

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We welcome you to the Mitre Players' first show of 2005, Robinson Crusoe, and we once again have Julian Chenery and Colin Warnock to thank for penning this highly original and topical version.

We are delighted to see Chris Ash make his debut as Musical Director and Arranger for the Mitre Players having previously shown off his talents in the orchestra pit as a keyboard and woodwind player. We hope he will continue his association with us for years to come.

Thanks must also go to Julia Ascott and Julian Chenery (Directors) and Helen Harman (Choreographer) for their infinite patience and skills when working with a very large and boisterous company over what is a particularly busy period for all concerned.

Again this year, many of the cast are quite young, something we hope will secure the continuation of the Mitres. There are several current Trinity Pupils in the cast and

crew, a trend we actively encourage.

On a more serious note we will be making a silver collection after tonight's performance in aid of the Tsunami appeal, an event of such momentous proportions that many, many people know families directly affected by the disaster. We feel that this is particularly appropriate given the coastal theme of Robinson Crusoe and hope that you will give generously.

We thank you all for your support and hope you enjoy tonight's pantomime journey to the land of Robinson Crusoe and Man Friday.

Andy Thompson.

Chairman.



THE MITRE PLAYERS

The Dramatic Section of the Old Boys Association of Trinity School

ROBINSON CRUSOE

Words and Lyrics: JULIAN CHENERY
Music: COLIN WARNOCK

Directors: JULIAN CHENERY & JULIA ASCOTT
Musical Director: CHRIS ASH
Choreographer: HELEN HARMAN
Designer: JILL WILSON

Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th January 2005

The Mitre Players would like to thank the Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for allowing us to perform **Robinson Crusoe** in Big School and Eyre Maunsell, John Bertram and team for their invaluable help.

Please note that smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

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

Please remember to switch off all mobile phones & pagers. THANK YOU.

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SOMETHING'S AFOOT A Spoof Murder Mystery Musical Director: Julia Ascott Musical Director: Colin Warnock. Auditions: Sunday 30th January at 7,00pm. OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead Audition Details: 020 8239 1010 Performances: OMWA Clubhouse: Week Ending Friday 22nd July. Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish, Week Ending Saturday 27th August Ticket Motline: 0845 2255799

ROBINSON CRUSOE

Our story starts in Bristol where we meet Robinson Crusoe who is about to sail off around the world to seek his fortune. Well, it's the fashionable thing to do in one's gap year! There to see him off are his brother Billy, his girlfriend Tilly and his mother Mrs Crusoe ... along with the citizens, tradesmen and sailors of Bristol. Everyone knows that BRISTOL IS THE CITY WHERE MY HEART WILL ALWAYS BE. Also there is Captain Blood and Queenie the Pirate Queen, who want to steal the treasure map left to young Robinson by his recently deceased Uncle Peculiar.

While Robinson is aboard one ship heading towards adventure, his mother and Billy - unaware that Blood intends to do away with Robinson - are aboard Captain Blood's vessel - as cleaners!

On a deserted desert island we meet the C-list Panto celebrities who are to star in the new reality show "I'm a Panto Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" They all want to be KING OF THE ISLAND.

Back on Blood's vessel, Mrs Crusoe is enjoying being A WIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE. But Blood and Queenie arrive to inform her that they have discovered the wreckage of a ship the ship that her son Robinson had set sail on. Refusing to believe her son is dead, Mrs C joins Billy and Blood in a reprise of the song.

Back on the deserted desert island, Robinson Crusoe discovers he alone has survived the huge sea storm. He is determined to survive knowing that MAN IS NOT AN ISLAND. He discovers a footprint in the sand, and after establishing that it wasn't his own, he follows it to find a man in a cooking pot surrounded by mini-Cannibals. CANNIBAL COOKING SONG Robinson scares the natives away and rescues their dinner, who he eventually names Friday after the day they met.

Billy and Mrs Crusoe have rowed ashore on the other side of the island to search for Robinson. Blood, Queenie and the pirates are searching for Robinson's map.

On the other side of the island, Friday rushes in to tell Robinson he's seen the pirates. They set off to investigate.

The panto-celebs have been set the task to produce their own version of a top West End show. Fairy Godmother has joined the campers as an eleventh celebrity and "Tilly from Bristol" has arrived on set having won a viewers' competition. Everyone sits back to enjoy THE LION KING OF THE JUNGLE BOOK.

The show is interrupted as the Blood and the Pirates attack and capture the celebs in return for Crusoe's treasure map.

