

20th - 23th October 2021
The Mitre Theatre, Trinity, Ichool

Souvenir Programme

## The TSSSC, Lime Meadow Avenue Sanderstead CR2 9AS

President Alasdair Kennedy
Past Presidents Mark Bishop

Chris Tarrant Robin Wilson

Vice-Presidents Julia Ascott

Julia Ascott
Gillian Bartle
John Bartle
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Ian Brown
Alan Collins
Julia Gibbs
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Anna Warnock
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Chairman Colin Warnock
Treasurer Alan Bishop
Secretary Jo Morrison
Committee Members Julia Ascott
Megan Brown
Louise Gauntlett
Jon Lee
Ziggi Szafranski

#### PATRONS OF THE MITRE PLAYERS

Katherine Bottomley
Chrissy Bright
Ros Broyd
Berry Butler
Mark Fleming
Anna Frost
Gill Frost
Martin Godber
Helen Harries-Rees
Carol Inge
David Lane

Colin Marshall
Clare Martin Reed
Ian McLeod
Alison Naish
Andrew Naish
Andrew Rapps
Trevor Rowlan
Paul Smith
Chester Stern
Niccola Swan



The Mitre Players is the dramatic society for former pupils of Trinity School, Croydon (The Trinity Club). 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 TSSSC 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.

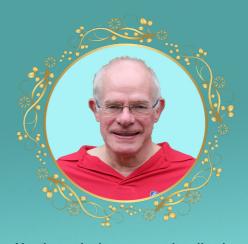
If you would like more information, please contact our
Membership Secretary, Julia Ascott membership@mitreplayers.org.uk
or visit our website
www.mitreplayers.org.uk

### COLIN WARNOCK CHAIRMAN

Well, this has certainly been a busy 6 months for the Mitres! Hot on the heels of our triumphant production of Our House, which we succeeded in performing this summer against all the odds, we lurched straight into The Wind In The Willows at the beginning of September. And it has been full steam ahead for the last 7 weeks, with most of our cast turning up to 3 rehearsals a week!

The Mitre Players, of which I am a founder member, started life in 1973 as the dramatic section of the past pupils' association of Trinity School, Croydon. Nowadays, it is not necessary to have studied at Trinity to be a member, although we retain strong links with the School and are fortunate to use their magnificent facilities for some of our shows. Ever since our beginnings, we have been a family society and I am pleased to report that our cast are from all age groups including several offspring sharing the stage with a parent or two. Long may this continuel

After a gap of several years, we welcome back my very old friend Helen Harries-Rees as director. Together with choreographer Jo



Morrison, she has more or less lived night and day with this production, guiding us through an extremely complicated rehearsal schedule. We also welcome Sheridan Lloyd as our Musical Director for the first time; I'm not certain he had realised the enormity of his task when he took it on, but he has survived more or less intact.

Our grateful thanks must also go to all who have helped get this show onto the stage including Alan Bishop, Alan Collins, Paul Bowles and all the backstage team, the wardrobe team, our splendid orchestra (3 of whom are Trinity alumni) and the Front of House staff.

There was a time last year when we wondered if we would ever perform again. Well - WE'RE BACK!!



## HELEN HARRIES-REES DIRECTOR

Although Helen moved to Chichester 5 years ago, she is no stranger to The Mitre Players. Her first show with the society, was a production of Backstage, way back in 1985. Since then, she has had the pleasure of playing many roles including Roxy in Chicago, Mary in Merrily We Roll Along, The Modest Modiste in The



Clockmaker's Daughter and Lowbutt (how rude!) in Honk! Helen loves directing for the Mitres and was privileged to lead the company in The Wizard of Oz, on our very first tour to The Minack Theatre in Cornwall. The last time she took to the director's chair was for City of Angels, and she is thrilled to be back and working with such a talented bunch of animals. Helen is proud to be directing her son in his first leading role and has loved having her daughter and grandson involved in the cast too. Putting on a large musical in only 7 weeks has certainly been a challenge for Helen and she seems to have developed a nervous twitch, due to all the noise at rehearsals, but she has loved every minute of it and is even now considering seeking a place on the riverbank to live out the rest of her days in retirement!



