

Theatre West End

● Theatre choice

There's something of a siege mentality in this week's offerings. In **The Dancing Master**, by actress Aletta Lawson — chosen by the BAC from 250 scripts for its main house new writing season — the eponymous tutor creates a haven of devotion and strange ritual within the four walls of a castle, away from the brutality and ignorance of the outside world. The central character of **The Bedsit**, by up-and-coming 26-year-old writer Paul Sellar, has good reason to hide himself away. Brady, played by James Ellis, is a middle-aged Ulsterman who finds two strangers at his door. What they want gradually emerges in this surreal and brutal drama at the Tabard. Fourteen-year-old Rosa, on the other hand, locks herself away in her tiny Blackpool room to confess her lonely secrets to a tape recorder. At the Riverside, Tom McCrory and Laffa Jaffa — responsible for French Kiss two years ago — present **Life On Mars?**, a seventies-set rites-of-passage piece of physical theatre encompassing adolescent fantasy and loon pants. And then there's **Deek and Shiril**, a deeply dysfunctional duo who wallow in tabloid culture and mind games fed by everyday stories on angst, cruelty and abuse. Written by Julian Garner, **Deek And Shiril Dice With Death** contrasts sharply with his **The Flight Into Egypt**, seen at Hampstead recently. It plays at the White Bear.

MARK COOK

The Alchemist

National Theatre, Olivier, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Nov 7-9, 7.15pm, mat Nov 9, 2pm, £8-£24, day seats from 10am. [WA]

Art

Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat & Sun 5pm, £9.50-£25.

As You Like It

Barbican, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Nov 8, 9, 7.15pm, £6-£24.50. [WA]

Blinded By The Sun

Tec story with Frances de la Tour. National: Cottesloe, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Nov 7-9, 7.30pm, mat Nov 9, 2.30pm, £16, restr view £12. [WA]

Blood Brothers

Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1733) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £9.50-£27.50. [WA]

Buddy

Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mat Sun 4pm, £4.50-£24.50.

By Jeeves

Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £11.50-£25.

Cash On Delivery

Farce about a DSS cheat. Whitehall Theatre (0171-369 1735) Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 5.30pm, £10-£22.

Cats

New London Theatre, Drury La, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £10.50-£32.50. [WA]

The Complete History Of

America (Abridged) Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) Tue 8pm, £5.50-£20. [WA]

The Complete Works Of

Shakespeare (Abridged) Criterion Theatre (0171-369 1747) Wed-Sat 8pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm, £5.50-£20. [WA]

Death Of A Salesman

National: Lyttelton, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Nov 2, 8, 9, 7.30pm, mats Nov 2, 9, 2.15pm, £8-£24. [WA]

Dial M For Murder

Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5070) Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 5pm, £10.50-£24.

A Doll's House

Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £10-£23.50.

Don't Dress For Dinner

Duchess Theatre, Catherine St, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats Wed 3pm, £9-£19.50.

Foot For Love

Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£16.50, standby concs £8.

Groaze

Cambridge Theatre, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-494 5080) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£27.50.

The Herbal Bed

16th-century extra-marital thriller. Barbican: The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Nov 2, 4, 6, 7, 7.15pm, Nov 5, 7pm, mats Nov 2 & 7, 2pm, £10-£17.

An Ideal Husband

Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £6-£24. [WA]

In The Company Of Men

Corporate family drama. Barbican: The Pit, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Nov 8, 9, 7pm, mats Nov 9, 1.30pm, £10-£17.

An Inspector Calls

Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£24.50.

John Gabriel Borkman

National: Lyttelton, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Nov 4-9, 7.30pm, mat Nov 6, 2.15pm, £8-£24. [WA]

Jolson

Victoria Palace, SW1 (0171-834 1317) Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed, Thu & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£30. [WA]

Kindertransport

Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£23.50.

Laughter On The 23rd Floor

Gene Wilder in Neil Simon's comedy. Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5590/cc 344 4444) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, £9.50-£25.

Les Miserables

Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-434 0909) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£30.

Macbeth

Barbican, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Nov 2, 4, 5, 7, 7.15pm, Nov 6, 7pm, mats Nov 2, 7, 2pm, £6-£24.50. [WA]

Martin Guerre

Prince Edward, Old Compton St, W1 (0171-734 8951) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm, £16.50-£32.50. [WA]

Miss Saigon

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (0171-494 5060) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £8.50-£32.50. [WA]

Mojo

Comic portrait of fifties Soho. Duke Of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 3.30pm, to Nov 9, £5-£18, benches 10p, Mon £5. [WA]

The Mousetrap

St Martin's Theatre, West St, WC2 (0171-836 1443) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £8-£22.

Mrs Warren's Profession

Lyric Hammersmith, King St, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £10-£15, all seats Mon £5. [WA]

Night Must Fall

Thriller starring Jason Donovan. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Nov 2, 4pm & 8pm, £10-£26.

The Oedipus Plays

National: Olivier, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Nov 2, 4-6, 7pm, mats Nov 2, 6, 1.30pm, £8-£24.

Oliver!

Palladium, Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

The Phantom Of The Opera

Her Majesty's, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £9-£30.

Rogues And Vagabonds

Comic look at the theatre. Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737) Nov 3, 8pm, £25-£50, inc champagne. [WA]

Scrooge

Dominion, Tottenham Court Rd, W1 (0171-416 6060) Wed-Fri 7.30pm, mat Thu 3pm, £5.50-£22.50. [WA]

Smokey Joe's Café — The

Songs Of Leiber And Stoller Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, W1 (0171-839 5972) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm, £15-£30. [WA]

Starlight Express

Apollo Victoria, Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£30.

Storming: Young Writers' Festival

The Ambassadors, West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000/cc 730 2554) Nov 2, 4-9, 7.15pm, £5-£10. [WA]

Sunset Boulevard

Adelphi, Strand, WC2 (0171-344 0055) Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm, £15-£32.50. [WA]

Talking Heads

Comedy Theatre, Panton St, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 5pm, £8-£25.

Tommy

Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri & Sat 8.30pm, mats Fri 5.30pm, Sat 3pm, £10.50-£30. [WA]

Uncle Vanya

Albany Theatre, St Martin's La, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£25. [WA]

Violin Time

National: Cottesloe, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Nov 2, 2.30pm & 7.45pm, £16, restr view £12. [WA]

War & Peace

National: Cottesloe, SE1, Nov 4-6, 6.30pm, Nov 6, 12noon, £16/£12.

When We Are Married

Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£25. [WA]

Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?

Aldwych Theatre, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sat 7.15pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.15pm, £7.50-£25. [WA]

The Woman In Black

Fortune Theatre, Russell St, WC2 (0171-836 2238) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£20.