

The Mitre Players

DICK BARTON

Special Agent



Summer 2015



I am pleased to welcome you to our touring production of Dick Barton Special Agent. The theatre where it premiered, the Warehouse, has now been demolished to make way for some of Croydon's many new buildings, but it is where I saw this and most of the other episodes (of which there are eight). They were often sold out and sometimes had their runs extended – with good reason. Even to those who did not hear the original radio episodes, they are evocative of a bygone era and their humour is often silly but infectious. Perhaps we have also made the choice of future shows a lot easier for ourselves!

We are delighted to welcome back to the director's chair one of our co-founders, Martin Tyrrell, who, after an illustrious career as the head of drama at Harrow School, has come out of retirement to take charge of this production. The other co-founder, Colin Warnock, is the musical director, so this is a great reunion of the

two who were responsible for bringing the Mitres back to life in 1973 (there had been a previous incarnation which ended around the time of World War Two). Warnock and Tyrrell first met 50 years ago when they started at the brand new Trinity School in 1965, a collaboration which saw the successful creation of many acclaimed Mitre shows. This is the latest of Colin's "last shows", as he is often heard to say, "Never again!". The draw is just too great to resist. Perhaps it has something to do with the Mitres' motto, coined by Colin himself, "We love it, we love it all!" Joining Martin and Colin, we are pleased to have Anna Warnock and Andrew Thompson in the production team as they too have been actively involved in The Mitre Players since the beginning in 1973.

We are also lucky to have had Tonia Porter to choreograph the show. She was persuaded to do it by being told that it was "just a bit of movement". Never one to things by halves, however, she will have made the most of what she has available, two left feet and all.

I hope you enjoy the show and thank you so much for your support.

Alex Greenslade

Chairman, The Mitre Players

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

Ian Walsh, Nick Trend, Cristian Murga for their patience and co operation during our rehearsals; Julie Gruit at The Ratcliffe School; all our friends at the Shaftesbury Theatre for making us feel very welcome.

The Mitre Players
Present

DICK BARTON
SPECIAL AGENT

By Phil Willmott

Director: **Martin Tyrrell**

Musical Director: **Colin Warnock**

Choreographer: **Tonia Porter**

TMWA Clubhouse, Croydon
14th to 17th July 2015

Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
25th to 29th August 2015

This amateur production of *Dick Barton Special Agent* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd and the BBC, which retains certain rights in the Dick Barton name, characters and format.

Trinity
Mid-Whitgiftian
Association

presents



Lime Meadow Acoustic Folk & Blues Club

KEEP MUSIC LIVE

- Wednesday fortnightly
- 8.30 to 11pm
- Licensed bar from 7pm
- Free entry & parking

TMWA Clubhouse
Lime Meadow Avenue
Sanderstead
South CROYDON
CR2 9AS

020 8657 2014



Are you a competent acoustic guitarist, pianist, singer or other, who would like to play in front of other like-minded people, in a friendly atmosphere or just someone who enjoys listening to music? If you are, come along.

Don't be put off by the heading of "Folk & Blues" as, in common with many other "Folk & Blues clubs", the music can be an eclectic mix of other genres.

A PA is available, with microphones, monitors and instrument connections, but kept at a volume level that is comfortable for all to enjoy.

"Fruit of the Loom" Outdoor Fleece Jacket in Smoke with Embroidered Mitre Players Logo. As modelled by Julia Gibbs
100% polyester. Pill resistant. Unlined. Two zip pockets. Self colour zip. Cover stitching detail on hem and shoulder seams. Open hem with drawcord.

£20.00 each Sizes available: *(others available on special order)*

S to fit chest 35/37 M to fit chest 38/40

L to fit chest 41/43 XL to fit chest 44/46

"Anvil Fashion" Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt in Sport Grey with embroidered Mitre Players Logo

75% cotton/25% polyester. Unlined hood with white drawcords.

White taped back neck. Two inch rolled forward shoulder.

Full length metallic YKK zip. Twin needle topstich at neck.

1x1 rib knit with spandex at cuffs and waistband.

