

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? March 2014

First and foremost, huge congratulations are due to NYMT Producer JEREMY WALKER who has recently been made a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) in recognition of his "achievements in providing pre-professional education and musical theatre stage experience to young people." This is a signal honour – and richly deserved. (Other Fellows include Dame Judi Dench, Peter Ustinov, Janet Baker, Stephen Hawking and Charles Dickens! Distinguished company!)

THE BIG SCREEN

IDRIS ELBA (Guys and Dolls, 1990) has been dominating the headlines recently as Nelson Mandela in MANDELA, THE LONG WALK TO FREEDOM. (The NYMT sang for Nelson Mandela in 2002 when he came to London to launch the MANDELA FOUNDATION UK .

One of the busiest in the business at the moment must be **JIM STURGESS (The Ragged Child, 1993)** who currently has no less than five films in the pipeline – THE LION'S SHARE, THE BIG SHOT, LONDON FIELDS, ELECTRIC SLICK and ELIZA GRAVES. Equally busy is **BEN BARNES (The Ballad of Salomon Pavey, 1996; Buggy Malone, 1997; The Ragged Child, 1999; The Dreaming, 2002)** who has three films in the offing, GOD ONLY KNOWS, ZENODOG and the spectacular SEVENTH SON.

Also busy is **SHERIDAN SMITH (Pendragon, 1994; Tin Pan Ali, 1995; Buggy Malone, 1996; The Kissing Dance, 1998)**, hilarious in POWDER ROOM also giving a fine performance in THE 7.39 on BBC 1 as well as packing them in at The Noel Coward Theatre as Titania. Watch out for her on television later this year as Cilla Black.

Following his fine work in LES MISERABLES, **EDDIE REDMAYNE (The Ballad of Salomon Pavey, 1999)** has two new films about to emerge –THEORY OF EVERYTHING and JUPITER ASCENDING while one of the special guests at the Christmas Concert in December, **TOBY JONES (The Leaving of Liverpool, 1981)** is also in GOD ONLY KNOWS with Ben Barnes, as well as in CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER and SERENA. And, never short of work - **MATT LUCAS (Bodywork and The Roman Invasion of Ramsgate, 1987)** is hilarious in HARRY HILL, THE MOVIE and **SALLY HAWKINS (Master Peter's Puppet Show, 1993; Pendragon, 1994)** has been winning rave reviews for her performance opposite Kate Winslett in Woody Allen's latest film, BLUE JASMINE.

On the small screen, **JONNY LEE MILLER (The Ragged Child, 1986; Bodywork, 1987; Les Petits Rats, 1988; The Caucasian Chalk Circle, 1989)** continues his excellent work as Sherlock Holmes in ELEMENTARY as does **STEPHEN GRAHAM (Captain Stirrick, 1990)**, playing Al Capone in BOARDWALK EMPIRE. **AMY NUTTALL (Whistle Down The Wind, 1995, Aurelius, 1996)** – another welcome guest at the recent Christmas Concert - has just finished filming a ten part series, THE THREE MUSKETEERS for the BBC

West End stages – as well as many others round the country – are still alive with the sound of NYMT music! On the live stage, playing Simon Cowell, no less, in I CAN'T SING, X FACTOR is **NIGEL HARMAN (October's Children, 1991)** alongside **CHARLIE BAKER** who was also in the same October's Children cast in 1991 - then called **TIM BAKER; (also Whistle Down The Wind, 1995).** **TAM MUTU (Whistle Down The Wind, 1995)** continues in LES MISERABLES at The Queens and **ASHLEY DAY (creation, 1998; Oklahoma, 2002)** is still filling the Piccadilly Theatre in BOOK OF MORMON while the hottest ticket in town most recently was for **JUDE LAW (Bodywork, 1987, The Ragged Child, 1988; Les Petits Rats, 1988, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, 1989; The Caucasian Chalk Circle, 1990, Captain Stirrick 1990)** as a magnificent Henry in HENRY V at the Noel Coward.

