



THEATRE MOBILE

Programme

AUTUMN SEASON 1973

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Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts,

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Tel.: 29513 or 21986.

THEATRE MOBILE

Mid-Pennine Professional Touring Theatre Company

Good Evening!

It is amazing to think that I have been Artistic Director of TheatreMobile for a year. The time has sped by, but looking back we have managed to fit a fair bit into the year. We didn't start touring until October. Between then and April we presented 2 programmes for children; 'The Case of the Garden Charters' and 'Clowns'. The plays for adult audiences were 'Big Soft Nellie', 'The Bear', 'The Zoo Story' and 'The Promise'. We also took a show into pubs, 'On The Road'. In January we had an informal show visiting groups and societies. These presentations were interspersed with street parades, a visit to a children's Ward of Burnley General Hospital, children's entertainment at Blackburn Fair, taking part in a course run by Lancashire Education Committee, and judging 'Personality Girl of The Year' for Mullards.

Granada Television spent a day filming the company at work; rehearsals at Barnoldswick, the drive to Bacup, a street parade in Bacup and the evening performance of 'The Zoo Story'. The film was shown on 30th January. Variety is the spice of life!

I am pleased that most of last year's company are returning, but there will be several new faces as we gradually expand. You will find news of past and current members of the company later in the programme.

Now, the future. By the time you read this we will have already performed 'Clowns' for three weeks in schools in the area. The season of plays up to next April is 'The Shadow of a Gunman' by Sean O'Casey, 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde, 'The Three Little Pigs' a children's play, 'Stop the World, I Want to Get off', a musical, and 'Look Back in Anger' by John Osborne. We shall also be travelling the area with short programmes of fun and music.

The new season has had an encouraging start. 'Clowns' was rapidly booked out and 'Three Little Pigs' is already fully booked except for evening performances at the Towneley Drama Studio, Burnley on 27th December - 5th January. So if you want to see the children's show, book now to avoid disappointment.

We have also been invited to participate in several fairs and festive gatherings in 1974. We are most pleased to accept whenever possible, and in each case we will construct a show that is suitable for the event.

Of course there is always a lot more to be done. We still need your help. If you have enjoyed an evening with TheatreMobile, make sure you bring a friend next time. Take a car sticker or a badge at the end of a performance. But above all TALK about us!

On behalf of myself and the company, thank you for your support and until our next visit,

Goodnight.

