

Past Christmas Shows

- 1974 Cinderella, Charleston!
- 1975 Jack and the Beanstalk
- 1976 Turn again Scrooge
- 1977 Turnabout!
- 1978 Ghoul, Frankenstein and Mirth
- 1979 Idol Days
- 1980 Superdame, the Panto
- 1981 Way Out West
- 1982 Acropolis Now!
- 1983 Sir Merryman
- 1985 Backstage!
- 1986 Haggis in Wonderland
- 1987 Dame Sherlock
- 1988 Jack and the Beanstalk
- 1989 Pantomummy
- 1990 Cindy-Ella
- 1991 Oedipuss in Boots
- 1992 Way Out West
- 1993 Snow White
- 1994 Home Alone III, (A Lad in London)
- 1995 P.A.N.T.O.O.7.
- 1996 Dick Whittington
- 1997 Ready Steady Goose
- 1998 Robin Hoodlum
- 1998 Turnabout!
- 2000 The Millennium Dame
- 2001 Cindy-Ella
- 2002 Aladdin & his Marvellous
Limehouse Lamp
- 2003 Beauty and the Beast
- 2004 Peter Pan
- 2005 Robinson Crusoe
- 2006 Sir Merryman
- 2007 Cinderella, Charleston!
- 2008 Sleeping Beauty
- 2008 Uncle Ebenezer



ALI & BABA & THE FORTY THIEVES

January 2010





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MOBY DICK PRESENTATION EVENING

Sunday 24th January 2010 at 6.00 pm.

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

Details: Julian Chenery: julian.chenery@mitreplayers.org.uk

AUDITIONS FOR MOBY DICK

Sunday 31st January 2010 at 6.00 pm.

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

Details: Julian Chenery: julian.chenery@mitreplayers.org.uk

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

Friday 26th February 2010

Surrey National Golf Course, Rocks Lane, Chaldon

Details: Anna Warnock: 020 8657 0972

TIMING

Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th April 2010 at 7.30 pm.

The Drama Studio, Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon.

Tickets: 0845 2255799 (Lo-call) from 1st February 2010

MOBY DICK

Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th July 2010 at 7.30 pm.

The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon.

Tickets: 0845 2255799 (Lo-call) from 1st May 2010

and

The Minack Theatre, Porthcurno, Cornwall

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th August 2010

Box Office: 01736 810471 from 1st May 2010

Please make a note of the Box Office Details:

0845 2255799 (lo-call rate)

or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

This applies to ALL our productions (apart from The Minack Theatre)

The Mitre Players

The Dramatic Society of The Old Boy's Association of Trinity School

Present

ALI BABA and the Forty Thieves

Book by ALAN FRAYN

Music by COLIN WARNOCK

Lyrics by JULIAN CHENERY

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th January 2010

Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon

Script provided by Stage Right - www.stagerightcreative.com

The Mitre Players would like to thank the Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for allowing us to perform Ali Baba in Big School and Robin McKinley, Mario Sammut, Martin Doolan, Phil Jupp and team for their invaluable help as well as Mr Joe McKee and all the school staff for the patience and understanding they have shown whilst we invade the school.

Please note that smoking is prohibited throughout the whole Trinity School premises.

We would also respectfully remind you that the taking of photographs and the use of audio and video recording equipment is strictly forbidden.

Please remember to switch off all mobile phones & pagers. THANK YOU.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Friends,

Welcome to the newly refurbished 'Big School' for our Christmas Show. You will notice great improvements in seating, insulation and acoustics within the venue and I hope this improves your enjoyment of the show.

Our presentation this year, *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, is a pantomime not presented that often. We do try to be different! The creative production team is once again lead by Julian Chenery and Colin Warnock, with an enormous amount of help from Alan Merricks as Assistant Director/Production Manager. We welcome Lucy Thompson making her debut as Choreographer. Lucy has been in several of our pantomimes (from a very young age) but this is her first time on the production side. Also making his debut is Patrick Isbell as Musical Director having been conned by Colin! We wish them all well.

Once again we have several Trinity boys in our cast this year and look forward them maintaining their links with the Mitres, as they get older and leave the School. This is the essence of what the Mitre Players are about, maintaining and furthering friendships that are formed in youth and continuing them to adulthood.

