

The Mitre Players



Summer 2014

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™

A new musical *lovingly* ripped off from the motion picture
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail

The Minack Theatre

Next week at the Minack

William Shakespeare's

Love's Labour's Lost

Monday 25th
to
Friday 29th
August



Presented by the Hertfordshire Players

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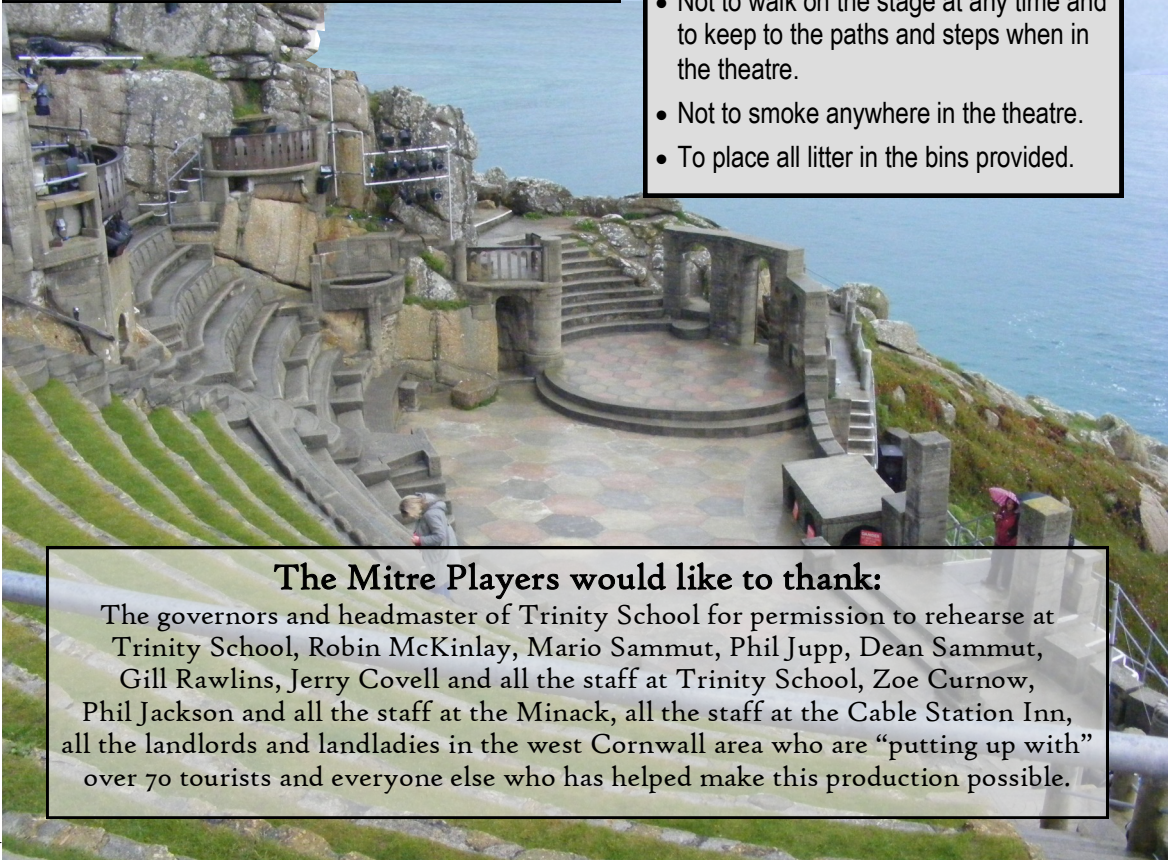
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In the interest of safety and comfort members of the audience are requested:

- Not to walk on the stage at any time and to keep to the paths and steps when in the theatre.
- Not to smoke anywhere in the theatre.
- To place all litter in the bins provided.

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

The governors and headmaster of Trinity School for permission to rehearse at Trinity School, Robin McKinlay, Mario Sammut, Phil Jupp, Dean Sammut, Gill Rawlins, Jerry Covell and all the staff at Trinity School, Zoe Curnow, Phil Jackson and all the staff at the Minack, all the staff at the Cable Station Inn, all the landlords and landladies in the west Cornwall area who are "putting up with" over 70 tourists and everyone else who has helped make this production possible.



The Mitre Players present

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™

A hit musical lovingly ripped off from the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"

Book and Lyrics by **ERIC IDLE** Music by **JOHN DU PREZ** and **ERIC IDLE**

From the original screenplay by:

Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin

Director

JULIAN CHENERY

Musical Director

COLIN WARNOCK

Choreographer

HELEN HARMAN

THE MINACK THEATRE

On the cliffs at Porthcurno, Cornwall

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd August 2014

This production opened on the 18th August 2014.

Approx running time is 2 hours 10mins including interval

Monty Python's Spamalot is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 750 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2100, New York, NY 10018. www.theatricalrights.com

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Original Broadway Production produced by Boyett Ostar Productions, The Shubert Organization, Arielle Tepper Madover, Stephanie McClelland/Lawrence Horowitz, Elan V McAllister/Allan S. Gordon, Independent Producers Network, Roy Furman, GRS Associates, Jam Theatricals, TGA Entertainment and Clear Channel Entertainment

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I would like to welcome you to the Mitre Players' production of Monty Python's Spamalot. I was part of our first tour to the Minack in 1992, when we performed **The Wizard of Oz**. Since then we have returned every two or three years with challenging shows that are not often performed by others (amateur or professional). These include **Honk!**, **The Hunting of the Snark**, **Just So**, **Moby Dick** as well as our own home-grown musicals, **Quasimodo** and **Gulliver's Travels**.