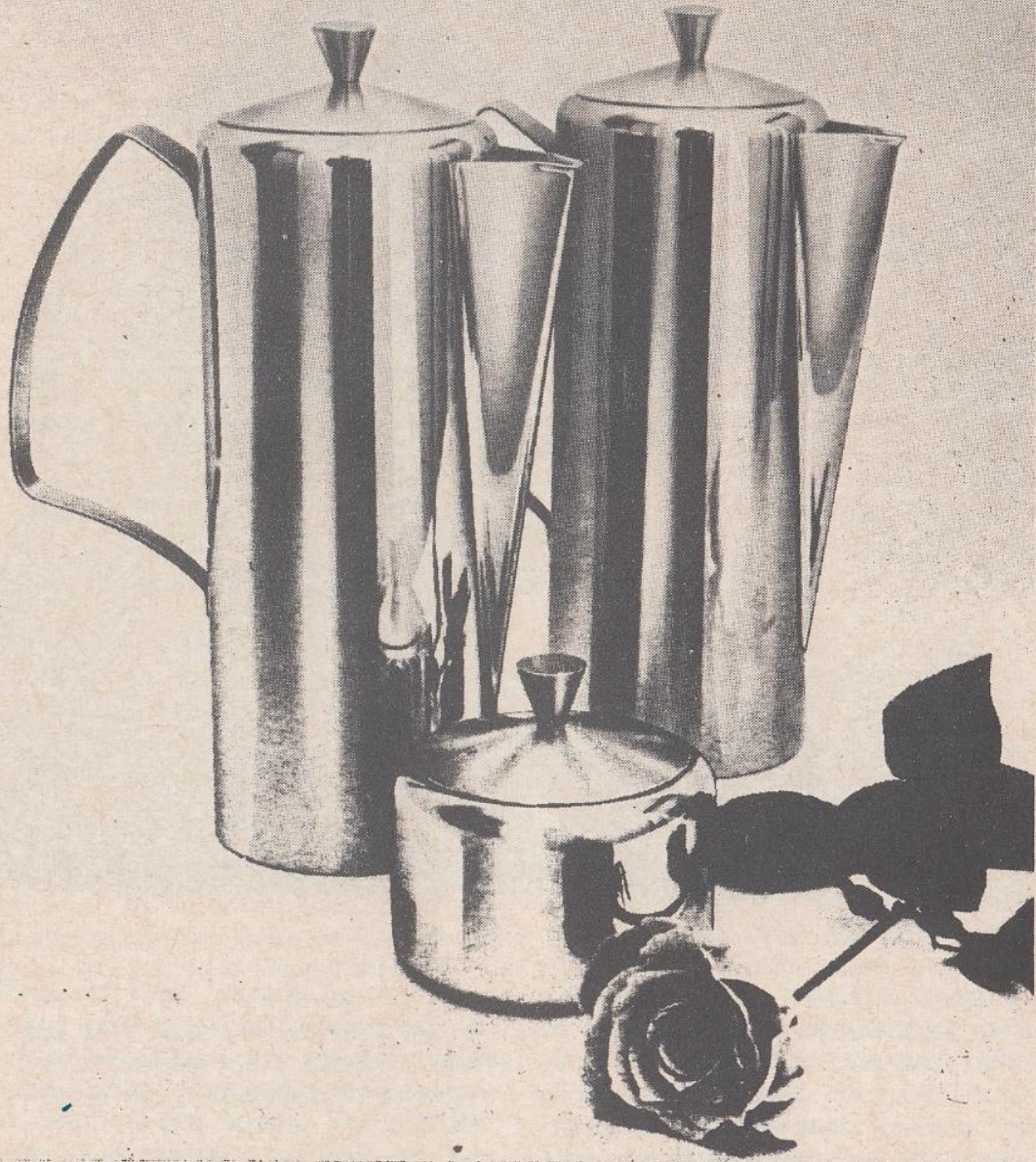


GLORIA PARKINSON was born and brought up in Liverpool. To the horror of her patient parents, she ran away from school and joined the Liverpool Playhouse as student assistant stage manager, where she quickly learned that the theatre was hard work and no glamour. She completed a three-year course at drama school and spent the following four years as an actress in theatres up and down the country. During this period television and radio engagements were fitted around her theatre commitments. It was while working as an actress that she decided to change streams and enter the somewhat male dominated area of theatre direction. In the year that followed she phased acting out and direction in. She has had considerable experience working

with young people both in schools and on the streets. She has written and directed three theatre documentaries, each with a cast of eighty teenagers. She has designed the lighting for several productions. In 1970 she was awarded a Director's Bursary by the Arts Council of Great Britain. She spent it as Assistant Director at the Manchester Library Theatre. This was followed by an assistant directorship at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln. A year has been spent mainly as a freelance director. Immediately before her appointment as Artistic Director of Theatre Mobile, she directed three productions at the East 15 Acting School in London.

Photograph by courtesy of The Evening Star

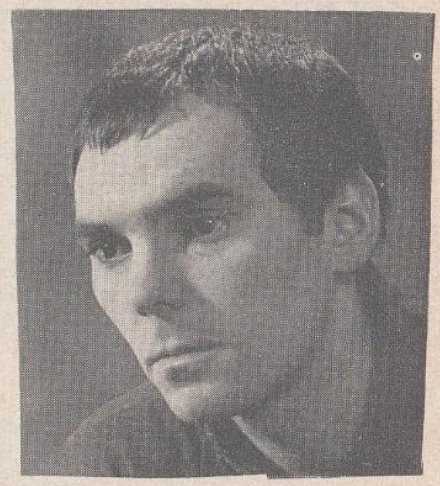
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PETER LORENZELLI. Peter, who is 24, was born in Manchester and up to now has spent his life in and around Manchester. His very first theatrical experience was at the age of eleven, when he played a burglar in a one-acter at school called "Queer Street".

After pursuing various jobs, including strawberry picking, serving chips, slicing (and selling) bacon and washing other people's dishes, he went to drama school in Manchester in 1968 for a three year course. His main characters whilst at college included a lunatic, a vicar (two, in fact), a school-teacher, an ex-boxer and, finally, a lawyer. During his first year at college he visited and performed at the Edinburgh Festival, where one of the productions was a late night revue in which he took a leading part.

He also visited the Leeds Art Festival and in his second year was involved in a children's programme at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, which was worked out and directed by a computer !!

After completing his course, where he became interested in modern dance and fencing, he worked in children's theatre from October, 1971 until June, 1972.

This is Peter's second season with TheatreMobile. He and his wife have recently bought a house in Barnoldswick.

