

Where are they Now December 2012

The NYMT presence out there in the real world appears to be getting bigger and more impressive as time goes on! As well as the usual domination of the stages and film-screens, what is hugely gratifying is to see a sudden growing surge of interest and success of NYMTers past and present on the writing and composing front:

SCRIPTS AND SCORES

AMERICAN JUSTICE, a new play about Barack Obama by **RICHARD VERGETTE** (**The Little Rats 1988/9**) opens at the Arts Theatre, 15 Jan 2013, following previews from 10 Jan, running to 9 Feb. **JAMES BOURNE** (**Aurelius 1997, Bugsy Malone 1997/8**) has his musical **Loserville** running until 5 Jan at The Garrick while **ADAM MEGGIDO** (**Drake 1984**) has co-composed music and lyrics for **The Tailor-Made Man** due to open on 13 Feb, also at the Arts Theatre. **JJT** is also scribbling again having been working recently in Sydney directing a workshop and writing the lyrics for a new music theatre piece, **A Peculiar People** – the extraordinary true story of a band of Australians who tried to found 'The New Australia' in Paraguay in the 1890s. Book and lyrics are by **DAVID JENSEN** (**The Little Rats 1989**). Most significant of all, of course, is the new commission for NYMT's 2013 season, **THE OTHER SCHOOL**, with music and lyrics by Dougal Irvine and book co-written by Dougal Irvine and **DOMINIC MARSH** (**Aesop 1991, The Ragged Child 1993, Whistle Down The Wind 1993**).

ON STAGE

Meanwhile, up on stage it's business as usual with fabulous reviews for **SALLY HAWKINS** (**Pendragon 1994, Master Peter's Puppet Show 1995**) in **Constellations** at The Duke of York and, at The Wyndhams Theatre, **WILL KEEN** (**The Ballad of Salomon Pavey 1987**) is playing alongside Rowan Atkinson in **Quartermaine's Terms**. At the National Theatre on the South Bank **CHARLES EDWARDS** (**The Ragged Child 1986, Les Petits Rats 1988, The Caucasian Chalk Circle 1989**) soon transfers from the Cottesloe to the Olivier in **This House** alongside **GUNNAR CAUTHEREY** (**Whistle Down the Wind 1995**) and, at the New London, **RACHEL SANDERS** (**The Little Rats 1988**) and **Danny Dalton** (**Oliver! 1990**) continue in **Warhorse**. Coming soon to the Donmar is Phillida Lloyd's new production of the all-female **Julius Caesar** with **CUSH JUMBO** (**Bugsy Malone 1997/8**) playing Mark Anthony. Also opening in the spring **SHERIDAN SMITH** plays Titania for Michael Grandage in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at The Noel Coward Theatre, while already playing there is **JOHN MARQUES** (**Pendragon 1994**) in **Privates On Parade**. **ASHLEY DAY** (creation 1998, Oklahoma 2000) is in **The Book of Mormon** at The Prince of Wales Theatre; **STEWART CLARKE** (**Sweeney Todd 2010/11, Songs for a New World 2012**) continues playing the lead, Eddie in **Loserville**. **TOM CHAMBERS** (**October's Children 1990, Pendragon 1995**) is soon to finish a two-year stint playing the lead in **Top Hat** at The Aldwych, where **DAN JACKSON** (**NYMT Musical Director 1997-2000**) continues as MD. Also about to finish is **NIGEL HARMAN** (**October's Children 1990**) in **Chorus of Disapproval** at the Pinter Theatre. **LUCY THATCHER** (**The Wizard of Oz 1997, Into The Woods 1998**) fresh from her triumph as Julie Jordan in **JO DAVIES's** highly successful production of **Carousel** for ENO North and **DARREN CARNALL** (**Bugsy Malone 1997**) have recently opened in **Viva Forever** at The Piccadilly Theatre and **GLORIA ONITIRI** (**Pendragon 1998, The Dreaming 2000**) is in the company and playing the lead for some performances of **The Bodyguard** at the Adelphi Theatre. **OLIVER TOMPSETT** (**The Wizard of Oz 1997, creation 1999**) is playing Galileo in **We Will Rock You** at the Dominion and **NICKY SWIFT** (**Whistle Down the Wind 1994, Warchild 1997**) maintains the NYMT presence in **Les Misérables** at The Queen's. **NEIL McDERMOTT** (**Aurelius 1996, The Kissing Dance 1998**) continues as Lord Farquard in **Shrek** at Drury Lane. **GINA BECK** (**Warchild 1997, The Kissing-Dance 1998, Pendragon 2000**) is still casting magic spells as Glinda in **Wicked** at The Apollo Victoria and **TASHA TAYLOR JOHNSON** (**The Dreaming 1999**) continues in **Mama Mia** at The Novello. **SIMON THOMAS** (**Oliver! 1995, Bugsy Malone BBC Radio 1995, The Kissing-Dance 1998, The Dreaming 2000**) has recently taken over as Raoul in **The Phantom of the Opera** at Her Majesty's Theatre and **KATIE HALL** (**The Dreaming 2006, Fiddler On The Roof 2007**) leads the UK tour of the show as Christine. For the first time in years, **ADAM PEARCE** (**Pendragon 1998, OKLAHOMA 2000**) has *not* actually been on a stage anywhere because he's been busy getting married to Anita Markham!!! Congratulations, Adam!!! Congratulations are also due to **KATIE BEARD** (**Choreography The Dreaming 2006**) on her

recent marriage to Joe Stilgoe. **AVA BRENNAN** (Oklahoma! 2003/4) is currently playing Nala in **The Lion King** The Lyceum and, for the first time in years, **ADAM PEARCE** (Pendragon 1998, OKLAHOMA 2000) has not actually been on a stage anywhere because he's been busy getting married to Anita Markham!!!

