



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, Julia Gibbs,
Mike Lilley, Charles Marriott, Vicky Watkins

Additional Contacts

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock

Membership Secretary Julia Ascott

Box Office Number 07914 763422

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society for former pupils of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 3 or 4 productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use "in house" musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to

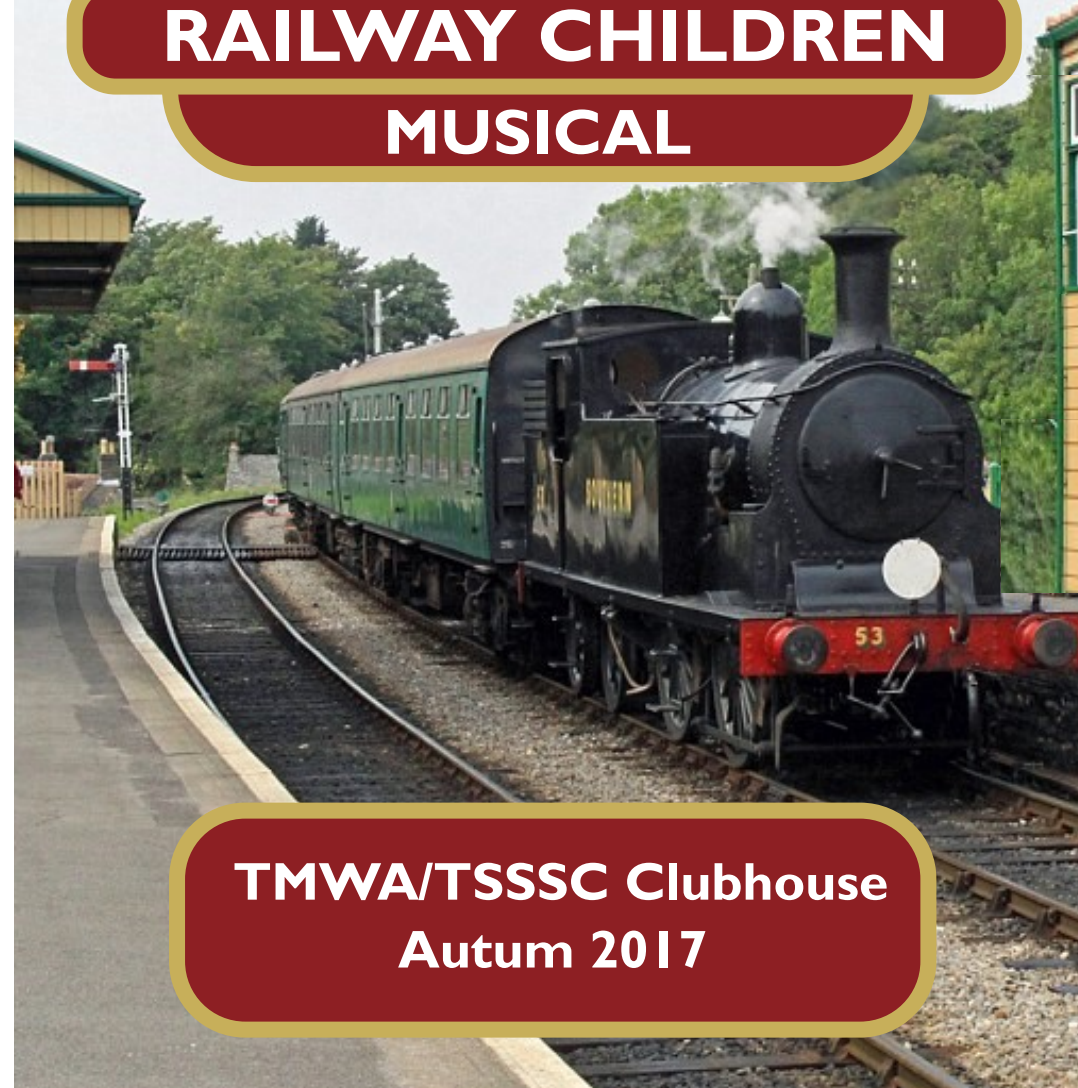
remain out of the spotlight, building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing 'Front of House' or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the TMWA/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

THE MITRE PLAYERS PRESENT

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN MUSICAL



TMWA/TSSSC Clubhouse
Autum 2017

Chairman's Letter

Following our successful staging of a touring production of *Curtains*, we have changed gear to bring you *The Railway Children*. It had been on our watch list for some time, but as with many that we do, it needed to fit in with our requirements and provide a challenge to actors and backstage crew alike, transforming a simple hall into a suitable home for the action to take place.

