

THE LITTLE THEATRE

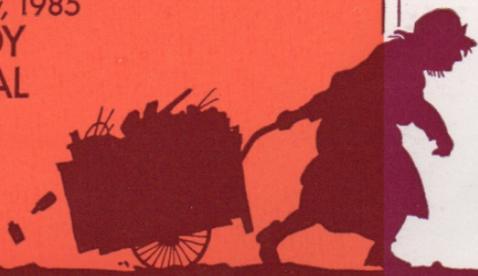
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10th – 18th May, 1985

EVERYBODY LOVES OPAL

by John Patrick
Directed by
Benny Darrah



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WHAT'S ON at the LITTLE

WEDNESDAY 22nd — SATURDAY, 25th MAY

GARRICK PLAYERS and SEFTON THEATRE COMPANY
present

JANE EYRE

WEDNESDAY, 29th MAY — SATURDAY, 1st JUNE

MERRY-GO-ROUND THEATRE WORKSHOPS present

GREASE

a 1950's style musical

Please note this show commences 7.30 pm

TUESDAY, 4th JUNE — SATURDAY, 8th JUNE

MAGHULL AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY presents

OLIVER

based on Charles Dickens 'Oliver Twist'

WEDNESDAY, 12th JUNE — SATURDAY, 15th JUNE

S.D.C. BAR PRODUCTION

BORN IN THE GARDENS

by PETER NICHOLS

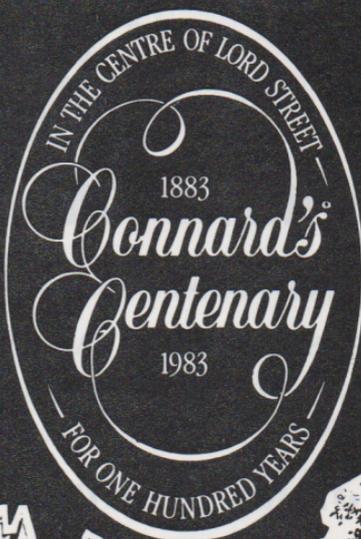
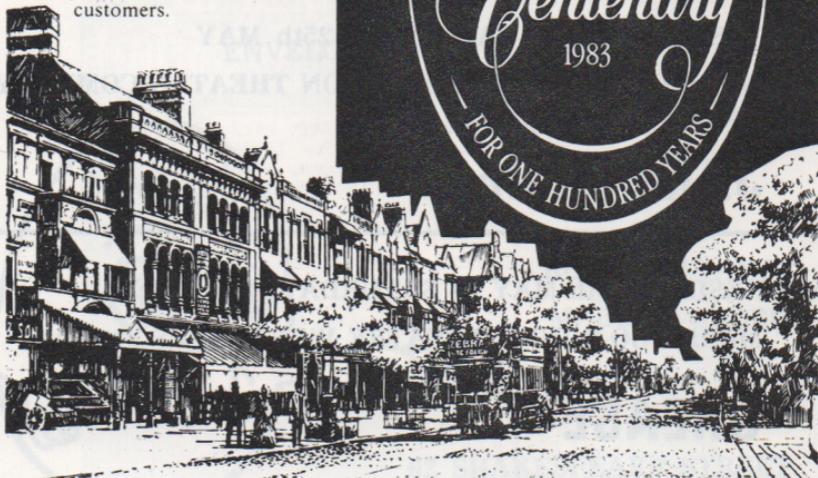
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EVERYBODY

ROBIN HIRSCH, joined the S.D.C. on her 18th Birthday, more years ago than she cares to remember. Married, (to a long suffering husband) she has two children. Although acting is her first love, she has directed and has worked on various committees. Favourite roles have been 'Opal' (obviously), Meg Bowles in 'The Birthday Party,' Hannah in 'Patrick Pearse Hotel' and Marjorie in 'Dear Octopus.' She has directed 'Picnic' and 'Dame of Sark.'

FRED GOLDSWORTH—only joined the cast in later rehearsals but has soon found his feet.

JANINE GRIME—an acting member since 1958, has appeared in many roles and is no stranger to Benny's prowess as a director. She is delighted to repeat the same role under his direction and join up with Robin once again—a previous shared production was 'Barefoot in the Park.' She has played more recent roles as Lady Hamilton in 'Bequest to the Nation' and Mrs. Hennessy in 'Liver Birds.'

DAVID CHARTERS, feels very much a 'new boy' in this revival of 'Opal.' Along with David Parry and Fred Goldsworth, he is not a member of the original cast. However, he accepted the role of the lean, handsome, Bradford Winter, a man of 'superior intellect' as a challenge.