Our Easter production, *Timing*, is another first for the Mitres. Written by Alastair McGowan, we believe we will be putting on the very first production after its successful London run. This is a slick comedy, based in the world of advertising

voice-overs, with cutting edge, topical humour. Directed by Charles Marriott, it promises to be a good show.

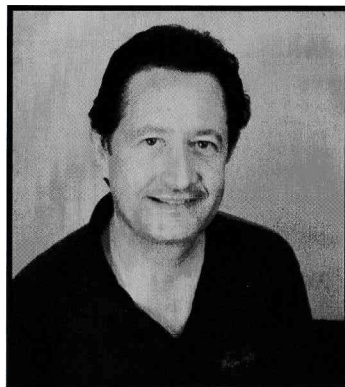
Following on, Julian Chenery will again be in the Director's chair at the helm of *Moby Dick*, which is to be this year's touring show and will be presented both here at Trinity and at the open air Minack Theatre in Cornwall.

We always attempt to stretch ourselves in our productions and rely heavily on the team of very skilled people who give their time, in all areas of production. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those unsung heroes, without whom our shows would simply not happen. We are always on the lookout for anyone who would like to help in any way.

May I thank you for supporting us and wish you all a peaceful and prosperous 2010. I look forward to seeing you again, at some of our forthcoming productions.

Andy Thompson.

Chairman.



THE MITRE PLAYERS



Officials

President Mark Bishop

Past Presidents Chris Tarrant, Robin Wilson

Vice-Presidents Julia Ascott, Gillian Bartle,

John Bartle, Alan Bishop, Sheila Garnett, Warwick Jones, Peter Stockwell, Andrew Thompson, Martin Tyrrell, Anna Warnock, Colin Warnock

Current Committee

Chairman Andy Thompson

Secretary Kelly Bennett

Treasurer Alan Bishop

Additional Members Ian Brown, Katy Davies,

Di Jones, Charles Marriott, Alan Merricks, Anna Warnock

Additional Contacts

Box Office Hotline 0845 2255799

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock

Membership Secretary Julia Ascott

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Old Boys of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 4 or 5 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 Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association 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 on 020 8239 1010 or visit our Web Site at www.mitreplayers.org.uk

THE CAST



Ali Baba Mark Curtis
Sultan Alex Greenslade
Grand Visier Jim Hammond
Jasmine Megan Harries-Rees
Scheherezade Livvy Chenery
Mustafa Alan Geeson
Prince Haroun Greg Elder
Asbad David Elder
Bashim Ian Brown
Grabbit Joe Pepper
Fatima Fandango Fraser Macdonald
Alsatia Ann Bowden
Caterina Helen Harries-Rees

Thieves, Citizens, Spirits of the Cave etc.

Inka Bhatia, Ros Broyd, Charlie Hammond,
 Rachel Hammond, Ben Harper, Tom Harper,
 David Harries-Rees, Mary Holton, Amy Knott,
 Hannah Pepper, Rachel Pomery, Lydia Ricca,
 Abbey Scutt, Katie Tomsett

THE BAND

Conductor / Keyboard Patrick Isbell
Saxophone / Clarinet Hannah Widger
Saxophone / Flute Nigel Crane
Trumpet Chris Hickox
Trombone Paul Buckley
Oboe / Bassoon Becca Rolfe
Drums Craig Backway
Bass Dave Price

THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Director Julian Chenery	Stage Management Gillian Bartle Alan Collins	Photography and Promotional Video Charles Marriott
Assistant Director and Production Manager Alan Merricks	Scenic Artist Jill Wilson	Handbill Design James Beal
Musical Supervisor Colin Warnock	Backstage Assistance and Set Construction Lesley Bates Matt Beal Alan Bishop Paul Bowles Alan Collins Liz Dolman Mary Holton Jamie Knight Derek Lee Jon Lee Val Lee Sue Marr Fraser Macdonald Julian Parsons John Placek Dave Richards Andy Thompson	Programme Alan Bishop Anna Warnock
Musical Director Patrick Isbell	Choreographer Lucy Thompson	Rehearsal Pianists Colin Warnock Patrick Isbell
Lighting Designer Alan Bishop	Sound James McLeod	Additional Lyrics Martin Tyrrell
Special Effects Andy Thompson	Wardrobe Mistress Anna Warnock	Musical Arrangements Colin Warnock
Assisted by Jo Gunner Helen Harman Di Jones	Make Up Julia Gibbs Di Jones	Band Fixer Pat Price
Costumes Eclectia Costumes	Props Mary Holton	Box Office Kelly Bennett
	Prompter Gillian Bartle	Front of House Julia Gibbs Alex Greenslade and Friends of the Mitre Players
		Refreshments Lorraine Price and Friends of the Mitre Players

