

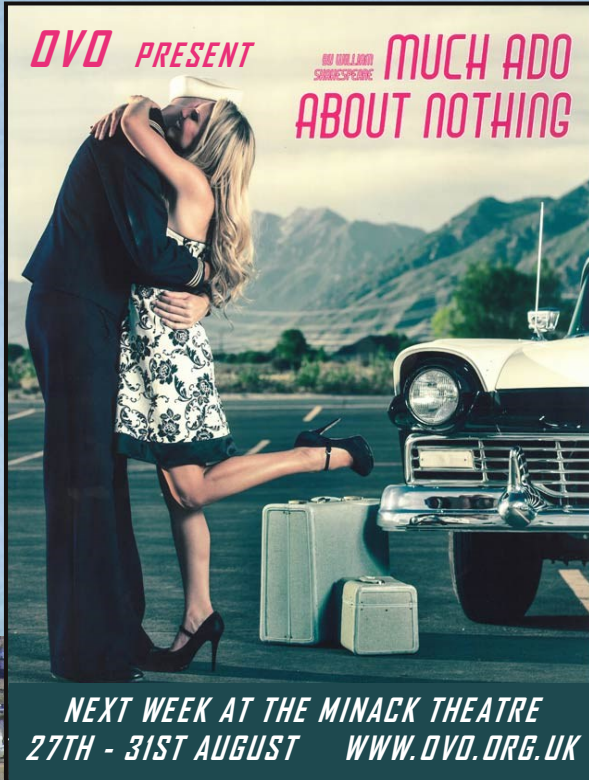
THE MITRE PLAYERS

ME AND MY GIRL



THE MINACK THEATRE AUGUST 2018

The Minack Theatre



DVD PRESENT THE ORIGINAL SHAKESPEARE **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

NEXT WEEK AT THE MINACK THEATRE
27TH - 31ST AUGUST WWW.DVD.ORG.UK

The Theatre is private property.

- All photographic, broadcasting, video and other reproduction rights are retained by the theatre.
- Video recording and commercial photography is prohibited at all times.
- Flash photography is hazardous to the safety of the performers and is not permitted.
- Other still photographs for private use may be taken, provided no disturbance is caused to the audience or the 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 and steps when in the theatre.
- Not to smoke or vape anywhere in the theatre.
- To place all litter in the bins provided.

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

- Everyone at Croydon High School and The TSSSC for their patience and understanding throughout our rehearsal period.
- Zoe Curnow, Phil Jackson and all the staff at The Minack Theatre.
 - All the staff at the Cable Station Inn.
- All the landlords and landladies in the West Cornwall area who are “putting up with” over 60 touring Mitre Players.
 - Everyone else who has helped make this production possible.

THE MITRE PLAYERS PRESENT

ME AND MY GIRL

Book and Lyrics by L. ARTHUR ROSE
and DOUGLAS FURBER

Music by NOEL GAY

Contributions to revisions by Mike Ockrent

Book revised by Stephen Fry

Director: Kevin Gauntlett

Musical Director: Robert Randall

Choreographer: Tonia Porter

Monday 20th to Friday 24th August 2018

The Minack Theatre, on the Cliffs at Porthcurno,
Penzance, Cornwall

This amateur production of *Me and My Girl* is presented by
special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

Chairman's Letter

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to The Minack Theatre with our production of *Me and My Girl*.

The Mitre Players have been touring to The Minack since 1992 and we are delighted that we are still lucky enough to be performing in this wonderful theatre 26 years later. Some of us are a lot greyer, struggle with the steps and our children have become adults but still we come!

We have assembled a cast, band and crew of around 65 people who have worked hard over the last few months to bring this show to Cornwall. Due to licensing restrictions we were unable to perform this show in our home town of Croydon but are heartened by the fact that so many of our families and friends have travelled to Cornwall to support us. The restriction of not performing it within 100 miles of

London was probably because of the professional run at the Chichester Festival Theatre.

Our Director, Kevin Gauntlett has done sterling work to whip this production into shape and he has been ably assisted by Robert Randall (Musical Director) and Tonia Porter (Choreographer). Our thanks go to all three for their enthusiasm and patience. We must not forget the backstage crew who are quietly beavering away in the background – our unsung heroes without whom this show would not be possible.

I hope you enjoy this production of *Me and My Girl* and on behalf of the Company, thank you for being here.

Alex Greenslade.

