

THE MITRE PLAYERS

PETER PAN

by Julian Chenery and Colin Warnock

Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon.

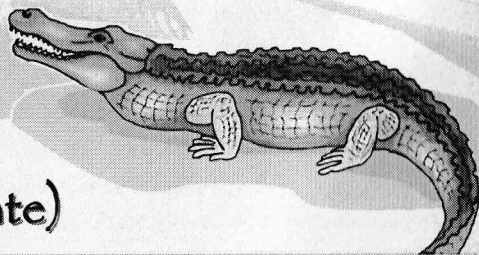
Thursday 8th to
Saturday 10th January 2004
at 7.30 (Saturday Matinee at 3.00)

Tickets: £7.00

(concessions £5.00)

From Sheila Garnett:

0845 2255799 (local rate)



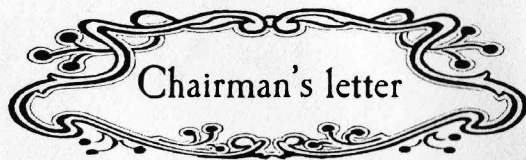
The Mitre Players

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III



THE MITRE THEATRE

OCTOBER 2003



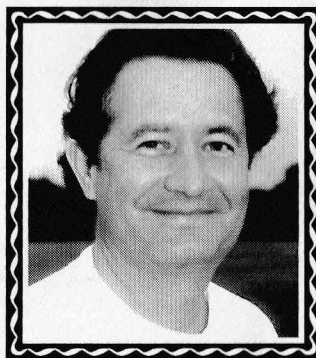
Chairman's letter

This year the Mitre Players have had a departure from doing mainly musical shows to three straight plays and we hope that tonight you enjoy the third of these dramatic productions, **The Madness of George III**.

We are pleased to welcome back Paul Smith as Director, together with a predominantly male cast, which is rare these days - even for a society founded in a male domain. We are however fortunate enough to be able to redress the balance slightly by having strong female support backstage.

Our pantomime in January 2004 will be **Peter Pan**, written by last year's successful team of Julian Chenery and Colin Warnock (**Beauty and the Beast**). It will also give our other blossoming section, the juniors, something to hone their skills on before they embark upon their own production of **Little Shop of Horrors** in April 2004.

Next year is an exciting one for us with another tour to the open air Minack Theatre, Cornwall where we are pleased to be staging the world amateur premiere of Mike Batt's **The Hunting of the Snark**. This will be the first time it has been presented



anywhere since its West End run in the early nineties and will be a challenge that we are looking forward to immensely.

The Mitres often stage shows which are not the tried and tested diet of productions approached by many societies. Indeed, this is one of our major strengths. We are always interested in welcoming new members and accepting offers of help from friends and colleagues. If you are interested in being involved with any of our forthcoming shows, in any capacity, we are always pleased to be contacted.

We would like to thank you - our audience - for your loyal support. Long may it continue!

Best wishes to you all.

Andy Thompson

Chairman of the Mitre Players

The Mitre Players

Present

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

By Alan Bennett

Directed by Paul Smith

The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School
Shirley Park, Croydon

Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October 2003

An amateur production, by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.



The Mitre Players would like to thank the Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for allowing us to perform **The Madness of George III** in the Mitre Theatre, Eyre Maunsell, John Bertram and team for their invaluable help and Peggy Mayes of the Miller Centre costume department.

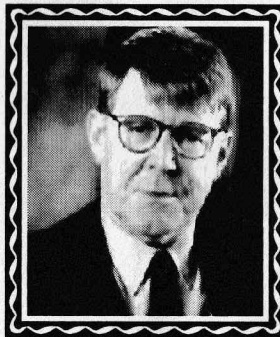
Please note that smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

We would also respectfully remind you that the taking of photographs and the use of audio and video recording equipment is strictly forbidden. Please remember to switch off all mobile phones & pagers.

THANK YOU

Alan Bennett

Alan Bennett first came to public prominence as part of the stage revue team 'Beyond the Fringe' which included Dudley Moore, Peter Cook and Dr. Jonathan Miller. His own stage plays made a name for himself as an individual. His early plays, **Forty Years On** and **Habeas Corpus** (performed by The Mitre Players in 2000) became firm favourites with audiences and actors alike - attracting performances from John Gielgud and Alec Guinness. Later plays such as **Kafka's Dick**, **Single Spies** and **The Lady in the Van**, as well as his adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's **Wind in the Willows**, show the breadth of his stagecraft. Television has also shown Bennett at his very best.



