

COWARD

James Martin Charlton is the author of several plays for the stage, including *Fat Souls* (winner of the International Playwriting Festival), *Coming Up*, *ecstasy* + *GRACE* and the sell-out fringe hit *I Really Must be Getting Off*.

"There is simply no mistaking a new voice in the theatre... Charlton's is a quirky, assured creative voice, consistently theatrical."
Jeremy Kingston in *The Times* on *Fat Souls*.

"Charlton's... characters, their stories and his language hail from a fiery mind."
Patrick Marmion in *Time Out* on *Coming Up*.

To find out more about COWARD contact info@cowardplay.com or call 020 7644 4972



Witty. Sophisticated.
Radical. A new play by
James Martin Charlton.

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COWARD is a new play by award-winning playwright James Martin Charlton about one of the most famous celebrities of the 20th century, Noël Coward. A witty, thought-provoking and highly charged comedy/drama, COWARD takes an anecdote from the Master's romantic life and transforms it into a timeless meditation on fame, sex and power.

Set in the mid-1930s, COWARD is the fictionalised story of Noël's romantic liaison with a young, struggling actor, Leonard Marlowe.

Leonard arrives at Coward's London residence with high hopes of being cast – but the role the Master wishes him to play is as amorous as it is theatrical. Will the chance of the part of a lifetime be enough to make him change his mind about himself... All the while, events are observed and organised by Noël's Personal Assistant, Cole Lesley, epitome of the good and faithful servant.

COWARD is a play of its time – the period between the wars – and of ours. It tells of one young man's invitation into the gated community of celebrity, the price he must pay for entry and the consequences of breaking the rules of the Master of the house.

Witty, sophisticated and radical, COWARD is a play with wide audience appeal. It is that rarity – a wholly contemporary play which can stand beside the well-made classics of the past.