



Hitching: Peasgood

## The Orange Tree goes for the Peasgood factor

**J**ULIE PEASGOOD cuts a glamorous figure with her blonde hair and black leather trousers and lorry drivers negotiating Richmond Hill will become familiar with the sight this winter as she scurries the 15-minute walk between her home and the Orange Tree Theatre.

She said: "When I'm late I just hitch a lift in a lorry. They seem surprised when

I climb in the cab but they've all been very helpful so far."

The actress, who enlivened Brookside as Barry's girlfriend and was last on the London stage in Michael Palin's debut play The Weekend, has landed a notable double right on her own doorstep.

She opens Stephen Bill's new play, Where the Heart Is, next week and stays on through Christmas to lead

an Alan Ayckbourn play, Family Circles, which never made it to the West End.

"I feel I'm achieving several ambitions at one go. I'm back on stage, which is really where I belong, after a lot of TV and radio work. I've lived in Richmond for nine years and always dreamt about doing a show at the Orange Tree and now I've got two."

She has also just

celebrated her 40th birthday. "I was in Kuala Lumpur on a tour that went to Vietnam, China and all over the Far East. I felt a great sense of release and optimism that I was no longer a young thing who constantly had to apologise. I was born saying sorry and please. I felt confident for the first time in my life, then I came home and found these two plays waiting for me. Brilliant."

## What The Heart Feels, Standard Preview



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