

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? JANUARY 2017

Well on Sunday October 30th a whole lot of them were at The Adelphi theatre helping the company to celebrate its fortieth anniversary led by **JASPER BRITTON** (1976-7) the genuine 'Father of the House' for it was he who, aged 12, walked onto the stage erected in a tent outside St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh and spoke the first words of the company's first ever production, THE BALLAD OF SALOMON PAVEY, which went on to win a coveted Scotsman Fringe First Award and, as a result, was invited to The Young Vic the following year as part of the official Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Later that year it was televised by ATV and published by Oxford University Press.

To open the Gala Concert, that same opening scene was re-enacted at The Adelphi with Jasper playing the same role – and he was word perfect! Jasper has just completed a run at The Haymarket Theatre in THE LIBERTINE and to our delight has also accepted our invitation to become the Honorary Chairman of the new **FRIENDS OF THE NYMT**, which we urge you all to join. JASPER also kindly attended the hugely successful Christmas Concert at St John's, Smith Square on December 17th, as did **AMY NUTALL** (1996 – 99) who sang Jason Robert Brown's Christmas Lullaby from SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD quite beautifully.

Also kindly giving up their time to join the party were **TOM CHAMBERS** (1990 -97) fresh from CRAZY FOR YOU at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, who had to rush off the stage and drive overnight to Cardiff where he was shooting CASUALTY at 7.00 the next morning, and **ASHLEY DAY** (1998-2002), soon to be seen in AN AMERICAN IN PARIS at The Dominion, dancing beautifully with **LAYLA HARRISON** (1993-4) to OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING with the NYMT's original Curly, **DOMINIC TIGHE** (1993-9) re-creating the role. Dominic having just finished THE THREEPENNY OPERA at the National is currently in SHE LOVES ME at The Menier Chocolate Factory, as is **CALLUM HOWELLS** (2015-16). **SIMON THOMAS** (1993 -99) reminded us what a brilliant Artful Dodger he was in OLIVER! 23 years ago – and is soon to join the cast of THE WILD PARTY at the Other Palace alongside **TIFFANY GRAVES** (1989-92) and **GLORIA OBIANYO** (2013-4) fresh from her debut in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR alongside **DECLAN BENNETT** (1998), CHARLOTTE RIBY and BARNABY THOMPSON – and **HELEN POWER** (1993-6) and **JEMIMAH TAYLOR** (2012-13) did the same singing CATHY in WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND whilst **GINA BECK** (1996-1999) re-lived Kate Hardcastle in THE KISSING-DANCE. **GAVIN SPOKES** (1996-9) brought the Adelphi house down as Nicely Nicely Johnson singing SIT DOWN YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT, just as he had done earlier in the year during the recent hugely successful run of GUYS AND DOLLS at The Phoenix. Gavin subsequently enjoyed giving his Dame in the Hackney Empire panto, THE SLEEPING BEAUTY, over the festive season. The mind boggles! **JASON ROBERT BROWN** was there to introduce a section from 13, as was **SIENNA KELLY** (2012-13) from the original NYMT cast. **STUART MATTHEW PRICE** (1996-7) introduced a song from his new show IMAGINARY, which is to be one of the NYMT's new productions for 2017 and, singing TONIGHT from WEST SIDE STORY, was **DOMINIC HODSON** (2007-12), having been in BEAUTIFUL at The Aldwych alongside **ED CURRIE** (2008), and more recently in SIDE SHOW at The Southwark Playhouse directed by **HANNAH CHISSICK**, who did such a fine job for the NYMT on BRASS in 2016. Dominic was joined by **AMARA OKEREKE** (2012-14) who played Maria in the NYMT's 2014 production. The undoubted coup of the evening was engineered by new trustee **MIKE JIBSON** (1996-9) who somehow managed to collect seven of the BAD GUYS from the NYMT's 1997 West End production of BUGSY MALONE in the form of **MARK PICKERING** (1996-8), **SAM ARCHER** (1996 -8) - currently in THE RED SHOES at Sadler's Wells - **GIOVANNI SPANO**, (1997-98) - soon to appear as Leroux in BAT OUT OF HELL at The London Coliseum, **CHRIS HERRIOT** (1996-98), **MATT FRASER** (1995-8), **PAUL LOWE** (1996-8) and Mike himself, who hilariously recreated their number from the show working with seven current NYMT boys choreographed by the wonderful **KAY SHEPHERD**.