Act One

THE PROLOGUE

It's Panto Time Again The Company

THE BAZAAR IN OLD BAGDAD

Arabian Nights and Arabian Days Ali Baba & Company
Fatima Fatima & Company
The Finest Shopping Mall Fatima, Mustapha & Company
Triumphant To The End Ali Baba & Company

SCHEHERAZADE'S TALE UNFOLDS

I Will Always Be With You Scheherazade & Sultan

A CLEARING IN THE FOREST

FATIMA'S KITCHEN

Dame Fatima's Crunchy Bits Fatima, Marjana & Mustapha

THE MAGIC OF THE EAST

The Magic Of The East Dancers
And I Love You Prince Haroun, Princess Jasmine
Ali Baba & Marjana

WITHIN THE SECRET CAVE

The Jewel Ballet Dancers
Wild, Reviled And Ugly Asbad & The Thieves
Now, That's What I Call Magic Caterina

Refreshments/ The Bar will be open 30 minutes
before the performance commences.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes,
during which refreshments will be served in the dining area.

Interval drinks may be pre-ordered from the foyer before the show.

Act Two

THE BAZAAR IN OLD BAGDAD

Welcome Back Ali Baba, Marjana, Mustapha & Company
At A Time Like This Prince Haroun & Marjana

THE OIL SHEIKH ARRIVES

Bashim And Grabbit Bashim & Grabbit

THE ROYAL COURTYARD

An Evening Like This Sultan, Vizier, Scheherazade & Company

OUTSIDE THE PALACE

And I Love You (Reprise) Ali Baba & Princess Jasmine

THE BANQUETING HALL

Arabian Nights And Arabian Days The Company

SOMEWHERE IN OLD BAGDAD

Another Well Known Song Various Artists

THE DOUBLE WEDDING

Ali Baba The Company

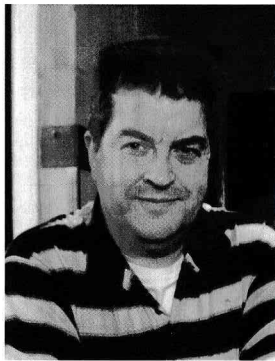


Julian Chenery (Director/Lyricist) has been a Mitre Player for 25 years, making his debut in October 1984 in *Desert Melody*, our entry in The Art of Coarse Acting Festival: he has been acting coarsely ever since. Known as The Broker (since our 2004 production of *The Hunting of the Snark*), he has appeared with Colin Warnock (The Bellman, ditto) in *Guys and Dolls* (Sky Masterson to Colin's Nathan Detroit), *Chicago* (Billy Flynn to his Mary Sunshine) and *Man of La Mancha* (Spanish (pri)senor to his Don Quixote); directed him in *Just So*, and written with him our recent panto hits *Peter Pan*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

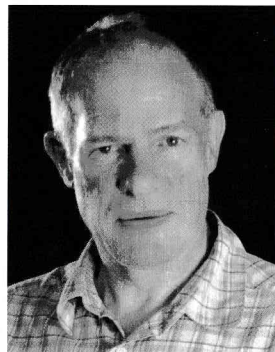


Their adaptation of *Peter Pan* starring S Club's Jon Lee was the Christmas show at the White Rock Theatre, Hastings in 2008, and this year they have worked together on their version of *Aladdin* at the same venue, with Leslie Grantham as Abanazar and Neil O'Gorman as the Genie. His beautiful wife Carolyn (the March Hare, cf HotS) and all 4 of his kidz have at some stage or another trod the Mitre boards.