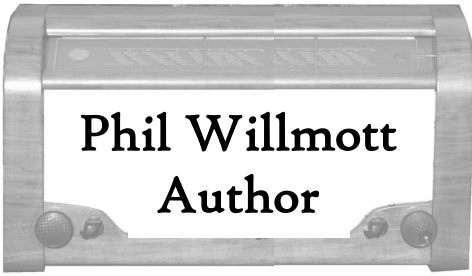
£20.00 each Sizes available: *(others available on special order)*

S to fit chest 34/36 M to fit chest 38/40

L to fit chest 42/44 XL to fit chest 46/48



Both items are available to purchase from members of the committee or by order from: info@mitreplayers.org.uk.



Phil is an accomplished writer and director of pantomimes and family shows across the country including hit productions of Jungle Book, Treasure Island, Cyclops!, The Adventures of Jason and the Argonauts, Puss in Boots, Snow White, Dick Whittington, Aladdin, Sleeping Beauty, Robin Hood, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, A Christmas Carol, Fame, The King and I, The Sound of Music, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and Around the World in Eighty Days. He has received a Peter Brook award for innovation and entertaining theatre and a T.M.A award for outstanding musical production, WhatsOnStage award nominations for best regional and Off West End productions, a Brooks Atkinson/Royal Court award in New York for playwriting and 4 Spirit of Broadway Awards.

He has directed over fifty productions around the UK from Shakespeare and musicals to cutting edge new writing at venues such as Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Sheffield Crucible, The National Theatre Studio, Nottingham Playhouse and for ten years as an associate artist at Battersea Arts Centre. He has been Associate Director of Professional training at the Arts Educational School in London, is Artistic Director of his own multi award winning theatre company, The Steam Industry (incorporating The Finborough Theatre and The Scoop outdoor amphitheatre on the South Bank) and also works as a broadcaster, arts journalist, playwright, lyricist and composer. His website is www.philwillmott.org

Our Next Events

Mitre Players Barbecue: Friday 31st July from 7pm

TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, South Croydon CR2 9AS

Mitre Players Tennis Tournament: Sunday 9th August 2.00 - 5.00pm

Sanderstead Village Lawn Tennis Club,
26 Sanderstead Court Avenue, South Croydon CR2 9AG

Bish's Quiz Night: Friday 2nd October 7.45pm

TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, South Croydon CR2 9AS

Our Autumn Production

Jane Austen's

Sense and Sensibility

Adapted by Jessica Swale

*Thursday 22nd to
Saturday 24th October at 7.30*

*The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School
Shirley Park, Croydon
CR9 7AT*

Tickets £12.00 (including souvenir programme)

Available from 1st September

From: tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk or

www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk

(£10 earlybird tickets available until 30th Sept.)



'Dick Barton - Special Agent' was a very popular thriller serial broadcast on the BBC Light Programme (now Radio 2) between October 1946 and the end of March 1951. It was aired, in 15-minute episodes, at 6.45pm each weekday evening. In all, 711 episodes were produced and 'DB' achieved a peak audience of 15 million.

The serial concerned the adventures of ex-commando Captain Dick Barton MC, who, with his sidekicks Jock and Snowy, solved all manner of dastardly plots, escaped from impossibly dangerous situations, saving Great Britain from plotting foreigners on countless occasions. Writers would present Barton with an ingenious cliffhanging situation, and he would always escape by the easiest and most contrived method! Because many of the regular listeners were schoolboys, the BBC issued instructions to the producer and writers 'Sex plays no part in his adventures!' Playwright Phil Willmott has had fun imagining if sex did rear its foreign head in Barton's childlike, daredevil world.

The start of a new serial 'The Archers' killed off Dick Barton, but it's exciting, xenophobic asexual world appealed to post-war millions. An age of genuine austerity was stirred and thrilled by the stories. What if a Cold War was brewing? Dick would sort those foreign chaps out, wait and see!

The action takes place in various locations in London & Germany. The time is 1947

There will a 20 minute interval between Act One and Act Two

TMWA Clubhouse

Drinks and Ice Creams are available in the bar. Interval drinks may be pre-ordered.

