

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

Once again, panto time is upon us and this year sees us presenting Sir Merryman, an updated version of our original show, on the theme of King Arthur and Merlin the Magician, from the pens of founder members Martin Tyrrell and Colin Warnock. Performed originally in 1982 the show has been adjusted (and considerably shortened), by Julian Chenery for the Mitres to present this week.

Once again this year, many of the cast are quite young, something we hope will secure the future of the Mitres. There are several current Trinity Pupils in the cast again, a trend we wish to encourage. This trend will certainly be continued for our next production, a joint one with the School, of Lionel Bart's famous musical Oliver!, to be performed here at Trinity at Easter time.

In the summer we shall be presenting the musical Just So directed by Julian Chenery, both here at Trinity and then at the beautiful open air Minack Theatre in Cornwall. From the pens of Stiles and Drewe who also wrote Honk!, this promises to be another enjoyable production. Details of all the above shows will be elsewhere in this programme, please come and support us if you can.

The last year has been a mixed one for the Mitres. We have put on three very successful shows and have also have lost friends due to ill health. The most recent of these, Eileen Coombs, passed away just before Christmas. Eileen, who had been in many of our pantomimes, had been a member of the Mitres for twenty-five years and appeared most recently, in our last production Cyrano de Bergerac. We will miss her energy and enthusiasm and would like to dedicate this production of Sir Merryman to her memory.

Earlier on in the year, Geoff Saw passed away. Geoff was in our first pantomime, Cinderella Charleston and was involved either in front or behind the curtains in most of our Christmas Shows since then, and it is fitting that his wife, Rosemary is still involved, making costumes for this production.

Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you all a happy and peaceful new year and hope you enjoy tonight's magical show.

Andy Thompson.

Chairman.



The Mitre Players

The Dramatic Section of the Old Boys Association of Trinity School



Words and Lyrics: MARTIN TYRRELL
Music: COLIN WARNOCK
Additional Material: JULIAN CHENERY

Director: Ian Brown

Assistant Director: Lorraine Price

Musical Director: James Beal

Choreographer: Paul Cohen

Designer: Jill Wilson

Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon. Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th January 2006

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

Please note that smoking is prohibited in the School.

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.

CROYDON THEATRICAL

For all your local theatrical needs.

Log onto www.croydontheatrical.org.uk, the new website.

Information on Forthcoming Productions

A database of useful contacts and services

Lists of Amateur Societies and individuals with equipment / costumes / scenery etc. to hire

Specifically created to benefit local societies (Croydon, Bromley, Sutton, Redhill etc.)

The Mitre Players and Trinity School

Present Lionel Bart's

OLIVER!

Thursday 30th March to
Saturday 1st April 2006
At 7.30 (Saturday Matinee at 3.00)
At Trinity School, Shirley Park.
Mitre Players Box Office: 0845 2255799
Please email tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk
to get a priority booking form

the mitre players

Summer Show will be

JUST SO

By George Stiles and Anthony Drewe
Based on the "The Just So Stories" by Rudyard Kipling

Director: Julian Chenery. Musical Director: Andrew Rapps Choreographer: Helen Harman

Find out

How did the Elephant get its trunk? How did the Leopard get his spots? How did the Rhinoceros get his skin?

Auditions/Presentation Evening

Sunday 29th January at 18.00

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead.

Further details from Julian Chenery: 01883 714664

Performances

Week Ending 22nd July 2006 at Trinity School.

Week Ending 4th August 2006 at Minack Theatre, Cornwall

Mitre Players Box Office: 0845 2255799

More details of 'Just So' can be found on www.Stilesanddrewe.co.uk/just_so

THE "SIR BORS THE BORING" GUIDE TO SIR MERRYMAN.

Did you know that:-

Four people appear in the programme doing the same "roles" as they did in 1983 - Andy Thompson, Peter Stockwell, Alan Bishop and John Bartle.

In addition another twelve have taken on different parts/tasks, including Ian Brown who has gone from being "Chorus" to Director.

Originally nine musical arrangers were credited - their handwriting was so difficult to read that it has proved difficult to put names to each arrangement.