An Englishman Abroad and the **Talking Heads** series have made him as popular as ever and his ability to shift from dark to light moods is seen in so much of his work. In 1994 he published **Writing Home** a series of diaries, reviews and other writings which became a best seller and were irresistible pictures of this enigmatic man's work.

First produced in 1991, **The Madness of George III** is one of his greatest works. Unmistakably Bennett, it combines all the facets of his writing and storytelling so skilfully. This is a deeply humane work which played to full houses throughout its runs at the National Theatre and starred the late Nigel Hawthorne as the King in a truly masterful performance. The play was transformed into a fine film directed by the original stage director Nicholas Hytner.

Trinity School Drama Department
Present

Zigger Zagger

By Peter Terson

Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th November at 7.30pm.
Tickets: Adults £4.00. Students £3.00

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 Gibbs

Treasurer Alan Bishop

Additional Members: Kelly Beard, Ian Brown, Keith O'Gorman, Dave Price, Morven Rae

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Box Office Manager Sheila Garnett

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. 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 equally 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

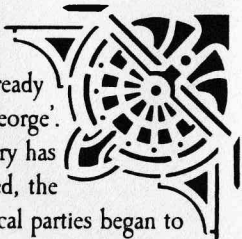
The Reign of George III Acceding to the throne at the death of his grandfather, George II (his father, Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales had already died) in 1760 at the age of 22, George III really was known as 'Farmer George'. His immensely long reign (the second longest reigning monarch this country has seen) saw dramatic national changes. The population of the country doubled, the Industrial Revolution accelerated, new social classes arose and modern political parties began to take shape. Abroad, Britain lost all her American colonies and endured a prolonged but victorious war with Revolutionary and Napoleonic France. The 1801 Act of Union cemented Ireland's ties with Great Britain and before George's death in 1820, Britain was Europe's chief power with a growing world empire.

He married Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in 1761 and was the most productive begetter of legitimate children since Edward III (15 in all), George proved hardworking and far more British and cultivated in outlook than his Hanoverian forebears. He was the first George to show interest in the Royal Navy and virtually created the Royal Library.

People blamed George for losing the American colonies and in 1765 he suffered the first of several increasingly severe attacks of apparent insanity, due to the rare and incurable ailment porphyria. Domestic virtues and good humour later earned him much affection. His eldest son Prince George became Regent on 5 February 1811. Deaf and blind, George III is said to have died of senility in January 1820.

George IV (1762-1830) As Prince Regent, then King, George IV effectively reigned for 19 years. Disregarding his underage and unrecognised marriage to Maria Fitzherbert, he married Caroline (his first cousin) so that Parliament would pay his debts. George's lazy, profligate life damaged the monarchy's moral influence, but his intelligent patronage fostered painting, literature and a whole style of itself - Regency. George took small interest in government and played little personal part in significant reforms that strengthened criminal law, encouraged free trade and religious tolerance. He died from internal bleeding and liver damage.

William Pitt (1759 - 1806) Pitt entered Parliament in 1781 and became Prime Minister in 1783 at the age of 24. He pursued liberal policies including the reform of finance through the levying of new taxes to cut the national debt, constitutional reforms in India and Canada and the signing of a commercial treaty with France. But he did not succeed in advancing the cause of Parliamentary reforms in which he believed so much. His liberal policies ended with the French Revolutionary Wars which he entered into reluctantly but which forced his government into repressive measures against radicals. His costly military coalitions against France failed to achieve victory on land. In 1800 he secured the union of Great Britain and Ireland, but he failed to win Catholic emancipation and resigned in 1801. Recalled to office in 1804 he died soon after hearing of Napoleon's victory at Austerlitz.



Charles James Fox (1749 - 1806) For many years Fox was the outstanding proponent of liberal reform and a Parliamentary orator of great note. A Whig, he entered Parliament in 1768 and became a close friend of the Prince of Wales. A long time critic of George III and a rival to Pitt, Fox opposed British intervention in the French Revolution and advocated legislative independence for Ireland, enlargement of the franchise and parliamentary reform. Abolition of the slave trade, which he proposed and urged, was passed in 1807. He was Foreign Secretary in 1782, 1783 and 1806.