This time, on our 11th visit, we continue the tradition with **Spamalot**. We are very honoured to be currently the only amateurs performing it in England. We follow the recent Monty Python Reunion by the surviving members of the original comedy group at the O2 that sold out in 40 seconds and, you may recall, Eric Idle's acclaimed performance of Always Look on the Bright Side of Life at the 2012 Olympic Closing Ceremony - the world sang along and Spamalot audiences get the opportunity to do so too!

Some who have seen it in rehearsal have remarked that this is the 'perfect' Mitre show. It has been voted the funniest musical in Britain and is certainly in sync with our light-hearted and sometimes zany, yet professional and dedicated way of doing things.

Although the professional production in London's West End closed several months ago, the show is touring the country next year, but the closest to the Minack you would be able to see it is in Torquay in July!

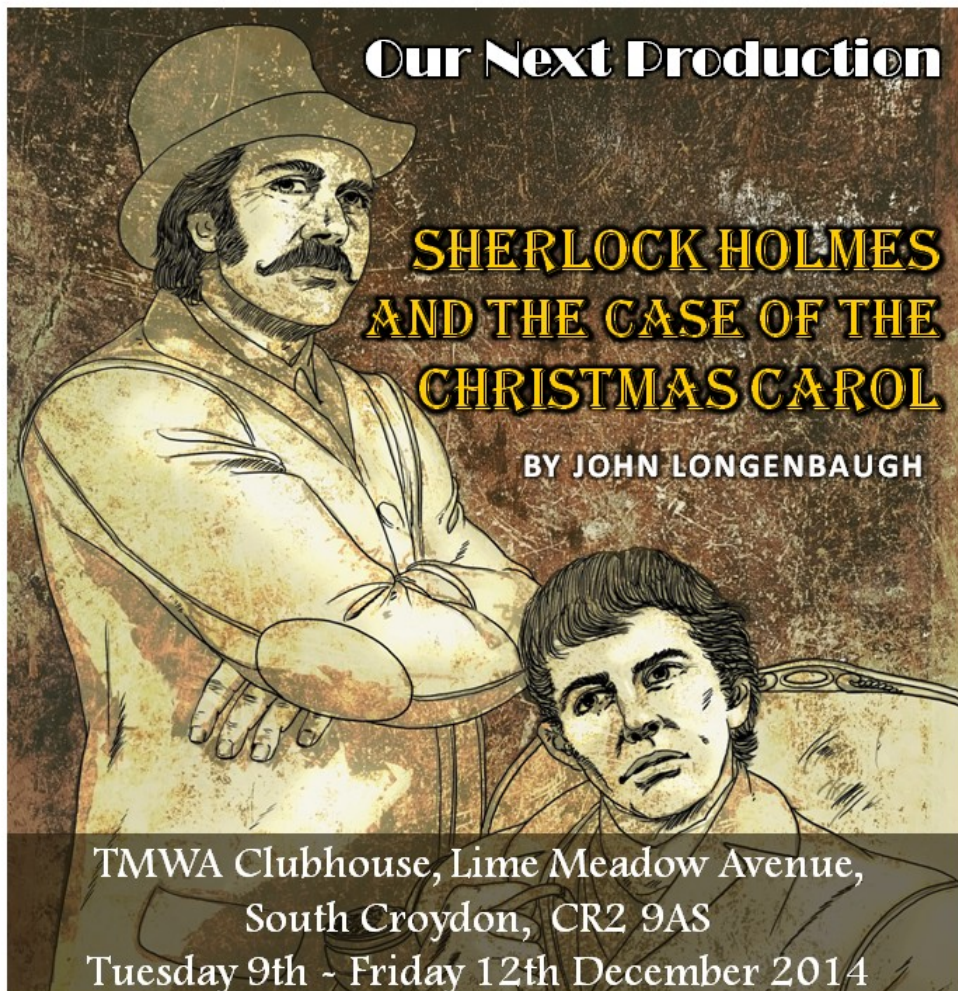
I hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we have rehearsing and preparing for it. If you are not seen it before, you are in for a treat and I would encourage you to join in the fun, particularly when it comes to singing that famous signature song!

Alex Greenslade

Chairman, The Mitre Players



Some things in life are bad, they can really make you mad
Other things can make you swear and curse
When you're chewing on life's gristle, don't grumble give a whistle!
And this will help things turn out for the best, and.....
Always look on the bright side of life!

An illustration in a sketchy, textured style. On the left, Sherlock Holmes stands with his arms crossed, wearing a brown hat and a light-colored coat. On the right, a young man with dark hair is shown from the chest up, looking towards the left. The background is a mottled brown and tan color.

Our Next Production

**SHERLOCK HOLMES
AND THE CASE OF THE
CHRISTMAS CAROL**

BY JOHN LONGENBAUGH

TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue,
South Croydon, CR2 9AS
Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th December 2014

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Monty Python's Spamalot is based on the true story of Arthur, King of the Britons, who not only found the Holy Grail but at the same time became the grandfather of musical theatre (this was way, way back ... pre-Stephen Sondheim!).

