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Past Presidents Chris Tarrant, Robin Wilson
Vice-Presidents Julia Ascott, Gillian Bartle,
John Bartle, Alan Bishop, Martin Garnett, Sheila Garnett,
Warwick Jones, Peter Stockwell, Andy Thompson, Martin Tyrrell,
Anna Warnock, Colin Warnock

Current Committee

Chairman Andy Thompson
Secretary Kelly Bennett
Treasurer Alan Bishop
Additional Members Ian Brown, Paul Grace, Di Jones,
Dave Price, Anna Warnock

Additional Contacts

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock
Membership Secretary Julia Ascott
Box Office Number 0845 2255799

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Old Boys of Trinity School (The Old 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

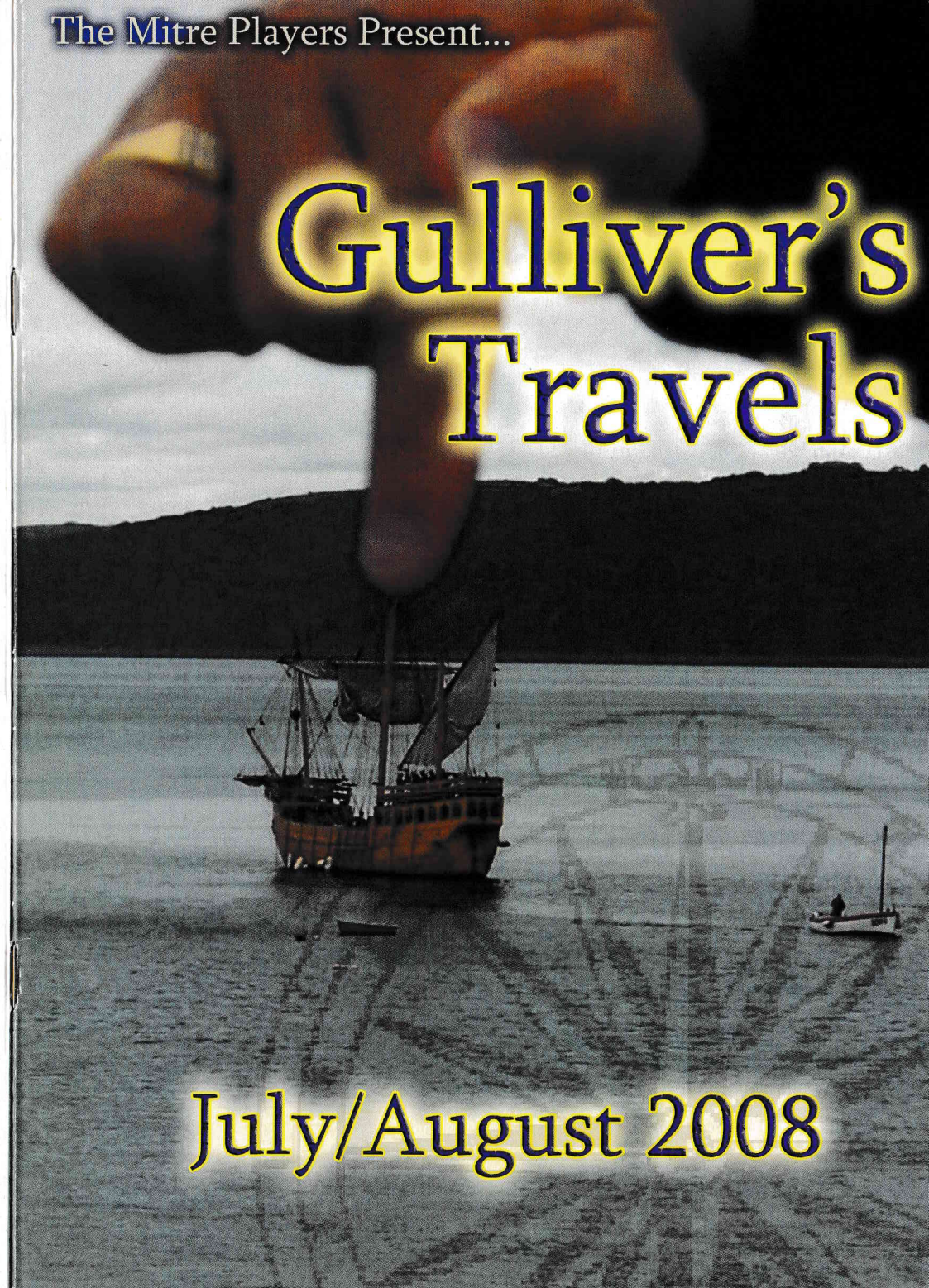
remain out of the spotlight, building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing 'Front of House' or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the OMWA 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 Mitre Players Present...

Gulliver's Travels



July/August 2008

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I am very pleased, on the behalf of the Mitre Players, to welcome you all to the Minack Theatre, which I believe has one of the most scenic theatrical backdrops in the world!

The Mitre Players is an amateur group, established in 1973 and based in Croydon, Surrey, which enjoy involvement in many types of Theatre. We have presented a summer touring show in the south west of England for over twenty years and we are delighted to be visiting the picturesque Minack Theatre once again. We are grateful to Philip Jackson and his staff for welcoming us to Cornwall again.

Tonight's show, *Gulliver's Travels*, is an adaptation of the famous Jonathan Swift novel of the same name. The music and script have been written by two of our members, Andy Rapps and Chris Chambers. Chris is new to the Mitres, although he is married to one of our very long standing members, Nicky. Andy has musically directed many of our previous touring shows and co-wrote our production of *Quasimodo* at the Minack in 1997.

We have a touring party of over 100 people travelling with us this year, not only taking

part in the production, but also supporting us with those very important behind the scenes and organisational roles.

Prior to coming down to Cornwall, we have performed *Gulliver's Travels* at our home base - The Mitre Theatre at Trinity School, Croydon. We are fortunate to have these facilities to allow us to hone our productions before going on tour.

If you are in the West Country next summer, look out for us at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish, where we will be performing another musical show sometime during August.

Tonight's show has been in rehearsal for over three months (and in preparation for a great deal longer than that!) and has been great fun for cast and crew alike. The unusual costumes, set, props and original music have all presented their own challenges. We hope you, our audience, all have an enjoyable time watching the performance in this unrivalled setting.

