

Forthcoming Mitre Events

BYE BYE BIRDIE PRESENTATION EVENING

Sunday 14th April at 7pm

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead
Details from Paul Longhurst. (020 8669 8613)

MITRE TENNIS DAY

Trinity School Tennis Courts

Sunday 21st April. 10.00 to 4.00

Details from Dave Price and Lorraine Titchener (020 8662 0938)

ALL AGE GAMES NIGHT AND SOCIAL

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

Friday 26th April from 7.30

Details from any Committee Member

PUB WALK AND MEAL

Sunday 5th May

Details from any Committee Member

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 16th June at 7.00

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

Details from Julia Gibbs (020 8686 2693)

AUDITIONS FOR BYE BYE BIRDIE

Sunday 30th June from 6.00

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

Details from Paul Longhurst (020 8669 8613)

HONK! THE UGLY DUCKLING

Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th July at 7.30

Saturday Matinee at 3.00

The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon.

Tickets from Sheila Garnett: 020 8650 7882

HONK! THE UGLY DUCKLING

Monday 5th August to Friday 9th August

Minack Theatre, Porthcurno, Cornwall

BYE BYE BIRDIE

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th October at 7.30

The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon.

For more details of any event, please contact any committee member
or log onto www.themitreplayers.com

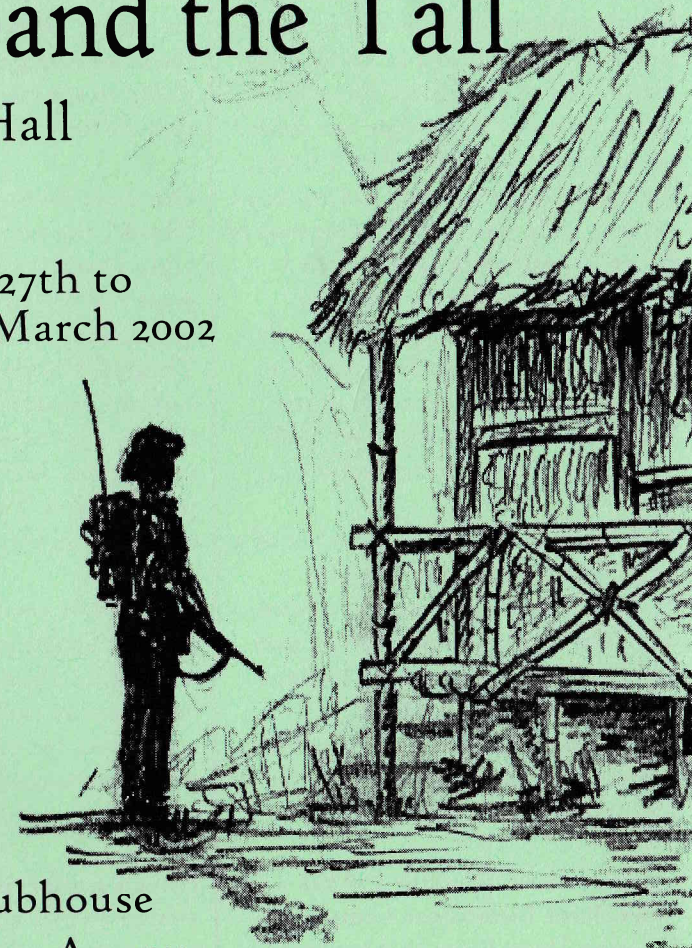
the mitre players

present

The Long and the Short and the Tall

By Willis Hall

Wednesday 27th to
Friday 29th March 2002



OMWA Clubhouse
Lime Meadow Avenue
Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey

Chairman's Letter



Welcome to the Mitre Players' Spring production of 'The Long, the Short and the Tall.' This is an unusual play for the Mitres, having an all male cast. This is a rare event but should not surprise us too much, as our roots are based in an all male School. Even so, I don't remember being involved in a single sex show, even when I was a pupil at Trinity, the last one I remember having boys playing girls was 'The Importance of Being Ernest' circa 1966, before I became involved with drama at school! I think I was part of the first generation to import leading ladies from Coloma Convent Grammar School and some of them are still members of the Mitres today!

This show is the directing debut of a more recent (although not that recent!) Trinity leaver, Dave Price, who, the regular ones amongst you will have witnessed taking various OTT roles in recent Mitre productions. We have managed to confine his role in this play to the smallest one for a change!