Alan Merricks (Assistant Director) Ali Baba is Alan's second outing in the Assistant Director's chair, following on from his successful debut during *Hoy es Fiesta* earlier in 2009 with the mighty Fraser Macdonald, who is equally mighty as this year's dame! Alan cut his teeth in *Cindy Ella* 9 years or so ago, and has appeared in various Mitre shows since. Ali Baba has been a hoot from start to finish, and it has been a pleasure working with such a cast, and of course with Julian and Colin. He owes a debt of gratitude to his long suffering wife, who almost forgot what he looks like, and looks forward to the year and the safe return of his son, Tom, from Afghanistan.



Colin Warnock (Composer and Musical Supervisor) first attended Trinity School in 1965, when it was brand new. After leaving school, he co-founded The Mitre Players and has been involved ever since, though in an ever-decreasing way! After yet another Christmas holiday spent slaving over a keyboard and a computer, he is as usual vowing never to do it again! His first meeting with Julian Chenery (the Broker) was as Musical Director of a production of *Annie Get Your Gun* at Oxted in 1981, where Broker wore a false chest wig during "Moonshine Lullaby". They have worked together many times since and this is their 5th Mitre collaboration, having previously written *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *Sleeping Beauty*. For 27 years, Colin has worked at Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom, helping to train the stars of tomorrow.

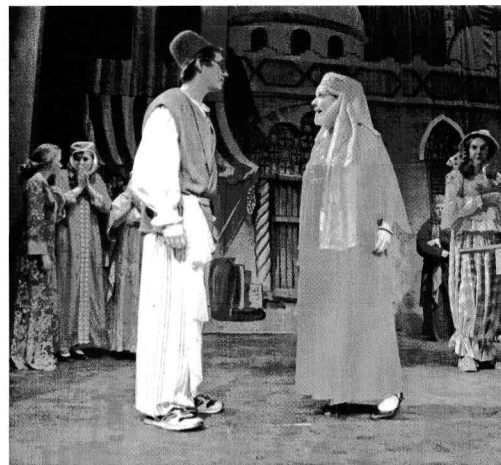


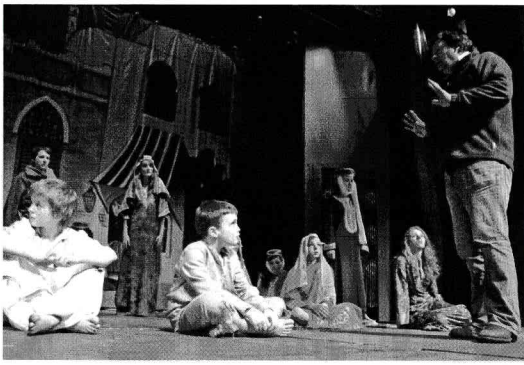
Ian Brown (Bashim) Apart from two performances as an absent Julia Gibbs (including wearing her dress) in *Sleeping Beauty*, Ian hasn't been seen in a Mitre Panto since playing the confused Humpty Dumpty/Bruno The Bear in *Robinson Crusoe* five years ago. Despite appearing in numerous pantos over the last 27 years, Ian has never played a baddie before (as far as he can remember), so it's great fun to be nasty and to play opposite the slightly more Eastern and ever so slightly more youthful Grabbit. Ian hopes you're all in good voice for the show – oh no he doesn't!

Ann Bowden (Alsatia) Bearing the title of Queen Mother of The Mitre Players, Ann feels it is fitting for her to play the role of "Evil Queen". She has never before had the joy of playing a Panto "Baddie" and is looking forward to plenty of booing and hissing from the audience. She hopes her canine "growl" will not terrify the kiddies!



Livvy Chenery (Scherezade) has been a member of The Mitre Players her whole life, taking part in many productions over the years, her favourites being the Zebra in *Just So* (Minack), a Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and ensemble in *The Hunting of the Snark*. Livvy has played Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Ariel in *The Tempest* and Lady Montague in *Romeo and Juliet* for Shakespeare 4 Kidz National and International tours. She is a member of the National Youth Theatre, where most recently she played Colleen in the world premiere of *Out of Me* in London's Soho Theatre. Livvy is thoroughly looking forward to the run of Ali Baba and hopes you enjoy the show.