Andy Thompson

Chairman, The Mitre Players

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

The Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for permission to perform in The Mitre Theatre, Robin McKinlay, Mario Sammut, Martin Doolan, Merry Sanders and the staff at Trinity. Phil Jackson and the staff at The Minack, all the Landlords and Landladies in the West Cornwall area who are "putting up with" over 100 tourists, Paul Bielecki, Pauline Willis and daughters, Richard Wear, Anne Ponting of Eclectia Theatre Costumes of Highcliffe, Tracey Usher, Maggie Harrold and everyone who has helped make this production possible

Please note: The entire Trinity School site - including the grounds is a NO SMOKING Site

THE MITRE PLAYERS

Present

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

A New Musical

Adapted from Jonathan Swift's classic novel
by Chris Chambers and Andy Rapps

Director: Julia Ascott

Choreographer: Helen Harman

Musical Director: Andy Rapps

Designers: Paul Bowles and Jill Wilson

The Mitre Theatre, Croydon.

Thursday 17th to Saturday 19 July 2008

The Minack Theatre, Porthcurno

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd August 2008

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Commercial photography is prohibited at all times. Flash photography is hazardous to the safety of the performers and is not permitted. Other photographs for private use may be taken, provided no disturbance is caused to the audience or actors.

In the interest of safety and comfort, members of the audience are requested:-

- Not to walk on the stage at any time and to keep to the paths & steps when in the theatre.
- Not to smoke at any time in the areas when the audience is seated
- To place all litter and especially cigarette ends in the bins provided
- To turn off all Mobile Phones, Pagers and Digital Alarms

FROM THE WRITERS

Andy and I first discussed writing a musical together in August 2006. We were looking for a powerful story that had strong dramatic potential. A copy of Gulliver's Travels came to light in my bookcase. This particular edition was illustrated by Arthur Rackham and it fell open on a wonderfully visual plate of Gulliver being attacked by wasps. There were possibilities here. It would clearly be exciting to stage such scenes, but was there a story? Andy and I read the book in detail and over the next year discussed possible approaches to staging it. We found the travels to be colourful and varied, but quite episodic. There was no shortage of material to adapt, but we ran the risk of presenting quirky scene after scene without a narrative drive. And though satire was strong, Gulliver's emotional life was deeply hidden. Hardly dramatic.

But help was at hand. At the very point in the book where Gulliver loses faith in Mankind, Swift presents the reader with a man who is compassionate and humane, rehabilitating Gulliver and returning him to his family. It was this character, Don Pedro de Mendez, that seemed to unlock the essence of the piece for us. It gave Gulliver a friend and confidant – someone to recount and relive his travels with; to help him see things from a different and perhaps wiser perspective and, having sunk low, find a better way to be. There is a balance that Don Pedro brings to the story; a balance that Gulliver must achieve. And these thoughts eventually led us to the opening number – Another Way.

We also wanted Gulliver's relationship with his long-suffering wife, Mary and family to inform his travels and glue the different sections of the story together. Hardly

mentioned in the book, Mary's perspective on events becomes integral to our piece.

Lilliput and Brobdingnag are the best known parts of Gulliver's Travels and have entertained for centuries. But it is in the third (and most long winded) part of the book that Swift moves into some illuminating areas. A race called The Struldbruggs that can never die; a man who calls up the Spirits of the past and talks with them. Rather than present these as individual scenes we chose to maintain a solid structure and take the essence from them instead, inventing the character of Gaia - a young woman with a passionate heart, fighting for freedom and equality. We place her in the midst of the conflict between Laputa and Lindalino and present a version of what might well have occurred. It is the effect of Gulliver's relationship with Gaia that leads him to seek escape from humanity and take refuge for a time in the land of the horses.

Houyhnhnmland is the most profound section of Gulliver's Journey and leads him to a catharsis that nearly destroys him. But the message from Don Pedro is clear –

*“Journey On – Upon the ocean wave
Every day a thousand reasons
You must take the journey on
So much for you to give
Free your mind
The purpose of the journey you will find
And live...”*

Andy and I spent a year developing ideas before a single word was written. By the time we came to write the book, music and lyrics we were approaching the project from the same angle. Inevitably there was some cross-over in the division of labour. The

majority of the music is Andy's and the majority of the book and lyrics are mine – but ours is a collaborative effort and we have both found nice ways of telling each other when things are not quite working! We would like to thank The Mitre Players for choosing our musical to take to The Minack and we are both very grateful for the friendliness, enthusiasm and commitment of the wonderful cast, crew and production team led by Julia Ascott.

My wife, Nicky gave birth to Rosie during the writing of this piece. Soon after, the

mid-wife visited to check all was well. From the living room, the sound of two grown men could be heard neighing repeatedly, like horses. As the midwife left she turned to Nicky and said, “Your daughter is fine, but I am concerned for your husband!” We all hope that this production will prove that the midwife had nothing to worry about.

Chris Chambers,

Writer

Jonathan Swift (1667 - 1745), born in Dublin was an Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for Whigs then for the Tories), poet and cleric. After his university studies in Ireland, the political troubles forced him to travel to England. He spent most of his life travelling across the Irish Sea. Later in life he became Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin. He is remembered for works like *Gulliver's Travels*, *A Modest Proposal*, *A Journal to Stella*, *Drapier's Letters*, *The Battle of the Books*, *An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity* and *A Tale of a Tub*.

Gulliver's Travels, first published in 1726, is Swift's masterpiece. As with his other writings, it was published under a pseudonym, the fictional Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon and later a sea captain. Occasionally he also published items anonymously.

Though it has often been mistakenly thought of and published in simplified form, as a children's book, it is a great and sophisticated satire of human nature based on Swift's experience of his times. For instance, the episode when the giant Gulliver puts out the Lilliputian palace fire by urinating on it can be seen as a metaphor for the Tories' illegal Irish peace treaty; having done a good thing in an unfortunate manner. *Gulliver's Travels* is an anatomy of human nature, a sardonic looking-glass, often criticized for its apparent misanthropy. It asks its readers to refute it, to deny that it has not adequately characterized human nature and society. Each of the four books - recounting four voyages to mostly-fictional exotic lands - has a different theme, but all are attempts to deflate human pride. Critics hail the work as a satiric reflection on the failings of Enlightenment modernism.