Our last show 'Aladdin and his Marvellous Limehouse Lamp' (starring Dave Price as Abanazer) was enjoyed by many who took part and who came to see it. We are now

actively searching for scripts for next years pantomime and welcome any original material from any budding writers out there. This is really the crux of what the Mitres are about. Giving opportunities to those who might not otherwise get them, to try new things and hone new skills, whilst having fun.

Our next show in July/August is 'Honk', the musical story of the Ugly Duckling. This promises to be great fun for all the family and will be taken on tour to the Minack Theatre, Cornwall after its initial run in Croydon. This is followed by the musical comedy 'Bye Bye Birdie' in October. Both shows will be performed at Trinity School's excellent facilities in Croydon.

As you can see this promises to be another active year for the Mitres with plans already under way for next year as well. We thank you, our audiences, for your support, without which we would not be able to continue our chosen hobby.

Have a good evening and best wishes to you all.

Andy Thompson. Chairman.

The Mitre Players

(A section of the Old Boys' Association of Trinity School)

Present

The Long and the Short and the Tall

By Willis Hall

Directed by
Dave Price

Assisted By
Julia Gibbs and Lorraine Titchener

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Limited.

Please note that smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

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

Please remember to switch off all mobile phones and pagers.

THANK YOU.

The Troops

465 SGT. MITCHEM, R.	Peter Bramwell
839 CPL. JOHNSTONE, E.	Keith O'Gorman
594 L/CPL. MACLEISH, A. J.	Neil O'Gorman
632 PTE. WHITAKER, S.	James Beal
777 PTE. EVANS, T. E.	Paul Bowles
877 PTE BAMFORTH, C.	Chris Bassett
611 PTE. SMITH, P.	Dave Price
JAPANESE SOLDIER	Nicholas Uglow

Support Personnel

DIRECTOR	Dave Price
ASSISTED BY	Julia Gibbs, Lorraine Titchener and Members of the Cast
SET CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN AND PAINTING	Paul Bowles, Colin Parrish and Dave Price
LIGHTING	Adam Tibbalds
SOUND	James McLeod
BACKSTAGE ASSISTANCE	Gillian Bartle, Alan Bishop, Michael Clark, Alan Collins, Julian Parsons, Andy Thompson, and Members of the Cast.
COSTUME SUPERVISOR	Sheila Garnett
COSTUMES AND GUNS BY	Harveys of Hove
PROPS	Paul Smith
PROMPTER	Julia Gibbs and Lorraine Titchener
HANDBILL DESIGN	Paul Bowles
PROGRAMME	Alan Bishop and Anna Warnock
PHOTOGRAPHS	Charles Marriott
BOX OFFICE	Julia Gibbs
FRONT OF HOUSE	Julia Ascott, Ian Brown, Diana Dobson and Members of the Mitre Players

The action of the play, which is virtually continuous, takes place in the Mayalan jungle during the Japanese advance on Singapore early in 1942. It is afternoon and the Japanese are being held by British forces twenty miles to the north.

The Director Writes.....

I remember reading Willis Hall's 'The Long and the Short and the Tall' when I was school. I was reading Private Evans with an absolutely execrable Welsh accent but it struck me as a particularly powerful play even at the tender age of fourteen. Willis Hall's construction of the play, his development of situation, the vividness and subtlety of his characters and his observation of relationships are so masterful that to a certain extent, the play looks after itself. Very handy when you're a first time Director! So when I was asked to suggest some plays that I might like to direct, despite other suggestions for the sake of form, 'The Long and the Short and the Tall' was really the only choice I wanted to make.

So having brashly and probably naively said that I would direct it, along came the tricky bit - directing the bloomin' thing. Upon closer inspection, I realised the extent to which the play stopped looking after itself and it occurred to me that we were going to have to do some work. At this point, I really would like to thank the cast for all the work they've done. Far from being stereotypes, the characters and the relationships

between them are incredibly complicated and open to a fair amount of interpretation so I cannot possibly take the credit for our success (or otherwise!) in exploring these. The guys, along with Julia Gibbs and Lorraine Titchener, have put in a fabulous amount of effort into working on this constantly evolving process.

The play is set in a distant storehut in the Malayan Jungle just prior to the Japanese invasion of Singapore. In effect, this means that apart from the more seasoned Sergeant Mitchem and Corporal Johnstone, none of the rest of the men has had any experience of war and certainly no contact with the enemy. The men stumble on this hut whilst on routine patrol and the action unfolds from here.