RON FLANAGAN. A native of Dublin, Eire, he emigrated to this country in October, 1960. He is one of a family of nine: he has six sisters and two brothers. He attended secondary modern school in London, where he lived, and while at school he had his first taste of theatre, performing in a puppet show in which he was a great success.

On leaving school, he joined one of the local amateur dramatic societies which toured youth clubs affiliated to the London Union of Youth Clubs, and played many different roles. He entered the professional theatre in 1967 on being accepted by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for a two year course. On completion of the course he started work at the Mermaid Theatre, London, touring with their children's show, "Lights Up". Then came a season at Oldham Rep., where he played Troppo in "Salad Days", Cal. in "Little Foxes", and various parts in "Son of Man". He then returned to London to play in various plays at the Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green.

His most recent experience has been a radio play called "All That Fall", and a television play "Stephen D", which is based on the life story of James Joyce.

This is Ron's second season with TheatreMobile.

KEVIN LLOYD was born in Derby and is aged 24. After leaving grammar school he spent five years in a solicitor's office, working as a clerk. Realising that this was not for him he left to go to the East 15 Acting School in 1970. Prior to this he spent 2 years with Derby Theatre in the Round. He graduated from East 15 in July 1973, after completing his 3 year course. In March of this year he played the title part of Macbeth in the final year production of the play. He has also had experience of working with Joan Littlewood at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, and appearing in ATV's "Crossroads" on a number of occasions.



THOMAS KAROL was born in London of Polish parents in October 1948. He lives in Paddington but was educated at the John Fisher School, Purley, Surrey, which he attended for nine years. After gaining an 'A' level in 1967 he was advised to curb his desire to go straight into theatre, so he took a two year business course in London. During the summer he acted with the National Youth Theatre and after failing his finals he successfully auditioned for the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Unfortunately he had to wait a year before going due to the obstinacy of the education authorities in not giving him a grant. However, after working a year in the City, financial assistance was finally forthcoming and he eventually joined the school in 1970. Since completing the course in 1972 he has worked on the "Colditz Story" and has just finished the season with the Studio Company of the Derby Playhouse. He enjoys music, horse-riding, hiking and has aspirations to being a translator of Polish plays, poems and stories.

VIRGINIA RONCORONI -
1965-1968 B.A. Honours Course in Drama, Manchester University.
1968-1971 Work in various repertory companies:

Belgrade, Coventry
Phoenix, Leicester
Bristol Old Vic
Oxford Playhouse
Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford

as designer, scene painter, prop maker, wardrobe assistant.

Work included a long tour (with Oxford Playhouse Company) which took her to places as far apart as Aberdeen and Southampton. Only appearance on stage - as a canary in "The Owl and the Pussycat".

1971-1973 E.15 Acting School - roles included:

"The Crucible" Miller - Elizabeth Proctor
"Miss Julie" Strindberg - Julie
"The Master Builder" Ibsen - Mrs. Solness
"Arms and the Man" Shaw - Louka
"The Importance of Being Earnest" Wilde - Gwendolin
"The Beggar's Opera" Gay - Mrs. Peachum
"Women Beware Women" Middleton - Livia
"Bartholomew Fayre" Johnson - Dame Purecraft

Also shows written and devised by students:

"Ears" - a rock musical based on the legend of King Midas
"Bang, You're Dead" - prohibition with a difference
"Put That Light Out" - the phoney war
"Denise Weller" - a documentary on the kidnapping of Baby Denise Weller

This is her first job after leaving drama school.

FRANKIE COSGRAVE was born in Lancing, Sussex, 1949 of Irish parents. Educated at a convent in Worthing and Worthing College of Education. She worked for a time in London as a secretary to a director of a Market Research Company, but tired of office life she then worked her way round Europe - returning to Worthing and spending 18 months at the Connaught Theatre. This was followed by three years at the Drama Centre in London. Her first professional jobs were with the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, documentary films for the Coal Board, a lunchtime show at Watford Palace Theatre - Pinters Revue Sketches - then on to the Chester Gateway Theatre to do 'Pygmalion'.

PAULINE SIDDLE was born in Hexham, Northumberland and is aged 23. She studied for a year and a half at the Newcastle College of Art and Industrial Design till 1966. Then she went to the U.S.A. and worked for two years as an A.S.M. in Cleveland, Ohio. On returning to this country she took a three year acting course at the East 15 Acting School where she met Gloria Parkinson who taught there. She left there in July 1972, and before joining Theatre-Mobile worked at the Cockpit Theatre and in Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop at Stratford.

This is Pauline's second season with TheatreMobile.



