



# Arbery Productions

thought-provoking theatre

FROM *CROSSROADS* TO CALIFORNIA

PRESS RELEASE

Carolyn Lyster appears in *Californian Lives*

“a vulnerable and emotional performance”  
(*Entertainment Focus*)

“a remarkably subtle, emotionally charged performance  
that leaves the audience transfixed in silence”  
(*Beige*)

“Lyster reaches an emotional conclusion and rounds off the  
night on a powerful note”  
(*Views from the Gods*)

“intense emotional finale”  
(*playstosee.com*)

“holds the audience’s attention right through”  
(*Bargain Theatreland*)



Remember *Crossroads*? Back when television was grainy black and white and there were only three channels, half the nation watched the daily soap opera. Set in the Midlands village of Kings Oak where business and social life came together at the Crossroads Motel.

For five years, Carolyn Lyster played the young and beautiful Janice Gifford, who worked at the local car hire company and married the son of the boss and local heartthrob Brian Jarvis. Carolyn left when, true to soap tradition, her baby was abducted and her husband murdered her lover.

Janice may have disappeared from our television screens, but Carolyn certainly hasn't. She has appeared in many of our favourite programmes, including *Casualty*, *Coronation Street*, *Heartbeat*, *The Bill*, *London's Burning* and most recently *Doctors*.

West End regulars will also recognise Carolyn from Ray Cooney and other farces, such as *Run For Your Wife* and *No Sex Please, We're British* – productions that have taken her across the globe. “Once we were on board a huge P&O

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cruise liner in the Antarctic when the sea was very rough. I have an abiding memory of the late great comedy actor Henry McGee, staggering his way across the set, clinging on to the furniture as he tried to retain some semblance of the plot. It was difficult not to laugh!"

Carolyn has also toured extensively within the UK, a mostly enjoyable experience "except I once fell off the stage during a blackout at the Everyman Cheltenham when I was in *Can You Hear Me At The Back?* I climbed back on and performed the rest of the scene with a bleeding leg and a fellow actress wondering why I was acting strangely."

Comedy may be Carolyn's first love but critics agree that she can be spell-binding in dramatic roles, such as the grandmother in *Sunset*, the last of three one-(wo)man plays that makes up *Californian Lives*. "I love the character," she says. "She's clear-sighted about herself and her relationships with her husband and children. She makes quite a journey in her reminiscences, going from being a relatively timid unworldly person to a strong fearless one. There's a lot to bring out and I hope I can do justice to the writing."

London audiences will get a second chance to see Carolyn's performance when she returns to the stage in mid-September, in *Californian Lives*, three one-actor plays that address themes of intimacy and trust. By award-winning writer Martin Foreman, featuring Robin Holden in *Los Feliz*, John Vernon in *Ben and Joe's* and Carolyn Lyster in *Sunset*. Directed by Emma King-Farlow. Opens 17 September.

***Californian Lives* at the OSO Arts Centre, 49 Station Road, London SW13 0LF**

7.30pm, Tuesday 17 – Saturday 21 September 2013

Press Night: Wednesday 18 September

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions)

online: [www.osoarts.org.uk](http://www.osoarts.org.uk)

box office: 020 8876 9885

[californianlives.co.uk](http://californianlives.co.uk)

*pictures:* [californianlives.co.uk/press.htm](http://californianlives.co.uk/press.htm)

*trailer:* [youtu.be/hGUDJBPwd9E](http://youtu.be/hGUDJBPwd9E)

*Profiles of the other actors (Robin Holden and John Vernon), director (Emma King-Farlow) and writer (Martin Foreman) also available.*

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