

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES
FROM THE MITRE PLAYERS

LITTLE SHOP
OF
HORRORS

DIRECTOR: PAUL GRACE
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: COLIN WARNOCK
CHOREOGRAPHER: MELODY PUNJANI
CROYDON RUN: 20TH - 22ND JULY
ISLE OF WIGHT TOUR: 29TH JULY - 7TH AUGUST

PIPPIN

DIRECTOR: KAREN RAPPS WITH ALAN BISHOP
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: COLIN WARNOCK
CHOREOGRAPHER: KIM McEVOY
PRESENTATION EVENING: 3RD MAY
AUDITIONS: 24TH MAY
PERFORMANCES: 25TH - 29TH OCTOBER
THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE, LIME MEADOW AVENUE

50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME
TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!



A Bunch of
Amateurs

by Ian Hislop
and Nick Newman



6th - 9th April 2022, The Clubhouse Theatre
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

The TSSSC, Lime Meadow Avenue
Sanderstead CR2 9AS



President **Alasdair Kennedy**
Past Presidents **Mark Bishop**
Chris Tarrant
Robin Wilson
Vice-Presidents **Julia Ascott**
Gillian Bartle
John Bartle
Alan Bishop
Ian Brown
Alan Collins
Julia Gibbs
Di Jones
Warwick Jones
Peter Stockwell
Andy Thompson
Martin Tyrrell
Anna Warnock
Colin Warnock

Chairman **Colin Warnock**
Treasurer **Alan Bishop**
Secretary **Jo Morrison**
Committee Members **Julia Ascott**
Megan Brown
Louise Gauntlett
Jon Lee
Ziggi Szafranski

PATRONS OF THE MITRE PLAYERS

Katherine Bottomley	Carol Lane
Chrissy Bright	Colin Marshall
Ros Broyd	Clare Martin Reed
Berry Butler	Ian McLeod
Mark Fleming	Alison Naish
Anna Frost	Andrew Naish
Gill Frost	Andrew Rapps
Martin Godber	Trevor Rowlan
Helen Harries-Rees	Paul Smith
Carol Inge	Chester Stern
David Lane	Nicola Swan

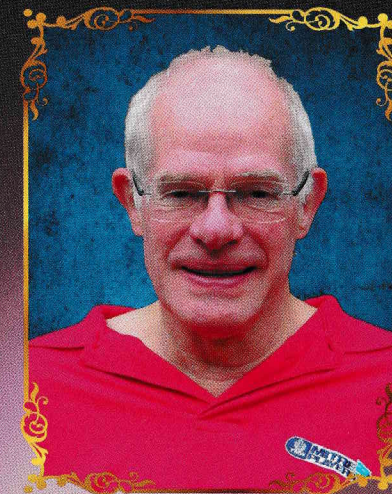
The Mitre Players is the dramatic society for former pupils of Trinity School, Croydon (The Trinity Club). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting three or four productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use "in house" musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to remain out of the spotlight, building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing 'Front of House' or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the TSSSC Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals and all members are encouraged to use the facilities at Sanderstead as often as possible.

If you would like more information,
please contact our
Membership Secretary, **Julia Ascott**
membership@mitreplayers.org.uk
or visit our website
www.mitreplayers.org.uk

COLIN WARNOCK CHAIRMAN



I think it's now safe to confirm that Mitres are back in business after the abnormalities of the last two years. However, as you will no doubt have noticed, COVID-19 is still causing problems in all our lives and has already meant several of the cast and our Director have missed chunks of rehearsals. I'm writing this with 2 weeks still to go, so I have my fingers crossed that the production has a trouble-free run.

Although we managed, against all the odds, to perform *Our House* and *The Wind In The Willows* last year, *A Bunch Of Amateurs* is the first adult production here at our Studio Theatre since 2019's *Bugsy Malone*. Making the transformation from rehearsal room to theatre never fails to give me a thrill – this really is our home, and is also the perfect place to stage this particular play.

Di Jones recently left our committee after serving many years, most recently as Hon. Secretary, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all she has done. Luckily for us, Di is continuing her Mitre involvement and has once more used her talents as Director. Our thanks are also due to Stage Manager Derek Lee and all others who have helped get the production ready for you to watch tonight.