Robinson and Friday have escaped. They recap the story so far. ROBINSON CRUSOE

In the TV gallery, Diana De Vil, the 'TV producer from Hell' arrives. She insists that no attempt is made to rescue the celebrities or to send in food. The ratings have gone through the roof since the pirate attack and she could be on her way to a BAFTA. She and the Three Mikes reminisce. TALK TO THE HAND.

Robinson and Friday have used Uncle Peculiar's map to find the treasure. To Robinson's great surprise - Tilly turns up having escaped from the pirates. They are happily reunited on AN ISLAND MADE FOR TWO (...THREE!). But Blood has followed her and he captures Crusoe, Friday and Tilly and takes them back to the camp.

Back at the camp, Friday "hatches" a plan to do away with the pirates; and with the aid of the celebrities the pirates are despatched one by one. As we wait for the King of the Island to be crowned, Mrs Crusoe, Gi-Ant and Dec the Dwarf announce the winner of the audience vote. I WANNA BE A CELEBRITEE!

The King of the Island is finally crowned. Friday thinks that the real King of the Island is **ROBINSON CRUSOE**.

Mrs Crusoe leads the happy celebrations I WISH IT COULD BE FRIDAY EVERY DAY.

THE CAST

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Robinson Crusoe Paul Longhurst

Billy Crusoe James Beal

Tilly Lotus Warren

Mrs Crusoe Colin Warnock

Captain Blood Paul Smith

Queenie - the Pirate Queen Colin Marshall

Man Friday Dave Price

Gi-Ant Sam Cook

Dec the Dwarf Chris Kallend

Diana de Ville Diana Dobson

Humpty Dumpty Ian Brown

Baron Hardup Fraser Macdonald

Alderman Fitzwarren Dennis Coombs

Dandini Liz Kallend

Rumplestiltskin Mary Holton

Mrs Darling Cathy Longhurst

Sultana of Morocco Ravelle Suban

Goldilocks Lorraine Price

Genie of the Ring Olivia Chenery

Major Domo John Bartle

Fairy Godmother Eileen Coombs

The Three Mikes Seb Gogerly, David Payne, Joss Brazier

Citizens of Bristol, Pirates, Animals & Members of the Company:

James Backway, John Bartle, Stephen Bird, Joss Brazier, lan Brown, Georgina Chenery, Olivia Chenery, Sam Cook, Eileen Coombs, Dennis Coombs, Stephanie Coombs; Rachel Dewey; Seb Gogerly; Vicky Gunner; Mary Holton; Matthew Hyder, Chris Kallend, Liz Kallend, Cathy Longhurst, Fraser Macdonald, Colin Marshall; Sophie Moore; David Payne; Lorraine Price; Charlie Quinney; James Sheldrake; Andy Stanford; Margaret Stockwell; Ravelle Suban; Lizzie Turner, Teddy Walker, Ana Walker

Children's Chorus of *The Lion King of the Jungle Book* animals:

Alice Ambrose, Nathan Ascott, Christopher Backway, Joe Casey, Leah Casey, Georgina Chenery; Will Chenery; Olivia Cooper, Sophie Dewey, Emily Kennedy, Paige Kennedy, Holly Steadman; Emily Stockwell, Joe Stockwell.

