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**Chairman** Alex Greenslade

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**Treasurer** Alan Bishop

**Additional Members** Ian Brown, Julia Gibbs,  
Charles Marriott, Joe Pepper, Dave Price, Eve Simpson

### Additional Contacts

**Theatre Club Organiser** Colin Warnock

**Membership Secretary** Julia Ascott

**Box Office Number** 07914 763422 or 0845 2255799

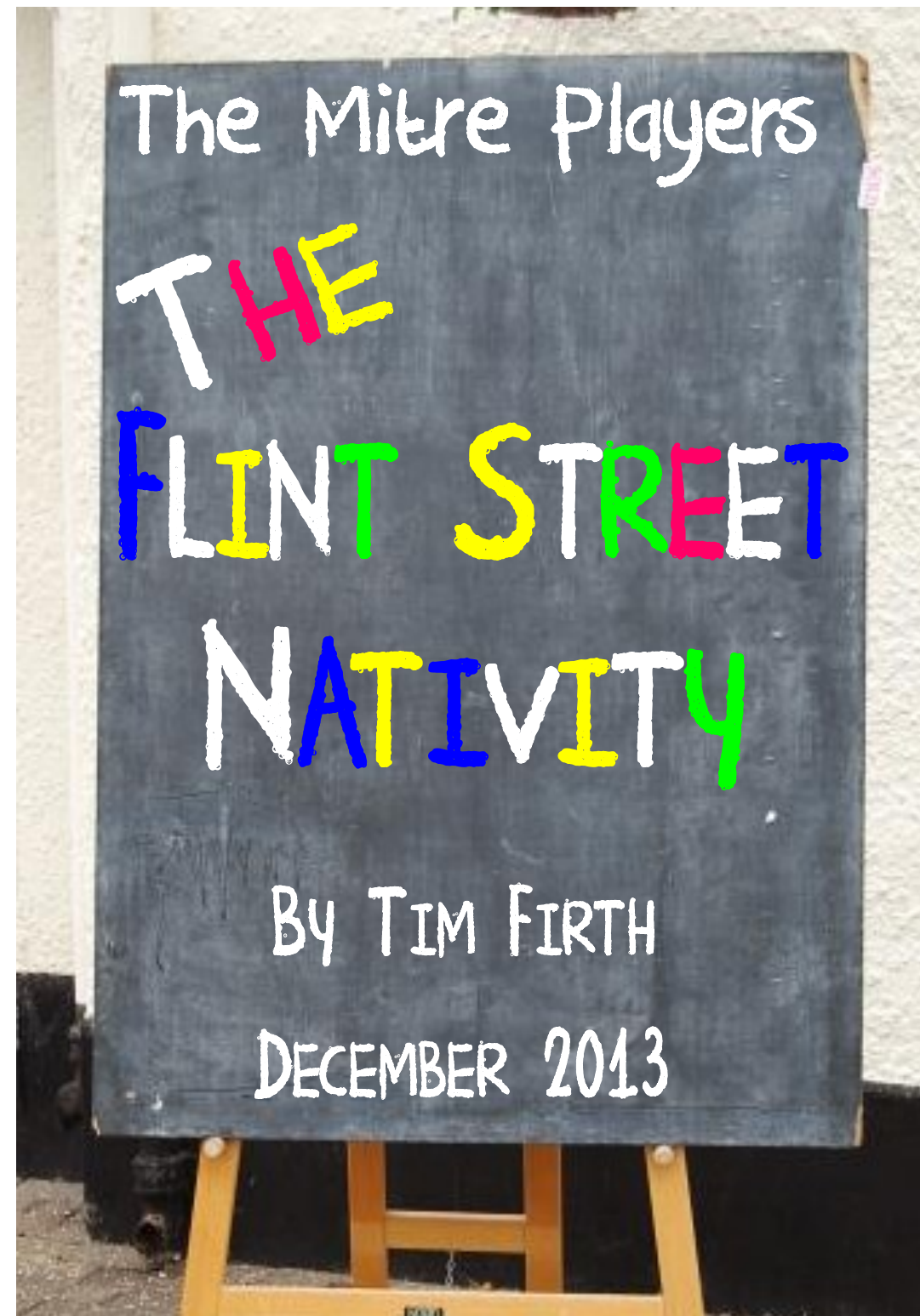
The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Old Boys of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 4 or 5 productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves 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 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](http://www.mitreplayers.org.uk)