The original 1983 production featured our largest ever cast, a massive 70, compared to today's 58. Some of the first cast have gone on to bigger and better things and one of the Choreographers, Nicky Bentley is now a regular name on TV variety shows. Additionally the Bass Player, Chris Houlding was so impressed with Trinity School that he became a Governor of the Whitgift Foundation.

Matt Beal, Dominic Binefa, Minstrels David Payne, Colin Warnock Fraser Macdonald King Arthur Queen Guinevere **Emily Grogan** Lancelot Sam Cook Tindall, The Jester Mark Goody Elaine, a Serving Wench Olivia Chenery Alex Greenslade Dame Alys, The Cook Ossified, The Mad Bard Robert Critchett Sir Aggravate Seb Gogerly Sir Deirdre the Savage Tamsin Reeve Sir Bors the Boring Teddy Walker Sir Mawl of Statue Chris Kallend Merlin Iulian Chenery Morgan le Fay Katy Davies Mordred, a Dastardly Villain Joss Brazier Gumboil, the Gaoler Colin Warnock Liz Kallend Lady of the Lake Rachel Dewey Gail Sharon Anna Frost Matt Beal, David Payne A Pantomime Horse Will, an Idiot Andy Stanford Thomas, another Idiot Iames Sheldrake Audrey, a Simple Country Wench Tanya Smith Dominic Binefa Brian, Ye Blacksmithe Baron Hubert Robert Critchett Henchmen Matt Hyder, Ben Stafford Goblin Mary Holton Lotus Warren Damsel Little Tindall Nathan Ascott Crow Iohn Bartle Tamsin Reeve, Liz Kallend, The Dragon Vicky Gunner, Emily Grogan

Ladies, Knights, Servants, Entertainers, Henchmen, Villagers, Ghosts, Prisoners, Birds, Witchettes and other Parts

Alice Ambrose; Georgina Chenery; Sophie Dewey; Grace Eagers; Becky Grace; Bethany Louks, Charlie Quinney; Holly Steadman; Ana Walker and Members of the Company

Children's Chorus of Froglets

Nathan Ascott; Christopher Backway; Imogen Broyd; Joe Casey; Leah Casey; Will Chenery; Annabelle Kennedy; Jemma Kennedy; Paige Kennedy; Thomas Lilley; Zoe Quinney; Ellie Rapps; Emily Stockwell; Joe Stockwell; John Walker

The Production Team

Director Ian Brown

Assistant Director Lorraine Price

Musical Director James Beal

> Choreographer Paul Cohen

Assistant Choreographers Kelly Beard Claire Ali Fiona Lilley

Set Designer and Scenic Artist Iill Wilson

Lighting Designer Alan Bishop

Sound Iames McLeod

Special Effects Andy Thompson

> Wardrobe Morven Rae

Assisted By Julia Ascott Carolyn Chenery Liz Dawe Jo Gunner Rosemary Saw Margaret Stockwell

Anna Warnock Iill Wilson

Construction Manager

Alan Bishop

Stage Manager Nic Lee

Deputy Stage Manager Gillian Bartle

Backstage Assistance Kelly Beard Sue Carter Alan Collins Liz Dolman Martin Garnett Mark Goody Mary Holton Fraser Macdonald

Pete Marr Derek Lee Ken Lee Colin Parrish Lou Parrish

Iulian Parsons Dave Price Pat Price Dave Richards Ian Richards Tanva Smith Charles Thomas Dave Turner

Backstage Coordinator Kelly Beard

Props Andy Holton Mary Holton

Chaperone Coordinator Io Gunner

Photography Charles Marriott

Programme Alan Bishop Anna Warnock

Script Reproduction Mark Goody Tanya Smith

> Rehearsal Pianists Steve Urie Colin Warnock

New Musical Arrangements Colin Warnock

Original Musical Arrangements Tony Britten Martin Bruce David Christie Mark Fleming Steve Hill Simon Lowy Robert Randall Mike Richards

Box Office Peter Stockwell

Paul Smith

Front of House Julia Gibbs, Tanva Smith and Friends of the Mitre Players

Refreshments Kelly Beard, Peter Bramwell and Friends of the Mitre Players

Dame's Costumes Eclectica Costumes (01425 277149)