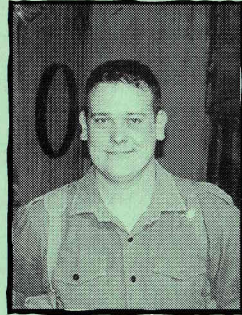
Thanks to everyone who has been involved, both in the thick of it, and doing the small tedious jobs which, criminally sometimes, can go unnoticed but without which disaster would ensue.

We've all enjoyed ourselves and we hope you do too. But remember one thing - we've got the guns!

Dave Price, (611 Pte. Smith P.)

Chris Bassett. Private Bamforth, C.

Chris began his military career in the Cubs where he gained many badges including needlework, knitting and washing up. He then progressed to the Scouts before joining the RAF. Chris has always wanted to be a pilot but had to relinquish this dream after repeated failed attempts at growing a handlebar moustache. He then tried to join the Wrens but this failed due to his refusal to shave his legs. Now Chris finds himself deep in the jungle in Sanderstead where hopefully his distinguished military career will continue to flourish!



James Beal. Private Whitaker, S.

James' military career got off to a distinguished start with the 12th Selsdon & Addington Cubs & Scout Pack, where he was rapidly decorated with numerous honours, including navigation, woodwork, pet care and sewing. Sadly, his tour of duty was cut tragically short and he had to be airlifted out of Frylands Wood after taking the full force of a 100lb homesickness bomb in the chest. However not to be put off, James decided to divert his attention to things nautical. A scuba diving

specialist in the CCF, his greatest triumph came during sailing exercises. It was through a mixture of cunning, stealth and sheer stupidity that he single-handedly sank ...the engine off the back of the safety boat (for which victory, he was awarded the Very Cross ... the Very Cross Sailing Instructor.)

Paul Bowles. Private Evans, T. E.

Having been told he would never be allowed into the army due to his flat feet (and only lasting two weeks in the Cubs), Paul thought his military career was surely over before it had begun. But now after spending endless evenings with six bad-tempered, sweaty blokes in the OMWA 'Malaysian Jungle' style clubhouse, he knows it definitely IS! From now on he is going to stick to playing with his toast soldiers and his 'dippy egg'!



Peter Bramwell. Sergeant Mitchem, R.

Peter's previous combat experience includes the East Croydon ticket barrier uprising (1999), the notorious "Hostile Woman" incident in Starbucks who wanted the last lemon chicken sandwich (2001) and the Real Ale Campaign (1976 - Present Day). Like many of his fellow troops, Peter's early training was forged in the Cub Scouts, refresher courses of "Paintball" and "Where Eagles Dare" have kept his secret weapon, pointless sarcasm, deadly. He has been mentioned in despatches for serious injuries sustained whilst assembling an IKEA bookcase.



Julia Gibbs. Director's Assistant

Julia began her military career when she joined the 2nd Chipstead Brownies. Highly decorated with badges including house orderly, ventures, writers and acting, she decided enough was enough and resigned before joining the Guides. Julia hates being told what to do, sleeping rough, getting up early and insects, so the thought of being in the jungle with the army is not her idea of good time!



Keith O'Gorman. Corporal Johnstone, E.

Continuing a long military tradition that runs in his family - his Great Grandfather was at Waterloo, his Scottish brother is a lance-corporal in his regiment, his mother is Boudicca and his girlfriend is Helen of Troy. Keith took a bullet in the head and is now mad, this obviously helps Keith with his involvement in amateur dramatics.



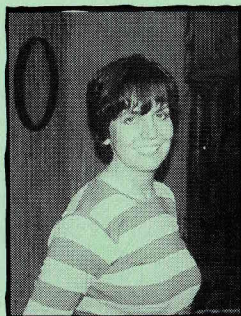
Neil O'Gorman. Lance Corporal Macleish, A.J.

Neil used to love playing with toy soldiers and action men but had to give this up when rehearsals for 'The Long and the Short and the Tall' proved too time consuming. In his spare time Neil enjoys developing his "Eagle Eyes" and "Grippy Hands". Neil is the only member of the platoon who is married.



Dave Price. Director / Private Smith, P.