Chairman, The Mitre Players

Patrons of The Mitre Players 2018

Chrissy Amer, Lesley Bates, John Benstead, Katherine Bottomley, Chrissy Bright
Tony Britten, Ros Broyd, Berry Butler, Julian Chenery, Carolyn Chenery
Bill Cobbett, Barbara Cobbett, Derek Cooper, Di Copas, Marie Davies
Diana England, Mike Fleet, Mike Fleming, Mark Fleming, Anna Frost, Gill Frost
Geoff Gear, Sue Gear, Enid Ghent, Martin Godber, Hilary Goldsmith
Helen Harries-Rees, Jackie Harris, Carole Lane, David Lane, Colin Marshall
Ian Mcleod, Alison Naish, Andrew Naish, Natasha Palmer, Clare Parsons
Ray Payne, Andrew Rapps, Bernie Regan, Trevor Rowlan, Rosemary Saw
Kate Sheehan, Paul Smith, Chester Stern, Michael Street, Mary Street
Nicola Swan, Barry Widger, Robin Wilson

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
 1988 Guys and Dolls
 1989 Chicago
 1990 Godspell
 1991 Roar of the Greasepaint.....
 1992 Wizard of Oz
 1993 Cabaret
 1994 Man of La Mancha
 1995 Little Shop of Horrors
 1996 The Mikado, Revamped
 1997 Quasimodo
 1998 Merrily We Roll Along
 1999 The Boyfriend
 2000 The Country Wife
 2001 Return to the Forbidden Planet
 2002 Honk!
 2003 Godspell
 2004 Hunting of the Snark
 2005 Something's Afoot
 2006 Just So
 2007 It's Only Make Believe
 2008 Gulliver's Travels
 2009 Boogie Nights
 2010 Moby Dick!
 2011 The Wedding Singer
 2012 Return to the Forbidden Planet
 2013 A Slice of Saturday Night
 2014 Monty Python's Spamalot
 2015 Dick Barton, Special Agent
 2016 The Clockmaker's Daughter
 2017 Curtains, The Whodunnit Musical

Falmouth Arts Theatre
 Falmouth Arts Theatre
 Falmouth Arts Theatre
 Falmouth Arts Theatre
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
 Minack Theatre
 Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish



Director's Notes

The original production of Noel Gay's *Me and My Girl* was premiered in London in 1937 starring Lupino Lane ... and was, in 1939, the first musical to be televised by the BBC. *The Lambeth Walk* took London by storm at the time and was the highlight of the show.

Following a "try-out" at the Leicester Haymarket in 1984, it was given a 1985 London revival in a new version with libretto by Stephen Fry and Mike Ockrent and went on to win many awards both in the West End and on Broadway with *The Lambeth Walk* again taking centre stage as the infectiously joyous finale. Several other Noel Gay songs were added including *The Sun Has Got His Hat On* and a number memorably made famous by George Formby and his ukulele, *Leaning on a Lamppost*.

firsts The first full scale production of the Cockney Musical at The Minack Theatre and the first *Me and My Girl* for The Mitre Players!

The action, in this production, takes place in the beautiful gardens of Hareford Hall, nestled in the heart of Lord Hareford's country estate an appropriate setting for this typically English musical designed round the wonderful natural setting of The Minack Theatre.

The Company have had a fantastic time working on the show, with its toe tapping tunes and marvellous dialogue ... and we hope the audience **don't** resist the temptation to join in Here's hoping the sun will have its hat on all week ... Hip Hip Hip Hurray !

This week sees two production

Kevin Gauntlett, Director

Our Christmas production - A festive mixture of sketches, drama and music



Introductory meeting for potential cast:

Sunday 2nd September at 6pm
TSSSC Clubhouse, CR2 9AS

Performances:

Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th December
TSSSC Clubhouse, CR2 9AS

Noel Gay • Composer

Noel Gay was born Reginald Armitage in Wakefield in 1898. He was a successful British composer of popular music of the 1930s and 1940s whose output comprised 45 songs as well as the music for 28 films and 26 London shows. Sheridan Morley has commented that he was "the closest Britain ever came to a local Irving Berlin"

He was educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School before obtaining a scholarship at the age of 15 to attend the Royal College of Music in London. He had become music director and organist at St. Anne's Church in London's Soho district by the age of eighteen, prior to a brief period of military service during the First World War and then studies at Christ's College, Cambridge. A precocious talent, he had deputised for the choirmaster of Wakefield Cathedral from the age of eight, becoming honorary deputy organist at twelve.