OUR EASTER  
PRODUCTION

THE MITRE THEATRE  
TRINITY SCHOOL  
SHIRLEY PARK  
CROYDON  
CR9 7AT

DALE WASSERMAN'S

**ONE  
FLEW  
OVER  
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THE NOVEL BY  
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**Tonia Porter (Angel)**

I like dressing up and dancing around my house, but I don't like wearing tights. I like it when mummy watches me. I preferred it last year at school when I was a sheep but I didn't like the head thingy they made me wear cos it made my head all scratchy.

**Lorraine Price (Shepherd)**

I really enjoy getting messy, mucking around, riding my bike and talking in class when I'm not supposed to... I like telling people things about what I know about. My mum lets me be in lots of school productions. I really liked being in *Calendar Girls* but I had to keep my verucca sock on at all times.



**Tamsin Reeve (Wise Gold)**

My most faverit crissmas show was wen I played the crissmas tree in misses Allens class. Then I was a witch. Then I was a sheperd. Then I was a sheperd again. I like misses Slegg because she gives us mintimperiuulls with our milk, but I dont want to be a sheperd again. I do like lamb thoh. In April I will be playing doctors and nurses. Then I will be in the show with lots of big foreheads. Mary crissmas love Tamsin.



**Katie Reid (Mary)**

It is very fitting that I am playing Mary in the nativity this year as I am a goody goody. I'm always waving my hands in the air as I know all the answers to everything!! I've got the best costume in the show as both me and my mum are excellent at making stuff!! I've learnt all my words off by heart and won't be looking at my mum and dad as it's not allowed. I've been in more grown up productions than this—things like *Parade* which was near the seaside at a theatre called Minack where it was very cold and windy. One day I want to be a doctor and get married to my friend called Dan because sometimes he makes his hair all neat and flat especially for me.

# The Mitre Players

Present

# The Flint Street Nativity

By Tim Firth

Director: John Harries-Rees

Musical Director: Colin Warnock

The TMWA Clubhouse  
Lime Meadow Avenue  
South Croydon

9th to 12th December 2013

An amateur production, by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

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.

# TIM FIRTH

Tim Firth was born in the North West of England on the border of Cheshire and Lancashire. He spent most of his time at his Warrington comprehensive school writing songs and it was only a couple of months before going to Cambridge to read English that he attended an ARVON FOUNDATION course in West Yorkshire. This was run by Willy Russell and whilst on it, Tim had to write dialogue. He wrote about the only thing he knew - two sixteen year olds trying to write a song. Another course participant optioned it for his production company and Tim decided to become a writer.

In his first year of Cambridge, Tim was inveigled into acting by an aspirant director called Sam Mendes. His acting was not great, and during one rehearsal, Tim confided in Sam that he'd rather write than perform. Sam went on to direct all of Tim's plays at Cambridge, as well as forming a touring theatre company with him.

On leaving Cambridge, Tim was invited to meet Alan Ayckbourn in Scarborough and commissioned to write a play for the studio theatre of the Stephen Joseph. On hearing that the studio doubled as the theatre cafe, he wrote a play about men putting up giant letters on the side of a building, an environment where legitimately they'd have to shout and could thus be heard over the noise of the cutlery. His one-act play *MAN OF LETTERS* was a success and led to the commissioning of a full-length play from Ayckbourn. This was *NEVILLE'S ISLAND*, which later transferred to the West End and has been seen in translation all round the world. Tim's association with Ayckbourn's theatre developed over successive plays to the point where the last play, *THE SAFARI PARTY* was directed by Ayckbourn himself and transferred to the new Hampstead Theatre. At the same time, in Spring 2003, Tim's first musical, *OUR HOUSE*, with music and lyrics by Madness, won the Olivier for Best New Musical.