Mark Curtis (Ali Baba) When Mark first saw that the Mitres were doing Ali Baba as this year's panto, he did a little research. Fat, balding, middle aged man from Baghdad - he knew that this was the role that he was born to! Mark is relishing the chance to jump around on stage again, having spent the last two years in the exile of Accountancy Land! Never was there a more dull and desolate place. Mark also now has a 14 year old slave girl!

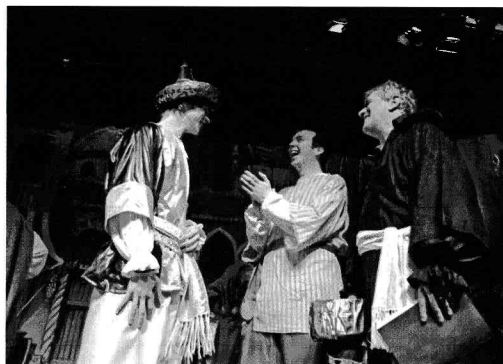
Greg Elder (Prince Haroun) is 17 years old and currently studying for A Levels at The John Fisher School. From a young age, Greg has been interested in sport. Studying theatre at A Level, Greg hopes that this will help him to perform well in this production. Greg also hopes he will not be upstaged by his father. This is Greg's first production as a Mitre.

Alan Geeson (Mustafa) Appearing only once before on the Mitre stage, performing as a chorus member in last year's Christmas production of *Uncle Ebenezer*, Alan has been given the

opportunity to play a principal character as Mustafa Screwloose, Fatima's house boy. Currently on a gap year from education, Alan plans to go on to university to study broadcasting technology within the television media.

Alex Greenslade (Sultan) This year is Alex's 25th anniversary of joining the Mitres. Although he usually has an aversion to pantomimes, this time he was keen to avoid having to manage Front of House yet again, so he told the directors he would be pleased to be involved if his part had fewer than 50 lines. It has only 14, so he is delighted! He hopes to invent a line-learning machine.

Jim Hammond (Grand Vizier) Jim was born in Surrey. He then grew up, was educated, played rugby and appeared on 'Blind Date' all in Surrey. He is anything but a home bird as he regularly visits Kent and Sussex. He has revived his association with the Mitre Players so that he can legitimately make a fool of himself and chauffeur 2/3 of his children to rehearsals. He now lives and works in Surrey.



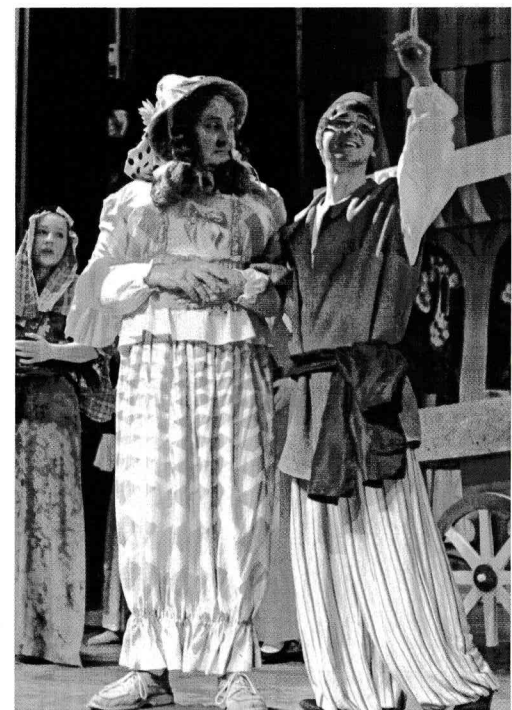
Helen Harries-Rees (Catarina) Helen has been a Mitre Player for too many years, although she hasn't been in a pantomime for a long long time. She was recently seen on stage as an Irish schoolgirl in our production of *Daisy Pulls It Off* and played the lovely Mrs Cratchitt in *Uncle Ebenezer* last Christmas. Helen is delighted to be performing in *Ali Baba*, as the Arabian theme reminds her of her younger belly dancing days. Helen is a full time mother to Megan and David, and in her spare time she works for DHL (AND NO, SHE DOESN'T DRIVE THE LORRIES!!!!).