John Ruskin, the nineteenth century author, poet and critic, named him as one of the three people in history who were the most influential for him.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I was asked last summer to direct this production, the first thing I did was to reread Swift's novel. The book is a heavy read - complex and challenging, full of Swift's views on the world, religion, philosophy, politics yet it was appealing because of its complexity - how could we make this work on stage? I was intrigued to read the first draft script and excited by the opportunity to be part of the creative team that was going to bring it to life. This was going to be a unique experience - the world premiere of a new musical adaptation of a classic piece of literature - an exciting adventure, too good to miss.

Chris and Andy knew the key was to make it a human story - we needed to care about the central characters and be prepared to believe the unbelievable as Gulliver travels to four fantastical lands. After several rewrites, the script and score were taking shape and promised to deliver a dramatic, powerful story. Having secured the key production personnel who were prepared to rise to the challenges this show was to present, both technically and visually, auditions were held in January. Performing at the Minack is always such a privilege and we faced some very difficult choices. Casting was complicated - we wanted to establish a truly ensemble feel, with most people playing multiple roles.

Rehearsals got underway at the beginning of May and we struggled with understanding ourselves and explaining to the cast about the lands and characters we needed them to create. The difficult, eight part harmony singing challenged even the most experienced singers but with Andy at the helm, the music was starting to sound fantastic. Helen and I got to work with the staging and movement and spent many

hours discussing what we thought would look right, trying things out, doubting our ability to make it work and then experimenting some more - how could Gulliver be huge in one land and then tiny in the next? Would the audience understand the split perspective? How would the academics on Laputa move and what should the horses be like - realistic or stylised? Chris and Andy were always on hand to point us in the right direction or convince us we weren't too far off the mark. However, it was all much more difficult than I had expected and I only hope we have been able to do justice to their excellent script and score.

This show also places huge demands on the backstage team and our designers, Paul & Wigs have been inspirational - we are so lucky to have such talented people within the society. The set, costumes, properties, special effects, lighting and sound teams have also all played a huge part in the success of the production. Producing a show that has never been staged before has been exhausting, but also rewarding and fulfilling and I hope will provide you, the audience, with an entertaining and thought provoking evening. It has been a real team effort with the cast and crew all working extremely hard - I'd like to extend my thanks to them all - everyone has played their part and we have all had a truly memorable time.

Finally, on a personal note I want to thank Helen for embarking on this adventure with me and my husband, Marcus and friend, Jane - I could not have contemplated directing this ambitious production without your love and support.

Julia Ascott

Director

Julia Ascott: Director

This is Julia's 6th visit to the Minack with the Mitres; previously she has played The Wicked Witch of the West in **The Wizard of Oz** (1992), Aldonza in **Man of La Mancha** (1994), the title role in **The Country Wife** (2000) and appeared as part of the ensemble in **Just So** (2006). In 2002 she directed the Minack Trophy winning production of **Honk!** and is delighted to have the opportunity to direct at the Minack again - this world premiere of a brand new musical. Other directing credits include **Something's Afoot**, **A Slice of Saturday Night**, **The Elephant Man** and numerous pantomimes. This has definitely been the most challenging show she has ever directed - not just because of the complexity of the piece and the technical demands on cast and crew but also because, as a newly written show, it has evolved during rehearsal - an exciting and enjoyable process on the whole but nevertheless exhausting! She is looking forward to a decent night's sleep when it is all over.



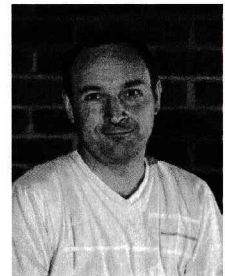
Chris Chambers: Writer and Lemuel Gulliver

Chris is new to The Mitre Players, but he did see their production of **Songbook** in 1987 and unbeknown to him, his wife-to-be was in the cast, along with many of the same team as in this production. He went on to study at Cambridge University and LAMDA. His first musical, **Gunpowder Treason and Plot**, was short-listed for The Vivian Ellis Award and subsequently produced in Cambridge. Other original material includes new musicals for children and compositions for professional productions of **Peter Pan** at the BAC and **The London Nativity** at The Scoop Amphitheatre in which he played Gabriel and was also Musical Director. Acting and devising credits include working with The Cambridge Footlights, The Oxford Stage Company, The Manchester Library and The Steam Industry. He is thrilled to be in this production of **Gulliver's Travels** and hopes that the audience enjoy it as much as he did writing it. He thanks his wife, Nicky and family for their constant encouragement and patience!



Andy Rapps: Composer and Musical Director

Andy has really enjoyed this chance to indulge his creative side and would like to say a few thanks: to Julia, Helen, the cast, the band, the amazing backstage and technical support and everyone else involved for their talent, commitment and enthusiasm; to his wife Karen for spending much of the past year and a half as a Gulliver widow, to be rewarded with a part where she gets drenched in.... well you'll find out; to the Mitres and the Minack Theatre for agreeing to put on a show that didn't yet exist; and to Chris for such a great time. Andy earns his pocket money as Associate Musical Director of **The Sound Of Music** at the London Palladium.



Helen Harman: Choreographer

This is Helen's third Minack Production, previous shows being **The Hunting of the Snark** and **Just So**. It has been a challenging piece to stage and quite a journey! It has, however been worth it. Helen would like to thank the Director, Julia Ascott for the strength of her calm continuing support and all the talented company for their enthusiasm and hard work not forgetting the unsung heroes who beaver away in the background.



