



What the Players did to celebrate their 10th Anniversary



'Players Please'

I must confess that the selection of items for tonight's production is very much a personal one, but I do hope you will agree that it makes a varied and entertaining evening. However there have had to be one or two adjustments to the original programme, because of a remarkable run of unfortunate illnesses and set-backs.

Without identifying each one personally I must mention Alison Luna who was to appear again as Judith Bliss in *'Hay Fever'*, but then only felt able to record her memorable role of the Tempter in *'Whose Birthday Did You Say?'*. We are all delighted that she is now well enough to share the prompting responsibility, and to be around for a chat in the interval. I'm afraid the promise of the leaflet has not been fulfilled because Sue Morgan has had a serious recurrence of an earlier illness and is sadly not able to be with us. We do wish them both all the best for the future.

We are so fortunate in having talent in depth so that we have been able, at quite short notice, to cover Sue's absence with two excellent voices, one as Mary and one as the Abbess, and we are very grateful to Olivia and Carol for stepping into the breach with such apparent ease. Some of you will notice one or two different faces in familiar parts and we are grateful to them for being willing to step in.

We've also been fortunate in having six two-generation families taking part, and it has been a particular pleasure to be able to include two musical items from our past for our talented youngsters.

There are so many people who have done so much to make this production a reality, and very familiar names, like Ray Talbot and June Pearce, appear once again in this programme. But I would like to mention and thank one person who bravely took on a big job having done nothing like it in the past, and that's Veronika Jordan taking responsibility for Costumes for a cast of 45, almost all of them playing several parts!

One of the challenges of a production like this with the need for numerous scene changes is to keep the staging simple so that a steady pace is maintained throughout. Sound and lighting is therefore very important, and you will see and hear a wide use of effects which would not have happened without the enthusiasm and expertise of Greg White and his assistant James Holland. I am very grateful to them and the whole of a very talented backstage team under Tony Jeans, our Chairman and Production Manager.

Every one of our ten productions, plus our first in 1984, is represented here tonight, and they have come together into four fairly coherent parts, which you will see outlined in the Synopsis. We do hope you will thoroughly enjoy the evening and will join us for a glass of wine in the extended interval. Thank you for your support

Peter Grainger





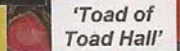
'Rock Nativity'



'An Inspector Calls'



'A Lovely Day Tomorrow'



'Toad of Toad Hall'



'Oh What A Lovely War'



Sound of Music



'Kaleidoscope of Romance'



'Hay Fever'



'The Vigil'