## LO MORRISON CHOREOGRAPHER

Jo is thrilled to brush off her choreographic skills from pandemic retirement, to bring a delight of woodland creatures to life and has spent countless hours watching David Attenborough documentaries to figure out the manner in which Weasels or Rabbits would chasse or do a box step. Having bagged herself

a small cameo she was delighted to be playing a full horse and not just the back end of one! With her forthcoming directorial work for the Oxted Panto this year, she fully intends to run masterclasses on how to successfully appear as both ends of a horse at the same time!!!

Jo has been on a whistle stop tour through Mitre productions since becoming a member 8 years ago. Whether performing, choregraphing, directing, as production manager or fulfilling committee duties, she can always be found close to the action causing an over enthusiastic whirlwind of possibilities.

Jo would like to thank Krystyna for being her body double during this production, as being a choreographer and breaking your back are not the best matches!

# SHERIDAN LLOYD MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Having trained at The Brit School and Rose Bruford College, Sheridan has worked on Dreamboats and Petticoats (West End), Buddy Holly: MD (Theatre Royal Windsor), Save The Last Dance For Me: Assistant MD (UK Tour), Dreamboats and Miniskirts: Assistant MD (UK



Tour), Dreamboats And Petticoats: MD (UK Tour), The Wind In The Willows: Assistant MD (Germany Tour) The Rudi Vaselino's (Henley Festival) Oklahoma!: MD (Shouson Theatre Hong Kong) Cats: MD (Theatre Royal Windsor), Jack and The Beanstalk (Cambridge Arts Theatre), and is piano player for "The Boulevards" 50s Rock 'n' Roll band.

Sheridan arranges music for singers and bands and recently spent six months teaching singing for the Centrestage Academy in Hong Kong. He has also been the MD and conductor for the Christmas choir at Emmanuel Church in Croydon. He is currently working for his church at the moment.



# ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER

This is Krystyna's second show with the Mitres, after performing in Our House just 2 months ago. With them being so welcoming and fun to perform with, she couldn't help but say yes when asked to assist with the choreography for The Wind in the Willows.

She is so proud of all the adults and children, who have been 'squirreling' away for just 7 weeks to put on a fantastic show. Watch out for those wild wooders, and enjoy the show.

#### MUSICAL NUMBERS AGT ONE

**SPRING** 

**MESSING ABOUT IN A BOAT** SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE

**ONE SWALLOW DOES NOT A SUMMER MAKE** The Swallows

THE OPEN ROAD

THE HEDGEHOGS' NIGHTMARE

THE AMAZING MR. TOAD

WE'RE THE WILD WOODERS

**AUTUMN** 

A FRIEND IS STILL A FRIEND

TOAD'S ESCAPE AS IF IN A DRFAM

Company Ratty and Mole

Mrs Otter, Ratty and Mole

Toad, Ratty, Mole, Horse

The Hedgehogs Toad and Company The Wild Wooders

The Field Mice

Badger, Ratty and Mole

Toad

Toad, Magistrate and Company

#### **ACT TWO**

WE'RE TAKING OVER THE HALL

TO BE A WOMAN

A PLACE TO COME BACK TO

THE WASSAILING MICE

THE GREATEST GREAT ESCAPE

HUSH!

THE FIGHT FINALE

The Wild Wooders

Toad and Gaoler's Daughter

Mole

The Field Mice

Toad and Company

Badger, Ratty, Mole, Toad, Mrs Otter

Company Company

#### The Mitre Players would like to thank:

lan Walsh, Nick Trend and Priscilla's Catering for their patience and co-operation during our rehearsals; Gordon Ferguson and all the porters for their help and assistance during our stay at Trinity School

We 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.

The whole of Trinity School and the grounds is a NO SMOKING (AND NO VAPING) area. If you wish to smoke you must go off-site.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts One and Two

Refreshments will be available in the Mitre Fover



KEVIN HAYES TOAD

Kevin generally likes to mess about so when he got the part of Toad, he felt right at home except this part has a full head of green hair.