Obviously in the original story there was loads more killing and bloodshed and a lot less singing and dancing, but this version by the eminent historian Eric Idle and the Master of the Queen's Music John Du Prez has managed to balance historical fact with showbiz pizzazz.

The show was first performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company in rep with *Hamlet* in 1963 and the company memorably made full use of doubling set, costumes and swords. Elsinore castle made a good Camelot and Laurence Olivier famously won a double award for his portrayal of both Hamlet and King Arthur.

(In fact, rather like the coin-toss between Lords Derby and Bunbury over the naming of the Epsom classic horse race, there was some debate as to whether the eponymous Olivier Awards should have been called the Arthur Awards.)

Sadly the transfer to Broadway never happened in the 60s but it did eventually play there in 2005, when it opened at the Shubert Theatre (opposite Sardi's) starring Tim Curry as Arthur and David Hyde Pierce as Sir Robin. This was when I first saw and fell in love with the show and indeed with Sara Ramirez, who played the Lady of the Lake. On its transfer to London's Palace Theatre, I then fell in love with the even more wonderful Hannah Waddingham (who I'm pleased to say has since agreed to set aside the restraining order). The great Shakespearean Simon Russell Beale was also a memorable Arthur, as were more recently Marcus Brigstocke, Joe Pasquale and one half of Dick & Dom.



Some people think that *Spamalot* is merely a frivolous and irreverent spoof on the Arthurian Legend, but these deluded types fail to grasp the significance that the Holy Grail is “within us all”, as Sir Robin tells us. The quest to find the Holy Grail is in fact the quest to which we all aspire: to produce a hit Broadway show, and the nods and references to *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Funny Girl*, *The Producers*, *Man of la Mancha* et al are all part of this homage to the Great White Way.

For just as the Holy Grail is a Broadway hit, the most important theme of all is musical theatre - and I’m delighted to be able to bring a little bit of Broadway Arthur to his true home here in Cornwall.

JC

Our Spring 2015 Production

The Pirates of Penzance

The “Broadway” version

Read through / Auditions: **Sunday 7th September**

Performances: **19th – 21st February 2015**

At Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon

Further details from: www.mitreplayers.org.uk

IN REHEARSAL

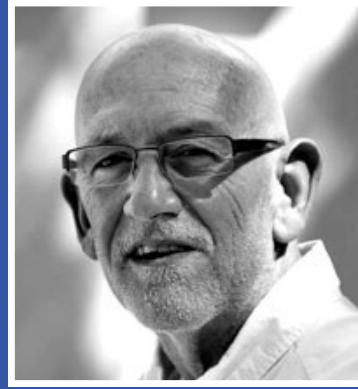




Patrons of the Mitre Players 2014

Carolyn Backway, Kate Benstead, Katherine Bottomley, Ann Bowden, Carolyn Burton, Berry Butler, Barbara Cobbett, Bill Cobbett, Del Cooper, Di Copas, Pat Curtis, Diana England, Mark Fleming, Anna Frost, Gillian Frost, Geoff Gear, Sue Gear, Enid Ghent, Martin Godber, Hilary Goldsmith, Emily Grogan, Andrea Harper, Jackie Harris, Catherine King, Don Lloyd, Darrielle Mayhead, Ian Mcleod, Alison Naish, Andrew Naish, Clare Parsons, Grace Parsons, Ray Payne, Pat Price, Sam Price, Morven Rae, Liz Raishbrook, Andy Rapps, Karen Rapps, Tony Rapps, Aileen Regan, Trevor Rowlan, Rosemary Saw, Vera Sewell, Alan Sexton, Heather Sexton, Kate Sheehan, Marion Steele, Mary Street, Michael Street, Joyce Swaffield, Charles Thomas, Jenny Vereycken, Barry Widger.

If you would like to become a Patron of the Mitre Players please log on to:
www.mitreplayers.org.uk



Eric Idle (Book, lyrics, and music)

He has multi-hyphenated his way through life, from being a writer and actor in the legendary "Monty Python" TV series and films to the creator and director of "The Rutles." He has appeared on stage singing rude songs with John Du Prez at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl as well as performing in two highly successful tours, Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python (2000) and The Greedy Bastard Tour (2003), for which they journeyed 15,000 miles across North America in a bus. *His Greedy Bastard Diary* of that tour is available from Harper Collins. Their latest work, a comic oratorio called *Not the Messiah*, will be performed shortly in Toronto. His play *Pass The Butler* ran for five months in London's West End; he has written two novels, *Hello Sailor* and *The Road to Mars*, a children's book, *The Quite Remarkable Adventures of the Owl and The Pussycat*, and a bedside companion, *The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book*. *Spamalot* has already won him a Tony, a Grammy and the respect of his wife and children.

