

TheatreMobile present

"FANCY FREE"

by Gloria Parkinson and Teddy Kiendl

Music by Simon Lanzon

Performers

Terry John

Teddy Kiendl

Simon Lanzon

Kathy Pogson

Carol Summers.

Directed by	-	Gloria Parkinson
Designer	-	Ruth Collier
Original Paintings	-	John Virtue
Costumes	-	Sarah Carver
Stage Manager	-	Peter Hussey
A.S.M.	-	Howard Bird
Sound A.S.M.	-	Colin Pilkington
Design Conception	-	Gloria Parkinson and Teddy Kiendl
Company Manager	-	Kevin Jennings

TheatreMobile is the resident professional theatre company attached to the Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts.

TheatreMobile would like to thank the following:

The G.P.O., Burnley Metal Craft; The Window Blind Centre, Burnley; Sunway Blinds; Lord Payne of Blackpool; Liverpool Playhouse

THE COMPANY

Howard Bird has been with TheatreMobile since last August and has worked on all the shows since then doing sound, lights and properties. Before joining the company he toured East Anglia with his own show. In his spare time (not that there's a lot) he writes.

Sarah Carver has designed and made costumes for all TheatreMobile's productions since Autumn 1973. Before joining the company she trained as an actress. Sarah is married to actor Peter Lorenzelli and they have a daughter, Hannah, born in November, 1974.

Ruth Collier trained at both Harrow and Bristol Schools of Art. She has worked with a number of leading repertory theatres in England. Ruth has recently completed the designs for a television series, 'The Flumps' which is currently on BBC "Watch With Mother" series.

Peter Hussey is nearing the end of his third season with TheatreMobile and in that time has worked on 21 shows, has designed the lighting for all of them and has travelled all over Europe with the Company. He first worked with TheatreMobile in his Easter break from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in April 1974. He joined the company full-time in August of the same year as Company Technician and was then promoted to Stage Manager in January 1976. He plans to leave TheatreMobile sometime during 1977 to look for other work preferably in television somewhere 'down south' close to his native London.

Terry John was born in London and trained at Birmingham University Drama Department. Before joining TheatreMobile he worked with the Citizens Theatre Company, Glasgow and the Borderline Theatre Company, Ayrshire. This is Terry's fourth show with the company.

Teddy Kiendl began his professional career writing and directing films on the Vietnam War for French television. He decided to suspend writing and directing in order to gain experience as an actor. He began his acting in America and subsequently came to England to study at The East 15 Acting School. Before joining TheatreMobile eighteen months ago he worked with several experimental companies in London. During his time here he has not only acted but contributed material to "The Jesse James Show", co-authored the lyrics for "The World Turned Upside Down", "The Jesse James Show", "Wild Spirit" and "Jack and the Beanstalk". He also co-authored "Traveller's Tail", "Wild Spirit" and TheatreMobile's production of "Jack and the Beanstalk", "Fancy Free" and the current production.

Simon Lanzon has written the music for TheatreMobile's last six productions; his scores have ranged from rock music and children's shows to the score for Macbeth, and traditional pantomime music. Before joining TheatreMobile he toured Britain with his own band, Lanzon and Husband, and recorded his album Nostalgia. His theatre work includes a year as residential Musical Director at Liverpool Playhouse and original scores for two London productions this year.

Gloria Parkinson (Artistic Director) was an actress for five years working in radio, television and theatre before deciding to direct. She was subsequently Assistant Director at The Library Theatre, Manchester, and The Theatre Royal, Lincoln, as well as guest directing at the Orchard Theatre Company, Devon, and various London Drama Schools. Since her appointment as TheatreMobile's Artistic Director four years ago she has directed all the company's productions with three exceptions, as well as having written "Clowns", "The Three Little Pigs", "Carnival" and co-authored the script and lyrics for "The Jesse James Show", "The World Turned Upside Down", "Wild Spirit", "Jack and the Beanstalk", "Fancy Free" and the current production. She has also written an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" ("What You Will") and directed the film, "Heaven Starts Here".

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THE COMPANY

Colin Pilkington has previously worked as a Road Manager for rock-groups. This is his first production with TheatreMobile.

Kathryn Pogson trained at the Drama Centre, London, and has played a wide variety of roles while with TheatreMobile, including Lady Macbeth and recently Sybil Chase in "Private Lives" by Noel Coward.

Carol Summers is a native of North London. She joined the Company in February, 1977; this is her second production with TheatreMobile. Prior to joining us Carol toured with a Young People's Theatre Company.

John Virtue was born in Accrington, Lancashire in 1947. In 1964 he was awarded the first prize in 'The Sunday Mirror' painting exhibition. From 1965 - 1969 he attended The Slade School of Fine Art, London, and in 1966 he received The Thames and Hudson Publishers Prize for painting. This was followed in 1976 by an Arts Council of Great Britain Award. His work is in public and private collections in Britain; U.S.A. and Europe. He has exhibited widely throughout Britain. His work is directly concerned with moorland landscapes around Green Haworth, Oswaldtwistle, where he has lived and worked for several years.

"FANCY FREE"

In the opening minutes of TheatreMobile's "Fancy Free", the audience is asked to, "Take a town, not a special one, just an ordinary run of the mill town". But in the hour that follows this ordinary town is turned upside down by the arrival of a mysterious mayor - boots sing, vegetables talk, letter boxes walk and people shrink. "Fancy Free" is a zany, colourful show about fantasy.

However, the show is not merely an hour's fun and frolic. There are a number of principles within the play that make it more than just an entertainment for children.

The philosophy of the play is straightforward - "Don't be afraid to use your imagination!"

Many children, when they hear music from a record player actually believe that there is a miniature orchestra playing in the speakers or similarly that bears live down the cracks of pavements. The writers of "Fancy Free" have based the play on a child's view of life. Hence there are no small furry creatures from other environments. Everything is rooted in what a child may see and hear around him. For example, a pair of boots, a lettuce, a letterbox.

Ruth Collier, a freelance designer and puppeteer, has joined TheatreMobile to create this bizarre world which is right under the noses of the characters in the play. Another current example of Ruth's designing skills may be seen in the B.B.C. "Watch With Mother" programme 'The Flumps.

The set for "Fancy Free" is an extremely interesting concept. There are a total of 19 pictures which are used in an ever changing combination. These pictures are the work of John Virtue, a talented artist with a national reputation. A large exhibition of his work has recently been seen in a Manchester Gallery, the style of his paintings for "Fancy Free" has been evolved so that it is instantly communicable to young children. This is not a set, it is a mobile exhibition for children. It is most exciting that an artist of John Virtue's calibre, and a designer of the quality of Ruth Collier, should combine with professional actors and a musician. This integration of puppetry, art, music and theatrical skills makes "Fancy Free" almost unique amongst the sort of material usually available for children.