Being a method actor Kevin felt Toad should be a bit rounder so he set to work and ate as many cakes as he could get his flippers on. We understand he's played animals before but mainly cats and dogs as in: The Cat in the Hat in Seussical, Rum Tum Tugger in Cats oh and Bonzo in a school play. He's also been nasty as in Sweeney Todd and Jekyll and Hyde. So if you put the two together you end up with the one and only Toad.



ZIGGI SZAFRANSKI RATTY

Depite attending Trinity until 2005, Ziggi only finally made it into a Mitre show in 2014 when he appeared as Sir Lancelot in Spamalot at the Minack. Since then, Ziggi has appeared in a number of other Mitre shows both on tour (Dick Barton, Curtains, Bugsy Malone and Our House) and at home (The Railway Children, City of Angels, and Big Fish). Elsewhere, he has been fortunate to play Francis (One Man Two Guv'nors), Freddy (Dirty Rotten Scoundrels) and hopes that he'll finally get to play Shrek next year having been forced to close at the dress rehearsal by the lockdown last March!

By day, Ziggi can be found at The Purcell School as Head of Drama, Sixth Form and Safeguarding whilst teaching singing and acting on the side.



DAVID HARRIES=REES MOLE

David has always been a huge admirer of earth dwellers and takes inspiration for his role as Mole from the critters at the bottom of his garden. This is David's first non-human performance and he has also been taking various "moley" tips from Helen (the director).

Jokingly, he wanted to remind everybody that, despite having the same surname and looking very similar, there is zero family relation.

Also, on a separate note, that he received this role on merit only.

David has played mainly bit parts for The Mitre Players over the years and is extremely grateful to be playing such a lovely part alongside his talented sister and nephews.



MICKY CHAMBERS
MRS OTTER

Nicky is thrilled to add another rodent to her repertoire - having played Mrs Beaver in The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe (Antic Disposition 2010) and Rattus Rattus in The Amazing Birthday (Polka Theatre 2000). A Mitre Player since she was eight she has progressed from child actor and juve lead to somewhat older character parts, usually playing someone's Mum! At least it's not Grandmas - yet! Recent Mums for the Mitres are Sandra in Big Fish, and Kath Casey in Our House. When not prancing about for The Mitre Players, Nicky is a PA to an environmentalist, a part time piano teacher and runs her own theatre company Another Way Theatre who are producing Polly Teale's version of Jane Eyre next June at The Minack Theatre



KEVIN GAUNTLETT BADGER

Finally back onstage with the Mitres, after a gap of 24 years (his last onstage performance being the titular role of Quasimodo at The Minack Theatre) and he's playing a Military Badger!

In the intervening years Kevin has appeared here, there and everywhere in many guises, but more recently has preferred the directing role more and more (fewer lines to learn!)

Kevin has directed the last two Minack shows for the Mitres: Me & My Girl in 2018 and, earlier this year, Our House.

Kevin was going to finish with a Badger Joke, but couldn't fit it into his sett.



KATE GAUNTLETT
PORTIA

This isn't the first time Kate has played an animal for The Mitre Players, having played the Cat in Honk! Jr. last year. After also playing an unsteady mermaid in Big Fish, and most recently the sassy Billie in Our House at the Minack, Kate is excited to swap her Baggy Trousers for her otter ears to play the more annoying character of Portia, as some would say it doesn't require much acting ("some" being her father...).

Even though 2021 started in lockdown, this is Kate's sixth show since May. She hopes you enjoy this fun-filled, family show!

