

The Mitre Players

Present

# CYRANO de BERGERAC

By Edmond Rostand

Translated by Anthony Burgess

The Mitre Theatre  
Trinity School  
Shirley Park  
Croydon

Thursday 3rd to  
Saturday 5th November  
at 7.30pm.

Tickets £8.00  
Box Office: 0845 2255799



present

# Something's A SPOOF MURDER MYSTERY MUSICAL A Fool



July/August 2005

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

We welcome you all to the Mitre Players' summer touring show, *Something's Afoot*, which we are presenting both at our home base in Croydon and for our eighth visit to the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish.

This is the second time we have performed this show, having presented it some years ago in Croydon. This new production, directed by Julia Ascott, has given us the opportunity to re-visit this show that is great fun to do, with all sorts of twists and turns in the plot.

I would also like to congratulate The Dawlish Repertory Company for the fantastic improvements seen at the Shaftesbury Theatre since our last visit. This is a result of a long period of fund raising – thank you for continuing to invite us to your lovely theatre.

We have had a busy year so far, with productions of *Robinson Crusoe* and *Abigail's Party* already under our belt. After *Something's Afoot* we shall be performing *Cyrano de Bergerac* in the autumn and then an up to date version of *Sir Merryman*, one of our original

Mitre pantomimes first performed in 1983.

The balance of next year's schedule will be announced soon in our newsletter. If you don't receive one of these, why not become a 'friend' and get on our mailing list. Details can be found elsewhere in this programme.

The Mitre Players are an amateur company and rely totally on the unpaid services of our members. To put on this many shows takes a lot of effort and I thank the many people involved, particularly those in organisational roles, who give up a lot of their spare time to further the Mitre's cause.

We try to vary the type of Theatre we tackle as much as possible, providing interest for all tastes. We hope that you, our audiences, find tonight's show enjoyable and entertaining, and look forward to seeing you again at one of our future presentations.

Best wishes to you all.

*Andy Thompson.*

Chairman, The Mitre Players

### The Mitre Players would like to thank

Paul Smith, Marilyn Brimacombe, Liz and Michael Wedlake and all our friends at the Shaftesbury Theatre; Peggy Mayes; Norman Glover at Tower Marketing; Barry Widecombe at The Ratcliffe School; Everyone at the OMWA, for their patience during Set Building



Book, Music and Lyrics by James McDonald, David Vos and Robert Gerlach  
Additional Music by Ed Linderman

### Director

Julia Ascott

### Musical Director

Colin Warnock

### Choreographer

Helen Harman

### Designer

Jill Wilson

OMWA Clubhouse, South Croydon  
19th to 22nd July 2005

Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish  
23rd to 27th August 2005

*An amateur production, by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.*

### Please Note:

The Shaftesbury Theatre auditorium has been fitted with an Inductive Loop System. Members of the audience with hearing aids should set them to the "T" position.

Please remember to turn off all Mobile Phones and Pagers.

Members of the audience are reminded that the use of Photographic, Recording or Video equipment is not permitted and in the interest of safety and comfort, please note that smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I was involved with the Mitre Players' first production of *Something's Afoot* in 1989 - when I assisted Colin Warnock who was directing and also did the choreography. It was a great success so I am really surprised that I have never heard of another production of it anywhere else, and was obviously delighted to revisit it again when asked to direct it for this summer's tour. I don't know why it is not performed by more societies - perhaps it is the elaborate set & ingenious death scenes that puts them off, but you know the Mitre Players - we love a challenge and creating a stately home in the Old Boys clubhouse and then moving the whole lot down to Devon and recreating it at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish is all in a (long) days work for this talented (crazy) bunch.

*Something's Afoot* is never going to go down in history as a "classic piece of theatre", but we hope you will agree it is very funny and has some great toe tapping numbers. It is perfect for our summer tour and we trust will provide you, the audience, with a memorable evening. The cast have had enormous fun bringing the wonderful characters to life and those behind the scenes have certainly risen to the challenge too!

I am hugely grateful to the construction crew - especially Alan Collins, Alan Bishop & Colin Parrish who have given up several weekends to build this fabulous set to ensure Wiggy's marvellous design becomes a reality. We are so lucky to have such a great backstage team in all the departments - props, sound, lighting, costumes, special effects, box office, front of house and set construction & design - we really couldn't do it without you guys so THANKS!

This is definitely the easiest time I have ever had directing, because with a cast this good, all I had to do was point them in the right direction, wait for them to learn the lines and leave them to it. They have all been a real pleasure to work with and have made my job not only hugely enjoyable (I've never laughed so much at rehearsals) but also really very stress free (and it is not often you will hear a director saying that!)