Megan Brown was keen to direct her first show with the Mitres, ideally one that involved children - so this was an ideal choice - and she was very pleased that her 'Uncle' Colin Warnock agreed to be her musical director.

You may remember that several years ago a different version of this show was performed at Waterloo station and then later at another theatre near King's Cross, and during these productions a real train made a star appearance. We might not be able to have a full size train in our auditorium, but with some ingenuity from our backstage staff and some imagination on your part, we hope that you will have a memorable experience. Of course in 1970

The Railway Children became a classic film featuring among others Jenny Agutter, who had earlier also featured in the successful BBC 1968 dramatisation of the novel. The story has timeless appeal on both screen and stage.

We are particularly pleased to welcome children to the cast - who we hope will be inspired to return to us in future productions. We are grateful to their parents for allowing them to take part and for running them to and from rehearsals.

Well done to Megan on your first attempt. We hope it has encouraged you to direct again. A big 'thank you' in addition goes to Joanna Morrison for choreography and everyone else, on stage or off, who has enabled this to take place.

Thank you so much for supporting us. We do hope you enjoy the show.

Alex Greenslade

Chairman, The Mitre Players

Kieran O'Brien (Peter). This is my first production with the Mitre Players. I have also been in a play named *Satchwell Road* with the Chipstead Youth Players. My grandad is a steam train enthusiast, he helps restore steam engines and sometimes gets the opportunity to drive a steam locomotive on which I have been a passenger. I like being part of the play and the rehearsals because it helps me understand how everything will be set according to how it fits our characters. Like Peter I fidget a lot and have a cheeky manner. The cast are fun to work with and it's a new experience for me working with the adult cast.

Jolyon Roberts (Father). Jolyon is a longstanding Mitre Player who has tackled various 'character' roles from Pantomime Dame to John the Baptist. The Director tempted him into playing this role by explaining that there were very few lines, which is true but they come right at the very beginning - and right at the very end. Rehearsal nights have therefore offered the 'opportunity' to watch younger, more talented actors with better memories doing marvellous work. Despite this Jolyon has not let bitterness creep in. Jolyon is consoled at home by his family, especially his two children who think that he is Balham's John Gielgud. Mrs. Roberts is keenly looking forward to the end of this production as this will give her the excuse she needs to throw away the CD that has been on repeat play in the car for three months. After the final night Jolyon will quietly return to his genteel, undemanding life as a Headteacher.

Fiona Robertson (Mother). Fiona was filled with dread at the thought of playing Mrs Railway after a horrendous train journey from Lands End to John O'Groats forced her to hire a permanent chauffeur. However, watching Perks polish his machine has changed her mind

and she is ready to leap on the engine as soon as it arrives! Fiona has pushed out two bouncing boys and is desperately hoping that at least one of them will grow up to be a train driver! Clackety clack!

Dominic Semwanga (Colin Perks). Dominic is 13 years old. Previously he played Buggy in his school production of *Bugsy Malone* and was a Wickersham Brother in *Seussical*. This is his first Mitre production and he is very excited to be taking part.

Ziggi Szafranski (Perks). Ziggi is delighted to be on a return journey to the Clubhouse having been on the 11.11 to Dawlish via the Clubhouse earlier this year with *Curtains*. Learning his trade at the Trinity Railway Company, Ziggi took a slight detour after leaving the classroom before joining the Mitre Players for *Spamalot* in 2014, then calling at *Dick Barton*, earning a feather in his cap, and *City of Angels* where he upped his words per minute. When not announcing the daily train, Ziggi can be found teaching Drama at The Purcell School as well as freelancing as a performing arts tutor.





Fraser Macdonald (Dr Forrest). Having recently made a brief appearance as Cardinal Wolsey in *A Man for All Seasons*, Fraser now finds himself all-singing, all-dancing and trying to remember his (railway) lines at the same time in *The Railway Children*. A Mitre Player for over 30 years, playing Dame in pantomime, Fagin in *Oliver* and numerous other roles over the years, Fraser re-appears as a family doctor (as he did in *Sense and Sensibility*) but can assure you that his bedside manner has not improved.