At the time of *NEVILLE'S ISLAND*, Tim had started to write for television and his Screen One film *MONEY FOR NOTHING*, about a young lad who bets a cheeseburger that he can be worth a million quid by the end of his half term holiday, was screened in 1993, winning the Writer's Guild Award. His first television series was about a group of twentysomethings in the Territorial Army called *ALL QUIET ON THE PRESTON FRONT*. It went on to run as *PRESTON FRONT* for three series over the next five years winning numerous national and international awards. Since then his work for television has included several one-off comedy plays in a series called *ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE NORTH*, a version of *NEVILLE'S ISLAND* produced by Judy Craymer, starring Tim Spall, and *THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY* starring a whole load of people playing themselves as five year olds. In 2002 the television film *CRUISE OF THE GODS*, starring Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon was broadcast.

Tim's first two feature films were released in 2003. *CALENDAR GIRLS*, starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters went to number one in the UK, becoming the seventh most successful British film of all time and one of the top fifty grossing films in UK cinema history. It charted at number five in the USA and has so far grossed over 93 million dollars worldwide, winning awards along the way. *BLACKBALL*, starring Paul Kaye, Johnny Vegas and Vince Vaughn reached number three in the UK charts. The two films opened in the same week at cinemas either side of Leicester Square.



## Fraser Macdonald (Herod/Joseph)

I didn't really want to do this but Mum said it might stop me from getting another ASBO. When I found out that Herod murdered all the other children I found the part more appealing. My Dad is coming to see me and has promised to take me to West Ham if I do it well. Joseph is a bit of a nugget but at least he gets to ride a donkey and gets to keep all the presents from the Wise Men. I'm hoping they'll turn up with some Lego this time instead of the usual Gold, Frankenstein and Myrrh.

## Joanna Morrison (Gabriel)

I'm a bit nervous about doing a show in front of all the grown ups but my Mum says I'm natural so I shouldn't be worried. She's been practising my lines with me and I always get them right but she doesn't do shows so she doesn't sound as good as me.

When I grow up I want to be a star! I want to be in all the famous shows and have lots of sparkly costumes and a lady to help me with my costumes that says "Will there be anything else Ma'am?" But if I can't be that then maybe I'll just be Prime Minister or something. I'm good at being a bit bossy and I can make my voice really loud.

I hope you enjoy the mince pies - we made them at school today but my friend Megan sneezed in her bowl and didn't tell Miss so maybe you shouldn't eat her ones.....

Enjoy the show and don't forget to clap loudly at the end cos that's what you do when you go the theatre and then you say 'bravo' and throw roses... Fank you....



## Neil O'Gorman (InnKeeper)

My name is called Neil and my Mum says I must not talk to strangers. This makes doing a play with the Mitre Players very difficult as they are all very strange. And I am in the play and my Mum says I am the best and that if Mr Harries-Rees the director is nasty to me then she will duff him up. I like being in plays and I have been in some plays by Alan Eggbourn and a Farce by Ray Looney and some really, really serious plays too like Cyrano De Bergerac about a man with a big nose. Tee hee. I like badgers.

### **Julia Ascott (The Narrator)**

I've been in some school plays before. I've been an angel and a shepherd but this year I have some lines of my own so I'm really pleased. I have learnt them very well so I can show my Mum and Dad. When I grow up I would like to have a go at directing some plays and would like to join a drama group and perform at places like the Minack Theatre or even the Globe! Outside of school I enjoy ballet and tap dancing lessons and learning to play the piano. One day I would like to work in a school, and get married to a kind, handsome man and have two sons but Ashley (Gabriel) says that is just a fairytale and will never come true! Well you never know, do you?



### **Megan Harries-Rees (Wise Frankincense)**

I am 7 and 3 quarters and I do singing, acting and dancing. And my mummy says I am very good at them. I have done lots of shows at school and my favourite one was where I had to wear a funny wig and a big fat king with a beard chopped off my head. I don't like maths or spellings or wet play times. My brother is a ball boy and when I am a grown up, I want to be an actress but my daddy says it is not a very good idea. I think Miss Horrocks is the best teacher in the whole wide world.

### **Kevin Hayes (Star)**

Once at school at Christmas time I drew a picture of mary and Josif sitting on donky on there jerney folowing the star up in the sky to the stable in befelehem at Christmas time. It was for a Christmas card compertision for christmas which I won I got a bag of sweets for it. I was very prod of myself and I told my mum she was pleasd I fink.

In this nativity play I am the star in the sky over befelehem and the donky that mary sits on. I hopes she's not to heavey as that will hert my back.

