

# THE MITRE PLAYERS

PRESENT OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

An Open Air Preview, prior to the Minack Theatre

## The Country Wife

A Bawdy Romp by William Wycherley



Thursday & Friday  
20th & 21st July 2000  
at 7.45pm

O.M.W.A. Clubhouse  
Lime Meadow Avenue  
Sanderstead

Tickets £5.00 / £6.00 Box Office: 020 8239 1010

the mitre players

PRESENT

**IT'S A SHAW THING!** AN EVENING  
OF 2 HALVES

PASSION, POISON  
and PETRIFICATION



followed by



## My Fair Dame

An original East End musical comedy  
by Alan Jay Loeve, Colin Warnock & Frederick Lerner

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> April 2000

**PROGRAMME 50p**

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

This evening's show is one that was devised for maximum enjoyment during rehearsals and has been deliberately conceived and produced in a remarkably short time.

The first half, a period comedy by George Bernard Shaw, is a near farcical tale of the improbable. Thirty percent of the cast have changed during rehearsals, which has kept the adrenalin flowing!

The second half (inspired by 'My Fair Lady') has been given an 'EastEnders' twist and has various items, both in the script and on the stage, which have been 'borrowed' from other shows. However, no likeness to any person living or dead is to be assumed!

This high-energy production contrasts with the far more classical theatre of our next show 'The Country Wife' which we are staging, both here at the OMWA Clubhouse and at the Minack Theatre, Cornwall, in the summer.

We thank you, our audience, for your continuing support and hope that you enjoy tonight's show.

I am also pleased to say, that for once, I don't think we can be accused of making the evening too long!

Andy Thompson.

### COME AND JOIN US!

The Mitre Players are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 4/5 productions a year. Putting on a production not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design and build our own sets, paint our scenery, and have even been known to make our own props and costumes.

We would welcome any new members so if you have any aspirations to act, sing or dance, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to remain behind the scenes, building, lighting, painting, shifting scenery, making costumes, making props, (or making tea!) we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the old Mid-Whitgiftian Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the Clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals. **Ring: Julia Ascott 020 8239 1010**

## PASSION POISON AND PETRIFICATION

(A play in one act for barns and booths)

by George Bernard Shaw

### CAST

(in order of appearance)

THE LADY  
PHYLLIS  
THE MURDERER  
ADOLPHUS BASTABLE  
THE LANDLADY  
A POLICEMAN  
A DOCTOR  
A CHOIR OF HEAVENLY ANGELS

Julia Gibbs  
Katherine Bottomley  
Dave Price  
Paul Smith  
Eileen Coombs  
Tom Bentley  
Graham Read  
Julia Ascott, Kelly Beard,  
Margaret Stockwell, Lorraine  
Titchener

In a bed-sitting room in a fashionable quarter of London a lady sits at her dressing table, with her maid brushing her hair. It is late. The maid's brush draws electric sparks in the dry midsummer air. A storm is brewing, and all may not be well!

Directed by Carol Harrington

### THIS EVENING'S PRODUCTION TEAM

Musical Director  
Production Managers  
Stage Manager  
Stage Crew / Set Construction

James Beal  
Julia Ascott, Gillian Bartle  
Alan Collins  
Gillian Bartle, Mary Holton, Tony  
Lyon-Williams, Jan Richards,  
Geoff Saw, Charles Thomas, Andy  
Thompson, Lucy Thompson  
Steve Humphress, Jillian Wilson  
Alan Bishop  
Sue Carter, Dave Richards  
James McLeod  
Sheila Garnett, Anna Warnock  
Julia Ascott, Mary Holton  
Julia Gibbs  
The Mitre Players  
Andy Thompson, Anna Warnock  
Colin Marshall  
Pat Price

Scenic Artists  
Lighting Designer  
Lighting Operators  
Sound  
Costumes  
Props  
Box Office  
Front of House  
Programme  
Programme Printing  
Programme Cover Design