The King's Illness The treatment of mental illness in the eighteenth century had hardly advanced from the medieval belief that attributed insanity to possession by devils. Thus the devils must be forced to leave the possessed by tormenting them. If this did not work, then the mentally ill were isolated and fettered to prevent them from doing harm to others.

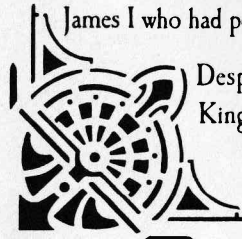
The doctors were utterly confused by the King's illness. Hosts of theories were produced and remedies suggested. Until recently, historians have believed those who advanced a psychological explanation. Many biographies assumed, wrongly, that George must have been mad in 1765; from there it was only a short step to implying that he must have been mad all his life. The effect has been to produce a distorted picture of the man and thus of his importance as an active and successful politician.

George III suffered from porphyria, a disturbance of the porphyrin metabolism. This is the process which produces the pigments which give blood its red colour. If there is more of the pigment than is needed by the blood, the urine becomes discoloured and the whole nervous system, including the brain, is poisoned. Porphyria can exist in varying degrees of severity; delirium only occurs in extreme cases and it is possible for the same person to have attacks which vary in intensity. The real clue to porphyria is red urine, which can be distinguished from that simply affected by blood by the very rapid changes of colour from normal to almost purple and back again. It is doubtful that any of the treatments given to George III by the doctors had any effect.

Porphyria can be transmitted from generation to generation and the diagnosis is supported by milder symptoms of the same disease appearing in other members of the King's family - his sister (the Queen of Denmark), four of his sons, including George IV and several of his German relatives. The disease can be traced back at least as far as Mary Queen of Scots and her son James I who had porphyria nearly as badly as George and suffered from spells of delirium.

Despite this there still remain question marks over the exact nature of the King's illness.

Porphyria was not understood until the 1930s and there is still no cure.





The Cast

The Royal Family

King George III	Warwick Jones	
Queen Charlotte, his wife	Diana Dobson	
The Prince of Wales] his sons	James Smoker
The Duke of York		Nicholas Uglow

The Royal Household

Lady Pembroke, lady-in-waiting	Lorraine Titchener	
Fitzroy] equerries	David Price
Greville		Keith O'Gorman
Papandiek	} pages	Richard Jones
Fortnum		Robert Critchett
Braun		Paul Bowles

The Government

William Pitt, the Prime Minister	Jolyon Roberts
Lord Thurlow, the Lord Chancellor	Geoff Saw
Henry Dundas	Andy Holton
Sir Boothby Skrymshir	Michael Cheesman
Ramsden, his nephew	Nick Lawson

The Opposition

Charles James Fox	Alex Greenslade
Richard Brinsley Sheridan	Chris Saville

The Doctors

Sir George Baker	Ian Brown
Dr. Richard Warren	John Bartle
Sir Lucas Pepys	Dennis Coombs
Dr. Francis Willis	Peter Bramwell

Margaret Nicholson	Julia Ascott
Maid	Mary Holton
Footman	Mark Goody

All other parts are played by members of the company



The Crew

Director
Paul Smith

Costume Supervisor
Nicholas Uglow
Assisted by Di Jones

Stage Manager
Gillian Bartle

Lighting Designer
Alan Bishop

Sound
James McLeod

Scenic Artist
Paul Bowles

Backstage Assistance
Michael Clark
Alan Collins
Julian Parsons
Dave Price
Dave Richards
Andy Thompson
Adam Tibbalds
Anna Warnock

Props
Mary Holton

Make up
Morven Rae

Production Manager
Ian Brown

Prompter
Ann Bowden

Programme
Alan Bishop
Anna Warnock

Photography
Charles Marriott

Foyer Display
Lindsay Szekeres

Box Office
Sheila Garnett

Front of House and Refreshments
Martin Garnett,
Tanya Smith
and Friends of the Mitre Players

Costumes supplied by
The Royal National Theatre,
Angels, The Miller Centre,
Allan Scott and Elizabeth Callow



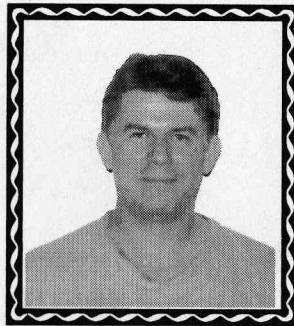
The action takes place in 1788-89 at various Royal locations.