ACT ONE

THE PROLOGUE

ARTHUR'S COURT AT CAMELOT

A Health to Camelot The Company
The Questing March The Knights
Only Joking Tindall, Elaine

The Very Perfect Gentle Knight Principals and Chorus

CASTLE PERILOUS, HOME OF MORGAN LE FAY

THE LAKE OF THE DAMOSEL

All I Ever Do Tindall, Lady of the Lake and

The Froglets

We're More Than a Match for Anyone! Dame, Elaine, Tindall,

Merlin, Idiots

We're More Than a Match for Anyone! The Four Knights

(Reprise)

The Minstrels' Interlude The Minstrels

THE VILLAGE STREET

Happiness, Country Style Audrey and Chorus

THE WILD WOOD

Sword or Sorcery The Company

ACT TWO

ALOFT

Wouldn't You Like to be a Bird? The Crow and Bird Chorus

Sir Merryman Tindall

THE GREAT HALL OF CASTLE PERILOUS

The Devil (He has all the Good Tunes) Morgan and the Witchettes

THE DARK TOWER OF CASTLE PERILOUS

Out of the Dark Guinevere, Elaine, Audrey

THE CATACOMBS OF CASTLE PERILOUS

The Dragon Wore Taps! The Dragon, All The Prisoners

ON ROUTE TO KING ARTHUR'S CASTLE

Minstrel in the Gallery Merlin, Gumboil and Friends

THE COURT OF KING ARTHUR'S CASTLE, CAMELOT

Sir Merryman The Company

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

Due to restricted access, can we ask patrons with cars parked by the sports block to leave via the exit at the back right hand side of the auditorium. Thank you.

The Band

Musical Director James Beal

Flute Nicola Dempsey
Oboe James Marangone

Clarinet/Alto Sax Hannah Widger

Trumpets Pat Price, Chris Hickox

French Horn Max Dinning

Trombones Charlie Mason, Paul Buckley

Guitar Clive Furness
Bass Guitar Dave Price

Drums Craig Backway

Keyboards Steve Urie, Keith O'Gorman

Ian Brown (DIRECTOR) Ian joined the Mitres for the original production of Sir Merryman 23 years ago and having become the unofficial Mitre archivist, it will not come as a surprise to most people that he still knows nearly all the words of the

songs. Having suggested repeating it until the committee were tired of saying "no", Ian hopes that others will now share his enthusiasm for this show.

Lorraine Price (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR). This is the first time that Lorraine has appeared on the production side of the panto, having been 'on the stage' for the last 5 years or so. She has discovered that not being in the panto is harder work than being in it. Anyway Lorraine could not have been in this show as there were no blonde bimbo parts! (Not that she is

suggesting she gets typecast!). Lorraine is thrilled to have been given this opportunity to put her voice projection lessons into practice - very useful when trying to be heard over this lively cast. She wishes the cast well for the week of the panto - knock 'em dead.

James Beal (MUSICAL DIRECTOR) The last time Jimbo took on the task of Musical Directing a Mitre Players Pantomime was 2001's Aladdin and his Marvellous Limehouse Lamp. The large band and larger cast combined to create an experience which he vowed never, ever to repeat. Fast forward four years, and, well, here we are. Hmm... maybe he'll try again in another four years or so. Away from the Mitre Players this year, Jimbo has Musical Directed Little Shop of Horrors and Annie with Nemcom, and Nunsense with Carshalton College. The next entries in Jimbo's musical diary (ok... in his disorganised head) are Return to the Forbidden Planet at the Adrian Mann Theatre in May, (potential Cookies, see Jimbo in the interval), and the Younger Generation show at the Ashcroft next summer.





Paul Cohen (CHOREOGRAPHER). Paul has thoroughly enjoyed the 'experience' of choreographing this show. As the saying goes, 'never work with children or animals—bring on Doctor Doolittle'! He is very pleased to be on the other side of the footlights tonight as every Mitre show he performs in he seems to end up in a rather unflattering costume, from an aqua blue catsuit in Hunting of the Snark to an inflated actor complete with dodgy wig and feather hat in Cyrano de Bergerac.