### THE BAND

Keyboards  
Percussion

James Beal  
Craig Backway

## MY FAIR DAME

by  
Alan Jay Loewe, Colin Warnock  
& Frederick Lerner

### CAST

from **MY FAIR LADY**

FREDDY WILLMOTT-BROWN  
MRS. WILLMOTT-BROWN  
ELIZA DOOLITTLE  
COLONEL HUGH PICKERING  
PROFESSOR HENRY HIGGINS  
MRS. PEARCE, the Housekeeper  
ALFRED DOOLITTLE  
CHARLES, the butler

Tom Bentley  
Margaret Stockwell  
Julia Ascott  
Dennis Coombs  
Fraser Macdonald  
Paul Smith  
Martin Garnett  
Michael Cheesman

from **EASTENDERS +**

MARTIN FOWLER  
BET  
STEVE OWEN  
MATTHEW ROSE  
SASKIA  
PEGGY BUTCHER  
MELANIE HEALY  
GRANT MITCHELL  
KATHY MITCHELL  
PHIL MITCHELL  
LISA SHAW  
RICKY BUTCHER  
MARK FOWLER  
DR. LEGG  
BIG RON  
PAULINE FOWLER  
PAT EVANS  
LOU BEALE  
IAN BEALE  
MARY POPPINS  
DOT COTTON  
SONIA JACKSON  
BIANCA BUTCHER  
ETHEL SKINNER  
CINDY BEALE  
TIFFANY MITCHELL

Tom Bentley  
Megan Harries-Rees  
Pat Price  
Phil Evans  
Mary Holton  
Helen Harries-Rees  
Lorraine Titchener  
Dave Price  
Carol Harrington  
Dave Price  
Katherine Bottomley  
Graham Read  
Kelly Beard  
John Bartle  
Phil Evans  
Margaret Stockwell  
Julia Gibbs  
Eileen Coombs  
Ian Brown  
Celine Murphy  
Colin Marshall  
Pat Price  
Mary Holton  
Eileen Coombs  
Lorraine Titchener  
Katherine Bottomley

Special guest appearance, by popular demand, as

IAN BEALE'S CHILDREN

Nathan Ascott, Oliver Ascott, James  
Backway, Ciara Daly, Grace Eagers,  
Benjamin Warnock, Stephen Willmington

Other parts played by members of the Company

Directed by Colin Warnock

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

### Overture

#### Scene 1 OUTSIDE THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN

Wouldn't it be Lovely?  
Be Back Soon  
Eliza & Cockneys  
Martin, Bet and Children

#### Scene 2 OUTSIDE THE QUEEN VIC, ALBERT SQUARE

With A Little Bit of Luck  
Doolittle & chorus

#### Scene 3 HIGGINS' STUDY, 27A WIMPOLE STREET

Di'm an Ordinary Man  
Higgins

#### Scene 4 THE LAUNDERETTE, WALFORD

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious  
With A Little Bit of Luck  
Mary Poppins & children  
Doolittle & chorus

#### Scene 5 HIGGINS' STUDY, a little later

Poor Professor Higgins  
The Rime in Spine  
I Could Have Grant All Night  
Servants  
Higgins, Eliza & Pickering  
Eliza, Mrs. Pearce, Servants

#### Scene 6 ALBERT SQUARE, WALFORD

In the Square Where You Live  
Freddy

#### Scene 7 THE WALFORD STADIUM, that evening

The Walford Gazette  
Chorus

#### Scene 8 ALBERT SQUARE, WALFORD

In the Square Where You Live  
Freddy

#### Scene 9 THE QUEEN VIC, ALBERT SQUARE

Wouldn't It Be Lovely?  
Get me to the Church on Time  
Eliza & Chorus  
The Company