The music used in the production is by George Frederic Handel and Jan Dismas Zelenka.

There is a twenty minute interval, during which refreshments will be available in the foyer.

Interval drinks may be ordered before the show.

PAUL SMITH (Director) has been appearing on stage for over thirty years. In that time he has played a whole variety of musical roles including Nicely-Nicely in **Guys and Dolls**, Seymour in **Little Shop of Horrors**, Koko in **The Mikado**, Frolo in the original production of **Quasimodo**, Eric 'Rubber Legs Devine' in **A Slice of Saturday Night** and The Cat in **Honk!** Straight roles include Malcolm in **Macbeth**, Juror 3 in **Twelve Angry Men**, at least 8 roles (including Nicholas) in **The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby** and Bottom in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at Shakespeare's Globe.



In between times he has directed **Spring and Port Wine**, **Toad of Toad Hall**, **Pack of Lies**, **Breaking the Code**, **The Cherry Orchard**, **The Bacchae**, **Fiddler on the Roof**, **Singin' In The Rain**, **Some Like It Hot**, **Quasimodo** and **The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby** (twice). Occasional writing has resulted in productions of his plays **The Play's The Thing** and **You Must Be Joking**.

Earlier this year Paul directed and recreated his role in **A Slice of Saturday Night** and directed **David Copperfield**. Directing **The Madness of George III** has been a long held desire since he saw it at the National Theatre three times.

Paul runs a training and consultancy business for charities and when he has time indulges his passion for gardening, painting and running. Earlier this year he achieved a long ambition of completing the London Marathon.

AUDITIONS FOR PETER PAN

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead.
 Sunday 2nd November 2003 at 6.00pm.
 Details from Dave Price: 020 8662 0938

PETER PAN

Trinity School, Shirley Park. Croydon.
 Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th January 2004 at 7.30pm.
 Saturday 10th January 2004 at 3.00pm.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

OMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead.
 Week commencing 5th April 2004.
 Details from Kelly Beard: 020 8657 6859

HUNTING OF THE SNARK

Thursday 29th to Saturday 31st July 2004 (Provisional)
 The Mitre Theatre, Trinity School, Shirley Park. Croydon.

BOX OFFICE FOR ALL MITRE PRODUCTIONS: 0845 2255799 (LOCAL RATE)

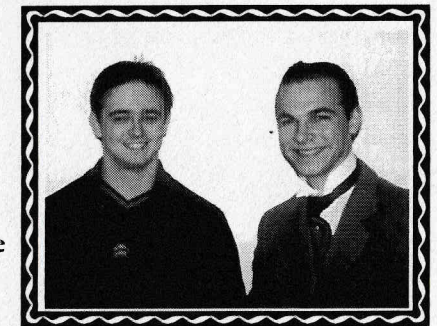
The Royal Family

WARWICK JONES (King George III) is delighted that after almost 30 years with the Mitres he has found a part where he can bring so much personal experience to assist with his interpretation. The fact that his wife is his dresser and his son is his page only adds to the domestic ambience. He will be announcing his retirement from the stage before every night's performance as he has done for, errrr, about 30 years.



DIANA DOBSON (Queen Charlotte) This is Diana's second role as a member of the German Royal Family - she played the Princess von Heineken in our 1987 pantomime, **Dame Sherlock**. Onwards and upwards. Diana might not have been so eager to play the part of Mrs. King, had she foreseen that she would be rehearsing at the OMWA Clubhouse with a couple of wire coat hangers tucked into her knickers. Only the foolhardy would venture into a bar full of rugby players

JAMES SMOKER (Prince of Wales) says this is as close to playing a pantomime villain as he will ever get - the future George IV is a fat loafer and nasty piece of work. The obvious jokes about typecasting will be omitted for obviousness sake. Working as English and Drama Assistant at Trinity in his gap year, James feels this experience of heavy-handed tyranny will be invaluable.



NICHOLAS UGLOW (The Duke of York) Nick's last play was **The Long and the Short and the Tall**, in which he was assaulted, held captive, shot and had no lines. He is extremely pleased to be in this madness and regards it as an exquisitely crafted script, with ridiculously short quick changes for the King; he has thoroughly enjoyed being Wardrobe Mistress to an extremely talented cast and Jolyon. He is Oscar Wilde and Noël Coward in his spare time.