Julian Chenery (MERLIN/ADDITIONAL MATERIAL) hails from a long line of wizards. His portrayal of Prospero in Shakespeare's The Tempest has been described as "such stuff as dreams are made on"; he played Gandalf in The Lord of the Rings; Dumbledore in Harry Potter; Catweazle in the long running TV series and of course the title role in The Wizard of Oz. He has been magical advisor to Tommy Cooper, David Nixon and Sooty and also wrote the festive classic "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day". His daughter wants him to be a multi-millionaire!





Colin Warnock (GUMBOIL/MINSTREL/COMPOSER) Sadly, Colin has now been coming to Trinity for over 40 years, originally as an 11-year old schoolboy and for the last 33 as a Mitre. He was never in a choir or orchestra at school, but has been a professional musician since 1982, the year Sir Merryman was written. The Tyrrell/Warnock partnership of yesteryear has been superceded these days by that of the Bellman/Broker, who have written the last three pantos. Bellman (Colin) would like to thank Broker (Julian) for his invaluable help with the rewrites to this year's offering.

Mark Goody (TINDALL) This is Mark's fourth show with the Mitre Players but his first panto, having preferred to hide backstage for the last two years. With only a week off from rehearsals since being killed by drink in Something's Afoot and performing a drunken poet in Cyrano de Bergerac, the phrase 'glutton for punishment' springs to mind. Finally a public service announcement.... if anyone finds the humour too much, a side-stitching service will be provided free of charge in the foyer after the show! Enjoy!!





Alex Greenslade (DAME ALYS) Desperate to avoid being in charge of Front of House two years running, Alex was delighted to be promoted to Dame despite usually avoiding the panto like the plague in most of his 20 years as a Mitre Player. He has now almost lost the tag of being the company linguist and is better known for raucous pool parties and offering jobs to unemployed Mitres

Olivia Chenery (ELAINE) is fast learning what it takes to be a Mitre Player juve lead: drunken evenings in the pub; going to shows all around the country; all night parties and sing-songs with West End stars around the Bellman's piano at Christmas - but enough about her dad! Over the past year or so she has appeared in Hunting of the Snark, Robinson Crusoe and Cyrano de Bergerac with the Mitres; Oliver! at Oxted School and has just successfully become a member of the National Youth Theatre. Her father wants her to be a multi-millionaire film star!





Emily Grogan (GUINEVERE) Emily's first pantomime has meant her: being kidnapped; having to put on airs and graces; and learning from scratch how to tap-dance. (It really ISN'T as easy as it looks!!). Her most recent roles have been Hope Langdon in Something's Afoot and, for CODA, Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady at the Ashcroft Theatre. Whilst rehearsing she's found herself in fits of giggles, and she hopes you enjoy the show as much as she

Fraser Macdonald (KING ARTHUR) With over 20 years pantomime experience behind him Fraser can even recall playing Brian in the first performance of Sir

Merryman in 1983. Since then he has served 4 sentences as Dame and also dabbled in villainy. A glutton for punishment he is looking forward to appearing as Fagin in our next production - Oliver!. In between shows he runs the Spanish Department at Trinity School.

Sam Cook (LANCELOT) Sam has been an active member of Mitres for nearly 6 years and after playing a Geordie in Robinson Crusoe and an American in Little Shop of Horrors is delighted to be given chance to polish his French accent. Sank Heavens, at last..... or not!



Katy Davies (MORGAN LE FAY) This is Katy's 2nd Mitre pantomime and she is relishing being the evil Morgan Le Fay as it is such a far cry from her normal sweet

and charming persona (?????? Ed). She can next be seen strutting her stuff as the abused Nancy in the forthcoming Trinity/Mitre production of Oliver!.

Joss Brazier (MORDRED) Joss' fourth Mitre pantomime plus appearances in Hunting of the Snark and briefly (very briefly, in fact) in Cyrano sees him elevated to the role of Mordred, an evil witch's son....a slippery, slimey, snivelling, deceiving liar. Brilliant casting Ian - spot on!! At 13 years old he is said to be still dreaming of his "Billy Elliott" moment ...