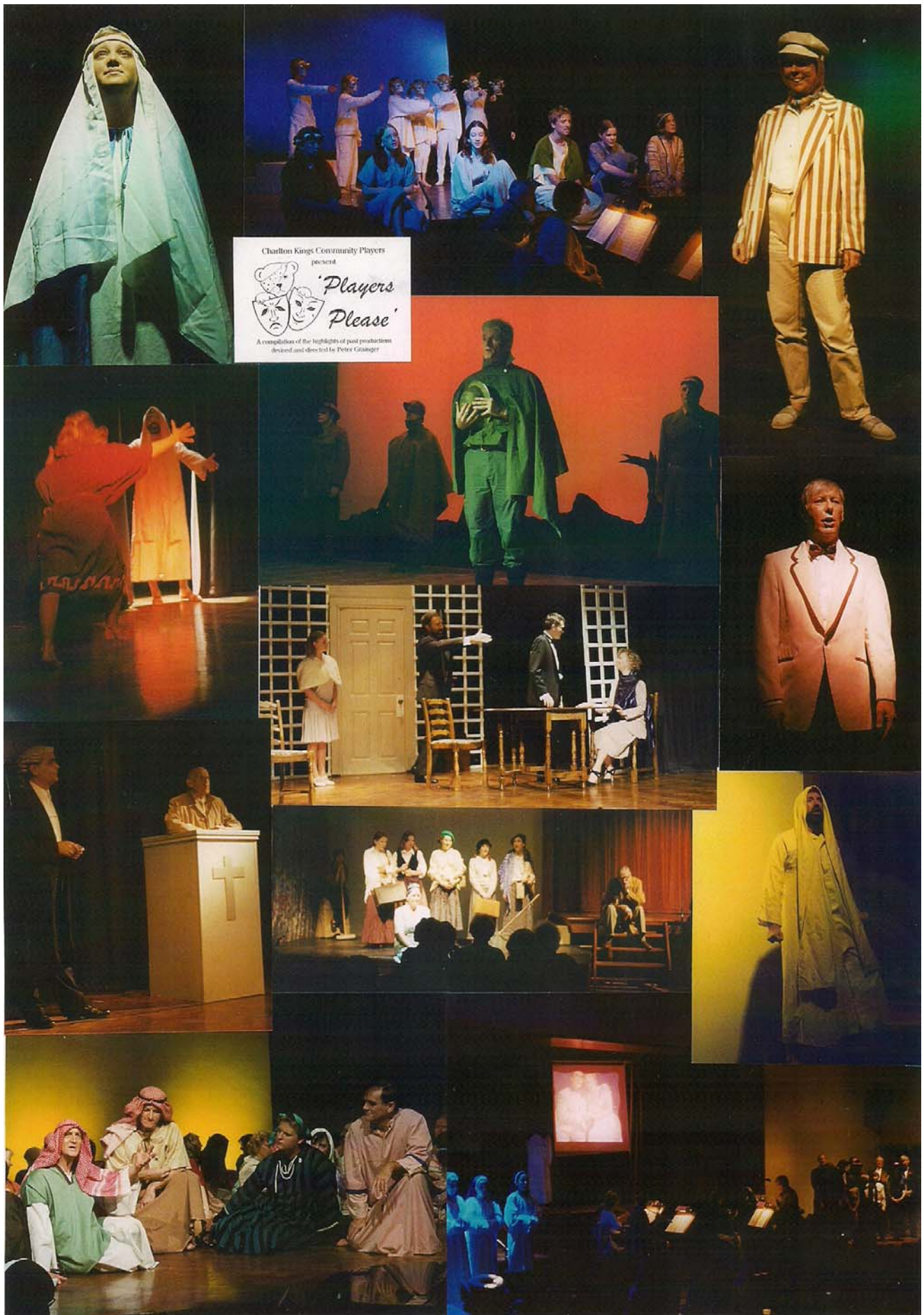


'Whose Birthday Did You Say?'



ORIGINAL SCENES OF 'Players Please'







SYNOPSIS

Part 1 CHRISTMAS NOSTALGIA

- Mary's sings her song of praise, *Magnificat*, from *Rock Nativity* (composed by Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent), the first of two productions before our launch and constitution in 1992.
- A superfluity of shepherds - and their sheep - share insomnia solutions! ('*Counting Sheep*' from *Rock Nativity* by Tony Hatch, Jackie Trent and David Wood).
- Ratty remembers special friends and visitors to the watery world of his river bank ('*Villagers All*' and '*Duck's Ditty*' from *Toad of Toad Hall* by A.A. Milne).

Part 2 ASPECTS OF WAR

- The Inspector makes the Birling family face up to reality (from *An Inspector Calls* by J B Priestley).
- A group cleaning up the post-war theatre looks back - and forwards (from *A Lovely Day Tomorrow* by Sue Morgan with '*We're Going to the Country*' and '*Mums and Dads*' from *Blitz* by Lionel Bart).
- Soldiers, with public support, go off to the reality of war ('*Goodbye-ee*', '*Loury War*' '*Home Fires*' and '*Oh It's A Lovely War*' from The Theatre Workshop's *Oh What a Lovely War*).

Interval of 25 minutes

Part 3 STRANGE RELATIONSHIPS

- The Abbey discusses the unusual novice they have amongst them ('*How do you solve a problem like Maria?*' from Rogers' and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*).
- Cabaret songs sung by Carol & Gwilym Davies (Kaleidoscope of Romance).
- House guests first encounter and then wake up to the true nature of their eccentric hosts (from *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward).

Part 4 THE CHALLENGE OF JESUS

- The Abbess urges *Maria* to return to life with the Von Trapp family ('*Climb Every Mountain*' from Rogers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*).
- Jesus faces the increasing challenges of his ministry (from *Whose Birthday Did You Say?* by Peter Grainger, with '*Miriam's Dance*' composed by Susan Trickey and '*Love One Another*' composed by Malcolm Dunbar).
- The investigation of Jesus' missing body is suspect (from *The Vigil* by Ladislav Fodor), as his followers recall his promise of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Malcolm Dunbar's '*On To Pentecost*' from *Whose Birthday Did You Say?*).