THE CAST

Ship's Crew

Captain Don Pedro de Mendez	David Elder
Dr Fernandez	Charles Marriott
Lieutenant Avaghelo	Sam Cook

Gulliver's Family - England

Lemuel Gulliver	Chris Chambers
Mary Gulliver	Nicky Chambers
Jonny Gulliver	Nathan Ascott
Betty Gulliver	Saskia Jiggins
Frances Gulliver	Hannah Pepper
Betty Gulliver as an adult	Beci Sageman

Lilliput - Land of the Little People

The Emperor	Paul Longhurst
The Empress	Karen Rapps
Skyresh	Darren Flick
Flimnap	Fraser Macdonald
Reldresil	Ian Brown
Clefren	Michael Hall
Marsi	Lorraine Price
Drunchlo	James Backway
Herald	John Bartle

Brobdingnag- Land of the Giants

Farmer	Paul Smith
Mother	Di Jones
Glumdalclitch	Cat Longhurst
Grandma	Julia Gibbs
The Queen	Helen O'Gorman
The Dwarf	Paul Longhurst
Dunstable	Ian Brown
Maids	Megan Harries-Rees, Lorraine Price, Tamsin Reeve
Scholars	Alex Greenslade, Michael Hall, Fraser Macdonald

Laputa - The Flying Island

Munodi	Tony Rapps
Gaia	Megan Harries-Rees
The King	Ian Brown
The King's Flappers	Julia Gibbs, Julie Cumbo
Waiters	Paul Grace, Joe Pepper
Conductor	Andy Rapps

The Academy on Lindalino - The Mainland Below

The Warden	Michael Hall
The Cucumber Man	Fraser Macdonald
The Architect	Darren Flick
The Teacher	Paul Smith
The Student	James Backway
The Ancient Student	Paul Grace
The Doctor	Paul Longhurst
Doctor's Assistant	Christopher Backway
Patients	Carolyn Backway, Katy Davies

Houyhnhnmland - The Land of the Horses

Sorrel Nag	Tamsin Reeve
The Master Horse	Julie Cumbo
Caged Yahoo	Paul Grace

The Ensemble Cast

Nathan Ascott, Carolyn Backway, Christopher Backway, James Backway, John Bartle, Joss Brazier, Ian Brown, Chris Chambers, Nicky Chambers, Sam Cook, Julie Cumbo, Katy Davies, David Elder, Darren Flick, Julia Gibbs, Paul Grace, Alex Greenslade, Emily Grogan, Michael Hall, David Harries-Rees, Megan Harries-Rees, Mary Holton, Saskia Jiggins, Di Jones, Richard Jones, Fiona Lilley, Cat Longhurst, Paul Longhurst, Charles Marriott, Fraser Macdonald, Sam Naish, Helen O'Gorman, Hannah Pepper, Joe Pepper, Lorraine Price, Karen Rapps, Tony Rapps, Tamsin Reeve, Beci Sageman, Paul Smith, Margaret Stockwell.

Woodwind 1 - Anna Jordanous

French Horn - Mary Langmaid

Woodwind 2 - Ros Cooper

Trumpet - Pat Price

THE BAND

Bass - Mike Wood

Keyboard 1 - Andrew Trewhella

Percussion - Phil Craig

Keyboard 2 - Louise Hunt (Croydon)
Tim Johnson (Minack)

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE: ONBOARD A SHIP, 1722

Another Way *Don Pedro & Company*

DON PEDRO'S CABIN & THE SHIP'S DECK, 1722

GULLIVER'S HOUSE, LONDON, 1714

DON PEDRO'S CABIN, 1722

LILLIPUT - THE COUNCIL OF WAR

The Story of the Egg *The Emperor & Lilliputian Court*

LILLIPUT - THE COURT AND THE BEACH

Enormous *Clefren, Marsi, Skyresh, Gulliver & Company*

THE COURT - EMERGENCY COUNCIL

What a Man Like That Can Do *Skyresh, Flimnap & Empress*

The Inventory *Clefren, Marsi & Drunhlo*

What a Man Like That Can Do (Reprise) *Emperor*

THE BEACH IN LILLIPUT

Fifty Men of War *Gulliver & Ships Chorus*

A SIDE ROOM IN THE COURT

One Little Flame *Skyresh & Flimnap*

THE NARDAC CEREMONY IN LILLIPUT

The Nardac Ceremony *Gulliver & Company*

What a Man Like That Can Do (Reprise) *Skyresh, Flimnap, Emperor & Empress*

DON PEDRO'S CABIN, 1722

GULLIVER'S HOUSE, LONDON, 1716

A CORNFIELD IN BROBDINGNAG - THE LAND OF THE GIANTS

Golden Corn *Reapers, Country Girls & Glumdalclitch*

A FARM IN BROBDINGNAG

Happy Day *Farmer, Mother & Company*

THE PALACE IN BROBDINGNAG

THE ORCHARD ON THE CLIFFTOPS

My Little Man *Glumdalclitch & Gulliver*

THE MUSIC ROOM IN THE PALACE

ELSEWHERE IN THE PALACE / MUSIC ROOM

Making Amends *Dwarf, Maids & Scholars*

THE ORCHARD ON THE CLIFFTOPS

Orchard Sequence *Glumdalclitch, Queen & Company*

20 Minute Interval

The Mitre Theatre Refreshments are available in the Foyer
Drinks may be pre-ordered before the show

The Minack Theatre Drinks and snacks are available from The Café
(at the top of the theatre)

..... or from The Coffee Shop (in the centre of the theatre)

ACT TWO

DON PEDRO'S CABIN, 1722

GULLIVER'S HOUSE, LONDON, 1718

THE FLYING ISLAND OF LAPUTA

How Does The Sun *Laputans, Flappers, Gaia & The King*

A SIDEROOM ON THE FLYING ISLAND OF LAPUTA

A CONCERT ON THE FLYING ISLAND OF LAPUTA

LINDALINO, THE LAND BELOW LAPUTA

The Music of the Spheres *Gaia, Gulliver & Dissenters*

THE FLYING ISLAND OF LAPUTA

FLANDONA GAGNOLE - THE SACRED ROCK ON THE MAINLAND

GULLIVER'S HOUSE, LONDON, 1720

One Last Time *Mary*

THE ACADEMY ON LINDALINO

The Academy *The Academy Members*

OUTSIDE THE ACADEMY

The Music of the Spheres *Gulliver, Gaia & Dissenters*

HOUYHNNMLAND - THE LAND OF THE HORSES

THE MASTER'S HOUSE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Hnuy Nyha Maiah *Horses*