#### THE CAST

Toad Kevin Hayes

Rat Ziggi Szafranski

Mole David Harries-Rees

Mrs Otter Nicky Chambers

**Badger Kevin Gauntlett** 

Portia Kate Gauntlett

Chief Weasel Laura Mackie

Lesser Weasel Ethan Thorne

Sheldon Stoat Tom Lilley

Horse Jo Morrison

Magistrate Colin Warnock

Gaoler's Daughter Hannah Rapley Hayes

Barge Woman Julia Gibbs

Mrs Hedgehog Megan Brown

Mr Hedgehog Mike Lilley

Little Hedgehogs Barnaby Brown Adam Price

Car Driver Chris Backway

Engine Driver Pat Price

Swallows Maria Hancock

Karen Rapps

Hannah Rapley Hayes

Field Mice Chris Backway

Maria Hancock

Eddie McConnell

Georgina Perry

Elana Punjani

Lara Thorne

Lara Inorne

#### EVENDLE

As above, with

Julia Ascott Melody Punjani

Miles Hammond Amelie Punjani

Andy Holton Vienne Punjani

Carole Lane Rebecca Rapps

Kim McEvoy Rachael Robinson

Dominic O'Shea Kate Slingerland

Krissi Perry Krystyna Szafranski



Book by

JULIAN FELLOWES

Musi **GEORGI** 

#### GREATIVE TEAM

Director Helen Harries-Rees

Musical Director Sheridan Lloyd

Choreographer Jo Morrison

Assistant Choreographer Krystyna Szafranski

Rehearsal Pianist Colin Warnock Production Manager Megan Brown

> "THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS" is presented authorised performance materials are supp 122-124 Regent Street, 5th floor, London



#### THE GREW

Stage Manager Alan Collins Deputy Stage Manager Derek Lee

Set Design Paul Bowles

Construction Manager Alan Bishop

and Stage Crew Carolyn Backway

Construction Team Denver Watkins

Paul Bowles

Liz Dolman

**Louise Gauntlett** Carol Inge

**Steve Thorne Vicky Watkins** 

Jill Wilson

Wardrobe Mistress Di Jones

Assisted by Anna Warnock

Mary Holton

Sara Jordaan

Sound Design James McLeod Lighting Design Ben Morrison

Follow Spot Operators Lesley Bates

**Julian Parsons** 

Props Jerri-Lee McManus

Assisted by Lizzy Lee

Special Effects Andy Thompson

Projections Jon Lee

Chaperones Louise Gauntlett

Claire Ali

Carolyn Backway

Esme Driscoll Julia Gent

Sian McConnell Elizabeth Raishbrook

Sarah Saltoon

Thalia Selby

**Monica Turner** 

Front of House Manager Vicky Watkins Box Office Manager Di Jones

Programme Ziggi Szafranski

c by Lyrics by STILES **ANTHONY DREWE** 

## THE BAND

Keys 1 Sheridan Lloyd

Keys 2 Andy Rapps Reed 1 Joe Mackley

Reed 2 Nigel Crane

**Guitar Dominic Mackie** 

Percussion Craig Backway

Trombone Paul Buckley

**Trumpet Pete Cooper** 

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LAURA MACKIE CHIEF WEASEL

Laura is delighted to be finally given the opportunity to play a baddie, something she is excited to tick off her stage bucket list! However, it has been a while since she has had the chance to properly exercise her vocal chords, so she apologises in advance for the copious amount of high-pitched wailing and screeching throughout the show.

It's also a first for Laura to be portraying an animal onstage, although a Weasel wasn't what she had in mind!

Laura has appeared in numerous Mitre shows since 2014 including Spamalot, Curtains, The Clockmaker's Daughter, Me & My Girl, Big Fish, and most recently Our House.



ETHAN THORNE LESSER WEASEL

Ethan's stage debut was at 10 years old with the Trinity Boys Choir as a fairy in A Midsummer Night's Dream with the ENO at the London Coliseum. He has since sung on multiple film soundtracks and played the role of a street urchin in Boris Godunov at the Royal Opera House.

Ethan has done voice and ADR work on a range of films and TV series.

His first appearance with The Mitre Players was as The Ugly Duckling in Honk! Jr. and then as Alex in Coram Boy, a joint production between the Mitres and Trinity School's Drama Department. He is thrilled to be playing the title role in the Trinity Christmas production of Shrek the Musical.



TOM LILLEY
SHELDON STOAT

Tom comes fresh from The Mitre Players' tour to The Minack Theatre this summer, where he stripped on stage and kept the women majorly enthralled. Tom enjoyed being back on stage so much that he jumped at the chance to do it again!

He is very pleased to be performing in The Wind in the Willows as a stoat - swapping good for evil for the first time! And as he has been teased about many times as being a 'cross dressing stoat' he thought he should actually give it a go.

Tom has thoroughly enjoyed being in The Wind in the Willows, even though it has been such a short rehearsal period, and hopes you enjoy the show.



