

Joe Orton's final play, **What the Butler Saw** (1969), an outspoken farcical masterpiece set in a psychiatric doctor's study, now delights us in its assault on political correctness. Jokes about every kind of sexual practice, child abuse, mental health patients and white golliwogs are expertly propounded, at top speed, in Phyllida Lloyd's superb RNT revival, playing in repertoire before touring. John Alderton, Nicola Pagett, and Richard Wilson (over-emphatic to start with, excellent as he becomes more manic and Christopher Lee-like), Debra Gillett and notable new name (to me) David Tennant are every bit as good as their predecessors in Lindsay Anderson's 1975 rescue job after the disastrous premiere.

Coveney on What the Butler

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