Pauline Siddle

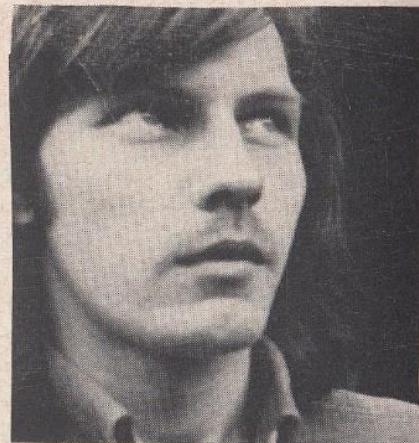
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Photography in Colour



JOHN ODDIE is TheatreMobile's composer/musician. He was born in Birmingham and moved to Burnley some 4 years ago. At the age of 9 he taught himself to play the guitar and started playing in groups when he was 11. Around the age of 12 he taught himself various other instruments which now reach a grand total of 10.

He began playing piano and organ when he was sixteen, mainly because he was bored with guitar, drums, etc. About 10 months after leaving keyboards he formed his own band called "Tobias Wolfe" which lasted till April 1973 when it had to disband because of financial problems. "Tobias Wolfe" was formed specifically to play material written mainly by John and during its existence was regarded by many as being the best original band in the area; a new band will probably soon be formed. Over the last year he has worked with a number of theatre companies, among them 'The Release Company' who did various productions of "Release", a rock musical. John was musical director as well as composer, and "Release" is to be part of the Wigan Festival in October.

John wrote the material for "Clowns" which TheatreMobile presented in the Mid-Pennine area in April and August this year. He says his ambitions are to carry on working within the theatre; form a new "Tobias Wolfe" and generally become a better musician.

JANE PRITCHARD - Administrative Assistant

Jane took a degree at the University of Warwick and while there she assisted on the organisation of a small drama festival within the University and the first two Arts Festivals held there. She established a radio arts magazine programme and helped to set up Radio Warwick's drama department, producing and adapting plays for it.

Her University course was followed by a diploma course in drama at the University of Manchester and she has also spent some time at the University Theatre, Manchester and the Everyman Theatre, Liverpool.

Jane is a world-wide rover; she has visited Europe, Australia, America and Persia. At the time of going to press she is footloose in Russia.

GEORGE T. OWCZARSKI -

Technical Director.

Born and bred in Manchester. Having been bored at school he left and joined the Manchester Library Theatre in 1966 under the pretext of wanting to be an actor. After his first and last walk-on part he was shunted to the technical side - much to his delight. It was there that he learnt his basic stage management and technical craft of professional theatre. In 1968 he joined Granada TV and worked as stage manager for the Stables Theatre Club, Manchester, after which he took over the position of chief technician. This will followed by a season of touring with "Orbit" of the Buffield Theatre Studio, Lancaster. He then moved to London to East 15 Acting School as technician for the Corbett Theatre and tutor to the technical students. It was from there that he came to join TheatreMobile as Technical Director.

He has studied the art of lighting design and worked with many lighting designers and now does freelance lighting design. He is also sound recordist as one of four members of "Orange" films. This is a privately set-up company based in Manchester whose members are professionals in their own right producing films for commission.



JOHN TINDALE is 22 years old and was born in Twickenham, London. He spent 3 years at Southampton University where he first became interested in theatre and ended up living in the Nuffield Theatre on the university campus. On graduation he left for London Contemporary Dance Theatre as assistant electrician followed by a year's Stage Management course at LAMDA.

TONY MULVIHILL is a native of Liverpool (Everton supporter), born 21 years ago in Kendal and was inclined towards technical theatre at school. After trying teaching he went to LAMDA and studied technical theatre for a year.

Tony prefers the north to London immeasurably and wants to design lighting and work in sound.

SARAH FRYER was born in Bristol, later moved to Hampshire, where her parents encouraged any interest she showed in theatre and music. On leaving school she found herself faced with a post "A" level gap which she managed to fill by landing a job as a student A.S.M. at the Castle Theatre, Farnham. This opened up an interest for her for the technical side of the theatre, and having given up all previous ambitions to become an actress, she did as much as she could to increase her technical knowledge when she went to Bristol University, where she studied for a joint degree in Drama and German for three years. She graduated as a B.A. and joined TheatreMobile two months later.

The series of photographs on the next two pages shows a "TheatreMobile Get-In" at Accrington Town Hall. They start with unloading the van (in the rain, of course) and show the whole assembly process, the final one showing the complete stage and seating areas and lighting.