Hnuy Illa Nyha Maiah *Sorrel Nag & Gulliver*

THE SHIP'S DECK

Journey On *Gulliver & Don Pedro*

GULLIVER'S HOUSE, LONDON, 1727

THE ATTIC IN GULLIVER'S HOUSE, 1727

Attic Sequence *The Company*

Journey On (Reprise) *The Company*

BEHIND THE SCENES

Director Julia Ascott	Backstage Assistants and Technical Crew Marcus Ascott Ole Ascott Craig Backway Lesley Bates Liz Dolman Anna Frost Mary Holton Tracy Jeal Richard Jones Derek Lee Jon Lee Nic Lee Val Lee Amy Marr Pete Marr Colin Marshall Julian Parsons Dave Richards Jan Richards Charles Thomas Anna Warnock	Photography Marcus Ascott Charles Marriott
Musical Director Andy Rapps		Chaperones Gillian Bartle Alison Naish Andrew Naish Claire Pepper Kevin Pepper
Choreographer Helen Harman		Musical Arrangements Andy Rapps
Set, Costume and Property Designers Paul Bowles Jill "Wiggy" Wilson		Additional Music Chris Chambers
Stage Manager and Set Construction Alan Collins		Rehearsal Pianist Chris Ash
Lighting Designer Alan Bishop		Programme Alan Bishop Anna Warnock
Special Effects and Animatronics Andy Thompson		Box Office (Croydon) Gill Frost
Sound James McLeod		Box Office (Minack) Tamsin Reeve
Costume Co-ordinator Di Jones	Costumes made by Paul Bowles Carolyn Chenery Diana Dobson Gill Frost Jo Gunner Di Jones Carol Rapps Tamsin Reeve Sue Shimmel Margaret Stockwell Anna Warnock Jill Wilson	FOH and Refreshments (Croydon) Kelly Bennett Alex Greenslade and Friends of The Mitre Players
Properties Sue Marr		FOH (Minack) Enid Ghent and members of the touring party
Production Secretary Gillian Bartle		Tour Co Ordination Alan Bishop Anna Warnock
Scenic Artists Paul Bowles Michael Ozouf Jill Wilson		
Make Up & Wigs Morven Rae	Poster Design Chris Chambers	

Gillian Bartle: Production Secretary
Gillian has been on journeys and played numerous roles with The Mitre Players since being a "Bright Young Thing" in the first Panto, **Cinderella Charleston** in 1974. She has stage managed over seventy productions, being involved with all our touring productions. Her highlight to date has been stage-managing The Mitre Players production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, the first performance at The Globe, Bankside in 1993. **Gulliver's Travels** has been one of the most exciting but taxing journeys, co-written by her son-in-law, directed by her daughter, with all her family involved, she has been kept on her toes assisting Julia and acting as chaperone to the children. She hopes you all enjoy travelling with Gulliver as much as the cast has during rehearsals.

Alan Bishop: Lighting Designer
Alan has lit all of the Mitre shows at the Minack, but is finding the travelling up and down the steps of the theatre increasingly tiring, so is very grateful for the backstage assistance over the period. Not content with his "real" job as a Colourist for TV and films, he now has two part time jobs in local schools - no wonder he has never been so tired!

Paul Bowles: Designer
Paul has been with The Mitre Players for nearly eight years. Having never set a course in amateur dramatics he has drifted between set design, scenic painter, acting and prop making along the way. This will be the second time he has been responsible for set design on a touring show with Mitre Players. The last being **The Hunting of the Snark**. He has designed numerous other shows but enjoys the challenge of a show that sets sail to the Minack. After this show Paul plans to do some travelling himself. Bon Voyage!

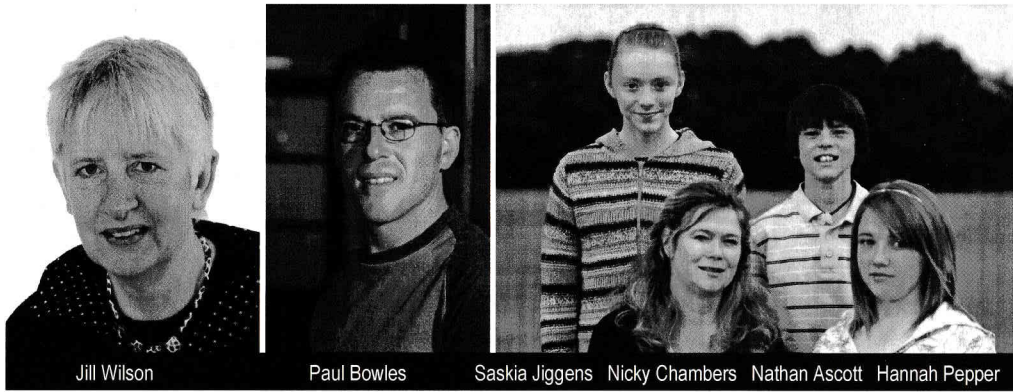
Alan Collins: Stage Manager
Alan joined the Mitres for **Quasimodo** over 10 years ago and since then has been responsible for converting the designers' grandiose schemes into practical, easy to manage pieces of set that fit into small vans and can be carried down the cliff-side. How successful he is for **Gulliver's Travels** can be judged by the number of bad backs and splinters seen on stage tonight!

Di Jones: Costume Co-ordinator and Ensemble
Di is looking forward to her first Mitre "tour" at Trinity and The Minack, although she's been part of The Mitres since 1980. She last performed 10 years ago when she "toured" with Surrey Opera, playing Mrs Lovett in Sondheim's **Sweeney Todd**. She is delighted to be acting for the first time with her son Richard and her stage "husband" Paul, whom she first directed 24 years ago. Di is also happy to let her good friend Julia 'get her own back' by directing her for a change, and she's loved it all.

Sue Marr: Properties
Sue's first journey with the Mitre Players was to The Minack Theatre Cornwall in 1997, with their production of **Quasimodo**. She spent most of the week operating a smoke machine, whilst hidden under rostra in the pouring rain! Despite this stormy start, Sue has continued to work as props mistress on subsequent shows, her favourites to date being **Merrily We Roll Along** and **Honk!**. This year she enrolled three new ship mates to help her make and organise the props for **Gulliver's Travels**, her husband Pete, step-daughter Amy and fellow crew member from The Barn Theatre, Tracy. When not working backstage, Sue can be found in the "crows nest" operating a followspot, her favourite job as she gets to be part of the technical team even though she can't change a light bulb!!!



The Backstage Team hard at work!