John Du Prez (Music)

He is a Trevelyan Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, and Associate of the Royal College of Music. He entered the film industry in 1978 composing additional music for *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. This began a long association with Eric Idle, leading eventually to their current writing partnership. He has scored more than 20 feature films including *The Meaning of Life*, *A Private Function*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Once Bitten*, *UHF* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles I, II, and III*. Other Python projects include the *Contractual Obligation Album*, *Monty Python at the Hollywood Bowl* and *The Fairly Incomplete & Rather Badly Illustrated Monty Python Song Book*. He was musical director for Eric Idle's two North American stage tours, Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python (2000) and The Greedy Bastard Tour (2003). This show was his Broadway debut.

Monty Python

Is he God or Godot, an agent of the devil or an agent of the William Morris Agency, or is he, as some have argued, a fictitious character invented in 1969 by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin in a desperate attempt to find a title for their rather silly TV show? Whatever the truth, he is the eponymous impresario who fronts "The Flying Circus," *The Holy Grail*, *The Life of Brian*, *The Meaning of Life*, *And Now for Something Completely Different* and who appeared *Live* at Drury Lane, City Center and the Hollywood Bowl. He has fronted numerous books including *The Big Red Book* and the *Papperbok* as well as many CDs, DVDs and matching ties and handkerchiefs. He is currently in retirement in an old jokes home near Dover, anxiously awaiting Nighthood and a Knightnurse. Further details: www.PythOnline.com



THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Julian Chenery



Helen Harman



Colin Warnock

Julian Chenery (Director): Julian aka JC, The Legend or - since his infamous portrayal in *The Hunting of the Snark* here in 2004 – The Broker, has been involved with the Mitre Players since 1984 and first appeared with them here at the Minack as the Tin Man in the 1992 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. He was also in *Man of La Mancha* in 1994 and directed Stiles & Drewe’s *Just So* in 2006. He is a professional producer, director, writer and (sometime) actor and is best known for his work as the creative force behind Shakespeare 4 Kidz.

Helen Harman (Choreographer): Helen says it is a privilege to be involved in another Mitre production. Helen has choreographed all the Minack Mitre shows since 2004 and in addition directed our 2012 production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Helen would like to congratulate and thank the *Spamalot* cast and the wooden rabbit for all their hard work and input during rehearsals. Please let go of any worries and inhibitions, Look on the Bright Side of Life and enjoy an evening of hilarity and silliness!

Colin Warnock (Musical Director): Colin enjoyed acting and singing in a multitude of roles whilst he was a pupil at Trinity School and, as a direct result, he was a co-founder of the Mitre Players in 1973. He has continued to be involved ever since, either on stage or in the band. His lead roles over the past 20 years at the Minack include Cervantes in *Man of la Mancha*, Frollo in *Quasimodo*, Drake/Bullfrog in *Honk!*, Bellman in *The Hunting Of The Snark* and Eldest Magician in *Just So*. For the past two productions here at the Minack Colin has been MD - did he really say “never again”? Colin has worked at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom for the past 31 years, helping to train the stars of tomorrow.

THE MITRES ON TOUR

1987	Two Gentleman of Verona	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1988	Guys and Dolls	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1989	Chicago	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1990	Godspell	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1991	Roar of the Greasepaint.....	Falmouth Arts Theatre
1992	The Wizard of Oz	Minack Theatre
1993	Cabaret	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1994	Man of La Mancha	Minack Theatre
1995	Little Shop of Horrors	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1996	The Mikado, Revamped	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1997	Quasimodo	Minack Theatre
1998	Merrily We Roll Along	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1999	The Boyfriend	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2000	The Country Wife	Minack Theatre
2001	Return to the Forbidden Planet	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2002	Honk!	Minack Theatre
2003	Godspell	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2004	The Hunting of the Snark	Minack Theatre
2005	Something's Afoot	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2006	Just So	Minack Theatre
2007	It's Only Make Believe	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2008	Gulliver's Travels	Minack Theatre
2009	Boogie Nights	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2010	Moby Dick!	Minack Theatre
2011	The Wedding Singer	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
2012	Return to the Forbidden Planet	Minack Theatre
2013	A Slice of Saturday Night	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish



THE CAST

PAUL ADAMS

Historian

SARAH BLOCK

Ensemble

LAURA BRAND

Laker Girl, Ensemble

IAN BROWN

Brother Maynard, Ensemble

PETER CALVER

Sir Robin

PAUL COHEN

Mime Artist, A Knight of Ni,
Minstrel, Concorde, Ensemble

PETER DAVIS

Sir Bedevere, The Knight of Ni,
Ensemble

CLARE DEMPSEY

Laker Girl, Minstrel, Ensemble

JULIA GIBBS

Sir Bob, Ensemble

PAUL GRACE

Patsy

MICHAEL HALL

Mayor of Finland, Minstrel,
Prince Herbert's Father, Sir Bors,
Ensemble

ERIC IDLE

The Voice of God

JANE KORTLANDT

Ensemble

MIKE LILLEY

Sir Dennis Galahad

SIMON LONG

Not Dead Fred, French Taunter,
Prince Herbert, Ensemble

THOM MCGOWAN

French Taunter, Minstrel, Guard,
Ensemble

LAUREN MILSOM

Laker Girl, Ensemble

JOANNA MORRISON

Lady of the Lake

NEIL O'GORMAN

King Arthur

KRISSI PERRY

Ensemble

TONIA PORTER

Laker Girl, Guard, Ensemble

DAVE PRICE

Sir Kevin, Black Knight,
Tim the Enchanter, Ensemble

TAMSIN REEVE

Laker Girl, A Knight of Ni, Ensemble

BECI SAGEMAN

Laker Girl, Ensemble

ZIGGI SZARFRANSKI

Sir Lancelot

VICKY WATKINS

Dennis's Mother, Ensemble



BEHIND THE SCENCES

Director

JULIAN CHENERY

Choreographer

HELEN HARMAN

Musical Director

COLIN WARNOCK

Set Designer

JILL WILSON

Costumes

**CAROLYN CHENERY AND
ANNA WARNOCK**

Construction Coordinator
And Stage Manager

ALAN COLLINS

Lighting Designer

ALAN BISHOP

Sound Designer

JAMES MCLEOD

Special Effects and
CAD/CNC Realisation

ANDY THOMPSON

Deputy Stage Manager

DEREK LEE

Scenic Artists and Specialist Props

**PAUL ADAMS, PAUL BOWLES
JILL WILSON**

Properties

SUE LONG

Sound and Lighting

**LESLEY BATES, BEN MORRISON
JULIAN PARSONS**

Backstage Assistance

**LIZ DOLMAN, ALEX GREENSLADE
MARY HOLTON, ELIZABETH LEE
JON LEE, NIC LEE, VAL LEE**

Costume Team

**LIZ ARMITAGE, JULIA ASCOTT
LESLEY BATES, JULIE CUMBO
LIZ DOLMAN, JO GUNNER
DI JONES, JILL WILSON**

Programme

**ALAN BISHOP AND
ANNA WARNOCK**

Rehearsal and
Programme Photography

**JULIAN CHENERY AND
CHARLES MARRIOTT**

Dance Captains

MIKE LILLEY AND TAMSIN REEVE

Music Pre-Recording

MIKE WEBBORN

Rehearsal Pianists

**JAMES BEAL, ANDY RAPPS
COLIN WARNOCK, MIKE WEBBORN**

Production Managers

JULIA GIBBS AND DI JONES

Tour Coordinators

**ALAN BISHOP AND
ANNA WARNOCK**

Front of House

**ENID GHENT, BARRY GHENT
ROSEMARY SAW
PETER STOCKWELL AND MEMBERS
OF THE TOURING PARTY**



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture

Fisch Schlapping Song

Mayor and Villagers

King Arthur's Song

King Arthur and Patsy

He is Not Dead Yet

Not Dead Fred, Lance, Robin
and Peasants

Come with Me

Lady of the Lake

Laker Girls

King Arthur, Patsy, Mrs Galahad
and Laker Girls

The Song that Goes Like This

Sir Galahad, Lady of the Lake
and Laker Girls

All for One

King Arthur, Patsy and Knights

Knights of the Round Table

Full Company

Find your Grail

Full Company

Run Away!

French Taunters, Guards, Frenchies,
King Arthur and Knights

ACT TWO

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life

Patsy, King Arthur and Ensemble

Brave Sir Robin

Minstrels

You Won't Succeed on Broadway

Sir Robin and Ensemble

Diva's Lament

Lady of the Lake

Where are You?

Prince Herbert

His Name is Lancelot

Sir Lancelot, Prince Herbert and Ensemble

I'm All Alone

King Arthur, Patsy and Ensemble

The Song that Goes Like This (Reprise)

Lady of the Lake and King Arthur

The Grail

King Arthur, Patsy and Knights

We are Not Yet Wed

Girls, Knights and Ensemble

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life

The Company

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act One

The Mighty Portcullis
Moose Village
Mud Castle
Plague Village
Mud Village
The Magic Lake
Somewhere near Camelot
The Court of Camelot
At the Feet of God
The Quest for the Grail
The French Castle

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.

Act Two

The Very Expensive Forest
Elsewhere in the Forest
Another Part of the Forest
A Clearing in the Same Forest
On Stage at Spamalot
Prince Herbert's Chamber in Swamp Castle
Back in the Forest
The Cave of Caerbannog
The Holy Grail Wedding Chapel, Camelot

THE BAND

Musical Director and Keyboards: **COLIN WARNOCK**

Keyboards: **MARGARET DE VALOIS**

Keyboards: **JAMES BEAL**

Trumpet: **PETE COOPER**

Trumpet: **DANIELLE AUDLEY-WILTSHIER**

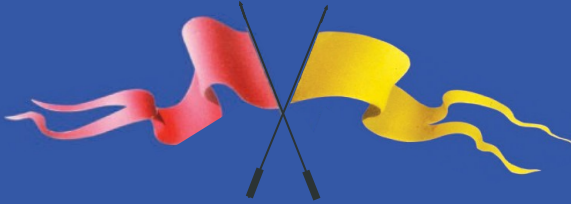
Drums: **TOM MILSOM**

Bass Guitar: **JAKE ARCHER**

Trombone: **SIMON BRIGGS**

Trombone: **RORY BRIGGS**

MEET THE TEAM



Paul Adams

Paul Adams (Historian and Scenic Artist): Paul designed the last Minack production two years ago, *Return To The Forbidden Planet*. This time he has been promoted to the boards, albeit a "hiccup and a burp". He started singing and acting 50 years ago, but he's 'Not (quite) Dead Yet!!