**Time:** Your guess is as good as mine!

## GLOSSARY OF USEFUL 'EASTENDERS' INFORMATION

<b>Ian Beale</b>	Actor Adam Woodyatt was taught by Martin Tyrrell at Forest School
<b>Cindy Beale</b>	First wife of Ian and mother of his children, now dead.
<b>Willmott-Brown</b>	James Willmott-Brown raped Kathy in 1988 at the Dagmar
<b>Martin Fowler</b>	Youngest child of Pauline Fowler, still at school – stropky teenager
<b>Pat Evans</b>	Better known as Pat Butcher, Pat is now on her 4 <sup>th</sup> marriage...
<b>Bianca Butcher</b>	Estranged second wife of Ricky, elder sister of Sonia
<b>Tiffany</b>	Married to Grant, mother of Courtney, run over & killed in 1998 by Frank
<b>The Vic</b>	The Queen Victoria, the local pub in Albert Square, Walford
<b>Lou Beale</b>	Matriarch of the Beale/Fowler Family, died in her sleep in 1988
<b>Saskia</b>	Steve Owen's ex-, who was killed by him with an ashtray during a fight with Matthew
<b>Peggy Mitchell</b>	Runs the Vic. Married to Frank. Mother of Grant & Phil
<b>'We gotta talk'</b>	Well-known Eastenders catchphrase
<b>'Nuffink'</b>	Customary answer to the question "what's happened?" or "what's wrong?"

**JULIA ASCOTT** is far too old to be playing a teenage flower-seller, having been a Mitre Player for some 26 years. Still, she's a trooper and takes everything you throw at her, literally!

**NATHAN ASCOTT** is the youngest member of tonight's cast, at 5 years old. Mitre Players will remember him for the "shoe" moment in Millennium Dame last Christmas. Nathan attends Ridgeway Primary School.

**OLIVER ASCOTT** big brother of the above, shares the same birthday as the Director so he's a good bloke!!! Oliver is 6 and also attends Ridgeway Primary School.

**JAMES BACKWAY** is the only member of the cast who was moved to tears by the Director during rehearsals. Baby James, who is the son of our drummer, Craig, is 7 and attends Gresham School.

**JOHN BARTLE** Still holding the honorary title of 'Lord Sanderstead', John will portray the vital role of Dr. Legg, which he will do with his customary skill and panache!

**KELLY BEARD** has always enjoyed getting her teeth into men's parts. During rehearsals, her voice has dropped two octaves – must give up the hormones! Kelly is a secondary school teacher in New Addington.

**TOM BENTLEY** is making his Mitre debut and, though far too talented and good-looking, has fitted in with us rather well. Tom left Trinity last summer and is a trainee engineer during his 'gap' year. Yes, we shall lose him again soon.

**KATHERINE BOTTOMLEY** has inevitably, after 8 years of playing tarts and prostitutes, ended up pregnant. She should have taken precautions (like joining another theatre group!) Katherine works as a Sales Office Manager in Oxted.

**IAN BROWN** has attended only 3 rehearsals for this production – and it shows! Listen for his high voice and watch out for his characteristic 'lan' walk. (I don't, do I?)

**SIR MICHAEL CHEESMAN** makes a couple of cameo appearances tonight and is included in crowd scenes to make the stage look full. I think you'll agree that he succeeds. Michael comes to us direct from his holiday.

**DENNIS COOMBS** is playing his largest role ever for Mitres – we were a bit short on talent – but, I tell you what, he's done us proud! Dennis is married to Eileen but he has enjoyed his new relationship with Fraser.

**EILEEN COOMBS** has been a Mitre Player for 20 years and has been married to Dennis for a helluva lot longer! Tonight, Eileen plays several character parts and is using all her experience to make them all different.

**CIARA DALY** returns to us, having been a dwarf at Christmas. Due to rehearsal clashes, Ciara has had special coaching from her mother – a renowned expert in song and dance! Ciara is 6 and attends Margaret Roper Primary School.

**GRACE EAGERS** enjoys a good drama and is making her 3<sup>rd</sup> Mitre appearance, following in the footsteps of her mother who was in our 1<sup>st</sup> ever production. Grace will be 9 this coming Sunday and attends Ridgeway Primary School.

**PHIL EVANS** is usually late for rehearsals or doesn't turn up. He is also missing Wednesday's performance completely, which accounts for his limited stage appearances. Phil works for Sky News.