The Royal Household



KEITH O'GORMAN (Captain Greville) is continuing his tradition of playing soldiers – Keith was a crazy guard in *Quasimodo*, a psychotic Corporal in *The Long and the Short and the Tall* and now a soldier to a mad King. He is an avid film fan and has recently started work in the music department of Addington High School.

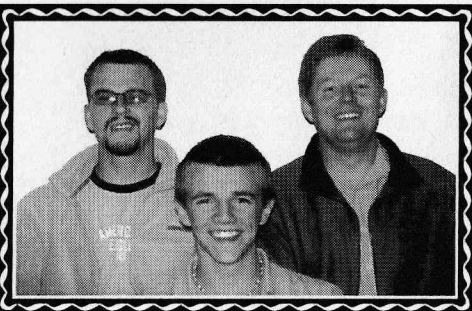
LORRAINE TITCHENER (Lady Pembroke) rarely has the chance to play a Lady, the only other time was Lady Jacqueline in CODA's production of *Me and My Girl*, but she was quite a different kettle of fish. Usually cast as 'the tart with a heart' she is thrilled to be playing this straight faced, (but none the less attractive for it) more demure character. Lorraine is also thrilled that for once she is wearing a costume that does not necessitate her having to ask 'Does my bum look big in this'?

DAVE PRICE (Captain Fitzroy) Ah yes! Back in uniform again! Dave believes he was a soldier, a sailor or a dominatrix in a previous life - he can't remember which but he misses the uniform! Ever since directing and acting in *The Long and the Short and the Tall*, Dave has favoured military parts. Recently he's has to make do with a sabre rattling idiot brother in *Beauty and the Beast* and wielding his axe in this year's summer show *Godspell*. (It's a muso guitar thing!) He therefore feels that nasty Captain Fitzroy is a 'major' step back in the right 'general' direction.

PAUL BOWLES (Braun) Paul's last appearance for the Mitres was in *Honk!* Prior to that he was Evans, the Welsh boy in *The Long the Short and the Tall*. Since then there have been a few career and life style changes (usually because the career doesn't pay for the life style!). He designed & painted the set for last year's panto *Beauty and the Beast* and more recently designed the set for *Peggy for You*. Paul was last seen as Geoffrey in *Stepping Out* at Oxted's Barn Theatre. Fortunately for him (and us!) there will be no tap dancing in this play.

RICHARD JONES (Papandick) is currently at Trinity preparing for his GCSEs. He says that the most difficult aspect of his part was having to show respect to the King (his father!), but claims to be a good actor. He has been in the last 4 Mitre pantos, amongst other shows, but thinks this is his favourite production. He especially enjoyed the thrill of rehearsing in a cold hall on Thursday evenings while completing pieces of course work.

ROBERT CRITCHETT (Fortnum) joined The Mitre Players in 1996, but after two years decided to give drama a break and concentrate on playing soldiers in the Territorial Army. Eventually the lure of performing could no longer be resisted, and he made a triumphant return in *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Godspell* - a complete contrast to this show! When not performing or playing with his weapon he can be usually be found in his garden with the pansies.



The Government



ANDY HOLTON (Henry Dundas) is an 'Old Boy' who never trod the boards in his school days. However, he enjoyed his first Mitre Players venture in *Bye Bye Birdie*, where he sang (!), danced, acted, did a voice-over, and appeared on the silver screen in video. But times have changed and after this performance in *Madness*, he may never be allowed North of the Border again.

JOLYON ROBERTS (William Pitt) (the younger) is playing the part of a man who was a raging alcoholic, well known for his ability to polish off up to seven bottles of good French Burgundy in a single day. He was socially dysfunctional, humourless and not the greatest hit with the ladies (perhaps they found the gout a turn-off). Jolyon has no idea why the director thought he might be suitable for the part and asks you to consider his performance as an example of the triumph of technique over experience.... honestly.

GEOFF SAW (Lord Thurlow) joined the Mitre Players in 1974 in a drunken moment, playing an ugly sister in our first pantomime *Cinderella Charleston*. He enjoyed the experience so much that he followed it up by playing Bernard of Clairvaux in *Abelard and Heloise* in 1977. Such was the dramatic impact of these performances that he was very

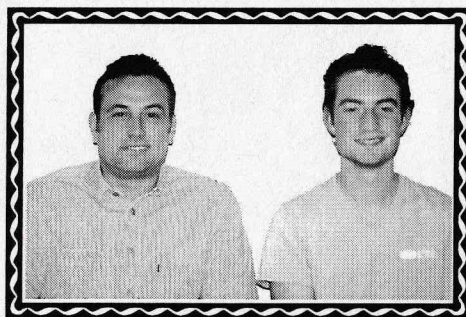
quickly promoted to the stage crew, where he spent many happy years until he became too old, arthritic and useless; and so decided to slum it back on the stage. He is retired and lives in darkest Surrey.