Whilst at Cambridge, his interest in religious music and composition declined as that in musical comedy grew. He began writing popular songs, using the stage name Noel Gay, apparently the name was derived from a sign he read on a London bus in 1924: 'NOEL Coward and Maisie GAY in a new revue'. After contributing to revues such as *Stop Press* he wrote *Clowns in Clover* (1927), which starred Cicely Courtneidge and Jack Hulbert, a husband-and-wife team of the time.

His most famous show, for which he contributed the music but not the lyrics, was *Me and My Girl*. This originally opened in 1937 at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London and, after a shaky start, gained popularity when the BBC



broadcast it live on radio on 13 January 1938. It starred Lupino Lane as Bill Snibson and it ran for 1,646 performances despite being bombed out of two theatres. The "showstopper" in that work was "The Lambeth Walk" which has the distinction of being the only popular song to be the subject of a leader in *The Times*. In October 1938 one of its leaders read "While dictators rage and statesmen talk, all Europe dances – to 'The Lambeth Walk'". The show was revived in 1952 and again in 1984, when the book was revised by Stephen Fry and came to include some other of Gay's own songs. The latter production ran for eight years, initially at the Haymarket Theatre in Leicester and then at the Adelphi Theatre in London, before going on tour throughout Britain and transferring to Broadway.

Gay went on to write songs for revues by The Crazy Gang, and for star artists like Gracie Fields, Flanagan and Allen and George Formby, as well as penning popular World War II songs such as "Run Rabbit Run" (with lyrics by Ralph Butler). He wrote two songs for the 1938 comedy film *Save a Little Sunshine*.

He created Noel Gay Music in 1938 which is still run by members of his family. He died in 1954.

L Arthur Rose • Author

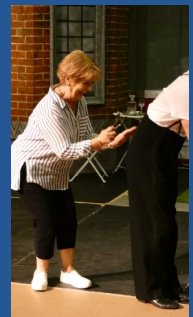
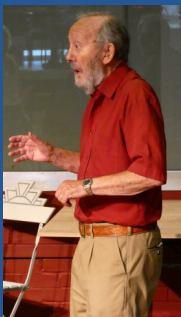
He was born in 1882 and he started his career as an actor at the end of the nineteenth century before writing and directing his own productions of which more than 80 were produced in the West End. His collaborators included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and his plays starred Jack Buchanan, Ronald Coleman, Cicely Courtneidge, Flanagan and Allen, Ernest Thesiger etc. Other notable productions include *Twenty to One*, *The Lady From Edinburgh*, *Skittles*, *The Last Warning* and *Bandits*. He was a founder of the League of British Dramatists, a member of the Fabian Society and Drama critic of the *New Clarion* in the 1920s.

He wrote the 1935 film *Trust The Navy*, which starred Lupino Lane who also starred in the original production of *Me and My Girl*.

Douglas Furber • Lyricist

Born in 1895 in London, Douglas started writing the words for popular songs of the day from an early age eventually writing more than 1,000 in his lifetime. These songs included “God Send You Back To Me” and “The Bells of St. Mary”. In 1916 he had his breakthrough into the theatre when he wrote the lyrics for the musical *Carminetta*. In the early 1920s he wrote “Limehouse Blues” with Philip Braham, which has been recorded by scores of people over the past 90 years, including Count Basie and Django Reinhardt. Over the next 40 years he wrote the lyrics to more than 70 shows, including *That’s a Good Girl*, *Toni*, *Battling Butler*, *Stand up and Sing*, *Nice Goings On*, *The Southern Maid* and *Black Velvet*.

He was a director of the League of British Dramatists and on the committees of the Performing Rights Society, the Society of Authors, the General Theatre Fund and the Songwriters Guild. He died in 1961.



Mike Ockrent • Contributions to revisions

Born in June 1946, Ockrent began his career in Scotland, where he attended Edinburgh University and trained to be a physicist, but during his college days he developed a passion for the theatre. He made his professional directing debut at the small Perth Theatre, where he attracted attention with an award-winning production of Hedda Gabler.

At the age of 27 he became the artistic director of the famous Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. Moving to London in 1976, Ockrent almost immediately had a smash hit with his direction of Mary O'Malley's comedy set in a convent school, *Once a Catholic*, which ran for over two years at Wyndham's Theatre. It was the first of several hit comedies he directed, including Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*.

Having been asked by Noel Gay's son, Richard Armitage to direct the revival of *Me and My Girl*, they then asked Stephen Fry to help update the libretto. The show ran for seven years and was also a great success on Broadway. He then went onto direct *Follies* and *Crazy for You*.