Ignoring the Wednesday Mother and Toddler Group, which can at best be described as an irregular skirmish, Dave's first brush with the military came at the tender age of 8 when he was conscripted into the church choir. Six months later, emotionally scarred by the experience, he transferred to the Cubs and, under the vigilant and more or less psychotic eye of Akela Graham Chamberlain, he developed rapidly into an enterprising young lout and religious respecter of authority. Highly decorated, Dave was awarded the needlework medal, swimming awards 1 & 2 and the bob-a-job shield. Short spells in other outfits followed, including Trinity School's CCF and community service units (although for separate offences), but he found his true niche at last in the form of the St. Mary Magdalene Church football team, a crack battalion which he had the honour to command for 4 years before retiring from active service bearing the (honourable and dishonourable) wounds of countless battles. His promotion assured, Dave currently sits on the military junta which is the Mitre Players' committee. Hopefully this will be just a short stop on the road to world domination. His decorations to date include BA (Hons.), the Trafalgar medal and WC (with flush).

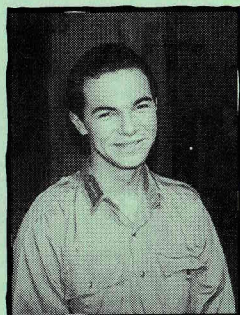


Lorraine Titchener. Director's Assistant

This Baldrick-type character was often A.W.O.L. during rehearsals so the word 'assistant' may be somewhat ambitious. However, her 'Zippy medal' for the use of odd flippant comments (received World War II-front line) came in useful when she did appear.

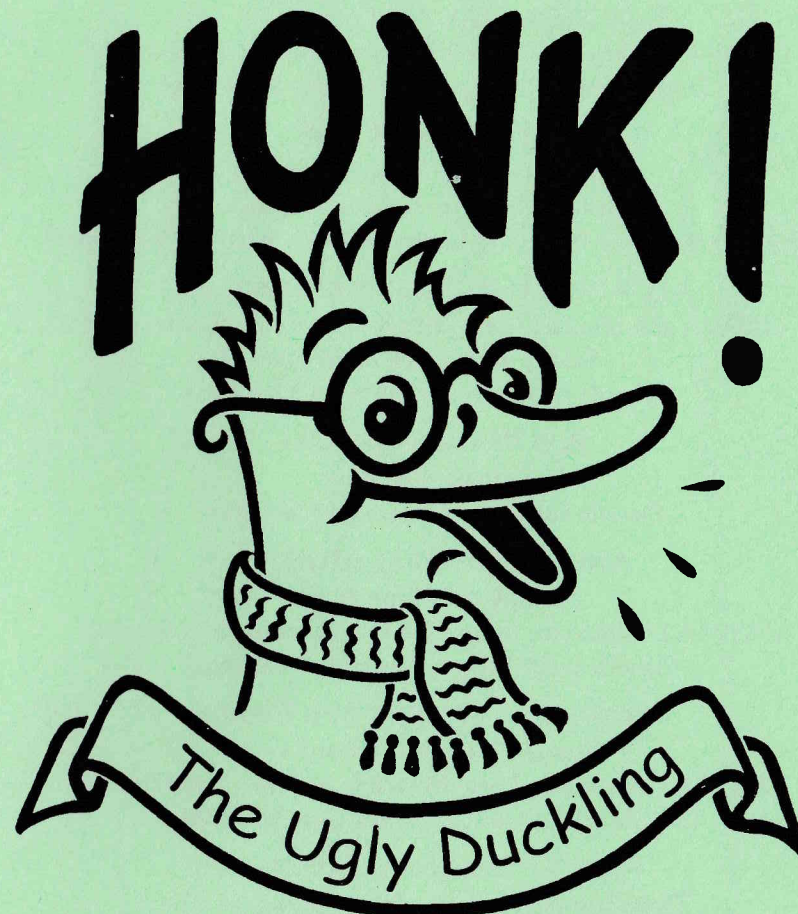
Nicholas Uglow, Japanese Soldier

Not usually noted for his silence, this part has been rather difficult for Nicholas to interpret. Unfortunately, due to the lack of dance routines, he is unable to demonstrate his considerable skills in this department. Having carefully avoided the CCF at Trinity 3 years ago, his only experience in H.M. uniform has been as a member of the Police Force - Comic Division, Aladdin 2002. Unaccustomed to Malayan huts, he is more used to the confines of sailing boats and his smoking jacket, with Noel Coward rather than cicadas sounding in the background.



the mitre players

Present



A Musical Comedy for all the Family

Based on Hans Christian Andersen's Fairytale; The Ugly Duckling

By George Stiles and Anthony Drewe

Thursday 25th to

At The Mitre Theatre

Saturday 27th July 2002

Trinity School

At 7.30pm.

Shirley Park

Saturday Matinee at 3.00 pm.

Croydon

Tickets £6.00. From Sheila Garnett: 020 8650 7882