GAOLER'S DAUGHTER

Hannah has often been called an animal in life so she is very pleased to be able to channel this on stage as a Swallow, Squirrel and Stoat and even more happy to have the opportunity to play the Gaoler's Daughter and help turn her husband into a woman!

Other colourful characters she has played have included Lucy in Jekyll and Hyde, Julia Gulia in The Wedding Singer, Vivian Kensington in Legally Blonde and Niki Harris in Curtains which was another lovely show with the Mitres.

Hannah wishes everyone a thoroughly enjoyable windy week in the willows!



MIXE LILLEY MR HEDGEHOG

Mike is delighted to be have recruited 3 marvellous new members for this marvellous production. He hopes Rachael, Melody and Dominic are enjoying rehearsals as much as he is. Sadly the cash payment of £5,000 per new member the management offered him seems to have been replaced by a piece of stale cake! He is sure they will come round and hopes you enjoy the show.





MEGAN BROWN
MRS HEDGEHOG

Megan has been a member of The Mitre Players since birth and appeared in her first with them as a baby. Since then, she has played a variety of leading roles for the society, most recently including the title role in The Clockmaker's Daughter, Sally in Me & My Girl and Sandra in Big Fish. This is not the first time that Megan has embraced her inner animal, having portrayed a rabbit, a duckling, and a kangaroo in the past.

Megan has loved being directed by her mother and is thrilled to be performing on stage tonight with her brother, David, her son, Barnaby, and her unborn baby (no, it's not lockdown weight gain!), who is due in 2 weeks – a real family affair!



# GOLIN WARNOEK MAGISTRATE

A founder member of The
Mitre Players in 1973, Colin has
performed on-stage, as Musical
Director, or in the band for
countless productions over the
past 48 years. Being now retired
from the day job, he is loving music
and drama being once again purely
a hobby – so much less pressure!

Previous Mitre roles on-stage have included George in Once In A Lifetime (1981). Cervantes in Man Of La Mancha (1994), Charley in Merrily We Roll Along (1998), Drake & Bullfrog in Honk! (2002), title roles in Charley's Aunt (1973) and The Scarlet Pimpernel (1989) and three pantomime dames.





THE WEASELS



THE FOXES

# THE WILD WOODERS



THE STOATS



JUNIOR WILD WOODERS

# GEORGE STILES MUSIC ANTHONY DREWE LYRICS



Stiles and Drewe are a multi award-winning musical theatre writing partnership whose shows have been seen all over the world and have been translated into many languages.

Their scores include the international smash-hit Cameron Mackintosh/Disney production of Mary Poppins, the Olivier Award-winning Honk!, which has been seen by more than 6 million people in over 8,000 productions, and the recent West End productions of Half A Sixpence and The Wind in the Willows. Their other shows are Soho Cinders, Betty Blue Eyes, Travels With My Aunt, Peter Pan - A Musical Adventure, Just So and Tutankhamun. George and Anthony have also completed a trilogy of 50-minute musicals for younger audiences, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Three Little Pigs.

Independently, as a composer, George's credits include the musicals Moll Flanders, The Three Musketeers, Tom Jones and the scores for Sam Mendes' stage productions of Twelfth Night and Uncle Vanya (Donmar Warehouse/BAM NYC).

Independently, as a lyricist, Anthony's credits include The Card (Watermill/Regent's Park) and A Twist Of Fate (Singapore Rep).

Other projects include song contributions for Dame Edna Everage's Look At Me When I'm Talking To You, the RSC's Shakespeare Revue and a commission for Elaine Paige.

Honk! has won many international awards including the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Mary Poppins has won 45 major theatre awards around the globe, including Tony, Olivier, Helpmann and London Evening Standard Awards. Stiles and Drewe were nominated for Best New Musical at the 2016 WhatsOnStage Awards for Half A Sixpence and Betty Blue Eyes was nominated for the 2012 Olivier Award. Other awards include the TMA Best Musical Award for Moll Flanders and The Straits Times Award for Best Musical for A Twist of Fate.