Eddie Mcconnell (Patch Perks). This is Eddie's first performance with the Mitre Players, in fact his first non-school performance. Eddie loves all things musical and is really enjoying his *Railway Children* experience. It is reminding him of his first steam railway trip on the Bluebell Railway. Although only nine years old Eddie has a long-standing Mitre connection with his Grandad and being directed by his Auntie is an awesome first theatrical experience.

Ellie Mcconnell (Elsie Perks). Ellie has really enjoyed her first Mitre experience and to be performing with her little brother has not been too painful an experience! Ellie has seen many Mitres' productions and is thrilled to be on the other side of the stage. She is currently studying Musical Theatre at college and is pleased to get the opportunity to actively use these skills. Ellie holds fond memories of steam railways from on

holiday in Wales as a child and waving to them just as *The Railway Children* did.

Jerri-Lee McManus (Bobbie). Jerri has loved rehearsing for this show, it has some brilliant toe tapping numbers, the energy from the child cast members has been fab and her best friend is directing. It certainly has been a great reintroduction to musicals. Jerri last performed in a musical when she was a teenager, meaning that this is her debut as a principal and undoubtedly her biggest challenge to date. Jerri's most recent Mitre performances were Margaret in *A Man for all Seasons* and Claire in *Proof*. As a mother of one and as a primary school teacher she feels confident in her abilities and her youthful looks to fulfil the child role of Bobbie. Jerri also hangs around at railways like Bobbie, not because she is admiring the views but because the trains are NOT "all on time"!

Hannah Millsted-Bowdery (Cook & Mrs Perks). This is Hannah's second Mitre production, following *The Clockmaker's Daughter* at the Minack last year. Previously Hannah has been involved in productions with Oxted Operatic Society and The Miller Centre, Caterham where she first appeared on stage at the age of seven! Her most memorable train journey was a trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival aged eleven - a solo train journey to join her Dad who was directing a production there that year.

THE MITRE PLAYERS

Present

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

Book and Lyrics: Julian Woolford

Music: Richard John

From the novel by E. Nesbit

Director: Megan Brown

Choreographer: Joanna Morrison

Musical Director: Colin Warnock

TMWA/TSSSC Clubhouse, Sanderstead
Tuesday 31st October to Friday 3rd November 2017

An amateur production, by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

Ian Walsh, Nick Trend, Richard Corne and all users of the TMWA/TSSSC Clubhouse for their patience and co operation during our rehearsals.

We are very grateful to all the parents and chaperones of the young "Railway Children", whose attendance and chauffeuring for rehearsals and performances has enabled this show to take place.

We respectfully remind you that the taking of photographs and the use of audio and video recording equipment is strictly forbidden.

Director's Notes

The original film version of *The Railway Children*, starring Jenny Agutter and Bernard Cribbins, was a staple classic in my house on a Sunday afternoon when I was growing up. So when I was looking for a show I would like to direct for the Mitre Players, I was thrilled to find a musical adaptation of the piece, and later to secure a brilliant team to work alongside me consisting of my Godfather Colin Warnock as MD, and my good friend Joanna Morrison as Choreographer. Their experience and guidance has made the entire journey all the more enjoyable.

With book and lyrics by Julian Woolford and music by Richard John, this fantastic musical was first produced at Sevenoaks Playhouse in 2005, and I am now extremely proud to see it come to life at Mitres' very own intimate theatre here at the clubhouse.

Throughout the rehearsal period I have

tried to remain true to the original film in order to retain the heart of the story which combines love, loss and hope, and I have found it particularly satisfying to develop the on-stage relationships of the characters and how they journey through these emotions.

Having been a junior member when I was younger, I am happy to say that I have achieved what I initially set out to do, which was to bring some of the future generation of the Mitre Players to the forefront of the action, and I can honestly say I have loved every minute of watching all aspects of this production come to fruition throughout the rehearsal process, and I am in awe of all the hard work and dedication that people in every department have offered. Thank you to you all! Now, sit back and prepare to laugh, gasp and cry as this enchanted tale unfolds.....

Megan Brown.

The action takes place in in London and the Kent Countryside during the early 1900s.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes.