GORDON WINSLAND, a long standing member of the S.D.C. has been absent from 'The Boards' for the past four years due to business commitments. He appeared with Robin in 'Time for the Cuckoo' and other appearances have been in 'Vivat, Vivat, Regina', 'Royal Hunt of the Sun,' 'Lion in Winter.'

DAVID PARRY has had to settle for the part of Officer Jankie having failed the audition for Mister Tanner. Hoping to leave the New York Police Force and turn Private Eye—may be the chance to play Philip Marlowe one day. Whilst not on stage in this play he listens to tapes of Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman.

BILL FINN, has been around for many years and is a survivor of the original production playing the same role. Between times he has played a variety of parts the last being that of Canon Pennyfather in 'Murder on the Nile' at the start of this season.

and DIRECTING EVERYBODY —

BENNY DARRAH. First directed for the S.D.C. in 1956. ('Anastasia'). Present production is his thirtieth and his favourites were 'Salad Days' 1963 and 1971, 'Under Milkwood' 1970, 'A Voyage Round My Father' 1975. Favourite parts have been Joseph in 'My Three Angels', Bob in 'Dame Of Sark' and The Doctor in 'Whose Life Is It Anyway.' Loves the 'Little' and, like Opal, everyone connected with it.



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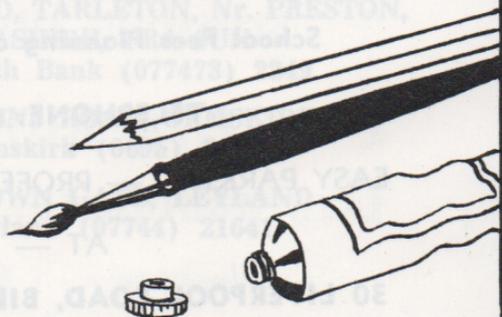
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MERRY-GO-ROUND THEATRE WORKSHOPS

MERRY-GO-ROUND (MGR for short) was formed in January and since then several theatre workshop groups have presented productions and Direct Theatre, MGR's professional touring company has been on the road with a production of Canterbury Tales. MGR runs children's creative drama workshops weekly and current membership totals 200 youngsters. The emphasis is very much on 'participation' and group involvement during workshop sessions and all members are invited to take part in at least one production each year.

This summer MGR will be running two theatre schools—the Junior Summer School runs from July 24th until August 2nd, and young people between 7 and 14 are invited to apply. The course will provide a mass of creative activities each day with experienced tutors to lead the various groups, and at the end of the course each group will present a workshop production for parents and friends.

MGR's Senior Summer Theatre School is designed for 15 to 25 year olds who are interested in drama, dance and music. The course is intensive and rehearsals for the final production take place each day for 4 weeks. Also available to the members this year will be evening classes in tap dancing, stage fighting and other specialist activities. This year's production of 'The Wiz', from Friday, August 30th—Saturday, September 7th at the Little Theatre, promises to be exciting and stretching with a large cast of actors, singers, dancers and musicians.

If anyone is interested in joining the summer company there are still some vacancies left. MGR do not forget the adults and a new course is about to be launched for those interested in creative drama and dance. Again, no experience is necessary and the emphasis is on participation and 'fun'—so mums, if you are interested in spending an hour on a Tuesday afternoon stimulating your creative senses, come and join us.

Senior MGR members will be seen at The Little Theatre from May 29th when they present their first major musical production of 'Grease'—a lively show with lots of singing and dancing, 1950's style. Very soon MGR will be opening their own premises and adding to the list of activities available will be music workshops, art clubs and a writer's circle. Details of all MGR offers can be obtained by writing to MGR, 102 Sefton Street, Southport. Tel. 43232.

S.D.C. Members' Diary

LAST NIGHT DISCO AND SUPPER — 18th MAY

TREASURE HUNT — SUNDAY, 16th JUNE

QUIZ NIGHT — FRIDAY, 5th JULY

10th — 18th MAY, 1985



Everybody Loves Opal

by JOHN PATRICK

Directed by BENNY DARRAH

First presented by Roger L. Stevens, in association with Seven Arts Productions, at the Longacre Theatre, New York City on 11th October, 1961.

CAST

OPAL ROBIN HIRSCH
MISTER TANNER FRED GOLDSWORTH
GLORIA JANINE GRIME
BRADFORD DAVID CHARTERS
SOLOMON GORDON WINSLAND
OFFICER DAVID PARRY
DOCTOR BILL FINN

The action of the play takes place in a dilapidated living room of Opal's house at the edge of New York City Municipal dump.

