

We have had a busy summer and there is a busy Autumn to look forward to. We hope you have enjoyed our regular electronic “MailChimp” newsletters which keep everyone up to date on an approximately fortnightly basis. However, we believe there is no substitute for a “hard copy” version, so here goes.....



Bish’s Quiz Night
Friday 20th October 7.30 for 7.45
TMWA/TSSSC clubhouse

The usual combination of general knowledge, obscure musical/entertainment facts, current affairs and general trivia will be tested at our annual quiz night NEXT FRIDAY at 7.30. Teams of approx. six are welcome or just turn up on the night to form a scratch team. Entry is just £3.00 per person to pay for the fabulous prizes. The bar is open from 7.00 and you can bring your own snacks (not drinks). What better way to spend a Friday evening??



The Railway Children - Musical Version
Tuesday 31st October – Friday 3rd November at 7.30pm
TMWA/TSSSC clubhouse

With only 61 seats per night and a cast of 20, including half a dozen children, tickets are selling very well, indeed Thursday and Friday are already SOLD OUT, we advise you to book for Tuesday and Wednesday NOW to avoid disappointment. Tickets are for £12 adults/ £10 children - available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/mitreplayers or tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk or call the box office: 07914 763422. There may well be a “returns list” and the only way to get on this is to send an email to “tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk”.

Rehearsals are now in full swing. This is the musical version of the classic story and stays pretty close to the original novel by E Nesbit ending with the unforgettable lines “Daddy, oh my Daddy”. With book and lyrics by Julian Woolford and music by Richard John (whose compositions on first hearing sound very similar to our very own Mr Warnock’s songs), Megan Brown is taking the director’s chair for her directorial debut. No stranger to the

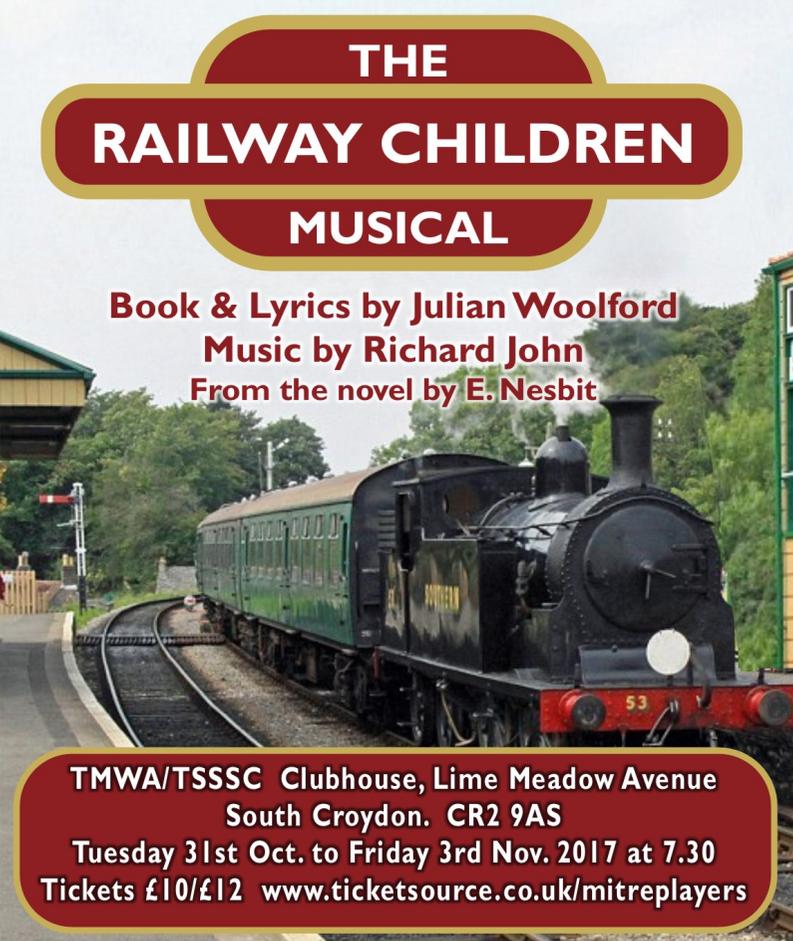
Mitres, Megan has been performing with us since she was only a few months old and has delivered many stunning performances – most recently Constance in The Clockmaker’s Daughter in last year’s Minack show.