MICHAEL CHEESMAN (Sir Boothby Skrymshir) has been a 'stalwart' of The Mitre Players for some years, and has enjoyed every minute (well, almost!). He is especially pleased to be in such a fine play as *The Madness of George III*, under such a good Director, and as part of such a pleasant company.

NICK LAWSON (Ramsden) feels this part was written specifically for him as Alan Bennett describes Ramsden as 'genially vacant' – a description that could equally apply to Nick himself. His other appearances for the Mitre Players have included Trofimov in *The Cherry Orchard*, Eddie in *A Slice of Saturday Night*, Bobby Van Heusen in *The Boyfriend*, and Dennis in *Habeas Corpus*.

The Opposition



ALEX GREENSLADE (Fox) has been a Mitre Player since leaving Trinity x years ago. Alex finds drama the perfect compliment to a hectic life running his own company. He usually struggles with his words, but has far fewer in **Madness** than in the last show, **Godspell**, where dancing and singing made them even harder to remember. Having once been active in politics, he is pleased to be portraying one of the former great and good.

CHRIS SAVILLE (Sheridan) On arrival in Croydon from his native Yorkshire it took Chris just 45 minutes to discover The Mitre Players and it now seems that he will be forever 'forced' into every part that demands a northern accent. After studying drama at university and spending too much time at Fringe Theatre Festivals, it's actually about time he was involved in a play people want to see!

The Doctors



DENNIS COOMBS (Sir Lucas Pepys) has been a Mitre Player for over 20 years and enjoyed playing every role, from an inarticulate caveman in pantomime to Colonel Pickering in **My Fair Dame**. Favourite shows have been **Quasimodo** at The Minack Theatre, Cornwall and Starveling the tailor in **Midsummer Night's Dream** at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London. Tonight trust him – he is a doctor!

PETER BRAMWELL (Dr Francis Willis) has decided to make a career change from playing policemen to a vicar turned quack physician. This is probably a bad move as his sensitive nature has suffered badly from the abuse hurled at him by the King. After a much needed course of therapy, he has decided to embark upon a political career....

IAN BROWN (Sir George Baker) Last year Ian had a break from playing 'thick' roles - he was the 'grumpy' American dad in **Bye Bye Birdie**, Ian is now playing his stupidest part to date! One wonders what training was required to become the King's first physician as Sir George appears to know nothing at all about medicine. Earlier this year Ian was mad enough himself to have directed the joint Mitre/Trinity production of **Romeo and Juliet** but says it was worth it in the end.

JOHN BARTLE (Dr. Richard Warren) has appeared in over 70 productions, including more than 60 for The Mitres, usually being cast as a doctor, policeman or vicar so this portrayal of Dr. Warren continues the trend. He was last seen as the third apparition in **Beauty and the Beast**, a farmer, goose and swan in **Honk!** and the boss of Paramount Pictures in **The Biograph Girl**.

The Chorus



MARK GOODY (Footman) Mark is delighted to join the Mitre Players for this prestigious production, even though it was due to the indisposition of a cast member, followed by some 'internal promotions' which in turn lead to a vacancy as Footman/ Offstage Voice/Curtain Puller. Previous shows have included **The Boyfriend**, **The Miracle Worker** and **Jesus Christ Superstar** (all for CODA).

MARY HOLTON (Maid) nearly appeared for the first time in a posh costume (as a lady-in-waiting) after years of playing maids (**The Boyfriend**), tramps (**The Roar of the Greasepaint the Smell of the Crowd**) and the dregs of Paris (**Quasimodo**). Alas, in a Mitre economy drive it was not to be.

JULIA ASCOTT (Mrs Nicholson) Julia is now specialising in playing tiny roles – this being one of her smallest to date. However she feels these can be even more challenging as you have less time to make an impression. If you arrive a minute late for this performance you will have missed her and be more likely to spot her in the bar at the interval!