He briefly moved into film direction, including Willy Russell's *Dancing Thru the Dark*. He subsequently moved to New York and was working on a musical version of *The Night They Raided Minsky's* when he died in 1999 aged 53.



Stephen Fry • Book revisions

He was born in London in 1957. Educated at Uppingham and Queens's College, Cambridge, he met Hugh Laurie, Emma Thompson and Tony Slattery whilst with The Footlights. Subsequently he has been involved in every aspect of entertainment.

Television highlights include *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, three series of *Blackadder*, *Jeeves and Wooster* and *QI*, which producer John Lloyd created with him in mind as the presenter. He has starred in many British based films including *Peter's Friends*, *Wilde*, *Gosford Park*, Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* and Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*.

Since 1986 he has been a regular contributor to variety shows on Radio 4, including *Loose Ends*, *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*, *Current Puns* and *Fry's English Delight*. As well as being part of the team who "updated" *Me and My Girl*, he has appeared on stage in Simon Grey's *The Common Pursuit* (1988). In 2012 he appeared at Shakespeare's Globe as Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*.

In recent years he has become a prolific user of Twitter (over 12 million followers). A keen supporter of Norwich City F.C., he is an active campaigner for many causes and has won countless awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award at the British Comedy Awards.



Kevin Gauntlett (Director)

He's back! After a number of years lost in the wilderness, Kevin has returned to the Mitre Family to direct a favourite musical of his, *Me and My Girl*, at his favourite theatre The Minack. Kevin appeared in the first Mitres' Minack visit as the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* 26 years ago, a very hot week And went on to appear in the next two Mitre visits as Sancho in *Man Of La Mancha* and the title role in *Quasimodo*. Future plans for Kevin include directing a production of *Follies*, appearing as Mrs Smee in *Peter Pan* the pantomime and regular appearances at The Charing Cross Theatre in the West End as The Players' Music Hall resident Chairman

Robert Randall (Musical Director)

Seventeen years after he acted at the Minack, the lure of the Cornish coast has proved too hard to resist and Robert has returned to make his Minack conducting debut with *Me and My Girl*. He is in regular demand as an MD in the Croydon area and next year will be conducting both *The Producers* and *A Little Night Music*. He also teaches piano at two local schools and next year will be celebrating his tenth anniversary as the conductor of the local Chandos Choir. Away from musical activities he enjoys amateur genealogy, supporting Chelsea Football Club and doing The Times crossword, although not all at the same time.



Tonia Porter (Choreographer & Dream Sally)

Tonia has choreographed many shows over the years (some of her favourites being *Singing in the Rain* for Crawley, *Jack the Ripper* for ATG and *Broadway to Hollywood* for CODA to name but a few). Having been out of action for a while, she has really enjoyed being back cracking the whip, choreographing for the Mitres. She used to be known as the dragon, but now, with age, has turned into a pussycat! As long as the cast do all the steps right and in the correct order (!) but more importantly smile and have fun then you, the audience will have a fabulous show here at the wonderful Minack Theatre.



ACT ONE

Overture • **The Band**

A Weekend At Hareford • **Guests**

Thinking Of No-one But Me • **Gerald and Jacquie**

The Family Solicitor • **Parchester and The Family**

Me And My Girl • **Bill and Sally**

An English Gentleman • **Charles and The Staff**

You Would You If You Could • **Jacquie and Bill**

Hold My Hand • **Bill and Sally**

The Family Solicitor - Reprise • **Parchester**

Once you Lose Your Heart • **Sally**

The Lambeth Walk • **The Ensemble**

There will be a 20 minute interval

Drinks and light refreshments are available from the **Coffee Shop** in the centre of the theatre and the **Café** at the top of the theatre

The action takes place in the late 1930s, around Lord Hareford's country estate in Hampshire and a street in Lambeth.