Jill Wilson

Paul Bowles

Saskia Jiggins

Nicky Chambers

Nathan Ascott

Hannah Pepper

James McLeod: Sound

James is in much demand as a "Sound Man" at the Minack, making the journey down south virtually every year for various societies in the South East. His "proper job" for a hush-hush government agency contrasts nicely with the chance of making a loud noise in the theatre.

Andy Thompson: Special Effects

Andy has been a member of the Mitres for the full 35 years since the society was reformed. He gave up appearing on stage after the first few years, because he found being on stage AND doing lighting and other technical stuff too demanding! He now concentrates on backstage work, particularly special effects, something he did as a day job for many years, like Gulliver, travelling all over the world. He now works as a design consultant on all things mechanical. He has been in the hot seat as our Chairman for the last 10 years.

Jill Wilson: Designer

Jill "Wigs" Wilson has recently gone back to working as a freelance designer so that she could get more involved in challenging creative projects like **Gulliver's Travels**. She has really enjoyed working with "Bowlzi", and bouncing ideas (and apples)

around with him. And she is particularly excited to be working on a new show which is just so perfect for her favourite place... the Minack! Travel-wise she is a tad one-track minded as nearly all her travelling is up and down the well worn track to and from her beloved Cornwall. (And for all the anoraks out there - that track is the A303, A30 not the M4, M5...)

Nathan Ascott

Nathan first performed with the Mitres at the age of 4 so at 13 years old he is now a veteran. He is happy to be appearing as a human being (amongst other things) as previously he has only played animals at the Minack; a duck, fish and frog in **Honk!** in 2002 and a kangaroo and crab in **Just So** in 2006. He can now also add wasp to his animal repertoire! When not performing, he loves playing football, basketball, cricket and tennis - but not all at the same time!

Carolyn Backway

Carolyn has been involved with the Mitres for 35 years! In recent years she has taken more of a back seat, making way for her sons James and Christopher, both of whom are in this show. Enjoying mainly musicals, her favourite shows have been **Honk!**

and **Just So**, both played at The Minack, but **Gulliver's Travels** has been one of the most challenging shows to date (or is it just the age!). Carolyn would like to thank her husband for his patience with rehearsals and a big "well done" to her sister on direction.

Christopher Backway

Since his debut in **Peter Pan**, Christopher has been in eight shows in his four years as a member of The Mitre Players. They have all been musicals or pantomimes and he has enjoyed them all! Last seen at The Minack as the smallest elephant in **Just So**, Christopher is very pleased with his performance in this show as the youngest (aged 10) member of the ensemble.

James Backway

This is James' first show after hanging up his lederhosen in February when he said "farewell, adieu" to his contract at the London Palladium after playing Friedrich in **The Sound of Music**. In his eight years as a Mitre Player, James has been in three Minack shows. James' favourite role was when he played "himself" in **Sleeping Beauty** - he enjoyed spending months researching the role and he felt it all paid off in the end. Despite

being only fifteen, James has travelled "down under" three times - he is half Australian, but the rest of his travels have only been to and from school.

John Bartle

Last seen as the Chamberlain in **Sleeping Beauty** at Christmas, John's recent dramatic performances include a swearing, woman hating gardener in Alan Ayckbourn's **House and Garden** and an Elephant in the Mitres last Minack show, **Just So**.

Joss Brazier

At the age of sixteen years and five days (only a buoy!), Joss sails into the Minack for his third appearance; following **The Hunting of the Snark** and **Just So**. Stern words may be needed during the week if he is not to go overboard and scupper the Mitre plans. His GCSE results arrive halfway through the week when he hopes to stem the tide of previous grades and have a vast number of A grades. If not, he'll be in the dock and cast adrift. Take a bow, Joss! Height: 1.79m Weight: 80kg Capsize: 7

Ian Brown

Ian has travelled to lands far and wide with The Mitre Players over the last twenty six years. Thanks to the wonder of drama he has enjoyed travelling backwards and forwards in time from La Plage in

Nice to Perambucu and King Arthur's Court to Outer Space. Ian loves it, he loves it all.

Nicky Chambers

Nicky's travels to The Minack began down the yellow brick road as Dorothy in **The Wizard of Oz**, the Mitre's first adventure here in 1992. Aptly her last appearance with the Mitres was in Andy Rapps' musical **Quasimodo** in 1997, which inspired her to "Journey On" and become a professional actress. Little did she know that 8 years later she would meet husband Chris whilst performing in **Treasure Island** and **Children of Hercules** at The Scoop Amphitheatre, London - which would then lead to Chris meeting Andy...and the creation of **Gulliver's Travels**! She is extremely proud to be Chris's wife both on and off stage and dedicates her performance to their best production yet - beautiful daughter Rosie.

Sam Cook

Sam has enjoyed being a member of The Mitre Players for many years now, most recently performing in **Just So** and **It's Only Make Believe**. He is very excited about heading down to the Minack and it will be his third time touring in Cornwall. Sam is convinced this will prove to be an excellent show and can't wait to get going to start travelling again.

Julie Cumbo

In order to visit these fantasy lands in **Gulliver's Travels**, Julie has journeyed through some equally exotic places, including Reigate which is where she lives. Dramatic travels in the past have mostly focussed on The Miller Centre at Caterham, and The Chipstead Players but, unfortunately, she can't remember where they are based., She was here in Mitre-Land just once before in **Bye Bye Birdie**.

Katy Davies

Katy is excited to be back at The Minack Theatre having last played the Kolo Kolo Bird in The Mitre Players production of **Just So**. Her travels in the last two years may not have been quite so epic as Gulliver's, but she has enjoyed an antipodean adventure and is glad to have managed to "journey on" back home to the UK.

David Elder

David is returning to the stage after too many years of inactivity. Professional performances include an appearance alongside 'Hinge and Bracket' and at the Isle of Man Festival. Previous roles include Jack Point in **The Yeoman of the Guard** and Ko-Ko in **The Mikado**. He received a Cross Trust scholarship at Manchester University.