Next year is our 50th Anniversary year (yes, I was there at the beginning and I'm still here!) and we are busy planning lots of suitably self-indulgent things to celebrate. I hope you will continue to support us through this milestone year. If you are not on our mailing list, you can always get the latest info from our website www.mitreplayers.org.uk or our Facebook page. We have also started having monthly social meetings in the bar here, so if you want to join, re-join, catch up or find out more about us, please do join us on the first Thursday of the month from 8pm. Newbies, both young and old, will be made most welcome.

I hope you enjoy our play this evening. Personally, this will be one of the very few I have missed in the last 49 years – Australia is finally letting us visit our son in Melbourne!

Colin

DI JONES DIRECTOR

When I first considered directing this play life as we then knew it was very different. I am writing these notes as I recover from Covid and we race towards show week with a certain amount of trepidation.

When I first cast the play, I knew I had picked a strong cast, with years of experience between them, but I had no idea at that point how clever I had been! They are like a well-oiled orchestra who can maintain the momentum when their conductor is temporarily absent only to hand back the baton when necessary.

A Bunch of Amateurs is an interesting piece that performs better than it first reads. Once given life, the humour and pathos shine through. Of course, we all hope that The Stratford Players is nothing like our own drama group, but those of you who have followed the Mitre Players for many years may disagree!

Humour is vital to this piece and here the cast excel. The difference between two countries who essentially speak the same language is beautifully illustrated in such misunderstandings as place names, food and nationality characteristics to name but a few. Underlying the humour, the pathos of the relationship between Lear and Cordelia is cleverly mirrored in Jefferson's own relationship with his daughter Jessica, leading to Jefferson's epiphany.

I would like to thank Charles Marriott for making the wonderful film that is used at the beginning of the play. We had such fun making it. Thanks also to the entire backstage team, led by the ever calm Derek Lee, for their support and dedication.

My brief was to produce a comedy to cheer us up after the gloom of the last two years. I think we've done that. Enjoy!

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

Ian Walsh, Nick Trend, the TSSSC and Priscilla's Catering for their patience and co-operation during our rehearsals and performances.

Please note the videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings or streams of this production is strictly prohibited, a violation of United Kingdom Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and an actionable offence.

Please remember to switch off all mobile phones.



A Bunch of Amateurs

By Ian Hislop and Mick Newmān

First performed at the Watermill Theatre on 22nd May 2014

This amateur production of "A Bunch Of Amateurs" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

ACT ONE

- SCENE 1 The Barn Theatre
- SCENE 2 Press Conference - Heathrow Airport
- SCENE 3 The Barn Theatre
- SCENE 4 Mary's B&B, the next morning
- SCENE 5 The Barn Theatre, before the next rehearsal
- SCENE 6 Mary's B&B / The Barn Theatre



ACT TWO

- SCENE 1 Another Rehearsal
- SCENE 2 Mary's B&B
- SCENE 3 Mary's B&B, later that night
- SCENE 4 The Barn Theatre, the next day
- SCENE 5 Auditions
- SCENE 6 Rehearsal
- SCENE 7 Later That Night
- SCENE 8 The Next Morning
- SCENE 9 Opening Night, before curtain up
- SCENE 10 The Play
- SCENE 11 The Morning After



There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts One and Two.

The bar will be open during the Interval and after the show



KEVIN HAYER
JEFFERSON STEEL

As a day-to-day Action Hero, Kevin is always jumping out of aeroplanes, climbing mountains, swinging off towers, and diving into shark infested seas. It's just like this part of Jefferson Steel Hollywood Legend... All made up (well some of it!)

This is not the first time Kevin has been a man of action on stage. Speeding around in speed boats and racing cars as Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*, prancing around the stage at Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats*, killing people as Sweeney Todd and Jekyll and Hyde, oh, and on stilts and up on the high wire as Barnum.

He's now looking for a new challenge... any ideas?



DENISE SCALES
DOROTHY NETTLE

Having been involved for nearly half a century with AmDram groups including CYTO, CODA, the Miller Centre and the Parlour Players, Denise feels privileged to have been cast as Dorothy with the Mitre Players in what should prove to be a slightly cynical and very amusing insight into the reason for the existence of Amateur Dramatic groups!

Although she has not been seen treading these particular boards in recent years, Denise proudly recalls appearing in a Mitre Panto in 1980: *Superdame!*

She hopes you enjoy the show.



JULIA GIBBS
MARY PLUNKETT

Julia has had great fun being part of this production and is delighted to be playing Mary Plunkett.