Helen Harman has been a huge asset to the society with her imaginative choreography - we tend to work very much in the same way and often came up with the same ideas, so it is a delight to have her on the team. My job was made easier still by having my Mum, Gillian as my "right hand man", writing everything down and making sure we didn't forget anything, as well as prompting (although I hope we will have little use of these skills during the performances!) And of course with Colin taking care of the Musical Direction, assisted by James Beal and the wonderful band we couldn't really go wrong.

To put together a touring show which is also designed to be a holiday, involves a lot of hard work so my thanks go to those who have made it happen once again. I'm sure we will all have a marvellous time in Dawlish and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed in some way. What a team!

So, all in all, this has been an extremely happy production to be involved with and my wish is that our enjoyment will be conveyed to you in the audience, and that you too will have as much fun watching, as we have had rehearsing and performing. Thanks for coming tonight - and if you enjoy it, tell all your friends!

## THE MITRE PLAYERS

### OFFICIALS

**President** Chris Tarrant

**Past President** 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, Tanya Smith, Anna Warnock

### ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

**Box Office Hotline** 0845 2255799 (Local rate)

**Theatre Club Organiser** Colin Warnock

**Membership Secretary** 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, including an annual visit to either the Minack Theatre, Cornwall or the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish.

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 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 here 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 to join, or want more information, please contact our Membership Secretary: Julia Ascott on 020 8239 1010 or log on to our Web Site at:- [www.mitreplayers.org.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.org.uk)

## THE CAST

<b>Clive</b>	Colin Warnock
<b>Lettie</b>	Lorraine Price
<b>Flint</b>	Paul Smith
<b>Hope Langdon</b>	Emily Grogan
<b>Dr. Grayburn</b>	Alex Greenslade
<b>Nigel Rancour</b>	Ian Brown
<b>Lady Grace Manley-Prowe</b>	Julia Bassett
<b>Colonel Gillweather</b>	Dave Price
<b>Miss Tweed</b>	Morven Rae
<b>Geoffrey</b>	Mark Goody

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### **Spring 1935.**

The action takes place in Rancour's Retreat, the country estate of Lord Dudley Rancour, located on an island in the middle of a lake, somewhere in the Lake District

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

A Marvellous Weekend  
Something's Afoot  
Carry On  
I Don't Know Why I Trust You (But I Do)  
The Man With the Ginger Moustache  
Suspicious

### *20 Minute Interval*

*Drinks and coffee will be available in the Foyer/Bar.  
Interval drinks may be ordered from the bar before the performance*

The Legal Heir  
You Fell out of the Sky  
Dinghy  
I Owe It All  
New Day

## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

<b>Director</b>	Julia Ascott
<b>Musical Director</b>	Colin Warnock
<b>Associate Musical Director</b>	James Beal
<b>Choreographer</b>	Helen Harman
<b>Designer/Scenic Artist</b>	Jill Wilson
<b>Stage Managers</b>	Gillian Bartle, Alan Collins
<b>Set Construction</b>	Alan Collins, Colin Parrish
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Alan Bishop
<b>Sound</b>	James McLeod
<b>Costumes</b>	Anna Warnock
<b>Props</b>	Sue Carter
<b>Special Effects</b>	Andrew Thompson
<b>Backstage Assistance</b>	Lesley Bates, Liz Dolman Mark Goody, Mary Holton, Pete Marr, Colin Marshall, Julian Parsons, Lou Parrish, Dave Price, Dave Richards, Jan Richards, Adam Tibbalds, Charles Thomas, Ben Warnock
<b>Rehearsal Pianists</b>	James Beal, Colin Warnock
<b>Programme</b>	Alan Bishop, Paul Smith
<b>Handbill Design</b>	James Beal
<b>Box Office (Croydon)</b>	Liz Kallend, Gill Frost
<b>Box Office (Dawlish)</b>	John Bartle, Mary Holton
<b>Publicity</b>	Lesley Bates
<b>Tour Co-ordination</b>	Alan Bishop, Anna Warnock
<b>Front of House</b>	Kelly Beard, Tanya Smith & Members of The Mitre Players
<b>Photography</b>	Charles Marriott

## THE BAND

<b>Musical Director and Keyboards</b>	Colin Warnock
<b>Associate Musical Director and Keyboards</b>	James Beal
<b>Keyboards</b>	Ian Rae
<b>Drums</b>	Craig Backway
<b>Bass</b>	Lawrence Addison

**NAME: Director ALIAS: Julia Ascott**

MODUS OPERANDI: Doesn't stop! Always got something on the go. Can be quite exhausting!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Sheer energy – she will wear you down!