Sarah Block (Ensemble): *Spamalot* is Sarah's first show with the Mitre Players and although she originally auditioned for the role of Knight of Ni, being vertically challenged meant this wasn't to be. Always one to look on the bright side of life, Sarah is looking forward to proving she is not yet dead in this Monty Python extravaganza! Sarah enjoys singing and dancing and has previously enjoyed treading the boards in other plays and musicals. She may not succeed on Broadway, but is hoping to find her grail on stage at the Minack.

Alan Bishop (Lighting Designer): Alan has enjoyed lighting all the Mitres' shows at the Minack, especially the sun-drenched matinees. He remembers with affection all of the Python shows from their original TV airings, especially the "Argument" sketch, so if you would like the "full half hour", please let him know. By foolishly agreeing to make the turrets light up, he has now made work for himself as these show up during those previously unlit sun-drenched matinees.





Sarah Block



Laura Brand



Ian Brown



Laura Brand (Laker Girl, Ensemble): Laura is delighted to be making her debut with the Mitre Players, having been a supporter of their shows for some time. She performed at (and consequently fell in love with) the Minack Theatre for the first time in August 2013, where she appeared in the Barnstormers' production of *Parade*, which won the Minack trophy that year. She was so desperate to come back to perform again that she ended up tagging along with the first group who said they were going, which unfortunately for them and her ended up being the Mitre Players! In 'real life', Laura works for Surrey County Council and is currently completing a degree in Social Policy and Criminology with the Open University.

Ian Brown (Brother Maynard, Ensemble): Ian has been a Mitre for 32 years and has appeared at the Minack many times, his favourite roles here being Greylag the Goose in *Honk!* in 2002 and the Cooking Stove in *Just So* in 2006. Among other parts, Ian is playing a Frond in this show but would like to point out that he does occasionally play humans too. Being a Mitre Player has influenced Ian's whole life and for the last 20 years he has run the Croydon branch of the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy. As well as appearing on stage, Ian has directed ten shows for the Mitres.



Peter Calver



Paul Cohen



Peter Davis

Peter Calver (Sir Robin): This part represents a change for Peter as it is the most manly he has been cast in for some time. Usually to be found in high heels, creative hair dos and enormous breasts, he is altogether butching it up as Sir Robin, complete with dashing tunic, stylish boots and a dinky little chopper. The way he mounts his imaginary goat has also brought tears to many a man's eye, especially his... (note the use of an imaginary goat rather than an imaginary horse due to not being able to afford an imaginary horse). Once again he owes much to his cats who have ably assisted in rehearsals – Ben for helping with line learning, Jerry for sitting on any costumes he could get his paws on and Esmeralda for writing love poems to King Arthur, who she thinks is dishy...

Paul Cohen (Mime Artist, Knight of Ni, Minstrel, Concorde, Ensemble): Paul is a big fan of Monty Python so is really excited to appear in the show in a number of weird and wonderful guises. In recent years Paul has taken on the mantle of choreographer and assistant director, including *The Wedding Singer* and *Boogie Nights* for the Mitre Players. He returned to the stage in April appearing as a sex-obsessed mental patient in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Paul is pleased to be back on stage in a musical, although he is finding that his fitness levels aren't quite what they used to be! It's also been quite a while since he has had so many costume changes, so he apologises in advance if he appears on stage half naked as this will probably be due to his costume being blown over the cliff as he attempts a quick change!

Alan Collins (Stage Manager): This is the ninth time that Alan has been involved in building a set at the foot of the Minack cliff. Each time he hopes that, like other companies, the designer's vision will be two chairs and a table, but if they did it wouldn't be Mitre. To date there has been - Notre Dame cathedral for *Quasimodo*, a duck pond for *Honk!*, heaven knows where for the *Hunting of the Snark*, *Just So* was set on the grey, green, greasy Limpopo river, *Gulliver* travelled to Lilliput and Laputa amongst other places, then there was a Cape Cod whaler for *Moby Dick!* 2012 saw the USS Albatross crash-land on the **Forbidden Planet**. A full-sized fairy-tale castle with working portcullis is perhaps the most challenging to date. He still thinks that The Minack is one of the great venues and a privilege to work at.



Clare Dempsey



Julia Gibbs



Paul Grace

Peter Davis (Sir Bedevere, Knight of Ni, Ensemble): Peter is amazed to be back doing another Mitre tour show, as are we! He has now shown off for five Mitre shows and will be back for more, if they will have him! Having always tried to look on the luminescent side of existence, Peter finds his roles a stretch (one physically) and is glad to step up to the challenge. Boldly stepping up to play a knight will be a gas, although he is concerned for anyone downwind on stage! Peter has finally been allowed to show off his love for all things Trojan - has he understood this correctly?

Clare Dempsey (Laker Girl, Minstrel, Ensemble): This is Clare's return to performing in a show with the Mitre Players after last performing with them here at the Minack in *Just So* back in 2006 playing a variety of animals! In fact, after also having played a variety of bird fowl here in Mitres' *Honk!*, this will be her first time playing human roles on the Minack stage so that will make a nice change! The Minack is one of her favourite places in the world and she can't wait to sing, dance and shake her pompoms here in this fantastic show!