Dominic Binefa (BRIAN) Although this is only Dominic's second production with the Mitre Players, his first being The Biograph Girl in 2000, he has been involved



with other Surrey groups from a young age. At Southampton University, Dominic played the roles of Billy Lawler in 42nd Street, Jose Vegas in Fame, and Mr. Parchester in Me and My Girl. He is delighted to be back with the Mitre Players and is looking forward to doing more with them in the near future

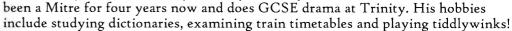
Tanya Smith (AUDREY) Tanya has spent a long time working on her accent for Audrey - 21(!?) years in fact!! Ay, to play a part that reminds her of 'ome (Yorkshire for those that can't figure it out ...!) has made her feel a bit

'ome-sick, but nothing that an episode of Emmerdale can't sort out!! Tanya last appeared in Abigail's Party as the socially inept Angela. She has really enjoyed rehearsing Sir Merryman and hopes that you like the show. Yeehah!

Tamsin Reeve (SIR DEIRDRE/Front legs of the dragon) This is Tamsin's first appearance with the Mitres and her first panto in twenty-two years. She has

thoroughly enjoyed being part of such an energetic and accomplished company - especially when leading the guys around. Although she has played many parts, from Ibsen's Ellida to Susannah in The Herbal Bed via Faye in The Boyfriend, she never dreamed she'd reach the lofty heights of an eight-foot dragon.

Teddy Walker (SIR BORS) Teddy is ecstatic to be playing his most thrilling role to date: Sir Bors. The word ecstatic originates from our Latin beginnings but is commonly misused in today's society.... Teddy has



Liz Kallend (LADY OF THE LAKE/Legs of the Dragon) Playing a Witchette in the original production of Sir Merryman was Liz Kallend's first Mitre panto and



twenty-three years on she has graduated to murky depths as the Lady of the Lake and heady heights as a pair of legs in the panto dragon! In the intervening years she has shared with us her panto cow, horse, camel and Dick Whittington's cat.

Robert Critchett (OSSIFIED/BARON HUBERT) Robert does not mind having small parts, although he has had some bigger ones in his ten years with the Mitres, particularly during the long and hot 'Godspell summer'. When not prancing around in costumes he

can be found prancing around in uniforms, either with the army or driving an ambulance, so in common with his panto characters, can either kill you or save your life!

Seb Gogerly (SIR AGGRAVATE) Seb is delighted to be part of yet another Mitre Players' winter production, having appeared in Beauty and The Beast, Peter Pan

and Robinson Crusoe. This year he is playing the part of the very tall and aggressive knight, Sir Aggravate and hopes his voice breaks in time to make him appear menacing enough.

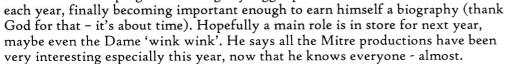
Chris Kallend (SIR MAWL) Chris joined the Mitre Players in 2003 so this is his third pantomime. After playing Michael Darling in Peter Pan (2004) he then went on to play Dec in Robinson Crusoe (2005), where he managed to pull off a Geordie accent. He has taken part in numerous other productions as well as Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream which

was performed in Venice and London. This year he is playing the part of the very small and irritating knight, Sir Mawl and hopes his voice doesn't break in time.

Matt Beal (MINSTREL) Matt's last appearance was quite some time ago in Beauty and the Beast as a rather camp waiter. He is delighted to be back on stage as a rather camp Minstrel as he can usually be found backstage as a member of the rather camp

stage crew. Matt started 2005 throwing a jug of ice-cold water over his brother's head in Robinson Crusoe. before making his musical debut playing keyboards in Nemcom's production of Little Shop of Horrors in April, most recently returning to stage crew for the rather camp Cyrano de Bergerac.

David Payne (MINSTREL) David has been in four Mitre Player's pantomimes starting with Beauty and the Beast in which he played a small part in the chorus. Since then he has progressed to slightly bigger parts



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The Mitre Players

Officials

President Chris Tarrant Robin Wilson Past President

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 Iulia Gibbs Treasurer Alan Bishop

Additional Members Kelly Beard, Ian Brown, Dave Price, Morven Rae, Tanya Smith, Anna Warnock

Additional Contacts

Box Office Hotline Theatre Club Organiser Membership Secretary

0845 2255799

Colin Warnock (020 8657 0972) Julia Ascott (020 8239 1010)

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Óld 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