ACT TWO

Entr'acte • **The Band**

The Sun Has Got His Hat On • **Gerald and Ensemble**

Take It On The Chin • **Sally**

Once You Lose Your Heart - Reprise • **Sally**

Song Of Hareford • **Duchess and Ancestors**

The Family Solicitor - Reprise • **Parchester**

Love Makes The World Go Round • **Bill and Sir John**

Leaning On A Lamppost • **Bill**

Finale • **The Ensemble**

The Band

Robert Randall • Keys 1/Musical Director

Shaz Dudhia • Keys 2

Joe Mackley • Reed 1

Nigel Crane • Reed 2

Debbi Lindley • Reed 3

Ryan Sayce • Trumpet

Paul Buckley • Trombone

Dom Mackie • Bass

Craig Backway • Drums

ME AND

Bill Snibson	Paul Grace
Sally Smith	Megan Brown
Maria, Duchess of Dene	Vicky Watkins
Sir John Tremayne	Colin Warnock
Lady Battersby	Claire Ali
Lord Battersby	John Barnett
Lady Jacqueline Carstone	Laura Brand
The Hon. Gerald Bolingbroke	Peter Calver
Bob Barking	Simon Long
Sir Jasper Tring	Terry Gauntlett
Herbert Parchester	Chris Backway
Charles, The Butler	Mike Mackenzie
Mrs Anastasia Brown	Julia Ascott
Lady Brighton	Louise Gauntlett
Sophia Stainsley-Asherton	Hannah Millsted-Bowdery
Policeman	Charles Marriott
Pearly King	Mike Lilley
Pearly Queen	Nicki Barnett

All other parts played by **The Company**

Ensemble

Carolyn Backway, Penelope Brown, Karen Durrell, Kate Gauntlett, Alex Greenslade, David Harries-Rees, Andy Hind, Fiona Lilley, Gemma Lilley, Tom Lilley, Kim McEvoy, Alexandra Rincon

Dancers

Penelope Brown, Karen Durrell, Kate Gauntlett, Fiona Lilley, Gemma Lilley, Kim McEvoy, Tonia Porter (Dream Ballet)

MY GIRL

Director

Kevin Gauntlett

Stage Manager

Alan Collins

Costumes

Di Jones

Musical Director

Robert Randall

Backstage Assistance

Liz Dolman

Andy Hind

Guy Harries-Rees

Derek Lee

Jon Lee

Val Lee

Assisted by

Liz Dolman

Julia Gibbs

Anna Warnock

Choreographer

Tonia Porter

Props

Sue Long

Kevin Gauntlett

Set Design and Realisation

Alan Collins

Jill Wilson

Scenic Artist

Jill Wilson

Assisted by

Elizabeth Lee

Set Construction

Alan Collins

Sound

James McLeod

Press Liaison

Lesley Bates

Assisted by

Alan Bishop

Derek Lee

Ziggi Szafranski

Andy Thompson

Denver Watkins

Special Effects and CNC Realisation

Andy Thompson

Me and My Girl Logo

Steve Humfress

Production Manager

Di Jones

Tour Managers

Alan Bishop

Anna Warnock

Lighting Designer

Alan Bishop

Chaperones

Marzena Rincon

Nicola Swan

Front of House

Enid Ghent and Friends
of The Mitre Players

Followspot Operators

Lesley Bates

Julian Parsons

Programme

Alan Bishop

Anna Warnock

Box Office (Minack)

Julia Ascott

Claire Ali (Lady Battersby). Claire has been a member of the Mitre Players for many years. However, the last time she performed at The Minack was 21 years ago and it is wonderful to be back in this beautiful part of the country, performing in one of her favourite shows in such a stunning location. Whilst this is the first time in six years that she has been back onstage, she is actively involved as a choreographer and production manager with a youth theatre group based in Surrey. Away from the theatre, she works in data analytics at an events company.



Julia Ascott (Mrs Brown & ensemble). Julia has been a Mitre for over 40 years and started in the children's chorus, aged 11. She progressed onto juve lead, wicked witches, leading ladies and now finds herself playing character parts or old people! She has performed four times previously at the Minack, her favourite role being Aldonza in *The Man of La Mancha* in 1994 but has also directed four previous Mitre Minack productions, most recently *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, two years ago. She is delighted to be back but her knees and thighs aren't!

Carolyn Backway (Ensemble). Carolyn has been involved with the Mitre Players on and off for over four decades, mainly specialising in the back row of the chorus and this show is no exception! Highlights of her long association with the company are *Honk!* and *Just So* at the Minack where she was playing a bird and animal respectively (can't remember what variety) and her debut at the Minack was as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz* in 1992 when she found out she was expecting her much more talented first son! She hopes you enjoy her other talented son's performance as the family solicitor. Carolyn is happy to let her sons carry on acting while she will be happy to retire from the stage to watch them!