My mummy and daddy can't come to this show as they are in heaven with Jesus now I have a real uncle Ted but he lives in Bristol and he can't come to the show as it's a long place away to come from.

I have done more shows but I can't rember them all but it was fun being the other people. It was fun playing with the people in this play and I larfed a lot with them. It was funny sometimes and I hope you think this show is funny and larfed to. Need toilet now bye....

In 2005 Tim Firth's third feature film, *KINKY BOOTS*, was released to great reviews. Starring Joel Edgerton and Chiwetel Ejiofo, the film was inspired by the true story of a traditional English men's footwear factory in Northamptonshire which turned to production of kinky boots for transvestites in order to save the ailing family business and safeguard the jobs of the local community.

During two successive Christmas runs, the stage version of *THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY* at the Liverpool Playhouse became the most successful production in the theatre's history, breaking box office records. The Times listed it amongst its top twenty 'must see' Christmas shows and the Guardian gave the production top billing. In a 4-star review, The Metro described Tim Firth's play as 'excellent' while the BBC online review praised it's 'life and vitality' and 'fine ensemble acting'.

His recent work for stage includes a UK tour in 2009 of *SIGN OF THE TIMES*, starring Stephen Tompkinson and in March 2010, Tim was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature by the University of Chester. Tim's stage play *CALENDAR GIRLS* ran in the West End gaining Olivier nominations and the Whatsonstage audience award. It has now toured the UK for over four years breaking the box office record for a play at every theatre it has visited.

In 2011 it beat the all time British box office record for a play, and has raised over half a million pounds for Blood Cancer Charities, funding its own research project in Yorkshire hospitals. It has also crossed continents, playing all across Europe, Central Europe, South America, Australia and Canada. In 2012, Tim's fourth film *THE WEDDING VIDEO* was released. The film, which is directed by Nigel Cole (Calendar Girls) is a comedy set in the cut throat world of English society weddings.

Finally, Tim's new musical comedy, *THIS IS MY FAMILY*, premiered at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield earlier this year. Tim continues to live in the North West of England with his wife Katy, and children Jack, Joe and Georgia.

## MRS HORROCKS WRITES.....

Welcome to our annual Nativity, in which I have encouraged the children, this year, to create their own version of the much-loved story. There may be a few slip ups and mishaps but that is all part of the expressive process.

Unfortunately, we have had sickness problems. Declan has chickenpox, so Ryan is taking on the role of Joseph, as well as that of Herod, and, due to this epidemic, we only have one shepherd and two wise men. I am sure, however, that the children will more than compensate for this with their enthusiasm and energy, as the wonderful story of the Nativity unfolds.

Could I ask you to make sure that your mobile phones are turned off and that no texting, waving to your child, or other distractions take place this evening. The children need to concentrate very hard if they are to get through this performance.

On behalf of all the children in my class, may I wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope that you will come back for next year's Flint Street Nativity .....if you survive this one.

Best wishes,

*Mrs Horrocks*

# The Flint Street Nativity

DIRECTOR: John HARRIES-Rees

Musical DIRECTOR Colin Warnock

## THE CAST

Innkeeper: Neil O'GORMAN

Star: Kevin Hayes

Herod/Joseph: FRASER Macdonald

NARRATOR: Julia Ascott

Wise Frankincense: Megan HARRIES-Rees

MARY: Katy Reid

Gabriel: JO MORRISON

Wise Gold: Tamsin Reeve

Angel: Tonia Porter

Shepherd: LORRAINE PRICE

Stagehand: Thom McGowan

There will be a twenty minute interval.

The bar will be open during the interval  
and after the show.

## THE CREW

Stage Manager: Alan Collins

Costumes: Di Jones

Lighting: Alan Bishop & Julian Parsons

Sound: James McLeod

Properties: Liz Dolman & Sue Long

School Decorations: JERRI-LEE GOATER

Backstage Assistance: Paul Bowles,  
Julia Gibbs, Alex Greenslade, Andy Hind,

Charles Marriott, Dave Price,  
Andy Thompson, Jill Wilson

Photography: Charles Marriott

Programme: Alan Bishop & Anna Warnock

Production Manager: Di Jones

Press Liaison: Lesley Bates

Box Office: Gill Frost

Front of House: Alex Greenslade  
and Friends of the Mitre Players