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Directors

Julia Ascott Julian Chenery

Musical Director

Chris Ash

Choreographer

Helen Harman

Set Designer and Scenic Artist

Jill Wilson

Construction Manager

Andy Thompson

Lighting Designer

Alan Bishop

Sound

James McLeod

Special Effects

Andy Thompson

Wardrobe

Carolyn Chenery Anna Warnock

Assisted By

Evelyn Caldwell Liz Dawe Jo Gunner Ann Macdonald

Dame's Costumes

Sue Shimmel

Stage Managers

Mark Goody Nic Lee

Props

Mary Holton

Backstage

Assistance

Gillian Bartle Julia Bassett Matt Beal Kelly Beard Andrew Bennett

Paul Bowles Alan Collins

Liz Dolman

Martin Garnett

Mary Holton

Andy Holton Fraser Macdonald

Ion Lee

Colin Parrish

Lou Parrish

Julian Parsons

Dave Price

Pat Price

Dave Richards

Morven Rae

Jolyon Roberts

Josh Sanders

Tanya Smith

Adam Tibbalds

Charles Thomas

Dave Turner

Ben Warnock

Photography Marcus Ascott

Programme

Alan Bishop Anna Warnock

Rehearsal

Pianists

Chris Ash lames Beal Colin Warnock

Musical

Arrangements Chris Ash

Production Managers

Iulia Bassett lan Brown

Box Office

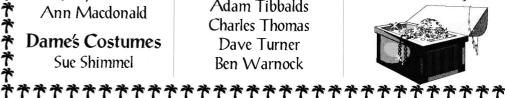
Peter Stockwell

Front of House

Alex Greenslade and Friends of the Mitre Players

Refreshments

Tanya Smith and Friends of the Mitre Players



ACT ONE

THE BAND

THE PROLOGUE

THE DOCKSIDE AT BRISTOL

Bristol is the City Where My Heart The Company Will Always Be

ON BOARD THE GOOD SHIP MITTE AND CAPTAIN BLOOD'S VESSEL

A Wife on the Ocean Wave Mrs Crusoe

DESERT ISLAND: JUNGLE SIDE

King of the Island The Panto Celebrities

THE GALLEY OF CAPTAIN BLOOD'S VESSEL

A Wife on the Ocean Wave (Reprise) Mrs Crusoe, Captain Blood, Billy

DESERT ISLAND: DESERT SIDE

Man is not an Island Robinson Crusoe

The Cannibal Cooking Song Man Friday, The Savages Man is not an Island (Reprise) Robinson Crusoe, Man Friday

DESERT ISLAND: JUNGLE SIDE

DESERT ISLAND: DESERT SIDE

DESERT ISLAND: JUNGLE SIDE

The Cycle of Life The Genie, Celebrities, Savages

Island Animals' March The Animals

Manana Banana Bruno, The Animals

The Cycle of Life (Reprise) The Company

There will be a 20 minute interval, during which Refreshments will be available in the restaurant

Piano/Conductor Chris Ash

Flute Nicola Dempsey

Clarinet Gareth Edmunds

Trumpet Chris Hickox

Clarinet/Alto Sax Hannah Widger

ACT TWO

DESERT ISLAND: DESERT SIDE

Robinson Crusoe Robinson Crusoe, Man Friday

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THE TV PRODUCTION GALLERY

Talk to the Hand Diana De Vil, The Three Mikes

DESERT ISLAND: JUNGLE SIDE

DESERT ISLAND: DESERT SIDE

An Island Made for Two (.... Three!) Robinson Crusoe, Tilly, Man Friday

DESERT ISLAND: JUNGLE SIDE

King of the Island (Reprise) The Company

Can you Feel Young Love Tonight Mrs Darling, Goldilocks, Company

SOMEWHERE ON THE ISLAND

I Wanna be a Celebritee Various

DESERT ISLAND: JUNGLE SIDE

Robinson Crusoe The Company

I Wish it Could be Friday Everyday The Company

There will be a collection in aid of **The D.E.C. Tsunami Earthquake Appeal** after the performance.

Trombone Paul Buckley, Charlie Mason

Horn Max Dinning

Tenor Sax Will Sansom

Drums/Percussion Craig Backway

Bass Guitar Patrick Moore



JULIAN CHENERY (Director, Book & Lyrics) Julian is currently "celebrating" 21 years as a Mitre Player. Indeed the only reason he joined in the first place was to attend the Annual Mitre Dinner and the various special events that pepper the Mitre calendar. Although he has occasionally appeared on stage, more recently he has written Peter Pan and Beauty and the Beast with his mate The Bellman. In real life he is the founder and creative force behind Shakespeare 4 Kidz.

COLIN WARNOCK (Mrs. Crusoe, Composer) In 1974, Colin composed, directed and musically directed Mitres' first pantomime. 31 years on, he's still involved, and is still loving it, loving it all. Having played the Bellman in the recent Minack triumph The Hunting Of The Snark, he was well-prepared, along with the Broker, to write the pile of nonsense you are able to see today! The level of involvement of past and present Trinity boys continues to be a source of great satisfaction to him - that is, after all, what it's all about! He has thoroughly enjoyed handing over the musical reins to Chris Ash (Trinity Old Boy and Musical Director), and apologies to him for being such a pain...





JULIA ASCOTT (Director) Julia has been involved in the majority of our 30 pantomimes in virtually every capacity you can think of - on stage, backstage, directing, choreographing, wardrobe, props, refreshments, front of house. The most rewarding (exhausting, frustrating and difficult) of these is definitely directing and she has really enjoyed working alongside the incredibly talented JC & CW once again. She is also very grateful to Helen & Chris for the huge part they have both played in their first Mitre Panto. Her ambition one day is to just be a member of the audience!