CAST

in order of appearance

Part 1 CHRISTMAS NOSTALGIA

(from 'Rock Nativity' and 'Toad of Toad Hall')

MARY	Olivia Wright
SHEPHERDS	Megan Reid, Josie Worrall, James Deacon, Sophie Kinane, Hannah Brown and Lucy Brown
SHEEP	Laura Baggott, Kate Clempson, Matthew Deacon, Debbie Dundas, David Kane, Jack Kinane and Chrissie Worrall
RAT	Alison Talbot
BADGER	John Palmer
CAROL SINGERS	Hannah Brown, Lucy Brown, Joan Collins, Andy Culley, Ann and George Cross, Carol and Gwilym Davies, Martyn Fry, Sam and Veronika Jordan Elizabeth & Jane Kane, Joe and Sophie Kinane, Geoff Ramshaw, Megan Reid, Peter Simpson, Margaret Walker and Josie Worrall

Part 2 ASPECTS OF WAR

(from 'An Inspector Calls', 'A Lovely Day Tomorrow' and 'Oh What A Lovely War')

Mrs BIRLING	Mary Wright
Mr BIRLING	Martyn Fry
SHEILA BIRLING	Rachael Glover
ERIC BIRLING	Andy Cleary
INSPECTOR	John Palmer
BILL	Peter Grainger
PEGGY	Lucy Brown
ELSIE	Margaret Walker
EVACUEES	Laura Baggott, Hannah Brown, Kate Clempson, Matthew Deacon, Debbie Dundas, David & Elizabeth Kane, Jack and Sophie Kinane, Megan Reid, Josie and Chrissie Worrall.
RECRUIT	Andy Cleary with voice of George Cross
MC	Gwilym Davies
FRENCH OFFICER	John Palmer
GERMAN OFFICER	Peter Simpson
Field Marshall HAIG	Martyn Fry
BRITISH SOLDIER	Joe Kinane

NURSE
CROWD

Carol Davies
Hannah Brown, Joan Collins, Ann and George Cross, Andy Culley, Carol Davies, Sylvia Fry., Veronika Jordan, Jane and Elizabeth Kane, Sophie Kinane, Barbara and Hannah Maynard, Megan Reid, Alison Talbot, Margaret Walker and Josie Worrall

SOLDIERS

Matt Clempson, George Cross, Brian and James Deacon, James Ingram, Sam Jordan, Jack Kane, John Palmer, Geoff Ramshaw and Peter Simpson

INTERVAL of 25 minutes for refreshments in the school's reception area

Part 3 STRANGE RELATIONSHIPS

(from 'The Sound of Music', 'Kaleidoscope of Romance' and 'Hay Fever')

ABBESS	Carol Davies
Sister MARGARETTA	Jane Kane
Sister SOPHIA	Alison Talbot
NUNS	Joan Collins, Ann Cross, Veronika Jordan, Barbara Maynard and Margaret Walker
NOVICES	Hannah & Lucy Brown, Andy Culley, Elizabeth Kane, Sophie Kinane, Hannah Maynard, Megan Reid, and Josie Worrall
CABARET SINGERS	Carol and Gwilym Davies
CLARA	Sylvia Fry
RICHARD	Geoff Ramshaw
JACKIE	Kayleigh Storey
MYRA	Alison Talbot
SIMON	Andy Cleary with Tricia Ratcliffe and Sam Jordan
ABBESS	Carol Davies
MARIA	Hannah Maynard
NUNS:	Joan Collins, Ann Cross, Veronika Jordan, Jane Kane, Barbara Maynard and Margaret Walker
NOVICES	Hannah Brown, Elizabeth Kane, Sophie Kinane, Megan Reid and Josie Worrall
WEDDING GUESTS	Lucy Brown, Kate & Matt Clempson, Andy Culley, George Cross, Gwilym Davies, Matthew Deacon, Sylvia Fry, Jack Kane, Jack Kinane and Tricia Ratcliffe

Part 4 THE CHALLENGE OF JESUS

(from 'Whose Birthday Did You Say?' and 'The Vigil')