Shaftesbury Theatre

Ice Creams are available from the auditorium, drinks are available in the bar.
Interval drinks may be pre-ordered.

The Shaftesbury Theatre has been fitted with an inductive loop system. Members of the audience with hearing aids should set them to the "T" position.

We 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.



BBC Announcer, Vocal Effects, Supporting Roles
Charles Marriott

Baron Scarheart, *a German*
Ziggi Szarfranski

Dick Barton, *a Hero*
Peter Calver

Marta Heartburn, *another German*
Jane Kortlandt

Jock Anderson, *a strong armed working-class type*
Jamie Heath

Colonel Gardener, *from British Intelligence*
David Morgan

Snowy White, *a Cockney sidekick*
Peter Calver

Miss Daphne Fritters, *the best kind of English girl*
Carly Thompson

Sir Stanley Fritters, *Minister for Rationing*
Robert Critchett

Various Hacks, Convicts, Thugs, Cabaret Girls and Gangsters
Andy Holton, Mary Holton and Members of the Company

The Band

Keyboards: **Colin Warnock** Drums: **Craig Backway**



Director
Martin Tyrrell

Musical Director
Colin Warnock

Choreographer
Tonia Porter

Designer
Jill Wilson

Stage Manager
Alan Collins

CAD/CNC Realisation
and Special Effects
Andrew Thompson

Lighting Designer
Alan Bishop

Sound
James McLeod

Costumes
Anna Warnock

Props
Mary Holton

Scenic Artists
Paul Adams, Jill Wilson

Wigs
Julia Gibbs

Backstage Assistance
**Lesley Bates, Paul Bowles,
Liz Dolman, Andy Hind,
Derek Lee, Jon Lee,
Julian Parsons,
Denver Watkins and
members of the cast**

Production Photography
Marcus Ascott

Rehearsal Photography
Charles Marriott

Programme
Alan Bishop, Anna Warnock

Press Officer
Lesley Bates

Production Manager
Julia Gibbs

Tour Coordinators
Alan Bishop, Anna Warnock

Box Office (Croydon)
Ian Brown

Front of House Manager
(Croydon) **Alex Greenslade**
Assisted by **Krissi Perry,
Tamsin Reeve and members of
The Mitre Players**



MARTIN TYRRELL

Martin was a founder of The Mitre Players in 1973 and has acted, directed and written pantomimes for the society intermittently since then. In 1977, directing the **Oxford Revue** at Edinburgh, he introduced Rowan Atkinson and Richard Curtis to theatre audiences. He became a schoolteacher after Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French ignored his advice not to perform “above some strip joint” and he ended up spending most of his career at Harrow School. As Harrow’s first Head of Drama, he oversaw the building of School’s modern theatre and ran it for nearly twenty years. Past pupils include James Dreyfus, Laurence Fox and Benedict Cumberbatch. Martin is married to yet another person more talented than him and has two superior teenage sons.

Colin enjoyed acting and singing in a multitude of roles whilst he was a pupil at Trinity School and, as a direct result, he was a co-founder of the Mitre Players in 1973. He has continued to be involved ever since, either on stage or in the band. His lead roles include Cervantes in **Man of la Mancha**, Frollo in **Quasimodo**, Drake/Bullfrog in **Honk!**, Bellman in **The Hunting Of The Snark** and Eldest Magician in **Just So**. He has also MD’d most of our Dawlish shows. Colin has worked at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom for the past 32 years, helping to train the stars of tomorrow.



COLIN WARNOCK

Tonia has spent a fair chunk of her life dancing and choreographing. She has done the big shows, be it dancing in and or choreographing **42nd Street**, **Chess** and **Singing in the Rain** to name a few and now enjoys the smaller/different shows. **Dick Barton** has been different. Tonia has done the show **Cabaret** with the nightclub dancing in stockings and suspenders etc., and here we are doing a similar number but with a difference ... let’s just say some of the members of Mitres are enjoying gyrating and isolating various parts of their body! It has been fun.