Darren Flick

Fraser Macdonald

Richard Jones

John Bartle

Alex Greenslade

Di Jones

Julia Gibbs



Ian Brown Helen O'Gorman Sam Cook David Elder Charles Marriott Michael Hall Lorraine Price James Backway

Darren Flick

This will be Darren's 2nd show with the Mitre Players having played the Leopard in **Just So** two years ago. Darren is excited to be a part of **Gulliver's Travels** and also to be going to the Minack again. Darren has been treading the boards now for 15 years. Some of his most memorable parts include; Jesus in **Godspell**, Peter in **Jesus Christ Superstar**; Ugly in **Honk!**, The Leopard in **Just So**; Nanki Poo in **Hot Mikado** and most recently Tom in **The Anniversary**. Darren loves musical theatre and enjoys being actively involved with several societies. During the day Darren performs in court as a Solicitor - there are many parallels!

Julia Gibbs

Julia hopes you enjoy your flight of fancy today with 'Swift' Airways. Julia's thespianic travels have taken her not only through time but to some fairly exotic destinations such as 'Pernambuco' in **Where's Charley?**, Nice as Madame Dubonnet in **The Boyfriend** and French battlefields as the fabulous Roxanne in **Cyrano de Bergerac**. Domestic excursions include **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at the Globe, Bankside, a fete as Lindy in **House and Garden** and most recently as Hannah in **A Chorus of Disapproval**. This is

her 7th trip to the magical Minack which has included an assortment of fowl in **Honk!**. If the sun is shining why take off and go anywhere else?

Paul Grace

Paul has been sailing on the good ship Mitre for 9 years now and in that time has seen many weird and wonderful things (with a definite leaning to the weird!) Favourite adventures include playing a cute duckling in **Honk!**, a scary crocodile in **Just So** (both at Minack), the cheeky Harry Buttons in **Cinderella**, **Charleston!** and the downright nasty Crispin in Ackybour's **A Chorus of Disapproval**. Paul feels he has now ventured forth at the Minack too many times to recount in full, but highlights are Seymour (**Little Shop of Horrors**) and Armand St. Just in last summer's **The Scarlet Pimpernel**.

Alex Greenslade

As a cunning linguist, Alex is much travelled, preferring Europe (especially Germany, particularly the former Der Di Der) and parts of Asia. Last year he had two great experiences, one of which was Brazilian! One of his favourite places is Singapore, which he has visited five times, including once for a one-hour meeting! He thinks that places where they drive on the left and have clean toilets are best, so soon

plans to visit Japan.

Emily Grogan

Emily has just finished her first year of university training to be a secondary school maths teacher, and is delighted to be joining the cast of **Gulliver's Travels** for her second Minack show. She feels a strong connection to Gulliver as Liverpool is a long way from home, and she too has met some rather interesting people! Up north, Emily has just finished playing Ado Annie in **Oklahoma!** Her previous roles for the Mitre Players have included: Hope Langdon in **Something's Afoot**; Dingo Dog in **Just So**; and Lola Del Monte in **It's Only Make Believe**.

Michael Hall

Michael is a trainee actuary. He studied at Cambridge, where he appeared in over twenty productions including **The Mikado** at The Minack and **Yeoman of the Guard** with British Youth Opera. He has travelled to the Edinburgh Fringe four times, once playing the title role in **An Evening with Joe Stalin - the Musical**. In 2003 he was a contestant on the BBC's revival of **Treasure Hunt**. He has appeared in **A Streetcar Named Desire**, **Crazy For You** and **Copacobana** for CODA but this is Michael's first show with The Mitre Players.

David Harries-Rees

This is David's first performance at The Minack, in fact this is his first trip to Cornwall. Ten year old David is pleased to be here and is really enjoying performing with his mum and sister who are playing **The Queen and Gaia**. With his first Minack performance under his belt, he hopes you all enjoy the show and he hopes to take part in many more shows.

Megan Harries-Rees

Megan has been a Mitre since the tender age of six months when she appeared in **The Sound of Coarse Music**. Since then she has appeared in a long list of productions, her favourite being **Just So**, in which she played a male Aussie Kangaroo! Megan is beautiful, funny, caring and intelligent - she is currently single and looking for love, so flowers at the stage door please. Enjoy the show!

Mary Holton

Being allergic to eggs Mary was very worried about being a Lilliputian, but has been reassured that all the eggs are handmade. Mary feels slightly less exposed than the last time she appeared at The Minack - she wore a tutu and other fetching costumes in **Just So**. Unusually, Mary isn't an animal today, but do look out for any giant condiments!

Saskia Jiggins

Despite her real-life role as a schoolgirl, Saskia has acted her way through a musical, a comedy and a tragedy in the last 12 months. Tuneful in **Seussical**, joyful in **The Happiest Days of Our Lives** and doleful in **My Boy Jack**, Saskia's theatrical life is certainly full. Like the obedient pupil she never managed to be, her headmaster (Tony Rapps), headmistress (Julie Cumbo) and director (Ian Brown) from **Happiest Days** lured her to this journey to Houyhnhnmland which is much more appealing than the trip to Waitrose...

Richard Jones

Richard is celebrating his 10th year as a performing Mitre by doing his first musical for 7 years and, not wishing to anything by halves, is also doing his first trip to The Minack (as if travelling back and forth to university isn't enough). Indeed having only arrived home from Exeter with two weeks rehearsals left, he hopes his tai chi is up to scratch.

Fiona Lilley

Fiona is enjoying being involved in another Minack show, especially one that has been written by her lovely brother. It is a real family affair with her sister-in-law and her dad being in it and just wishes her husband and children were coming - although

everyone thinks she will cope! She has really enjoyed her journey of characters from ship to lady to apple to flapper to a horse. He main concern is her journey to The Minack - she is sharing a car with Lorraine!

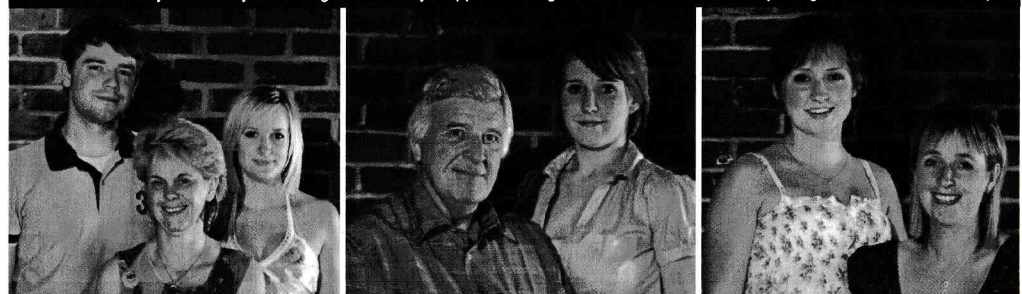
Cat Longhurst

Cat has been a member of The Mitre Players for quite some time now, playing a range of characters from Dwarfs, Goddesses, Schoolgirls and many Ladies of the Night. Cat has to say she is overjoyed to become a time traveller allowing her to play the part of a 17 year old again!! This is Cat's second time at The Minack with the Mitres and she is looking forward to another hard working but fun filled week.