Christopher Backway (Parchester). Chris has been a part of the Mitre Players' family now for as long as he can remember! He is looking forward to performing at The Minack Theatre again this year following on from his role as Sam in *The Clockmaker's Daughter* in 2016. Since then, he has played a murderous critic in *Curtains!*, a bumbling engine driver in *The Railway Children*, and a double role as a stubborn musician and a German electrician in *Black Comedy/White Liars*. Chris has had a brilliant time being a part of *Me and My Girl* this year and is happy to give legal advice if need be for anything, although it is unlikely he will be of much help!

Nicki Barnett (Pearly Queen & ensemble). Nicki is very excited, not only to be performing in her first production with The Mitre Players, but also to be on the Minack stage for the first time. However, she has been in *Me and My Girl* before and absolutely loves the show which is why she is delighted to have the opportunity to do so again. Performing has been part of her life since her teenage years and she has been in many shows ranging from panto, plays and of course musicals, and lists playing Andie in *Stepping Out* amongst her favourites. She's sure you won't be able to resist singing along with all the fabulous numbers in this well-loved musical.

John Barnett (Lord Battersby). John Barnett has been acting since appearing as Slave of the Ring when he was eight and has gone on to appear in many musicals, plays and pantomimes for drama groups across Sussex and Surrey including Copthorne Players, Company of Friends, Hit & Run and COS Musical Theatre to mention a few. This is John's second production with Mitre Players and his second trip to The Minack and he is really happy to be part of this amazing musical in this spectacular setting and hopes you enjoy the show.



Laura Brand (Lady Jacqueline). Laura is delighted to be returning to the Minack for her fourth tour with The Mitre Players. This year has definitely been the Year of the Accent - having played an American in last summer's production of *Curtains* which toured in Dawlish, she leapt straight from that into the Essex twang of Rita O'Grady in *Made in Dagenham*, and is rounding the year off with the poshest drawl of the aristocracy that she can possibly muster as Lady Jacqueline! Thanks go to her fiancé Dominic for learning to play the bass so he could sit in the band tent all week, and to Cookie the cat for her assistance in line-learning and dialect coaching.



Megan Brown (Sally). Megan has had the pleasure of performing in six productions at the Minack Theatre, her most recent role being Constance in *The Clockmaker's Daughter* and, following that she made her directorial debut for The Mitre Players with a musical adaptation of *The Railway Children*. Having been a member of the society since birth, Megan has had the chance to play many roles in various shows, her favourites being Marianne Dashwood (*Sense and Sensibility*), Kangaroo (*Just So*) and Sharon (*A Slice of Saturday Night*). When she's not gallivanting on stage, Megan works in a primary school and spends weekends chasing after her two lovely young children.



Penelope Brown (Dancer & ensemble), Dancing has been a major part of Penelope's life since she was five years old; training in ballet, tap, modern and jazz as well as studying musical theatre. Performing and being on stage has always been a part of her life and she hopes to continue performing in the future.



Peter Calver (Gerald). There are those who claim Peter gets typecast as posh and stupid, but they are wrong. Going back only a few years he has played stupid and posh, quite posh and not too intelligent, not exactly common and slow on the uptake and a bearded transsexual, but the least said about that the better. One thing his three Minack visits have had in common is an array of fancy headwear, which is good news as his cats think he looks particularly dashing in hats. And they like to sit in them.

Karen Durrell (Dancer & ensemble).

Karen is a dancing teacher in West Sussex where she teaches ballet, tap and modern theatre to children and she is head of the junior school where she herself trained. Karen met her partner through amateur dramatics and together they have performed, directed, choreographed, teched and costumed many a production. Amongst the list of her favourites are *The Hot Mikado*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Full Monty*. Although she has been to the beautiful Minack twice before, this is her first experience of performing on its stage - another tick on the bucket list



Kate Gauntlett (Dancer & ensemble). This week will be Kate's first experience of the magical Minack Theatre and The Mitre Players. Kate's interest in singing and dancing came from being dragged down to many rehearsals over the years by her parents from a very early age. Previous appearances include Shprintze in *Fiddler on the Roof* at The Churchill Theatre, Bromley along with many dance shows and music halls. If the dress rehearsal was anything to go by, look out for Kate, she'll be the little one on the end, stuck in her maid's costume after a quick change disaster!

Louise Gauntlett (Lady Brighton & ensemble). Louise appeared as an enchanted mushroom in *The Wizard of Oz*, the Mitres' first Minack experience in 1992 and went on to take part in many Mitre shows, most notably, as Fanny Squeers and a number of other Dickensian oddities in *Nicholas Nickleby* (both parts!) Now a little older and wiser and four children later, Louise looks forward to returning to Cornwall this week appearing on the open air stage again, with her youngest daughter in tow!