TONIA PORTER

Meet the Cast



Peter Calver

On hearing that there was a part in the show for a cat, Peter's three took it upon themselves to audition. Ben cut a dashing figure as the title role, especially as hats set him off beautifully, Jerry portrayed a loveable scamp of a cockney, albeit with grubby ears, and Esme rather fancied herself as the femme fatale, though rather more fatale than femme.

However, when they discovered what part cats were actually being considered

for, Ben turned his paw to the technical side, Jerry ate a moth and Esme flounced off to her trailer and demanded that all her treats were painted blue. One moth was hurt in the writing of this biog.

After an absence of ten years, Robert made a triumphant return to the Mitres back in February when he played a transvestite in *City of Angels*, one of many roles. Thankfully this time he managed to escape that, but does miss the high heels. Although not old enough to remember the original series of *Dick Barton* on the radio, and television series, he has seen all five episodes played out at the Warehouse Theatre, and looks forward to the romp and *Carry On* innuendo this show brings.



Robert Critchett

Want to stay up to date with all our news? Want to know when our next social is? Want to know how you can get involved in our shows? Well, we have three options for you:

- Visit our website www.mitreplayers.org.uk
- Like us on Facebook by searching "The Mitre Players"
- Follow us on Twitter @MitrePlayers

As well as our online presence we also publish a regular newsletter sent to all members and patrons which announces shows and auditions before they appear anywhere else!





This is Jamie's second performance with The Mitre Players and between the singing, dancing and dodgy Scottish accents he has felt that this show was going to be an interesting one from the start - especially as he also has to sing his songs in the said dodgy accent!

Apologies in advance. He is however looking forward to seeing the faces of the people (hopefully laughing) as he tries to make his words sound like actual

English, whilst hoping that no actual Scots witness his performance as he's sure that they will be demanding another referendum for independence after hearing him sing about Granny McNair's shortbread and dance a highland jig - at the same time obviously!

Andy has criminal tendencies. This is obvious if you saw him in *City of Angels*. He was a porno salesman, a heavy breather and other low life! And this has now been confirmed as he sets out to defeat Dick ("how could he", you cry!) as a thug, criminal and a low-down bum. Well, his short fat hairy legs only just reach the ground! He is clearly on the side of the baddies. And if you watch carefully you may see him as you have never seen him before! Opera glasses are available at extra cost.



Mary is getting a split personality due to the variety of parts in this show. She hasn't reached the depths of 'scum of the earth' although she is a scum-bag! She was delighted to get a part in this production as it is 19 years since she was last directed by Martin Tyrrell.





Jane Kortlandt

Jane has been practising for this role all year, playing a German soldier in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* and Mrs Vole in *Witness For The Prosecution* for CODA. Her husband is relieved to discover that it is only the accent that she has been practising. Jane is pleased though to be giving her fishnets another outing, as they have been mothballed for a few years (can moths eat fishnets?), and is glad there is

no actual nudity or cross dressing in this one! Jane has also had the opportunity to perform in German, appearing in *Die Physiker* (The Physicists), *Der Besuch der Alten Dame* (The Visit) and *Der Gute Mensch von Sezuan* (The Good Person of Sechuan).

Although Charles was a mere slip of a lad when the classic *Dick Barton* BBC radio series was broadcast, he has fond memories of being a child actor in the 60s, working in Studio 4 in the basement of BBC Bush House in the Aldwych London. Radio drama was created 'as live' and there were no digital disk recorders for the sound engineer to mix all the different sound effects in. These were created live at the time in one corner of the studio. Recording this way seemed to add to the quintessential British 'stiff upper lip' dramas. This Mitre production of *Dick Barton* is a sort of *Carry On* meets *James Bond*! Are the audiences of Croydon and Dawlish ready to laugh and enjoy *Dick Barton*? *Sit back and tune in to this exciting episode of.....*



Charles Marriott



David Morgan

David trained at The Guildhall School of Music & Drama many years ago. He was one of the "Boom babies" that really shouldn't remember *Dick Barton's* radio show, but he does, his elder brother by 3+ years was an avid listener to the point that whilst in hospital undergoing eye surgery which necessitated bandages for ten days, his eight year old brother would be led to his bed by fellow patients, earphones on, to listen to the next enthralling episode of *Dick Barton*

Special Agent. He would therefore like to dedicate his performance to his brother Dr. Mike Morgan, and hopes that he, and you, enjoy every minute, just as much as the cast have enjoyed it.