A delightful bonus 'extra' was brought to the GALA by a number of distinguished past members and friends who were unable to attend the actual concert but sent a video clip from wherever they were in the world including **THE EARL OF WESSEX** (our President since 1986) who, sadly not able to attend the show itself, had visited the theatre during the day to wish everyone well and who, with his typically generous and dedicated commitment to supporting the NYMT, graciously filmed a brief message to open the show. Other messages were broadcast from **KATIE HALL** (2006-7) in Vienna, where she is performing in a new musical by Stephen Schwartz; **BEN BARNES**, (1998 -2002) from New York; **JAMIE PARKER** (1997-2000) from the stage of the Palace

Theatre where he was, at that very same time, playing Harry Potter, **LILY JAMES** (2006-7) and, ingenious and brilliant as ever, a musical greeting from newly-appointed Patron of the NYMT, **HOWARD GOODALL** (composer, THE HIRED MAN, THE KISSING-DANCE, the dreaming) who composed and sang to camera from his house in France:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NYMT. WHAT AN AWESOME AGE TO BE
AND MAY WE WISH YOU FORTY MORE
THERE ARE GEMS TO BE FOUND
AND STARS TO BE CROWNED
SO RAISE YOUR GLASSSES.
GET OFF YOUR ARSES
AND REJOICE!!

It was a really great and memorable night and huge tribute should also be paid to all the technical, administrative and creative staff who gave so much of their time and skills to bring it to the stage, many of whom have been associated with the NYMT for many years and who are as much responsible for the success of the company as all those who are on the stage.

Meanwhile, life progresses as busily as ever in the outside world.

On television **MATT LUCAS** (1987-8) is ever-present, as is **SUE PERKINS** (1984) and **SHERIDAN SMITH** (1994-98) who, after a difficult year, is to everyone's delight now back playing the lead in FUNNY GIRL, soon to go on tour. **TOBY JONES** (1981-3) another new Patron of the NYMT, continues to be the hardest working actor in the country - THE WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION is his latest TV offering - and **STEPHEN GRAHAM** (1990- 93) was recently magnificent in THE WATCHMAN on Channel Four. **CHARLOTTE RITCHIE** (2006-7) who is also currently in RICKY WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT at the New Diorama where **FREDDIE TAPNER** (2014-6) is conducting, and (**VICKY YEATES** (1996-8) continue to produce high quality work in ASK THE MIDWIFE, while **JIM STURGESS**, (1993-4) currently leads the cast in Stephen Poliakoff's intriguing - i.e. slightly confusing - drama, CLOSE TO THE ENEMY on BBC2. On SKY, **JONNY LEE MILLER** (1986-89) is still SHERLOCKing, whilst **STEWART CLARKE** (2010-12) and **JON TARCY** (2011-13) were recently to be seen on C5's WEST SIDE STORIES celebrating the 60th anniversary of one of the most successful musicals ever.

On the big screen **DAVID OYEWOLO** (1995-6) has won high praise for his leading role in A UNITED KINGDOM. David, who was in the cast of THE THREEPENNY OPERA that in 1995 toured to New York and played in the 2600 seater City Center Theater, is currently back in the city playing OTHELLO at the New York Theatre Workshop. **EDDIE REDMAYNE** (1999) strikes again playing the lead in FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM. **DOM HARRISON** (2012-14) is currently on the new hit Disney musical TV series THE LODGE and is also in the midst of starting his music career.

Back on stage, **TOM HOLLANDER** (1981-3) is packing the Apollo playing the lead in TRAVESTIES. **KERRY ELLIS** (1990-91) most recently in MURDER BALLAD at The Arts is going on tour as Alice - and with **NAOMI MORRIS** (2013-16) making her professional stage debut as Ellie - in the UK TOUR of Frank Wildhorn's WONDERLAND directed by our very own **LOTTE WAKEHAM**. **TASHA SHERIDAN** (1999-2001) is in SCHOOL OF ROCK at The New London, for which the casting of the children has fallen to **NICHOLAS HOCKADAY** (2009-10) who has joined the staff of JESSICA RONANE CASTING at The Old Vic. **NICOLA ALEXIS** (1988-90) and **TOM MILLIGAN** (2009-12) are with **JAMIE PARKER** in the cast of HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD at The Palace while, in THE BOOK OF MORMON at The Prince of Wales, **PHILIP CATCHPOLE** (1996-8) and **DELROY ATKINSON** (1996-7) are still turning the pages. **SEAN PARKINS** (1996-8) has joined the cast of DREAMGIRLS at The Savoy and, playing Wendy Darling in the wonderful Bristol Old Vic production of PETER PAN at The National Theatre, is **MADDIE WORRALL** (1994-97). **ADAM PEARCE** (1998-2001) is still defending the barricade in LES MISERABLES at The Queen's, where **SOPHIE REEVES** (2011-12) has joined as ensemble and first cover Fantine, and **ADAM MEGGIDO** (1984) is improvising for all he's worth in SHOW STOPPER at The Lyric in Shaftesbury Avenue while, at the other Lyric in Hammersmith, **MALINDA PARRIS** (1995-8) is currently in ALADDIN with **BEN HOLDER** (2011-14) in the pit. **GUNNAR CAUTHERAY** (1996-7) returns to the Hampstead Theatre in WILD HONEY and **JAMIE MUSCATO** (2006-7) is in the David Bowie piece, LAZARUS, at the King's Cross Theatre while, at the recently re-named THE OTHER PALACE, there's a whole lot of NYMT going on with **PHIL CORNWELL**