Terry Gauntlett (Sir Jasper). This is the fourth time Terry has appeared in *Me and My Girl* during his long amateur career having previously played Bob Barking in 1957, Lord Battersby in 1997 and Charles in 2008. He has accepted with grace and resignation the fact that he now has been typecast as the aged and deaf Sir Jasper! Terry has been a member of West Wickham Operatic Society since 1949 for which he has appeared in or directed over 100 productions and has been Chairman for over 30 years. He is delighted to be appearing with three members of his family at this most magical of all theatres.



Paul Grace (Bill). Paul has been performing at the Minack for over half his life and has some very happy memories here. Past highlights at The Minack have been as Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Cookie in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, Patsy in *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Parade*, *Honk!*, *The Hunting of the Snark* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Elsewhere he has recently played the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Hal in *Proof* as well as directing a number of plays and musicals for local societies. In real life, Paul is a drama and PSHE teacher and is very pleased to be sharing the stage this week with one of his students.

Alex Greenslade (Ensemble). Alex has been in the Mitres since leaving school and during that time has done many trips to The Minack, the first being in 1992 with *The Wizard of Oz*. His favourite was probably *Quasimodo* in 1997, but he also particularly enjoyed the two productions of *Cabaret* that were performed elsewhere, when his German-speaking abilities were called upon. With Chairman's duties he now restricts himself to being in one show per year – after all there is sometimes more drama off stage than on!

David Harries-Rees (Ensemble). David is returning to perform at The Minack after he appeared in *Gulliver's Travels* with The Mitre Players ten years ago. One of his most memorable roles was Tiny Tim which he played when he was only eight. Since then he has been focusing on his studies and is currently reading architecture at Plymouth University. *Me and My Girl* is the most challenging show to date for David especially as he has eight costume changes - it has slowly dawned on him that the amount of washing he has to do at the end of the week is far more than any student should have to worry about. He has loved every minute of performing with a fantastic cast, including his big sister Megan who plays Sally.

Andy Hind (Ensemble). Andy replied to a cry for help with *Play it Again Sam* when working for an oil company in Saudi. Later in Bahrain he found his forte mainly in set construction with some walk on parts and as social secretary! Back in England he has helped Cambridge Festival Players, SEDOS, Bromley Little Theatre, Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre, Tower Theatre and The Mitre Players. Andy joined the Mitres ten years ago mainly helping with set construction. This is Andy's third appearance on the Minack Stage.



Fiona Lilley (Dancer & ensemble). Fiona is very excited to be doing another show with her family at the wonderful Minack Theatre. She is equally excited at being part of the dance troupe, especially at her young age, although she's not sure her 15 year daughter feels the same! It hasn't been very quiet in the Lilley household with four people trying to practice their dance moves, but hopefully they will all get them right tonight, even dad!



Gemma Lilley (Dancer & ensemble). Gemma last performed at The Minack Theatre two years ago in *The Clockmaker's Daughter*. She has really enjoyed being a dancer in *Me and My Girl* but has found it a bit stressful having to be in numbers with her mum, dad and brother, especially as her dad thinks he is a better dancer than her! Gemma hopes you enjoy the show.



Mike Lilley (Pearly King & ensemble). Mike is the best looking of all the Mitre Players and is delighted to be returning to The Minack for *Me and My Girl*. He is so good looking that he was typecast as the dashing handsome Sir Galahad in *Monty Python's Spamalot* on this very stage four years ago. He is very excited to be playing the Pearly King, Footman 1 and Ghost 1. He will once again be starring alongside his wife and dustbin lids Tom and Gemma. Have a rip roaring evening.

Tom Lilley (Ensemble). Tom is really looking forward to performing in his second Minack show having been in *The Clockmaker's Daughter* two years ago. He is very excited to be playing the most important footman in the show - but not so excited at doing another show with his family as it will take him a long time to recover from this particular family activity - many long days and nights going over all the dance moves with his dad! Tom hopes you enjoy the show.

Simon Long (Bob & ensemble). Simon has been a member of The Mitre Players for all of his adult life, and has performed in two previous shows at The Minack - the atmospheric *Return to the Forbidden Planet* in 2012 and the wonderfully whacky *Monty Python's Spamalot* in 2014. Other shows have included *Catherine Howard*, *A Slice of Saturday Night* and *The Wedding Singer* - all of which are his favourites! By day, he is a primary school teacher who is embarking on his first teaching job in September. Having enjoyed acting since the age of five, he also teaches drama to children aged 5-18, and is passing on all that he has learnt with The Mitre Players!