Coming up in March at the Gielgud Theatre is Michael Blakemore's new production of BLITHE SPIRIT with **CHARLES EDWARDS (The Ragged Child, 1986; Les Petits Rats, 1988; The Caucasian Chalk Circle, 1990)** playing the lead opposite the great Angela Lansbury – sadly not an NYMT alumina! Young **HAL HENDERSON (The Dreaming, 2012)** is the latest NYMTer to become a member of the National Theatre where he is currently in EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES at The Olivier, while next door in the Lyttleton, **MALINDA PARRIS (Tin Pan Ali, 1995; Buggy Malone, 1996); JAMIE MUSCATO (The Dreaming, 2006) and ADAM PEARCE (Pendragon, 1999; Oklahoma, 2002)** amazed audiences in the magical musical THE LIGHT PRINCESS. Adam

is now appearing in the excellent URINETOWN at the St James. As one ends, another begins. So, at the Phoenix Theatre, **DECLAN BENNETT (The Kissing Dance, 1998)** concludes his tremendous lead of the company of ONCE playing Guy opposite **FLORA SPENCER-LONGHURST (The Ragged Child, 1993)** as Reza, whilst **MATT NALTON (Fiddler On The Roof, 2007; Whistle Down The Wind, 2008; Sweeney Todd, 2010 and 2011)** opens in JERSEY BOYS at the Piccadilly, playing the role of Nick Massi.

GAVIN SPOKES (1997-2000, The Beggar's Opera, Aurelius, The Wizard of Oz) has just finished a sell-out run of 1984 with HEADLONG at the Almeida and is about to play the leading role of Frances Henshall in ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS (having understudied and played the role for three weeks in the West End) on the new UK tour. And I'm told that **JAMIE PARKER (1997-2000, The Beggar's Opera, The Ragged Child, Into The Woods)** has landed the role of Sky Masterson in GUYS AND DOLLS at Chichester this summer.

Huge congratulations are due to **DOUGAL IRVINE** and **DOMINIC MARSH (Aesop, 1991; The Ragged Child, 1993)** respectively composer and writer of THE OTHER SCHOOL, commissioned by the NYMT last year which, following its highly successful run at the St James' Theatre, is to be published by Rogers and Hammerstein Theatricals. That is a real feather in their caps! Look forward also to **HOWARD GOODALL** and **CHARLES HART (The Kissing Dance, 1998 and THE DREAMING, 2002)** who's new musical version of BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM is due in the West End later this year. More writing/composing success too for **JORDAN LI-SMITH (The Dreaming, 2012)** whose new musical SUMMER IN THE LAKES is currently in development. An excerpt was performed recently at FRAMED: The London New Writers Showcase at The Etcetera Theatre in Camden.

Welcome as a new Board Members are **MIKE JIBSON (Tin Pan Ali, 1995; Buggy Malone, 1997, The Kissing Dance, 1998)** recently most impressive in ROOTS at The Donmar Warehouse and **JENNY COOKE OBE**, who many will know from the great work she has done in Ireland as founder of Music Theatre For Youth (MT4Uth).

If there was a prize for the West End show with the most NYMT involvement, current competitors would be MATILDA which can boast **LOTTIE WAKEHAM (Director ; The Dreaming, 2006; The Other School, 2013)** as Associate Director, **NIK ASHTON (Pendragon, 1998, Oklahoma 2002)** as Resident Director and choreographer **PETER DARLING (The Ballad of Salomon Pavey, 1977)** - who is also responsible for the choreography on CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY at Drury Lane - plus recent cast members **NICKY SEARLE (Drake, 1983)** and **ZAK BAKER (Whistle Down the Wind, 2013)** - who is currently playing Michael in BILLY ELLIOT - being conducted by **MARK COLLINS (Musical Director, The Other School, 2013)** and WICKED which probably wins on points since, although **GINA BECK (Warchild, 1997, The Kissing Dance, 1998; Pendragon, 2000)** having done stirring work as Glinda for some time now has moved on, she has been replaced by **SAVANNAH STEVENSON (Whistle Down the Wind, 1994)**, while **SEAN PARKINS (Buggy Malone, 1997)** and **PHILIP CATCHPOLE (Warchild, 1997)** are still in the company. (Please note, however that the Jeremy Taylor playing Fiyero - brilliantly we have no doubt, - is most emphatically NOT JJT!!)