(1995-8) as Musical Director on RENT and arguably the busiest man in the business, **DREW McONIE** (1995-8), not just content with choreographing IN THE HEIGHTS at The King's Cross Theatre and with both JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR and THE LORAX returning to London during 2017, is about to direct WILD PARTY in February. Another double act comes from **JORDAN LI-SMITH** (2012-3) who not only musical directed RAGTIME at The Charing Cross Theatre but also played the piano for the entire piece from memory! Also terrific in the show was **GARY TUSHAW** (1997-9) which was co-produced by new trustee of the NYMT, **DANIELLE TARENTO** who next brings DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY to Charing Cross in January. JORDAN is moving on to be musical director for the intriguingly titled THE BUBBLY BLACK GIRL SHEDS HER CHAMELEON SKIN coming up soon at The Theatre Royal, Stratford East, which includes **SHARON WATTIS** (1998-9) in the cast. The show is being lit by the multi-award winning **CHRIS DAVEY** (1993-7) and two others, **NATHANAEL LANDSKRONER** and **MAX JORQUERA**, made their professional debuts this year in Nikolai Foster's GREASE at Leicester's Curve.

Another busy Musical Director alumnus, **TOM DEERING** was in charge of IN THE HEIGHTS and Regents Park's terrific production of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR! which is returning to London next year. Tom has also composed the score for the even more intriguingly titled THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TAKES ORAL EVIDENCE ON WHITEHALL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH KIDS' COMPANY for production next year at The Donmar. Watch this space!

JJT, (NYMT Founder) is currently preparing production of THE UPSIDE -DOWN SAILOR, a music- theatre piece by ROXANNA PANUFNIK to a libretto by past NYMT Board Member and Writer/Composer, **RICHARD STILGOE**, for the Rose Theatre in Kingston in July.

More awards! Huge congratulations to **RICHARD TAYLOR** on his richly-deserved UK Theatre Award for Best Musical Production for FLOWERS FOR MRS HARRIS at the Sheffield Crucible, choreographed by **KAY SHEPHERD** and, for the successful six month run of his musical, THE GO-BETWEEN at The Apollo. And another UK THEATRE AWARD for Best Supporting Performance for her fabulous work as Julie La Verne in SHOW BOAT at The Crucible then at the New London Theatre went to **REBECCA TREHEARNE** (1994-6).

Creating history at Stratford upon Avon, **MARK QUARTLEY** (1999-2004) is playing a digitally enhanced ARIEL in THE TEMPEST using motion-capture technology allowing him to fly around the theatre 'for real'!!!

Choreographers are also having their day! Alongside all the work Drew McOnie is doing, **PETER DARLING** (1976-7) recently added GROUNDHOG DAY at The Old Vic – to his already glittering list of choreographic triumphs. We look forward to the show returning to the West End as soon as possible. More breath-taking choreography is on show in HALF A SIXPENCE at the Noel Coward Theatre in which **ANDREW WRIGHT** (1909 – 91) scored yet another big hit before choreographing a list of stars in the London Palladium pantomime, CINDERELLA.

Finally, many congratulations to **STUART THOMPSON** (2013-16) who won a Bursary to join the INTERNATIONAL BOYS' BALLET SUMMER COURSE in Sydney and is about to fly there for a week's training with some of the world's finest choreographers, as well as braving the waves of Bondi Beach and experiences the world's finest New Year's fireworks' display overlooking The Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. Well done, Stuart.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