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

Patrons of The Mitre Players

Chrissy Amer, Carolyn Backway, Alfie Bird, John & Nikki Barnett
Katherine Bottomley, Ann Bowden, Chrissy Bright, Tony Britten
Penelope Brown, Ros Broyd, Berry Butler, Derek Cathie, Nicky Chambers
Carolyn & Julian Chenery, Bill & Barbara Cobbett, Derek Cooper, Di Copas
Karen Durrell, Alice Evans, Mark Fleming, Gill Frost, Terry Gauntlett
Geoff & Sue Gear, Enid Ghent, Martin Godber, Tom Grundy, Jackie Harris, Tracy Jeal
Carole & David Lane, Colin Marshall, Kim McEvoy, Ian Mcleod
Alison & Andrew Naish, Clare Parsons, Ray Payne, Lydia-Ann Porter, Andy Rapps
Bernie Regan, Trevor Rowlan, Kate Sheehan, Paul Smith, Emily Stockwell, Michael & Mary
Street, Niccola Swan, Barry Widger, Geoff & Judith Wilsher, Robin Wilson

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

www.mitreplayers.org.uk



Rosie Chambers (Phyllis). This is Rosie's first performance in a Mitre Player's production but she has watched many Mitre productions since birth. Previous parts include the lead in *The Elephant of My Heart* at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival alongside Mum & Dad; Little Snow in *Snow White* at The Arc in Caterham and Belle in *Beauty & The Beast* at her primary school. She appeared in Glow Theatre's *Oliver* in the summer and is looking forward to being 'The King of the Swingers' as King Louis in *The Jungle Book* at The Barn Theatre, Oxted at the end of this month. She has travelled on the train since an early age and her favourite journey was when a jazz band was playing on the tube.

Julia Gibbs (Gert). Julia was last seen in *Sense and Sensibility* as the rather unsympathetic Fanny Dashwood. No parts have required a train journey other than playing spiteful Sybil Burlington in *Daisy Pulls It Off* catching up with chums en route back to school. Best real train journey has been from Nairobi to Mombasa watching lots of elephants, zebras, monkeys and giraffes majestically sweeping across the plains. Not quite the same view on the 07.35 to London Bridge (when it arrives!).

Andy Holton (Lord Fleet). His grandfather was a ticket inspector on the Great Western Railway (in the days when it really was 'great') so he had early experiences at Reading station. And in those days there were still steam engines pulling the trains. There was a pride in the service that the railway provided, and a great presence when a train pulled away, all steam & chuffing! This summer, while on tour at Dawlish, he took the train down to Dartmouth and enjoyed the journey on the Dartmouth Steam Railway from Paignton to Kingswear. As the train pulled out of Paignton it passed the wonderful stretch of Goodrington Sands, and many of the families on the beach turned to Andy and waved. Just like the *Railway Children!*

Warwick Jones (Old Gentleman). Inexplicably, this is Warwick's first part in a musical since playing the (non-singing) role of the Headmaster in *Turnabout* in 1998. He is grateful to Megan for resurrecting his career in musical theatre and promises (threatens? Ed.) to do much more in future. A regular Mitre for over forty years, Warwick has spent an inordinate amount of time doing large parts that nobody else could be bothered to learn.

James Ali (Ginger Perks). I am 13 and this is my first production with the Mitre Players. I was very excited to join as I thought it would be a good experience for me. I do other junior productions with Chipstead, I'm a member of Helen O'Grady drama academy and I also perform in productions at my school, Warlingham. My favourite roles to play are upbeat and funny. I've travelled in a double-decker train in Switzerland in the snow, and last summer we took a 5-hour train journey from London to Penzance when we went to see the Mitres perform at the Minack.

Julia Ascott (Ruth & Mrs Ransome). Julia loves travelling by train - she discovered the joy of train travel when at University in Aberystwyth - no trains ran in or out on a Sunday so she didn't ever come home except at the end of term. At the end of the first term she attempted the journey with a full trunk of clothes, books, kettles and saucepans and got stuck in a snow storm in Shrewsbury for several hours! Julia has been performing with the Mitres for over 40 years, and was last seen on stage in *Sense and Sensibility* when she played Megan's mum. Last year she directed Megan in the title role of *The Clockmaker's Daughter* so is now enjoying the role reversal with Megan telling her what to do!



Chris Backway (Engine Driver & Jim). Chris has been a Mitre Player for as long as he can remember and has loved being a part of shows. From being a doctor's assistant in *Gulliver's Travels* to a murderous critic in *Curtains*, being in *The Railway Children* has been one of the best Mitre experiences he's had! Filled with fantastic actors and talented children in the cast, you are sure in for a real treat tonight. Chris has not had many memories of train journeys himself but does always remember the infamous announcements 'TRAIN CANCELLED' when going up to London on a cold winter's night. Enjoy the show!!!