Stiles and Drewe's passion for new musical theatre is recognised via the annual Stiles and Drewe Prize for Best New Song, now in its 13th year, and their Mentorship Award supported by Music Theatre International (Europe). They are also founding board members of Mercury Musical Developments (MMD), Associate Artists at The Watermill Theatre and patrons of the London Musical Theatre Orchestra (LMTO) and The Musical Theatre Academy (MTA).



# JULIAN FELLOWES BOOK

Julian Alexander Kitchener-Fellowes, Baron Fellowes of West Stafford, is a British actor, producer, novelist, and screenwriter who is probably best known for creating the television series Downton Abbey, for which he also the sole writer and executive producer.

Fellowes was born in Egypt, where his father was with the British embassy.

While attending Magdalene College, Cambridge, he joined the Footlights comedy group and went on to study at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Beginning in the mid-1970s, he played character roles in scores of television series and movies; he later had a recurring role on Monarch of the Glen. He struggled to avoid typecasting, however, and in the 1990s he began to write TV adaptations of novels, notably Little Sir Nicholas, Little Lord Fauntleroy, and The Prince and the Pauper.

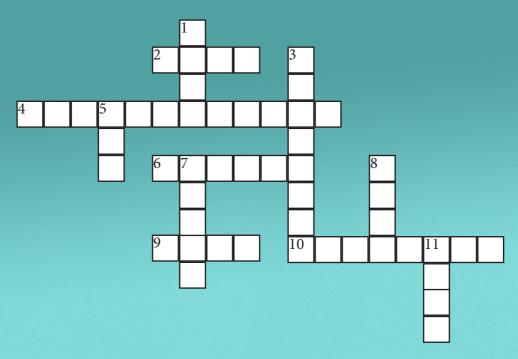
Fellowes's breakthrough came with his first produced screenplay, Gosford Park. It earned him several honours, including an Academy Award for best original screenplay. He later wrote scripts for Vanity Fair; Separate Lies, which he also directed; The Young Victoria; The Tourist; Romeo and Juliet; and The Chaperone.

In 2010 Fellowes created and produced Downton Abbey, which began following the fortunes of more than a dozen major characters, from the Earl and Countess of Grantham down to the scullery maid, in the pre-World War I period. Although the costume drama, which debuted on ITV, was dismissed by some as a well-dressed soap opera, it captured the public imagination and won numerous awards. In 2011 the show received an Emmy for best drama series, and Fellowes received an Emmy for his writing.

In the theatre, Julian Fellowes received a Tony nomination for his work on School of Rock, and has also been lauded for his work writing the book for Mary Poppins and, of course, Wind in the Willows.

He and his wife, Emma, live in London and Dorset. They have a son, Peregrine.

# FUN ON THE RIVERBANK!



#### **ACROSS**

- 2. A device used to sail or ride down a river.
- A. Where does Mole first meet Ratty?
- 6. What animal is normally black and white and starts with the letter B.
- 9. What cold, white stuff does Ratty want to avoid on their way home from the Gaol?
- 10. Where does one of the richest amphibians live?

#### DOWN

- 1. Who is the first animal you meet in the book?
- 3. Badger, Mole, and Rat are going to \_\_\_\_\_ Toad about his driving habits.
- 5. What small creature lives by, in and on the river?
- 7. When we first meet him, Badger likes to be left
- 8. The show is called The \_\_\_\_\_ in the Willows
- 11. Toad has an obsession with mobiles

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES FROM THE MITRE PLANERS

## Virtually Acting - In Person!

An Evening of One Act Plays

Directors: Jo Morrison and Paul Smith Performances:  $18^{\text{TH}}$  and  $20^{\text{TH}}$  February 2022

LOCATION: THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE

TO GET INVOLVED EMAIL JO.MORRISON@MITREPLAYERS.ORG.UK

Spring Ray

\*Title to be announced soon\*

Director: Di Jones

Performances: 6<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> April 2022 Location: The Clubhouse Theatre

HORRORS

DIRECTOR: PAUL GRACE

Musical Director: Shaz Dudhia Choreographer: Shelly Nash

Tour Dates: 29<sup>TH</sup> July - 7<sup>TH</sup> August 2022 Show Launch: 21<sup>ST</sup> November 2021 Auditions: 28<sup>TH</sup> and 29<sup>TH</sup> November 2021