The cast being led by Jerri-Lee McManus (nee Goater), Kieran O’Brien and Rosie Chambers in the title roles; Ziggi Szafranski as Mr Perks and Fiona Robertson as Mother. They are ably supported by a cast of approximately 15 other adults and children. We welcome Rosie, Kieran, Dominic Semwanga, James Ali, Ellie & Eddie McConnell to the Mitres for their first show although pretty much all of them have family connections and have seen our shows in the past.

The backstage team will transform the clubhouse once again and if you want to know how we are going to do the famous “stopping the steam train” scene you had better get your ticket now!

four very streamlined units, which means that the hall can always be at a comfortable temperature (either by heating or cooling). The Mitres have paid about two-thirds of the cost of this, as we benefit the most, but now it should mean no more freezing (or boiling) rehearsals and performances. Additionally, the many hirers that Anna Warnock (in her role as TSSSC booking secretary) has attracted will enjoy using the hall at the correct temperature,

That’s all for now. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events!



**THE
RAILWAY CHILDREN
MUSICAL**

**Book & Lyrics by Julian Woolford
Music by Richard John
From the novel by E. Nesbit**

**TMWA/TSSSC Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue
South Croydon. CR2 9AS
Tuesday 31st Oct. to Friday 3rd Nov. 2017 at 7.30
Tickets £10/£12 www.ticketsource.co.uk/mitreplayers**

a Trinity Old Boy, he was already an enthusiastic Mitre when I met him. He was the original Jimmy Marsh-Morton in the Tyrrell and Warnock extravaganza **Idol Days** and was set to direct **Plunder** for the Croydon Festival of Drama when he asked me to come and audition in 1979.

In that year's panto, **Superdame**, he played the robot See Thru BO and sang 'My Hardware Turns to Software When I Hold You in My Arms' to Di Jones' lady robot. He went on to direct **The Winslow Boy**, which won the Croydon Festival of Drama in 1980, before going legit and pursuing a career in stage management and scenery construction, which eventually brought us to Wiltshire. Without him, I would never have joined the Mitres and made so many of the friendships that endure to this day.

His death has come as a huge shock and I am going to miss him enormously, but it is comforting to know that I can rely on the support of so many in the Mitre family in the years ahead, so thank you.



Christmas Party – Friday 8th December

Please make sure you have the above date in your diary. Following the success of the “fab-u-lous” Xmas party last year we will again be holding a similar event on 8th December 2017.

Start knitting your Xmas jumper – competition was fierce last year. We will once again have Xmas food, silly games, quizzes and Xmas music all organised by Mike Lilley and Vicky Watkins. This is open to everyone – members, families, children, patrons etc and promises to get your Xmas celebrations started with a swing. Put the date in your diary now so you don't double book yourself!

Members will be able to attend by paying £10 in advance via Ticketsource and will have £5 refunded to them on arrival, or £10 on the door. Tickets for non-members will cost £10 each. Please look out for the separate email about this nearer the time.



Aircon and heating

When you next visit the Clubhouse, you may notice that in the hall we have made a significant improvement – the installation of full air conditioning with

Me and My Girl

There has been plenty of excitement since the announcement of our Minack Show and it seems to be a popular choice – with parts for all. We are the only local amateur society to be staging this production for many years as the rights have been restricted. The Minack performances are Monday 20th – Friday 24th August 2018, **It will not be performed in Croydon**, so if you wish to see it, you will need to arrange a trip to Cornwall, tickets for the show go onsale in the New Year

Kevin Gauntlett is directing and while he usually directs and performs with the West Wickham Operatic Society he is no stranger to us – having performed in many of our shows in the 1990's (several at the Minack including the title role in **Quasimodo** in 1997) and directing **Little Shop of Horrors** and **Cabaret** for us in Dawlish. He also toured on a couple of occasions to Falmouth (the venue prior to Dawlish) so he has been around for a long while! Tonia Porter, choreographer extraordinaire, will be transforming us all into wonderful movers as we Lambeth Walk our way around the Minack stage! We are also very lucky to be able to confirm Robert Randall as Musical Director, an Old Boy who has worked with us once before on **City of Angels**.