Mike Mackenzie (Charles, The Butler). Mike (as can be seen by his aged appearance) has been performing for many years. During this time he has done everything from directing through to stage sweeper pausing en route to act, sing, design lighting, work sound and even dance on occasion! Some of his more favourite parts have been Tevye (*Fiddler on the Roof*), *Sweeney Todd* (Sondheim's version), Tony (*West Side Story*) and Billy Flynn (*Chicago*). Fond of a bit of singing he can also be found working with Heber Opera - his roles have included Rudolfo (*La Boheme*), Nadir (*Pearl Fishers*) and the Prince (*Rusalka*). So if you bump into him please return him to the bar where he belongs!



Charles Marriott (Policeman & ensemble). Charles is a long standing member of The Mitre Players. He hasn't appeared at The Minack since the Mitre production of *Moby Dick*! Recent characters that he has played have been theatrical producer Sydney Bernstein in *Curtains* and both the BBC Announcer and Lady Laxington in *Dick Barton, Special Agent*. Adding to his repertoire of characters in this show are that of "Plod" (aka the Constable!) and a lurking Gardener.

Kim McEvoy (Dancer & ensemble). This is Kim's first show with The Mitre Players. In fact it's the first show she's performed in for 40 years! Mike Lilley, our Pearly King has kept her up to speed on her dance moves over the years, so if her performance isn't up to scratch, she can blame him!! But seriously, she loves musical theatre and is the choreographer for a local youth theatre group. She has loved being part of this company and glad she was given the opportunity to perform again.



Hannah Millsted-Bowdery (Ensemble). This is Hannah's third show with the Mitres but her fifth visit to The Minack, having previously appeared in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, and *Nell Gwynn* in July last year! It's once again a privilege to perform in such beautiful surroundings - she can't stop coming back!





Alexandra Rincon (Ensemble)

Alexandra is seventeen years old and about to go into her last year of sixth form before going on to university. This is her second show with The Mitre Players, the first being *The Clockmaker's Daughter* which was performed at The Minack two years ago. She has appeared in other shows and pantomimes during that time with other local groups. She's loved rehearsing *Me and My Girl* and hopes you enjoy the show.

Colin Warnock (Sir John).

Colin was a founder member of The Mitre Players back in 1973 and has performed on-stage, as Musical Director, or in the band for countless productions over the past 45 years. This is his 13th Minack show and every time he says "never again!" So here he is – back for more! Professionally, he continues to work in musical theatre at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts College in Epsom, Surrey, helping to train the stars of tomorrow.

Vicky Watkins (Duchess).

Vicky is delighted to be back at The Minack. The last time she was here, she was an old hag in *Monty Python's Spamalot* so this part is very different! She has been treading the boards for many years and has been lucky enough to play a wide variety of roles from a drunken, man-eating orphanage manager as Miss Hannigan in *Annie* to the old dear playing piano for all the boys in *The Full Monty* (there were definite perks to that role). Vicky's husband has said he will be relieved when the show is over as her Duchess character seems to have spilled over into real life and he feels rather henpecked!

The Backstage Team. For *Designer* (Jill Wilson), *Stage Manager and Set Construction* (Alan Collins), *Lighting Designer* (Alan Bishop), *Sound* (James McLeod), *Followspot Operators* (Lesley Bates and Julian Parsons), *Special Effects* (Andy Thompson), *Props* (Sue Long) and *Backstage Assistance* (Derek, Elizabeth, Jon and Val Lee) this is the third consecutive Mitre Minack production that they have all done the same job. Indeed some have been on every tour. For the rest of the team, virtually everyone is returning for the umpteenth time in some capacity, such is the “team spirit” that is generated by our tours to The West Country.

This year we welcome the introduction of some younger legs (Guy) and look forward to the average age being very slightly lower. The crew are also grateful to the programme editors for not insisting they write something witty themselves.



The Mitre Players present
Alan Bennett's classic double bill

SINGLE SPIES



The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Croydon. CR9 7AT
Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd November 2018 at 7.45pm
Tickets: £13.00 including a souvenir programme from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/mitreplayers



Officials

President	Al Kennedy
Past Presidents	Mark Bishop, 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, Chris Backway, Megan Brown, Mike Lilley, Charles Marriott, Jo Morrison

Additional Contacts

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

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society for former pupils of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting three or four 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 TSSSC 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