CHRIS ASH (Musical Director and Arranger) has enjoyed playing in the band for Peter Pan, Beauty and the Beast, Return to the Forbidden Planet and, more recently, The Hunting of the Snark. He is delighted and very honoured to make his debut as a Mitre Players' Musical Director, but secretly only did it so he could feel like a Pop Idol/X Factor judge at auditions. If this were an Oscar acceptance speech he'd thank Colin, JC, Julia and Helen, and the cast, and the crew, and his Mum, and his Dad, and his niece, and his girlfriend, and..."



HELEN HARMAN (Choreographer) After deciding to retire gracefully from choreographing, Helen is thrilled that she was coerced into being involved with the Mitre Players for a second time (her first being Hunting of the Snark) as working with them is such great fun and an experience not to be missed!





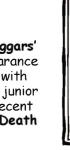
JAMES BEAL (Billy Crusoe) was our Peter Pan last year and still is in fact The Boy Who Never Grew Up. Since flying back to Neverland last year, he has been Musical Director of The Wiz and Zombie Prom for Carshalton College, and Little Shop of Horrors for the Mitres and most recently for Nemcom.

PAUL LONGHURST (Robinson Crusoe) As an overweight 35 year old IT professional, Paul always felt he was an obvious choice for the role of Robinson Crusoe. Next year he hopes to audition for the role of Oliver Twist. Paul has been married to Cathy (see 'Mrs Darling') for three years and enjoys sucking Maynards' sours.





DAVE PRICE (Man Friday) should know better; this is his eighth Mitre Players' panto in row. Anyone would have thought he'd had enough by now - actually he is just no good at saying no. (Ask his wife!) See you next year!



LOTUS WARREN (Tilly) has appeared in many productions: Comedy of Errors, Macbeth, The Beggars' Opera, Oliver!, and The Musicians. Her first appearance with the Mitre Players was in our joint production with Trinity School, Romeo and Juliet, followed by our junior production of Little Shop of Horrors. Her most recent performance was in Trinity school's production of Death of a Salesman.

COLIN MARSHALL (Queenie) was delighted to have a part especially for him in the panto in order to show off his very individual talents!!! With over 10 years of Mitredom behind him, Colin has switched backwards and forwards from techie to star with ease.

PAUL SMITH (Captain Blood) A Mitre Player for over 20 years, Paul has given an arm and a leg - well, just a leg - to be in this panto. Having made his positively final Mitre appearance directing The Madness of George III, he was enticed back with the offer of money - yeah right!

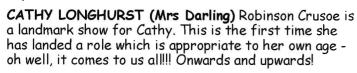




CHRIS KALLEND (Dec the Dwarf) made his debut with the Mitre Players last year as Michael in Peter Pan. Since then he has kept himself busy singing Mustardseed in A Midsummer Night's Dream, first in Venice with Teartro Talibran and then with the ELO at the Colosseum. The biggest challenge to date has been mastering the Geordie accent!

SAM COOK (Gi-Ant) was the inanely grinning and incomprehensible dentist in the Mitre Players' junior production of Little Shop of Horrors. Now as the inanely grinning and incomprehensible Gi-Ant he reprises the role, albeit with a Croydo-Geordie twang.

JOHN BARTLE (Major Domo) After many years in pantomime as a doctor, policeman, vicar, avuncular uncle, aristocrat or mad scientist it came as somewhat of a shock to be cast in Robinson Crusoe as a 'Z' class celebrity stranded with nine other lunatics on a desert island. He looks forward to the challenge of eating grilled scorpion (his star sign), poached spiders and raw snakes tails. Never mind, it's all part of the learning experience!







MARY HOLTON (Rumpelstiltskin) has spent this year appearing in several forms of disguise. She wore plenty of make-up as Nana the dog in Peter Pan, a balaclava helmet in the Hunting of the Snark and now a beard. And she's so happy to be acting on a set painted in her favourite colours of green and yellow!

LORRAINE PRICE (Goldilocks) This is the umpteenth time Lorraine has appeared as a blonde bimbo in a show, but the first time she has appeared as a 'Price' - Lorraine married Man Friday last summer. Ach...



DENNIS & EILEEN COOMBS (Alderman Fitzwarren & Fairy Godmother) have been Mitre stalwarts for 25 years and there are few parts they haven't played between them. Last seen as an elderly Wendy in **Peter Pan**, the main attraction for Eileen has been the people, all so talented, musical and mad! Special shows have been **Cabaret** and **Something's Afoot**. Favourites for Dennis have been **Quasimodo** and **Midsummer Night's Dream** where he was upstaged by a dog! Last seen in **The Madness of George III** as a quack doctor, he is confident that his medical expertise will enable at least some of the Panto Celebs to survive their island ordeal.

