

# THEATREMOBILE



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TheatreMobile is the professional theatre company attached to the Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts. It was set up in 1970 because of the lack of professional theatre in the Mid-Pennine region and the company's brief is to stimulate an interest for theatre in an area which would otherwise be deprived of experiencing 'live' professional theatre. TheatreMobile's productions are toured regularly to the districts which are members of the Mid-Pennine Association. TheatreMobile has no theatre premises of its own and all productions are designed to be performed in venues which are not theatre buildings. The performances take place in the facilities which exist for public entertainment; town halls, schools, civic centres. Occasionally short visits outside the area are arranged, usually as part of a Festival. TheatreMobile has also been seen at the 'Experimenta 5' young peoples theatre festival held in Frankfurt (June 1975) and toured Bulgaria (October 1975).

The company consists of five actors, three actress/dancers, a musician/composer, a designer, a costume designer, four technicians, an administrative assistant and the Artistic Director. The resident musician is Simon Lanzon, prior to joining TheatreMobile he was the resident Musical Director at the Liverpool Playhouse, he is under contract to A.T.V. Music to publish his work.





TheatreMobile are soon to move to Hammer-ton St, Burnley, and a rehearsal place and workshops will be created. When on the road TheatreMobile is a self-contained unit carrying its own performing structures, sound and lighting equipment. The equipment is transported in a 3 ton Mercedes wagon and the personnel travel separately in a mini bus.

TheatreMobile's work covers all age ranges from 5 — 105's. The company works with children as performers, not as a theatre-in-education group. The children's programmes are devised by the Artistic Director with the company and include a large amount of audience participation. This season the programme for the older age ranges reflects the development of the company over the last three years. Material of the highest quality is being especially written to suit the requirements of the area and of this young, highly skilled company. In addition there are more 'informal' programmes compiled for specific venues and occasions, fairs, fetes, local festivals, pubs, old peoples homes, centres for the handicapped.

The programme from March 1976 includes performances of, "The World Turned Upside Down" - a drama documentary of the events of the 1642-1649 civil war and its effect on the people of Lancashire. "The Jesse James Show" - another original production, a wild west extravaganza. "Take A Break" - a new and dynamic show of light entertainment for pubs, clubs and factories. "A Travellers Tale" is based on the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm, written and produced by Ginny Roncoroni, specially for 7-11 year olds. In August and September TheatreMobile will be on the road with another new and exciting production to look forward to.

This wide ranging programme makes heavy demands on the versatility of the company. Without a theatre building, or the usual form



of set decor the impact of the company relies on the talents of its members. Simply to be a good conventional actor is not enough. Therefore, a pool of specialists, mainly from our locale, has been built up. These people give generously of their time and knowledge and include a judo expert, an acrobatics teacher, a clog and tap dancing teacher, three magicians and a voice specialist.

The majority of the company have been together for some time. This has developed the consistency and standard of the work.

TheatreMobile is one of several peripatetic companies operating in the areas of England where no other professional theatre activity is readily accessible. These companies are an important development in theatre in recent years and provide an exciting alternative to the more formal system of repertory theatres.



## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

The World Turned Upside Down

*"A major artistic event"*

Robin Thornber, The Guardian.

*"A stirring play, stirringly acted"*

Craven Herald.

Jesse James

*"...an all action packed show"*

Todmorden News

*"Pure sensation, it works"*

David Ward, The Guardian.

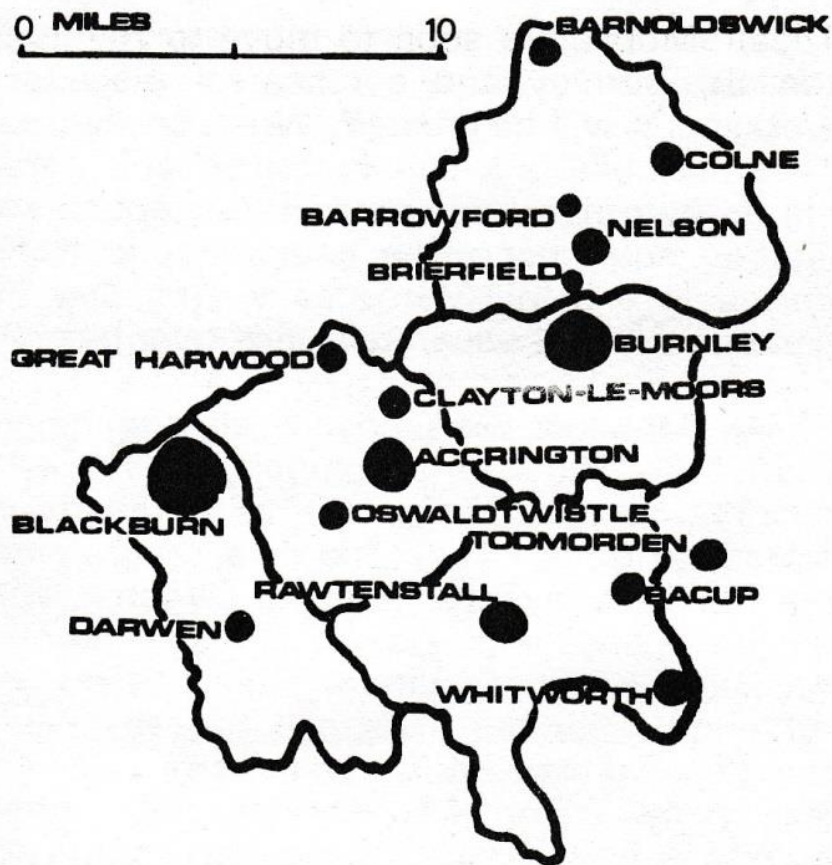
*"If you see the gaily coloured TheatreMobile van, find out where the group is performing and go along and see exactly what its members have to offer. You will not be bored"*

Rosendale Free Press.

*"The company are bringing the pleasures of the professional theatre to an area otherwise starved of it"*

Accrington Observer.





Districts which contribute to the Mid-Pennine Association for the Arts — Towns in which TheatreMobile regularly performs.

All requests for further information about TheatreMobile and enquiries about availability of productions should be addressed to:-

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