Photos by George Owczarski.

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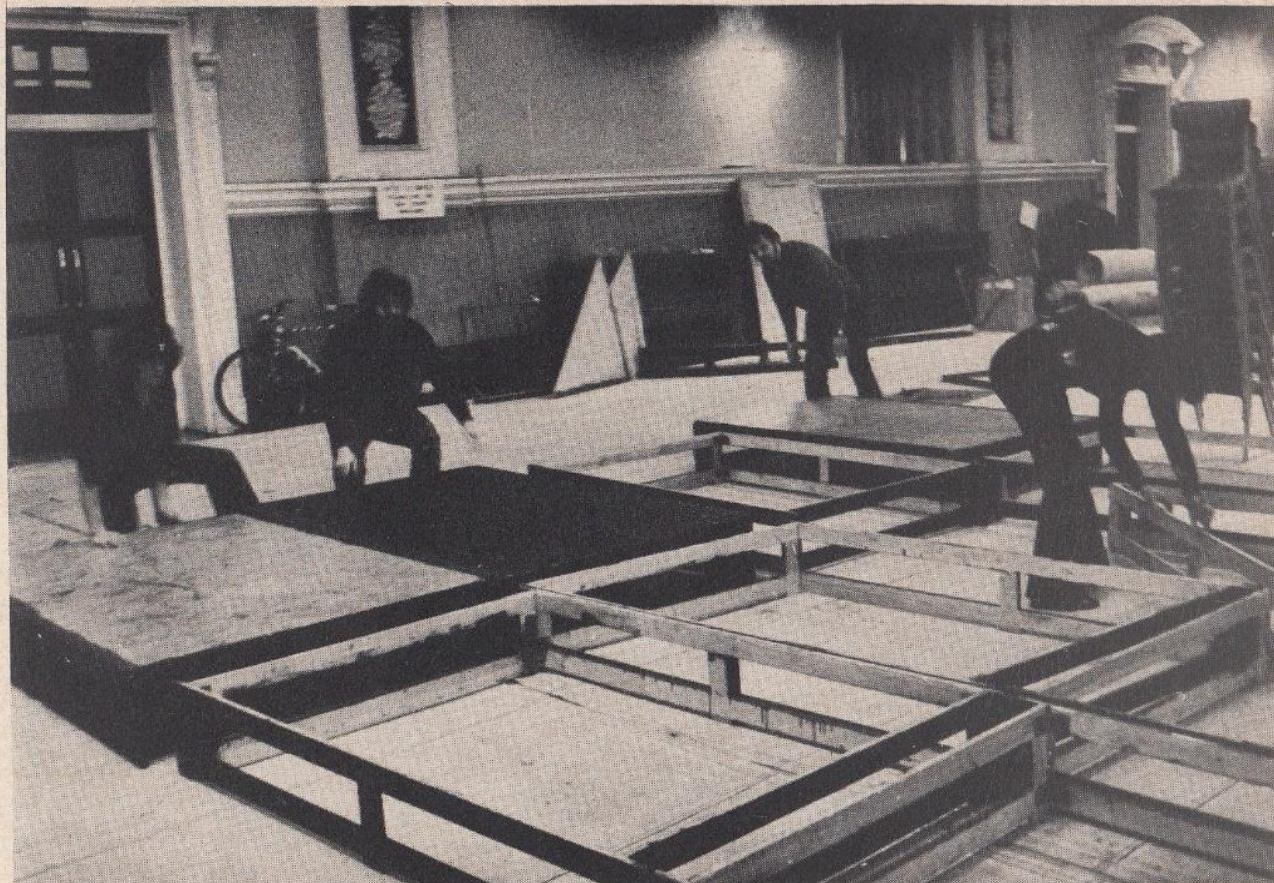
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NEWS PAGE

PENELOPE CHERNS

As soon as TheatreMobile's season finished in April, Penny joined the Orchard Theatre Company in Devon, and directed "Mooney's Caravans". The Orchard is a similar touring company to TheatreMobile. She is now working for Joan Littlewood at Stratford East.

RON FLANAGAN

During TheatreMobile's summer break Ron appeared in a short film.

SHEILA KELLEY

Sheila has appeared in a lunch time play at 'The Almost Free' in London.

PETER LORENZELLI

In the break, Peter has been employed by Granada T.V. as a clown for the Manchester Festival.

PAUL PRESCOTT

Paul is currently appearing in 'West Side Story' at the Collegiate Theatre, London.

CHARLES STURRIDGE

Charles is playing Young Edward in a television series which has not yet been released.