JESUS	Geoff Ramshaw with voice of Alison Luna
MIRIAM	Kayleigh Storey
JOHN	Sam Jordan
THOMAS	Peter Simpson
PHILIP	Joe Kinane
DISCIPLES	Matt Clempson, George Cross, Gwilym Davies, Brian and James Deacon, James Ingram, Jack Kane and John Palmer
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR	Tony Farthing
COUNSEL	Martyn Fry
CROWD	Laura Baggott, Hannah Brown, Kate and Matt Clempson, Joan Collins, Ann and George Cross, Andy Culley, Josie and Chrissie Worrall, Carol and Gwilym Davies, Brian, James and Matthew Deacon, Debbie Dundas, Martyn and Sylvia Fry, Rachael Glover, James Ingram, Sam and Veronika Jordan, David, Jack, Jane and Elizabeth Kane, Jack, Joe and Sophie Kinane, Barbara and Hannah Maynard, John Palmer, Geoff Ramshaw, Tricia Ratcliffe, Megan Reid, Peter Simpson, Kayleigh Storey, Alison Talbot and Margaret Walker
MUSICIANS	Flutes: Brenda Johnston, Nouritsa Biberian, Violin: Paul Godwin, Guitar: Dave Daniel
DIRECTOR	Peter Grainger
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Keith Mead
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Tony Jeans
ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER	June Pearce
STAGE MANAGER	Will Talbot
LIGHTING AND SOUND	Greg White, Richard Major and James Holland
SET CONSTRUCTION	Ray Talbot

Costumes	Veronika Jordan and Tricia Ratcliffe
Props and Backstage Support	June Pearce and Tom Roberts
Make-up and Hair	Rachel Uzzell, Sarah Williams with Pat Curl, Barbara Maynard, Jenny Palmer, Tricia Ratcliffe Sue Trevaskis and Anna Wright
Dressing and Backstage Support	Megan Hoizer, Sara Kinane and Andrea Reid
Prompters	Alison Luna, Tricia Ratcliffe and Mary Wright
Front of House	Peter Collins and team
Refreshments	Margaret Walker
Health and Safety	Louise Palmer
First Aid	Sue Close, Sue Goold, and Leilan Smith
Car Parking	Chris Flippance and Tim Wood
Publicity	Lynne Glover
Logo Design	Geoffrey Maynard
Library/lobby Displays	Peter and Michelle Grainger
Photography	Barry Curl
Production Assistant	Tricia Ratcliffe
Treasurer	Ray Talbot

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We may have been running officially for ten years, but we are still enormously grateful for all the help we get from the community - and beyond - in staging our productions, especially one as large as this.

In looking back we are aware that we have been performing, albeit intermittently, at Balcarras since 1984, and so again we thank Chris Healy, the Governors and staff for allowing us to perform here, and especially to Andrew McClelland, the Deputy Head, for his support and friendliness throughout the year. We are also grateful to Gary Pargeter, the School Caretaker, for his continuing help, and to all those who support Gary, and us, at this time

We also very much appreciate the on-going help we receive from *The Vine*, *Charlton Pharmacy* and *'Secondwind'* (especially at this time) with publicity and for selling our tickets locally, and to the staff of Charlton Kings Library for their cheerful support with our displays and leaflets. This time we have had two additional display sites in Lyefield Road West, and we are very grateful to Andrea Broad and John Lewis Homes for giving us space in their properties.

We continue to say 'thank you' to Ken Bloxham for storing our larger sets, and to Malcolm Hawkins at Lyefield DIY for being so willing to provide us with supplies at special rates.

For various reasons we have needed to record actors' voices for this production and, while some recordings have been made in Balcarras' excellent new Music Centre, one particularly important one was made by Dave Dalby at the University of Gloucestershire's Media Centre, and we are grateful to him for his patience and generosity.

Because this production is raising funds for BBC *Children in Need* we would like to recognise the kind sponsorship given by Falcon Equipment Hire and by Balcarras School itself.

The Players' Ten Years

At Charlton Kings Junior School on Wednesday 25th March 1992 at 7.45pm a meeting was called to launch the Charlton Kings Community Players.

Our aim was agreed to be *'to encourage faith, fellowship, and fun through ecumenical involvement in a variety of drama and musical activities for all ages'* and has remained unchanged. Our constitution states that membership shall be from the churches, residents or those with strong connections with Charlton Kings, as a means of ensuring that we continuously develop local talent of all ages. We are very pleased to be able to give opportunities to young people tonight both front- and back-stage.

Our first play since we were officially constituted was *'Toad of Toad Hall'*, and since then our major productions have been, in order of appearance:

'The Vigil', *'Oh What A Lovely War'*, *'An Inspector Calls'*, *'Edward'*, *'A Kaleidoscope of Romance'*, *'A Lovely Day Tomorrow'*, *'Harlequinade'*, *'The Sound of Music'*,

'Whose Birthday Did You Say?', *'Hay Fever'* and *'The Browning Version'*, *'Joseph'*

Our activities have also included entertainments for Christmas (*'Let Us Be Merry'*) and old people's homes in the village, dramatic contributions to open-air ecumenical services, drama workshops and fund-raising cabarets. We have donated over £10,000 to local charities, thanks to your enthusiastic support over the years.