OLIVIA CHENERY (Genie) By her own admission Olivia is the only true "genie-us" in the Chenery family. In 2004 she appeared in Peter Pan, Little Shop of Horrors and Hunting of the Snark for the Mitres, and Under Milk Wood (for Oxted School). When she grows up she wants to polish her dad's BAFTAs.

RAVELLE SUBAN (Sultana of Morocco) first appeared for us in Stepping Out and found the experience to be both terrifying and enjoyable. At one point she said 'never again' so why is she back? To put it simply, she is hopelessly and completely addicted to the buzz and says we will never be able to get rid of her now that she's fallen in love with acting.





LIZ KALLEND (Dandini) has been in, involved in or trying to get out of Mitre pantomimes since before most of the current cast were born, mostly playing panto animals of some description. Surrounded by boys at home (husband and two sons) playing a bloke this year might not be too much of a challenge!

FRASER MACDONALD (Baron Hardup) Spared the trauma of dressing up in women's clothing to play Dame yet again, Fraser is delighted to find himself in reduced circumstances as Baron Hardup – what's he got to do with Robinson Crusoe? (don't ask!). A Mitre Player for over 20 years, Fraser has heard all the jokes before but hopes there may be someone in the audience who hasn't.

IAN BROWN (Humpty Dumpty/Bruno the Bear) Ian has been performing in Mitre Pantos for 22 years. He is very 'egg-cited' to be playing the dual role of Humpty Dumpty and Bruno the Bear and hopes you can tell which is which.

DIANA DOBSON (Diana De Vil) Following the shock of being made to wear brightly-coloured clothing during **Stepping Out**, Diana has finished her course of Prozac and is enjoying playing a part which allows her to wear her favourite colour, 24/7!



AUTHOR'S NOTES

Colin (The Bellman*) and I (The Broker*) are very lucky in that we both make a living from the entertainment business. He as a member of the teaching faculty at Laine Theatre Arts - one of the country's foremost training grounds for musical theatre - and me as a producer, director, writer and sometime actor in both the theatre and film business, mainly with Shakespeare 4 Kidz and Pantos 4 Kidz, So there are plenty of excuses for us to go to the theatre and see all the latest and in some cases notso-latest productions.

Over the past 12 months we have been lucky enough to see A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. The Producers, Stiles & Drewe's Just So and their latest triumph Mary Poppins. Sadly I wasn't there at the first night of Mary Poppins in Bristol and so didn't witness the moment when Colin met. and promptly upended champagne all over, Cameron Mackintosh. I was there however at the 100th birthday bash for Peter Pan at the Duke of York's theatre where a renowned Captain Hook from yesteryear, John MacCallum, told of the many times when he "roomed" with the Lost Boys. "But they're just a bunch of thugs!" he was told. "Ah yes, we get on famously" he replied "You see they keep me supplied with brandy and cigars!"

In a déjà-vu-all-over-again moment, we realised that we weren't the only

people to christen our Lost Boys "thugs". Indeed our very own Trinity "thugs" have now formed the backbone of the Mitre Christmas show for three years and we are delighted that the Mitre Players continues to nurture the creative talent of tomorrow.

Robinson Crusoe was first staged at the Drury Lane theatre in 1781, in a version attributed to Brinsley Sheridan, author of The Rivals and The School for Scandal. It was said to be a pantomime full of innovation for Sheridan used Harliquinade characters in the Opening: Pantaloon torments Man Friday who, later, along with Robinson Crusoe, rescues both him and Pierrot from cannibals. It was incidentally, a very successful panto, running for 38 nights, a long run in the 18th century.

The Bellman & Broker version as usual acknowledges the Mitre Player customs and traditions, but we hope you may also notice and enjoy our nods and salutes (some would say "downright steals") from our favourite shows of today.

Julian Chenery and Colin Warnock

* Mr Warnock and Mr Chenery have not been able to stop referring to each other by their character names from The Hunting of the Snark since last summer. Nor for that matter have the White Rabbit and the March Hare -their respective wives.

THE MITRE PLAYERS

Officials

President Chris Tarrant
Robin Wilson

Vice-Presidents Julia Ascott, Gillian Bartle,

John Bartle, Alan Bishop, Martin Garnett, Jack Griffin, Warwick Jones, Peter Stockwell, Martin Tyrrell, Anna Warnock, Colin Warnock

Current Committee

Chairman Andy Thompson
Secretary Julia Bassett
Treasurer Alan Bishop

Additional Members Kelly Beard, Ian Brown, Dave Price, Morven Rae, James Smoker, Anna Warnock

Additional Contacts

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

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 Old Mid Whitgiftian Association 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