BACKGROUND: A Mitre Player virtually all her life, she has racked up an enormous number of productions both on and backstage. Acting in productions of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Outside Edge* and *Habeas Corpus* and directing *Honk!*, *A Slice of Saturday Night*, *The Elephant Man* and several pantomimes.

CURRENT ACTIVITY – juggles two jobs (school secretary and PA in a TV writers agency), two sons and only one husband.



**NAME: Lady Manley-Prowe ALIAS: Julia Bassett**

MODUS OPERANDI: Never known to be less than chirpy – but beware, especially when she says 'Ooooooh Saucy!'

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Uses sheer glamour to lull victims into a false sense of security, before despatching them.

BACKGROUND: Another veteran Mitre, with shows such as *The Boyfriend* and *Nicholas Nickleby* under her belt, she was recently seen as a brassy blonde in *Stepping Out* and as a flat chested spinster in *Habeas Corpus* – there's versatility for you! She is soon to be seen as Roxanne in *Cyrano de Bergerac* this Autumn and, incroyable as it may seem, she is a Dawlish virgin.

CURRENT ACTIVITY: She claims to be the Secretary of the Mitre Players.



**NAME: Nigel Rancour ALIAS: Ian Brown**

MODUS OPERANDI: Appears to be an upper class twit; but don't be deceived, behind that mask is a cold ruthless heart!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Uncontrollable arms which are more than likely to have your eye out!

BACKGROUND: Last seen for The Mitres disguised as an egg and a teddy bear in *Robinson Crusoe*. A former pupil of Trinity School, Croydon, Ian has been in countless productions including; *The Boyfriend*, *Mr Cinders* and *Nicholas Nickleby* and has directed, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Guys and Dolls* and will be in charge of our production of *Oliver* next Spring.

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Runs a branch of the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy for children, passing on all his many, many years of experience.



**NAME: Geoffrey. ALIAS: Mark Goody**

MODUS OPERANDI: Gives the impression of having no idea how to dance – a complete ruse in order not to show anyone else up!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Probably a trailing leg while he is dancing – watch out for being tripped up!

BACKGROUND: Recently hidden himself away from view with the Mitres by stage managing *Robinson Crusoe* and *Abigail's Party*, he debuted in *The Madness of George III* in a fetching wig, pulling curtains. He has also been on stage elsewhere, notably as Simon in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Often to be seen masquerading as a retail consultant, which he claims is his 'job'!



**NAME: Hope Langdon ALIAS: Emily Grogan**

MODUS OPERANDI: Those innocent looks would charm anyone, but, beware, they disguise a tough, uncompromising heart!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Sings like an angel, only to lure men to certain doom!

BACKGROUND: Though only 19 years old and the youngest cast member by far, Emily has now clocked up four Mitre shows including this: *Guys and Dolls*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, which saw her debut at Dawlish. Soon to be seen as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* at Croydon's Ashcroft Theatre.

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Might be seen or heard studying for her ABRSM singing diploma.



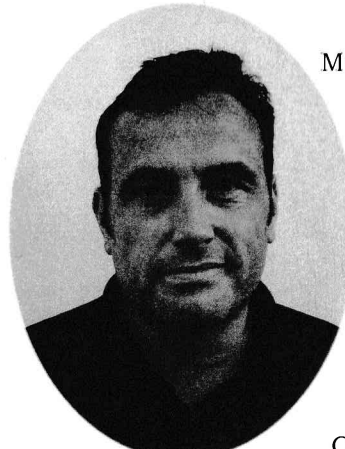
**NAME: Dr Grayburn ALIAS: Alex Greenslade**

MODUS OPERANDI: Well known for his impersonations – watch out, he could be doing you next!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: You may never know what's in his doctors bag!

BACKGROUND: With 20 years hard labour with The Mitres, Alex last appeared in Dawlish with *Godspell* and has been involved in many productions over the term of his sentence, including, *Guys and Dolls* and *The Madness of George III*. A former pupil at Trinity School he speaks fluent French and German – very handy for all suspects!

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Runs his own business in Croydon and employs three other Mitres.



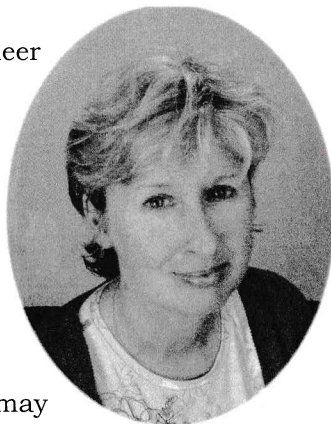
**NAME: Choreographer ALIAS: Helen Harman**

MODUS OPERANDI: One can be overwhelmed by her sheer energy; works fast and with boundless enthusiasm.

WEAPON OF CHOICE: You never know what might be in her delicious lemon cake!