Ian Brown (Szczepansky). Ian's recent memorable train experience is arriving at Brighouse Station after a weekend in Yorkshire to find that his London bound train was not on the schedule. Closer examination of his ticket revealed the reason. He was 24 hours too early. He then had to travel via Leeds which cost a mere extra £76. Ian joined the Mitres almost exactly 35 years ago and really enjoyed playing the evil Thomas Cromwell in *A Man for All Seasons* earlier this year. He hopes that audiences are impressed with his command of Russian in this play.



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

BLACK COMEDY & White Liars

A classic double bill, written by Peter Shaffer

Presentation evening and read through: Monday 6th November at 7.45

Auditions: Monday 27th November at 7.45

Performances: Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st April at 7.30

Further details, please email: info@mitreplayers.org.uk

Our 2018 Minack Production

me and my GIRL

Monday 20th -
Friday 24th August
at 7.30

Tuesday & Thursday matinees
at 2.00

For tickets and further details
Logon to: www.minack.com
from New Year 2018

The Cast

Mother	Fiona Robertson
Father	Jolyon Roberts
Perks	Ziggi Szafranski
Bobbie	Jerri-Lee McManus
Peter	Kieran O'Brien
Phyllis	Rosie Chambers
Old Gentleman	Warwick Jones
Perks Children	James Ali, Eddie Mcconnell Ellie Mcconnell, Dominic Semwanga
Cook	Hannah Millsted-Bowdery
Ruth	Julia Ascott
Dr Forrest	Fraser Macdonald
Mrs Ransome	Julia Ascott
Gert	Julia Gibbs
Lord Fleet	Andy Holton
Mrs Perks	Hannah Millsted-Bowdery
Szczepansky	Ian Brown
Engine Driver	Chris Backway
Jim	Chris Backway

Grammar School Children

James Ali, Ellie Mcconnell, Dominic Semwanga

Londoners, Carol Singers, Customers, Gossips and Soloists

Julia Ascott, Chris Backway, Ian Brown, Julia Gibbs, Andy Holton,
Fraser Macdonald, Ellie Mcconnell, Hannah Millsted-Bowdery

Megan Brown (Director). Megan is no stranger to the Mitre Players having appeared in countless shows since she was just a baby. This however is her directorial debut and she has loved every minute of it! Megan's most recent appearance on stage was as Constance in *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, performed at the prestigious Minack Theatre in Cornwall, and she is delighted to be returning there next summer to play Sally in *Me and My Girl*. Megan has her fingers tightly crossed that, unlike Southern Rail, there will be no delays or cancellations for this evening's performance.



Behind the Scenes

Director	Megan Brown	Backstage Assistance	Julia Ascott, Paul Bowles, Liz Dolman, Guy Harries-Rees Donna Hensman, Andy Hind Derek Lee, Ray Locke, Charles Marriott Julian Parsons, Andy Thompson Denver Watkins, Vicky Watkins
Choreographer	Joanna Morrison	Chaperone Co Ordination	Claire Ali, Di Jones
Musical Director	Colin Warnock	Production Manager	Mike Lilley
Stage Manager	Alan Collins	Photography	Charles Marriott
Lighting Designer	Alan Bishop	Programme	Alan Bishop, Anna Warnock
Costumes	Anna Warnock	Front of House	Alex Greenslade & Friends of The Mitre Players
Assisted by	Liz Dolman, Di Jones	Box Office	Di Jones
Sound	James McLeod		
Properties	Vicky Watkins		

The Band

MD / Keyboards	Colin Warnock	Drums	Craig Backway
Guitar	Dominic Mackie	Bass	Andy Buchanan

Joanna Morrison (Choreographer)
Joanna has found this a darling of a show to work on, and what a pleasure to bring this classic story to life with all its musicality and magic. She's also had the wonderful pleasure of helping Megan debut in her directorial role and as the show has developed and grown she has watched Megan do the same with an air of professionalism and passion for the piece. The sense of family within the story has been mirrored offstage amongst the company and is the reason Joanna is so very fond of the lovely Mitre Players.

Colin Warnock (Musical Director)
Colin has been a Mitre now for over 44 years. He is a huge fan of the railway system and uses it whenever he can, particularly commuting from West Croydon to Epsom. His greatest delight comes from submitting 'Delay Repays' to Southern Rail - luckily for him there is no shortage of opportunities there at the moment. He also travels by train to theatres around the country to support his Laine Theatre Arts students and graduates on their route to stardom. Oh - and he's also been involved in numerous Mitre productions, both as an actor and as a musical director!