Paul Longhurst

Paul is not much of a traveller himself - he doesn't seem to ever find the time! The Minack trip will be as far as he travels this year! As a director, Paul has just finished **We Will Rock You** in Epsom and his next projects are for CODA (**Sweeney Todd**) and Oxted Players (**Much Ado About Nothing**) - so it's all go! The Minack Theatre already holds many happy memories for Paul, including **Into The Woods**, **The Scarlet Pimpernel** and **Little Shop of Horrors** (The voice of the plant), and he knows this trip will bring many more.

Paul Grace Carolyn Backway Beci Sageman Tony Rapps Megan Harries Rees Emily Grogan Fiona Lilley



Charles Marriott

Charles started his working life as a professional actor, but soon moved to being behind a camera as a Film and Television Director. Nowadays, he is more accustomed to directing actors - he has even directed two shows for the Mitres - than he is performing on a stage, especially as it was 1971 when he last "trod the boards"! What a venue and show to have a mini comeback!

Fraser Macdonald

A Mitre Player for over twenty five years, Fraser has played a variety of roles from Pantomime dames (on several occasions) to Fagin in **Oliver!** through a succession of characters taken from Ayckbourn. In real life he teaches Spanish and Scuba Diving, but not at the same time. He has recently translated a modern Spanish drama (**Today is a Holiday**) into English and this will be premiered by The Mitre Players next Easter.

Sam Naish

Gulliver's Travels is Sam's third production with the Mitres, following on from **Oliver!** and **Sleeping Beauty**. A current pupil at Trinity School, Sam spends his maths lessons day-dreaming of Laputa and how much easier life would be if he came from there instead of Bromley!

Helen O'Gorman

Helen has been a Mitre Player for many years. Having directed three previous Minack shows; **The Wizard of Oz**, **Man of La Mancha** and **The Hunting of the Snark**, she is now looking forward to performing in **Gulliver's Travels** and travelling through the various exotic lands with both of her children, Megan and David.

Hannah Pepper

This is Hannah's second show with The Mitre Players, her first being **Sleeping Beauty** in which she played a fairy. Hannah is delighted to be in Gulliver's Travels and is really excited about touring to The Minack. She has had lots of fun at the rehearsals and hopes you have as much fun watching the show.

Joe Pepper

Gulliver's Travels is Joe's fourth Mitre Players show. Since his debut as a Knife Grinder in **Oliver!**, he has been an arrogant American in **Cinderella**, **Charleston!** and a crafty councillor in the world premiere of Shakespeare4kidz **Hamlet**. Having just finished "grinding away" at his GCSEs at Trinity School, where he played a horrible headmaster in **Kes**, he is looking forward to his first Minack tour.

Lorraine Price

Lorraine is thrilled to be playing a multitude of parts, including an animal and is happy to be travelling with Gulliver. Lorraine herself is well travelled, in fact she is going all the way to The Minack in August! Her last outing to the Minack was in 2004 to hunt for "A Snark", but along with the rest of the cast she never found it, but did then end up in Wells to get married! Lorraine hopes you enjoy the Gulliver journey.

Karen Rapps

Karen is at a loss to understand why she has been cast as a strong nagging wife who flirts outrageously with other men. Perhaps her husband (who is also the composer) knows the reason. Other colourful characters Karen has played include The Beaver in **The Hunting of the Snark** and Paquette in **Quasimodo**, both performed at The Minack.

Tony Rapps

An amateur actor for almost fifty years, Tony has played many varied roles in his theatrical journey. He is a member of several groups in the Croydon area, but this is his first appearance by the sea. He is delighted to be in a production co-written by his son.



Katy Davies Julie Cumbo Tamsin Reeve



Sam Naish Mary Holton Christopher Backway David Harries-Rees

Tamsin Reeve

Having travelled to Deadrock, Nevada, via New York to play Irene in **Crazy For You** for CODA last November, and stepped back and forth to Slumberland in the Mitres' **Sleeping Beauty**, Tamsin was keen to add this flight of fancy's stamp to her passport. She has enjoyed the thoughtful journey of discovery that has been the rehearsal process and says "Hnuy illa nyha maiah" and wishes the company "Bon Voyage!"

Beci Sageman

Beci has not been on the 'Am Dram' circuit for very long so this is her first performance with the Mitres and it will also be her first journey to the Minack Theatre. Usually a CODA member, Beci has immensely enjoyed her time

performing with the Mitres - how can you not love a show where you get to be a giant, a mini person, a wall, an apple and a wasp to name but a few and hopes to be able to do it again!

Paul Smith

Paul's travels have taken him up and down from Devon (where he lives) to Croydon to rehearse and perform over the last few months. Luckily he lives much nearer to The Minack than anyone else in the Company. With another comic grotesque to play in **Gulliver's Travels**, he is delighted to be making his debut performing opposite Di Jones, who was his first director (**The Boyfriend**) back in 1984. Previous roles at the Minack include, the Cat in **Honk!** and the Rhino in **Just So**. By day Paul is director of

a music agency and has an obsession with his greenhouse, his dog Peggy and his never-ending travels along the tube routes in London.

Margaret Stockwell

Having joined for **Sir Merryman** in 1983, Margaret has been a member of the chorus in many Mitre productions. Since being in **Two Gentlemen of Verona** at The Falmouth Arts Theatre in 1987 - the first ever Mitre tour, Margaret has toured with the Mitres virtually every year, enjoying every production! Highlights include playing Lady Brockhurst in **The Boyfriend** (Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish) and her two favourite shows; **Wizard of Oz** and **Quasimodo**, both performed at The Minack.

Joe Pepper Margaret Stockwell Joss Brazier Paul Smith Cat Longhurst Paul Longhurst Karen Rapps



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