THE BIG SCREEN

On the big screen **ADEBAYO BOLAJI** (Aurelius 1996, Buggy Malone 1997, The Wizard of Oz 1998) is one of the bad guys in Skyfall and **DAVID OYEWOLO** (The Threepenny Opera 1997) has his name above the title in Tom Cruise's latest blockbuster, Jack Reacher. **SHERIDAN SMITH** (Pendragon 1994, Tin Pan Ali 1995, Buggy Malone 1996, The Kissing-Dance 1998) is adding to her amazing list of achievements a role in Dustin Hoffman's new film, Quartet. Les Misérables is dominated by NYMT alumni – including new dad (congratulations!) **MIKE JIBSON** (Tin Pan Ali 1996, Buggy Malone 1997, The Kissing-Dance 1998), **EDDIE REDMAYNE** (The Ballad of Salomon Pavey 1999), **ADAM PEARCE** (Pendragon 1998, OKLAHOMA 2000) and mention could be made of an honorary NYMTer as a result of her contribution towards NYMT in Concert with Matt Lucas and Friends of Poster Girl **ISABELLE ALLEN** who plays Young Cosette. The film also features **MARC PICKERING** (1996-2002), **GINA BECK** (1997-2000), **KATIE HALL** (2006-7), **KERRY ELLIS** (1990), **JAMIE MUSCATO** (2006-7) and **TOBY TURPIN** (13 The Musical 2012).

TELEVISION

Over Christmas the amazing and ever-busy **TOBY JONES** (The Leaving of Liverpool 1981, Tin Pan Ali 1983) added Alfred Hitchcock to his list of astonishing character roles in The Girl on BBC 1 and **JULIAN OVENDEN** (Saint Francis 1993) sang Sondheim/Bernstein as brilliantly as ever on John Wilson on Broadway on ITV while **JONNY LEE MILLER** (The Ragged Child 1986, The Roman Invasion of Ramsbottom 1987, Les Petits Rats 1988, The Caucasian Chalk Circle 1989) added his contribution to the current list of Sherlock Holmes interpretations on Sky. **DAVID WITTS** (The Dreaming 2006, Whistle Down The Wind 2008), recently voted Sexiest Male at the Inside Soap Awards, continues to attract a young following as Joey Branning in Eastenders on BBC 1.

CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL

On the technical/creative fronts, **ES DEVLIN** (**The Wizard of Oz 1997**) follows her work on designing the **Olympic Closing Ceremony** with designs for **Chemerica** soon to open at The Almeida, and **FRANCIS O'CONNOR** (**Noye's Fludde 1992**) maintains his NYMT link with his designs for **Loserville**. **NICK RICHINGS** (**Warchild 1998**) has designed the lighting for **Scrooge** at The London Palladium and **GARETH FRY** (**Buggy Malone 1996**) is designing the sound for **Hansel and Gretel** at The National Theatre. **ANDREW WRIGHT** (**Joseph 1989, Oliver! 1990, Billy 1991**) continues to wow with his brilliant choreography for **Singing in The Rain** at The Palace and, also on the choreography front, whilst **Matilda** still rules the West End at The Cambridge, **PETER DARLING** (**The Ballad of Salomon Pavey 1976**) soon starts to work his magic on **Charlie and The Chocolate Factory** at the London Palladium. Coming soon will be Nikolai Foster's production of **Kiss of The Spider Woman** at Arts Ed, choreographed by **DREW McONIE** (**The Wizard of Oz 1998**) and under the musical direction of **TOM DEERING** (**Goblin Market 2003**) – the same creative team that will produce **West Side Story** for NYMT at Victoria Warehouse in Manchester this summer.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Finally, thanks so much to all those current NYMTers – too many to mention – for their fine work and to the generosity of alumni, **JASPER BRITTON** (The Ballad of Salomon Pavey 1976), **AKIYA HENRY** (Annie 1995, The Kissing Dance 1998, Into The Woods 1999), **JONNY McGOVERN** (The Ragged Child 1999, Oklahoma 2001), **JUDE LAW** (Bodywork 1987, The Ragged Child 1988, Les Petits Rats 1988, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 1989, The Caucasian Chalk Circle 1989, Captain Stirrick 1990), **AMY NUTTALL** (Whistle Down the Wind 1995, Aurelius 1996), **CHIKÉ OKONKWO** (Into The Woods 1999, The Dreaming 2002), **CHARLOTTE RITCHIE** (The Dreaming 2006) and **DOMINIC TIGHE** (Whistle Down the Wind 1995, Orvin 1999, Oklahoma 2001, The Dreaming 2002) for their invaluable contribution to the hugely successful, first ever (and certainly not the last) NYMT Christmas Concert at The Actors' Church, Covent Garden.

An unsolicited email from a new NYMT parent following the Christmas Concert:

'Wow wow and wow again! Thank you so much for the beautiful concert last night. As an attendee at many Christmas Concerts yours was, by a very long way, the best ever. It wasn't only the talent so obviously on show but how the concert had been put together. It was a perfect balance of humour, extraordinary music, wonderful singing and general Christmas spirit. I really hope it's the first of many.

Thank you so much for a truly spectacular start to Christmas.'

Keep the good news coming in!