Julia Gibbs (Sir Bob, Ensemble): A Mitre Player it seems since swirling medieval mists and wild boar covered most of southern England, and slapping on woad was the beauty 'must have' product of the day, Julia feels she has finally served her Mitre apprenticeship. Previously seen at the Minack as Regan in *King Lear* (1998), *Honk!* (2002), *Gulliver's Travels* (2008) and more recently in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (2012). A lifelong fan of all things Monty Pythonesque, Julia has very much enjoyed being a Knight – particularly the banter, high kicks and horse riding!

Paul Grace (Patsy): Paul is celebrating his tenth quest to perform at the Minack. He's very proud that two of these journeys have resulted in the holy grail of the Minack Trophy: *Honk!* in 2002 and last year's production of *Parade*. Other favourite parts include Cookie in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Armand in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Paul will shortly start training as a drama teacher so hopes this experience guiding a right royal twit will serve him well!



Michael Hall



Jane Kortlandt



Mike Lilley

Michael Hall (Mayor of Finland, Minstrel, Prince Herbert's Father, Sir Bors, Ensemble): Michael is making his fifth appearance at the Minack, brought here once again by his trusty steed Fiesta. He fears nothing, except the Mitre committee. As an almost-qualified pensions actuary and CODA's treasurer, he loves vague numbers, and has appeared in between none and four hundred shows, favourites including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Once Bitten*, *Oliver!* and *Abigail's Party*. He is proudest of having led people to the fray directing *The Railway Children* and *Private Peaceful* over the last year, and being a five-time UK or global finalist in Empire Magazine's Done in 60 Seconds competition - the "Sandra Bullock" and "George Clooney" from his spoof minute-long version of Gravity are also in this show.

Jane Kortlandt (Ensemble): Jane has moved her red (no, blue) cardboard box down from the M1 for this show, and hopes the coal will be enough to sustain her through this gruelling week. If the Spanish Inquisition asks, it will be tough to answer what Python have ever done for us, so now onto someone completely different....

Mike Lilley (Sir Dennis Galahad): Mike feels he has been utterly type cast as the dashing handsome Sir Galahad. So good looking is he, the rehearsals have brought him some difficult moments with the women of the company constantly fighting over him! It's been exhausting. Mike hopes to steal his blonde wig at the end of the run as he's as bald as a coot underneath it! He can't wait to get into what surely are the best dressing rooms in the world with stunning views over the Atlantic. Enjoy the show.





Simon Long



Thom McGowan



Lauren Milsom

Simon Long (Not Dead Fred, French Taunter, Prince Herbert, Ensemble): This is Simon's ***th jolly jape with the Mitre Players, the first being in *Catherine Howard*. Regulars at the Minack might have seen him two years ago in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* as part of the ensemble. Having grown up a bit since then (but not a lot!) he has thoroughly enjoyed the utter silliness of *Spamalot* – just like real life. He has had great fun coming up with comic and quirky ways to play his characters, putting his acting skills to the test. In fact, he has enjoyed acting since the age of five, and is currently studying a part-time acting course at the prestigious Rose Bruford College in Kent. He also teaches drama to children between 5 and 18, and is passing on all that he has learnt during the rehearsals for *Spamalot*, creating new Monty Python fans along the way!

Thom McGowan (French Taunter, Minstrel, Guard, Ensemble): Thom has been enjoying Monty Python since as long as he can remember and he is very excited to be part of the Mitre Players' production of *Spamalot*. This is Thom's second show with the Mitres and he is over the moon to be performing at the Minack. Thom has been perfecting his "French" accent and cannot wait to fart in your general direction... Thom will also be playing the simple guard who can't follow orders. Conveniently this comes quite naturally to Thom as I'm sure our production team will agree.

Lauren Milsom (Laker Girl, Ensemble): She is particularly delighted to be supporting the Lady of the Lake in her role as a Laker Girl, as it's the first time since she was 14 she has been able to put her 100m Breaststroke Award to good use. She also has the enviable talent of being able to hold her breath under water for four minutes. Lauren is a regular singer and actress in amateur theatre, most recently playing Nancy in *Oliver!* for The Chipstead Players in Surrey. This is Lauren's debut with the Mitre Players and she is fulfilling an ambition to perform at the Minack for the first time.

*For life is quite absurd and death's the final word
You must always face the curtain with a bow!
Forget about your sin - give the audience a grin
Enjoy it - it's your last chance anyhow!*



Joanna Morrison



Neil O'Gorman



Krissi Perry

Joanna Morrison (Lady of The Lake): Joanna was thrilled to be cast as the underwater goddess and has spent the past six months completing some rigorous and at times, downright dangerous, underwater training to get herself prepared for the part. After this show she is considering becoming Aphrodite herself! Being the 'star' of the show she is surprised to have not been given more songs. However as a compromise she has insisted that her dressing room be filled with lilies, kittens and ostrich feather cushions! Joanna is very grateful for all your generous gifts and compliments and ask that you leave any further donations with her agent! Enjoy the show, darlings!

Neil O'Gorman (King Arthur): Neil, or 'My Liege', as he prefers to be addressed, has been destined to play 'The Once and Future King' ever since he was a small peasant. He feels the future of Britain is now in a safe pair of hands and foresees that any slight dissatisfaction with a new system of government is easily dealt with at the end of a large, pointy sword. In his spare time, Neil enjoys archery, horse riding, rough, manly tousing and knitting. Neil works tirelessly for over 150 charities, all of which seek to raise awareness of the plight of Spam.