Last seen in *The Wind in the Willows* in the ensemble, Julia only just lost out on an Olivier Award nomination for her subtle and nuanced portrayal of 'Barge Woman' in the second half!

Having played sword wielding Regan in *King Lear* at the Minack Theatre, Cornwall a few years ago (with Denise Scales) this couldn't be more different!

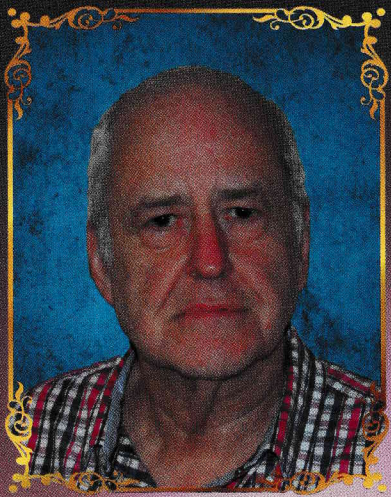


KATY RED
LAUREN BELL

Katy is happy to be back in the Mitre fold after two years of Covid-world.

As Algernon put it in *The Importance of Being Earnest* "all women become their mothers", and it appears that Oscar Wilde may have been right all along: having grown up with a physio for a mother she fully understands the 'no pain no gain' mantra and has enjoyed bringing her personal experience to playing Lauren - an ex-physio!

Despite having had such fun working on this play, she is somewhat disappointed at the lack of food in this Di Jones production. Her waist line, on the other hand, is very much relieved!



CHARLES MARRIOTT
DENNIS DOBBINS

Charles is delighted to be "treading the boards" with the Mitres again, his last outing being *An Englishman Abroad* in 2018, in which he played the infamous spy Guy Burgess.

Charles plays Dennis the Handyman/Health and Safety Officer in this amusing play that some may believe is a "behind the scenes" reflection of the Mitres in rehearsal. There are some obvious parallels but the Mitres haven't needed to rely on a fading Hollywood Star to attract an audience...yet!

This production is about as close that Charles will ever get (or want to get) to a Shakespeare play!



JERRILEE McMANUS
JESSICA STEEL

Jerri is no stranger to the Mitres, having performed in her first production with them when she was 13. Her last turn on stage with the Mitres was 5 years ago, in the iconic role of Bobby (*The Railway Children*) and, having lived through a global pandemic at the same time as raising 2 young children, she is delighted that she is still able to convince audiences that she is so young – it's safe to say she doesn't always feel it! Although Jerri hasn't been in the limelight recently, she has been busy behind the scenes, showcasing her other creative talents. Most recently, she had the opportunity to channel her passion for art, assisting with artistic set painting and managing props for *The Wind in the Willows*. Jerri has loved being back on stage with such a lovely group of people and hopes that you enjoy the show!



WARWICK JONES
NIGEL DEWBURY

A pompous, self absorbed narcissist and fading leading light of an amateur dramatic society, Nigel has proved a demanding role for Warwick. He claims to have had to explore totally unknown facets of the human experience in order to bring the character to life.

The rest of the cast, and the director, haven't seen it quite like that.

For information on the rest of the cast, along with a range of pictures to whet your appetite, please check out our digital extras, which you can download by scanning this QR code with your phone:



THE COMPANY

Dorothy Nettle	Denise Scates
Nigel Newbury	Warwick Jones
Mary Plunkett	Julia Gibbs
Dennis Dobbins	Charles Marriott
Jefferson Steel	Kevin Hayes
Lauren Bell	Katy Reid
Jessica Steel	Jerri-Lee McManus
Thelma (Crew)	Kate Slingerland
Bert (Crew)	Dominic O'Shea
Sid (Crew)	Andy Holton
Jefferson's Minders	Mike Lilley
	Ian Burgess

THE CREW

Director	Di Jones
Stage Manager	Derek Lee
Production Manager	Louise Gauntlett
Set Design,	Alan Bishop
Construction and	Alan Collins
Backstage Assistance	Liz Dolman
	Derek Lee
	Jon Lee
	Andy Thompson
	Members of the Cast
Sound	James Mcleod
Lighting Design	Charles Marriott
Lighting	Ziggi Szafranski
	Alan Bishop
Props	Louise Gauntlett
Wardrobe	Kate Slingerland
	Di Jones
Film	Charles Marriott
Incidental Music	Chris Chambers
Programme	Ziggi Szafranski
Front of House	Megan Brown
	Jo Morrison
assisted by	Members of the
	Mitre Players