Time: The present

ACT ONE

Scene I Opal's house
Scene II A month later
Scene III Several weeks later

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

Scene I A week later

INTERVAL

ACT THREE

Scene I Weeks later



STAGE STAFF

- Stage Manager Colin Grime
- Asst. Stage Manager (Book) Sherel Coley
- Asst. Stage Manager (Cast) Julie Whelan
- Properties Jenny Young, Margaret Robinson,
Jackie Monk, Fiona Hall
- Lighting Frances Gregson, Lindsay Haywood
- Sound Roland Grime
- Wardrobe Vera Darrah, Barbara Preston
- Set designed by Syd Coley, painted by Roy Blatchford and
built by the production team.
- Programme Cover David Charters

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is the second time I have had the privilege of directing 'Everybody Loves Opal' for the S.D.C. I have the wonderful good fortune to have four out of the original cast playing again, and two excellent replacements for the other two. We have met, and I hope, overcome the same problems, worked hard, laughed long and enjoyed ourselves. Our dearest wish is that that pleasure will spill over into the auditorium, and I hope Opal's implacable love for all humanity, will compel you to return it.

BENNY DARRAH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Design and construction of merry-go-round — J. Serjeant
- Stage money — Martindale's Printers Ltd.
- Tyre inner tubes — Central Tyre Stores

19 YEARS AGO

18th March 1966 for eight nights

“Everybody Loves Opal”

A play in Three Acts
by JOHN PATRICK

Characters (in order of appearance) :

Opal..... ROBIN HIRSCH
Mister Tanner..... HORACE DARRAH
Gloria..... JANINE GRIME
Bradford..... ROLAND LUMBY
Solomon..... GORDON WINSLAND
Doctor..... WILLIAM FINN
Officer..... DAVID TATTERSALL

The Play produced by BENNY DARRAH

HON. STAGE STAFF

Stage Manager..... WILLIAM ROGANS
Assistant Stage Managers..... MOLLY PETERSON, ROSS BROMILOW,
GILLIAN PETTITT
Properties..... VERA DARRAH, VANESSA PARIS,
SHEREL WOLFF, STANLEY ELLIS, ANITA MARRINER
Wardrobe..... STEPHANIE HUGHES
Stage Assistants..... CLIVE SOUTHWORTH, MICHAEL TAYLOR,
ARNOLD GORSE, MARK DARRAH, DAVID ROBERTS
Lighting..... CLIFFORD HUXTABLE, ALAN ALDRIDGE
Music and Effects..... SYDNEY COLEY

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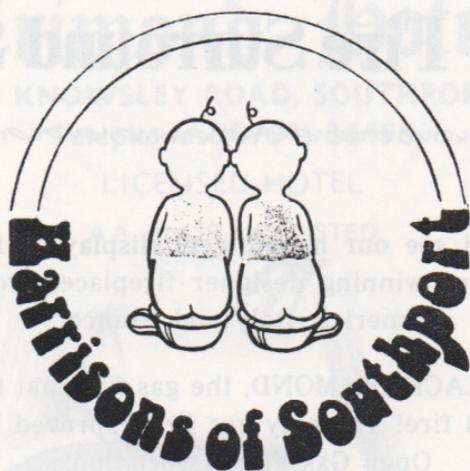
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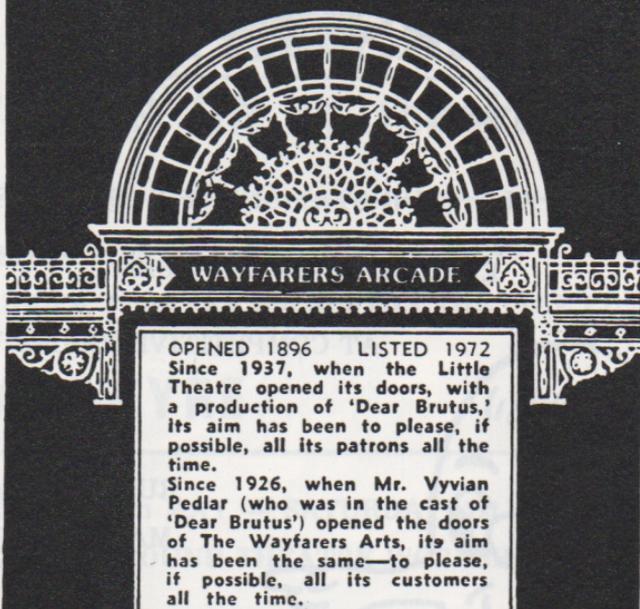
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