Krissi Perry (Ensemble): Krissi is looking forward to having a fisch-schlapping time and is delighted to be back at the Minack for a third show. Not a fan of Spam, Krissi believes the show should be based on her favourite tinned meat and renamed Corned-Beef-A lot.





Tonia Porter



Dave Price



Tamsin Reeve

Tonia Porter (Laker Girl, Guard, Ensemble): Tonia is really excited at being back at the wonderful Minack and adds a few more characters to her repertoire. Having played a glamorous alien in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, she now plays a Laker Girl who lives mostly in the water and a guard complete with helmet and halberd. Luckily she is an experienced actress and dancer so these roles prove no challenge, except for the halberd – not much call for one of those at work!

Dave Price (Sir Kevin, Black Knight, Tim the Enchanter, Ensemble): ‘Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition’, but frankly, even more unexpected, is seeing Dave in a dance chorus for the first time in 20 years! His chief weapon is being loud... being loud and shameless...being shameless and loud... His two weapons are being loud and shameless...and a terrible dancer... His three weapons are being loud, shameless, and a terrible dancer... and an almost fanatical devotion to being silly on stage... His four... no... amongst his weapons... amongst his weaponry... are such elements as being loud, rubbish at dancing... he'll come in again. Even the less eagle-eyed amongst you will spot why he gave up dancing, but he promises that this is the last time - 'he is an ex-dancer; he has ceased to be!'

Tamsin Reeve (Laker Girl, Dancing Nun, Knight of Ni, Ensemble): Tamsin first toured to the Minack with the Mitres in 2006 as the Giraffe in *Just So*; another show with a quest. *Spamalot*, however, is ultimately far more ridiculous. Tamsin began channelling her inner 'Laker Girl' walking round Dove Lake in Tasmania singing at the top of her voice to the surprise of other tourists. Having previously choreographed *Nunsense* where she played the ballet-loving Sister Leo, she feels serenely at ease playing a dancing nun, even if this one is more of a diva. Finally as a Knight of Ni ... whatever the preparation, it's a far cry from her last role, Nurse Ratched in the Mitress *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, in April. *Spamalot* is just a different form of madness. Enjoy!

You'll see it's all a show, keep 'em laughing as you go
Just remember that the last laugh is on you
Always look on the bright side of life.....



Beci Sageman



Ziggi Szarfranski



Vicky Watkins

Beci Sageman (Laker Girl, Ensemble): Beci is delighted to be performing at the Minack again this year after previous performances as Miranda in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and Mary Phagan in the award-winning *Parade* production last year... But is wondering, 'whatever happened to my part?' Beci absolutely loves the comedy of *Spamalot* and Monty Python and hopes you don't think her dancing is an impersonation of John Cleese's silly walk.

Ziggi Szarfranski (Sir Lancelot): Having learnt to be a knight in the halls of Trinity, it took Ziggi nearly ten years (and prodding from Sir Colin of Warnock!) finally to join this magnificent travelling band! After emulating Sir Robin in theatres across the land, from the Edinburgh Fringe to the Royal Albert Hall as Bernardo (*West Side Story*), Collins (*Rent*), J. Pierrepont Finch (*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*) and Cookie (*Return to the Forbidden Planet*) amongst others, Ziggi is delighted to be returning to the Minack after *Olympus* (2012). A student by day and a teacher of minstrels by night, Ziggi also sings, acts and engages in the modern art of voice recording!

Andy Thompson (Special Effects): Andy is a founder member of the Mitres, which means he has done numerous shows over the last 40 years. Having been a professional special effects designer in the film industry for many years and worked with some of the Python team, he is usually asked to do 'something completely different'. This year it's the appearance of Lady of the Lake and some pyrotechnic effects and the computer aided design on the set. In previous years he has been responsible for Las Vegas style dancing waters, full size dancing robots, 12-inch high dancing animatronic figures. Notice the trend here? Andy is also a fully trained tap dancer who loves all sorts of flying in his (spare?) time.

Vicky Watkins (Mrs Galahad & Ensemble): Vicky is a Mitre 'virgin' which, considering she is playing Dennis's mother, seems highly unlikely. Because of her advanced years she is generally cast as someone's mother these days; no doubt soon it will be everyone's grandma! Far from being a 'virgin' Vicky is an old pro – yes - old and pro, having been around on the amateur theatre scene since the days when *Spamalot* is set. For some unknown reason she has made a career of playing drunks and old bags from Miss Hannigan (*Annie*) to Mrs Fraser (*Stepping Out*). No doubt this effort will be the same both on and off stage!

If King Arthur and his Knights
were with us in 2014 they would
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Warwick Jones, Peter Stockwell, Andy Thompson, Martin Tyrrell,
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Chairman Alex Greenslade
Secretary Di Jones
Treasurer Alan Bishop
Additional Members Ian Brown, Julia Gibbs,
Charles Marriott, Dave Price

Additional Contacts

Theatre Club Organiser Colin Warnock
Membership Secretary Julia Ascott
Box Office Number 07914 763422 or 0845 2255799

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the old boys 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 TMWA 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