during a weekend," says Nicolas.

"We are very proud to be in Brent and we regard ourselves as ambassadors to the borough.

"This is a really culturally diverse area with a very large Irish and Jewish community and we try and do things that resonate with our local population."

Looking at The Tricycle's theatre programme it is clear the productions have been chosen with this audience in mind and many of them have been very successful, transferring to the West End and even winning awards.

Stones in his Pockets transferred to the New Ambassadors Theatre in London, winning the Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy.

The South African musical Kat and the Kings transferred to the Vaudeville Theatre in London and won two 1999 Olivier Awards for Best New Musical and Best Actor.

But although The Tricycle has a reputation for staging innovative and topical productions, it also has an extremely active youth and education programme.

"About 40 per cent of The Tricycle's operation is in the educational field," says Nicolas. "23,000 children come and take part in some form of activity a year."

During the past 21 years, more than 300,000 children have come through The Tricycle's doors to see shows or films or take part in workshops.

The number of young people visiting the Tricycle continues to grow every year and much of this is down to the theatre's extension in 1998.

This enabled The Tricycle to provide children and young people with even greater access to arts activities.

The Tricycle has also created a new space on an adjoining site that is dedicated to working with children and young people who are socially excluded.

This includes children for whom English is a second language, teenage parents, children and young people from refugee communities and those excluded from school.

"We run 800 children's workshops a year and 50 per cent of these are for socially excluded children," explains Nicolas.

Gillian Christie, education director, says it is all about inspiring self confidence and motivation in the children.

"We try and encourage schools to come here because for a lot of the children it is their first visit to the theatre," says Gillian. "But we understand it is very difficult, especially for the primary schools, to spare time and staff.

"So we are led by the demand and if they want to do a drama workshop but can't come out I will organise somebody to go into the schools."

■ On Wednesday April 28 there will be a chance to see what activities are held at The Tricycle during an education day. For further details call 020 7328 1000.

Guantanamo: Honour Bound to Defend Freedom is being staged at The Tricycle from May 20-June 12 at 8pm. Tickets are priced from £7.50-£17. Box office: 020 7328 1000.

■ See next week's guide for our interview with Ron Cook, star of the Tricycle's current production, Singer.



Staff hard at work in the cafe/bar and exhibition area



The Foyer at the back of the theatre

TRIED AND TESTED

Beauty products for less than a fiver.



Product: Lip gloss dot in 03 Hot Pink
Cost: £5
From: The Body Shop
What is it meant to do? Make your lips shiny, colourful and kissable.

Our view: The gloss, available in shades from bright red to subtle beige, has enough colour to make an impact but not so much that it looks too dramatic for day wear. After rigorous eating, drinking and kissing tests (the mirror counts doesn't it?) the product fared as well as most and it wasn't as sticky or messy as some lip glosses can be.

Applying a tinted gloss rather than a lipstick, however, gives a more natural colour-stained coverage, even if the selected shade is quite vivid. Teamed with matching lip liner, tinted gloss is a long-lasting, low maintenance alternative to lipstick.

It should be noted though, that gloss does draw attention away from the eyes and towards the lips, so it should be avoided if your lips aren't your best feature.

One good tip with lip gloss is to make sure you tie your hair back or you're destined to get stray strands of hair sticking to your lips, which is not a great look.

What we liked best: No matter what new and inventive apparatus the cosmetics companies create, lip gloss is supposed to be smeared on with your finger, preferably accompanied by some seductive, Marilyn Monroe-style eyelash fluttering. Happily The Body Shop has stuck to the traditional plastic tub and it's all the better for it.

Value for money (on a scale of one to five): 4



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