Ziggi Szarfranski

Raised on a Bavarian mountaintop, the wolves he grew up with later sent him to Trinity in order to complete his education. **Dick Barton** is Ziggi's third Mitre production having previously played Sir Lancelot in **Monty Python's Spamalot** (Minack Theatre) and Stine in **City of Angels**. Ziggi has also trodden the boards in many other guises, including Sky Masterson (**Guys and Dolls**), Finch (**How to Succeed in Business Without**

Really Trying) and Gomez in **The Addams Family**. Having recently completed an MA in Performance Making at Goldsmiths, Ziggi joins The Purcell School in September where he will be teaching lower school and A Level Drama

Carly has been nothing but giving in her first production with The Mitre Players, whether it's giving in to temptation for just one more drink at the bar, a dangerous prospect as one too many orange juices mean she is not safe to be out in public, or giving the cast her various colds of the season. When not making a spectacle of herself in a theatre Carly can be found sat on her mountain of shoes admiring their beautiful and sparkly quality.



Carly Thompson

Patrons of The Mitre Players

Lesley Bates, Kate Benstead, Katherine Bottomley, Chrissy Bright, Berry Butler
Barbara Cobbett, Bill Cobbett, Del Cooper, Di Copas, Peter Davis
Diana England, Mark Fleming, Mike Fleming, Anna Frost, Gillian Frost
Geoff Gear, Sue Gear, Enid Ghent, Martin Godber, Michael Hall
Maria Hancock, Andrea Harper, Jackie Harris, Tracy Jeal, Don Lloyd
Darrielle Mayhead, Ian Mcleod, Alison Naish, Andrew Naish, Clare Parsons
Grace Parsons, Ray Payne, Liz Raishbrook, Aileen Regan, Trevor Rowlan
Rosemary Saw, Alan Sexton, Heather Sexton, Kate Sheehan, Marion Steele
Mary Street, Michael Street, Niccola Swan, Jenny Vereycken
Barry Widger, Geoff Wilsher

If you would like to become a Patron of The Mitre Players please log on to:

www.mitreplayers.org.uk

The Mitre Players on tour

1987	Two Gentleman of Verona	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1988	Guys and Dolls	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1989	Chicago	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1990	Godspell	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1991	Roar of the Greasepaint.....	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1992	The Wizard of Oz	Minack Theatre
1993	Cabaret	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1994	Man of La Mancha	Minack Theatre
1995	Little Shop of Horrors	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1996	The Mikado, Revamped	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1997	Quasimodo	Minack Theatre
1998	Merrily We Roll Along	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1999	The Boyfriend	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2000	The Country Wife	Minack Theatre
2001	Return to the Forbidden Planet	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2002	Honk!	Minack Theatre
2003	Godspell	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2004	The Hunting of the Snark	Minack Theatre
2005	Something's Afoot	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2006	Just So	Minack Theatre
2007	It's Only Make Believe	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2008	Gulliver's Travels	Minack Theatre
2009	Boogie Nights	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2010	Moby Dick!	Minack Theatre
2011	The Wedding Singer	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2012	Return to the Forbidden Planet	Minack Theatre
2013	A Slice of Saturday Night	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2014	Monty Python's Spamalot	Minack Theatre



Officials

President Mark Bishop
Past Presidents 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

Current Committee

Chairman Alex Greenslade
Secretary Di Jones
Treasurer Alan Bishop
Additional Members Julia Ascott, Julia Gibbs,
Jamie Heath, Charles Marriott, Vicky Watkins

Additional Contacts

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock
Membership Secretary Julia Ascott
Box Office Number 07914 763422

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 3 or 4 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 TMWA 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 website at www.mitreplayers.org.uk