BACKGROUND: A choreographer for over 30 years, Helen has been involved in numerous shows in that time, mounting productions in Crawley, Bromley, Croydon and Epsom, to name but a few venues. Her exploits have taken her to foreign climes including involvement in a production of *Oklahoma* in Hungary!

CURRENT ACTIVITY: When not kicking those legs, you may spy Helen gardening or indulging in the mysteries of yoga.



**NAME Miss Tweed ALIAS: Morven Rae**

MODUS OPERANDI: Few people are deceived by the real life Scots accent – most people know that there is a South Croydon drawl aching to escape!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Those muscles, which come in handy for her chosen profession. Would you pick a fight with this character?

BACKGROUND: Previous convictions with The Mitres include *The Hunting of the Snark*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Honk!* but she has also been seen with outfits such as CODA and The Miller Centre, Caterham. Morven is a Dawlish virgin – is Dawlish quite ready for her?

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Often to be seen pulling people about on a couch – she is a physiotherapist!



**NAME: Colonel Gillweather ALIAS: Dave Price**

MODUS OPERANDI: Loves to dress up! Especially in military uniform of any sort, witnessed by his background activities!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Usually a pistol, rifle, sword, dagger – anything deadly really!

BACKGROUND: Another former Trinity School pupil, he hates people to know what he has done in the past, but as referred to above, his obsession with uniforms has come into play several times including; *The Long the Short and the Tall* (which he also directed), *The Madness of George III* and various Pirates in Panto! Married to Lettie, he is still amazed how he managed to attract her – must be something to do with his weapons!

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Usually dashing about here and there – and has made several visits this year to the Middle East!!!



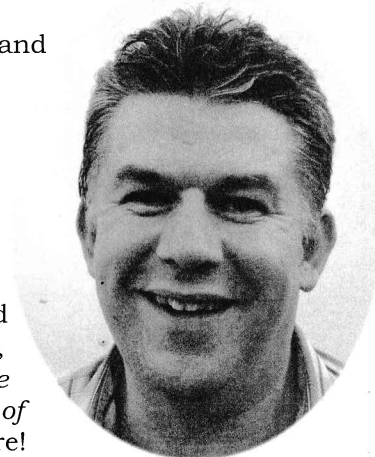
**NAME: Flint ALIAS: Paul Smith**

MODUS OPERANDI: Don't be fooled by his laughter and lightheartedness – he has a filthy temper when he directs!! It's true!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: Don't get him on the subject of London – he may well use all his wiles to bore you to death! (see below)

BACKGROUND: A Mitre for 21 years he is the only surviving member of the original 1989 cast – though he has aged gracefully, he feels he is only just too old to reprise Geoffrey. Other shows include *The Mikado*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Honk!* and has directed *The Cherry Orchard*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The Madness of George III*. Also a tap dancing, marathon running bore!

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Charity worker of some years, he has been writing his London walking guide for some time and looks forward to seeing it in bookshops.



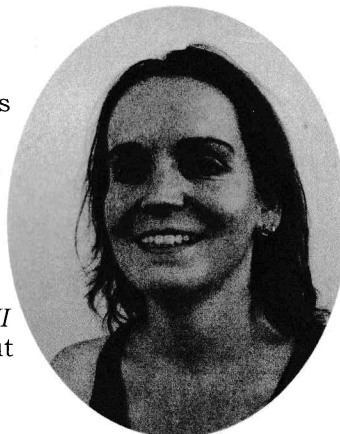
**NAME: Lettie ALIAS: Lorraine Price**

MODUS OPERANDI: Has a very dirty laugh which somehow lets you think there is more to her than meets the eye!! There is!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: What she can do with a feather duster is nobody's business!

BACKGROUND: Has been seen on various stages throughout Croydon over the years. Mitre appearances include *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Madness of George III* and various Pantos, Lorraine made her directorial debut earlier this year with her production of *Abigail's Party*. She is married to Colonel Gillweather.

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Works in the guise of a teacher and can also be seen running the streets of Croydon and London, a veteran of two marathons.



**NAME: Clive/Musical Director ALIAS: Colin Warnock**

MODUS OPERANDI: So busy all the time – juggles many jobs and activities in the air all at the same time!

WEAPON OF CHOICE: One of several in the cast with a distinctive laugh – too much of it could be lethal!

BACKGROUND: Former pupil of Trinity School and a founder member of The Mitre Players, he played the title role in our first production, *Charley's Aunt*. He has performed in many shows since and has been in charge of the music for countless others, including writing the music for nearly all of our pantos. He loved it all so much that he has been married to the current wardrobe mistress for 25 years this September.

CURRENT ACTIVITY: Works undercover at Laine Theatre Arts college for performing arts, where he has been since 1983.