Megan Harries-Rees (Princess Jasmine) Megan has recently moved back home after two and a half years, and is returning to the Mitre stage as the beautiful Egyptian Princess Jasmine (no acting or makeup required!!!). Megan has been a Mitre Player her entire life, her favourite role being the all-singing, all dancing Kangaroo in *Just So* at the Minack Theatre. Megan feels that the amount of Turkish kebabs she has eaten, camels she has ridden and mosques she has attended, has really helped her make the most of this role. She would like to thank her boyfriend Andrew for flying her to and from rehearsals on his magic carpet!!!

Patrick Isbell (Musical Director) After managing to graduate from Trinity College of Music without getting thrown out, Patrick worked on productions of *Grease is the Word*, *The Lion King*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Seven Brides* and *Les Miserables* as well as far too many am

-drams for him to now be considered normal. As an additional punishment he works with Colin Warnock as the other half of the music department at Laine Theatre Arts. This is Pat's first outing for the Mitre Players and he is sure he will have a wonderful time!

Saskia Jiggins (Marjana) In the last 2 years, Saskia was a proud pupil in *Happiest Days*, a sad sister in *My Boy Jack*, a tortured teenager in *Hoy Es Fiesta* and a darling daughter in *Little Women*. Now perhaps the alliterative character of a lifetime - a sensationally spiffing slave-girl! What glittering thespian peaks remain unconquered? When asked about her most loquacious and laudable acting roles, the panto audience could shout "They're behind you"...



Fraser Macdonald (Fatima Fandango)

From the sublime to the ridiculous! After breaking new ground by translating and directing a Spanish play for its first production in English last April, Fraser now appears as the Mitre Players' pantomime dame for the umpteenth time in this production of *Ali Baba*. Retired from heading the Spanish Department at Trinity School, he is now (in his spare time) Chief Examiner in Spanish for a major examinations board. Last year he played Scrooge in the Christmas production of *Uncle Ebenezer* but is now dusting off his frocks and bras to grace the stage once again as the traditional transvestite. Set in Baghdad, he is certain that this production will help to promote understanding and tolerance between the east and the west – but watch out for his weapons of mass destruction!

Joe Pepper (Grabbit) was recently let out of prison in the Middle East and on return to England decided to use the skills

that he had picked up there to play the role of Grabbit in *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*. Joe has been a Mitre for 5 years now as well as being involved with Trinity School drama. Joe's favourite role was Lucky Eric in *Bouncers*, but his double act with Bashim has been WOOnderful fun. To help get into character Joe has been watching Borat, learning Arabic, and drinking MilkSHEIKS. He warns you all to not boo and hiss - otherwise Bashim and him will have to do some 'cutting, shredding and, beheading.'

Lucy Thompson (Choreographer) is delighted to be making her choreographic debut for the Mitre Players this year. She has been a lifelong member and has performed in numerous shows, the most recent being *Daisy Pulls It Off*. Lucy has studied many forms of dance and during the rehearsal process completed her exams and is now a fully qualified tap dancer. When asked how she intends to use this she responded, 'to choreograph more things for the Mitres'. She must be enjoying it!

Our Next Production is

TIMING

A New Comedy by Alistair McGowan

READ THROUGH: Thursday 28th January at 7.30pm (Clubhouse)

AUDITIONS: Sunday 7th February at 7.00pm (Clubhouse)

PERFORMANCES: 14th - 17th April, The Drama Studio, Trinity School

For a perusal script or further details please contact:
charles.marriott@mitreplayers.org.uk

TICKETS: available from 1st Feb from 0845 2255799 or
tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk

MITRE PLAYERS

READ THROUGH AND PRESENTATION
SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY AT 6.00
OMWA CLUBHOUSE
SANDERSTEAD

AUDITIONS:
SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY AT 6.00
OMWA CLUBHOUSE
SANDERSTEAD

PERFORMANCES:
15TH TO 17TH JULY.
THE MITRE THEATRE
TRINITY SCHOOL

SEE WWW.MITREPLAYERS.ORG.UK
FOR MORE DETAILS

SUMMER 2010