**MARTIN GARNETT** was the Demon King in our 1<sup>st</sup> pantomime in 1974. He's never had as many lines since – until tonight! Will he remember everybody's name? Will we be able to understand him? Good luck, Martin!

**JULIA GIBBS** is in her 22<sup>nd</sup> year as a Mitre Player and to mark this occasion has been issued with a large part in the short play but only about 4 lines in the musical – we know her limitations!

**HELEN HARRIES-REES** paid her subscription specially to play the part of Peggy – the chance of a lifetime! She is mother to Megan and to David who has appeared more often on stage in rehearsals than anybody else! Helen works for Sodexho...who?

**MEGAN HARRIES-REES** wanted to sing solo tonight – so her dream is fulfilled, though she had hoped we would be performing 'The Megan Harries-Rees show'. Megan is 12 and attends Riddlesdown High School.

**CAROL HARRINGTON** has spent the last few weeks trying to maintain her dignity. Despite directing the posh bit, she has been forced into the role of Kathy and been included in dance routines! Carol works for Shakespeare 4 Kidz.

**MARY HOLTON** has been a Mitre Player forever, and her years of stage training and skill have served her well for her appearances as Bianca and the dead Saskia. She is particularly looking forward to the sex scene with Graham Read, but that's another story.

**FRASER MACDONALD** is a strange choice to play an expert in the English Language, being the foreigner that he is. He chose to spend Easter with us rather than go diving this year – a decision he probably now regrets. Fraser teaches at good old Trinity School.

**COLIN MARSHALL** is usually to be found in the Sound Department, though he has trodden the boards frequently in the past. A Mitre since 1993, here he is in drag once more. Colin runs his own Sound Company and actually turned work down for this!

**CELINE MURPHY** is mother to Ciara (see above) and is a founder member from 1973. In the earlier years, she was our main 'actress'. These days, her occasional appearances see her tackling meaty roles such as tonight's Mary Poppins.

**DAVE PRICE** has worked so hard on this production that all his hair has dropped out! Dave, who is playing both Mitchell brothers tonight, enjoys the spontaneity of live theatre – in other words, anything could happen... He works as an interactive exhibit designer.

**PAT PRICE** is usually to be found in our orchestra – he first played trumpet for us in 1990 for Quasimodo – but tonight he makes a rare appearance (with his trumpet) on-stage wearing a dress. Pat works as a graphic designer.

**GRAHAM READ** joined in 1987 when he was young and fresh-faced. Now old and fresh-faced, Graham is relishing bodily contact with Mary – tongues will wag! Currently a primary school teacher in Woldingham, Graham is soon to leave us for foreign shores.

**PAUL SMITH** was a bright slim young thing when he and his brother Alistair became Mitre Players in 1984's "The Boyfriend". So what went wrong? ... These days, Paul acts and directs for several Companies and works for Marie Curie.

**MARGARET STOCKWELL** seems to have rather taken to the role of Pauline - living with her Pete has probably helped her characterisation! Having joined in 1982, Margaret has more recently graduated to principal roles She works for PSA, with her Pete.

**LORRAINE TITCHENER** joined the Mitre Players in 1997 She specializes in playing posh parts but is lowering herself this week. Let's see if we can spot the difference between her Melanie and her Cindy. Lorraine is training to be a primary school teacher.

**BENJAMIN WARNOCK** first appeared for the Mitre Players in 1997's Ready Steady Goose and was then a dwarf last Christmas. He is 9, attends Ridgeway School and also learns piano and dancing. He has a talented father and a beautiful mother...

**COLIN WARNOCK** is a founder member of the Mitre Players and has been involved in most guises ever since. He is pleased to have collaborated with Messrs. Lerner and Loewe on this production. Colin is a professional musician.

**STEPHEN WILLMINGTON** is 10 years old and attends Ridgeway Primary School. He appeared as a dwarf in The Millennium Dame and has now got the acting bug! Stephen is the oldest of tonight's children, which is apt as Ian Beale's oldest child is called Steven!