The excellent cast has now been confirmed and is as follows:

Sally Smith	Megan Brown
Bill Snibson	Paul Grace
Lady Jacqui	Laura Brand
Gerald Bollingbroke	Peter Calver
Bob Barking	Simon Long
Duchess of Dene	Vicky Watkins
Sir Jasper Tring	Terry Gauntlett
Charles	Chester Stern
Lady Battersby	Claire Ali
Lord Battersby	John Barnett
Herbert Parchester	Chris Backway
Mrs Brown	Julia Ascott
Lady Brighton	Julia Gibbs
Sofia	Hannah Milsted-Bowdery
Policeman	Charles Marriott
Pearly King	Mike Lilley
Pearly Queen	Nicki Barnett

Dancers: Lydia Ann Porter, Kim McEvoy, Karen Durrell, Penelope Brown, Fiona Lilley, Gemma Lilley

Ensemble: Carolyn Backway, Alexandra Rincon, Julia Ascott, Julia Gibbs, Nicki Barnett, Mike Lilley, Tom Lilley, Charles Marriott, Melissa Saunders, Mike Mackenzie

Rehearsals will start in May 2018, soon after we have finished...



Black Comedy/White Liars

Our spring plays, both written by Peter Shaffer and directed by Paul Grace, will follow *The Railway Children*. Being a drama teacher Paul has directed many times before – at school and for other societies but it will be the first time he has directed for the Mitres. Paul was seen most recently as the lovesick composer Aaron in *Curtains*, who thankfully made it through to the end of the show alive, but Paul has been a Mitre since he was a teenager. The performance dates for these plays are Wednesday 18th – Saturday 21st April and again we will be performing in our home theatre in Sanderstead.

The two one act plays are *Black Comedy* and *White Liars* – both small cast plays with some great parts. Paul expects both plays to be rehearsed simultaneously in an intensive eight-week rehearsal period starting in February. Paul will be holding a **presentation evening/read-through on Monday 6th November at 7.45pm** and **auditions will be on Monday 27th November at 7.45pm**, both at the TMWA/TSSSC clubhouse.

The synopsis for *Black Comedy* is as follows: Lovesick and desperate, sculptor Brindsley Miller has embellished his apartment with furniture and objects d'arte “borrowed” from the absent antique collector next-door, hoping to impress his fiancée’s pompous father and a wealthy art dealer. The fussy neighbour, Harold Gorringe, returns just as a blown fuse plunges the apartment into darkness and Brindsley is revealed. Unexpected guests, aging spinsters, errant phone cords, and other snares impede his frantic attempts to return the purloined items before light is restored.

In Shaffer’s words *White Liars* follows two pop singers, Frank and Tom,

who visit Sophie, a fortune-teller, for consultation. Frank says Tom is trying to lure away his girl; Tom says Frank’s attitude rests on lies. Tom leaves Frank and reveals to Sophie the secret of his true relationship with his friend. Sophie herself reveals that her supposed high connections are lies. Lies surround the seedy trio.

To read a fuller synopsis, more about the character breakdown and auditions, please visit the Mitres’ website.

Audition pieces will be available at the presentation evening. If you would like to read the plays, Di Jones will shortly have copies of the scripts available to borrow. You must be at least a patron of the Mitre Players to audition and a full member to take part in the productions.

The first rehearsal will take place on 19th February and performances will be from 18th-21st April.



David Bates

Many of you will remember David Bates, who left Trinity in 1978. He was an early Mitre Player actor/director/stage manager who sadly very recently died.

David was the husband of Lesley, whom many know as a followspotter when we have been on tour. They moved to Salisbury some years ago, but have maintained good contacts with their Mitre friends in Croydon ever since.

We at the Mitres send our love and support to Lesley, their daughter Lucy and other family at this difficult time.

Lesley sent the following message after receiving messages from The Mitres:

Dear Mitres

Thank you so much for the flowers that were sent to me on your behalf after David's sudden death last week and for the kind messages I have received from many of you, who remember him from early Mitre history. Although I have spent the last decade or two as a tour follow-spotter and publicity officer, I began my career with the Mitres treading the boards and David was responsible for that. As