



### The launch & Workshop!

As you will have seen from your launch packs JTR was First staged in 1974 at the Players Theatre in London. This show has become popular with amateur groups.

This is not a horror musical in the sense of Sweeney Todd or Jekyll & Hyde. Instead, it's a darkly comic social portrait—a look at the human stories behind the headlines.

The show is a musical reconstruction of incidents relating to the Whitechapel murders which took place between Friday, August 31st and Friday, November 9th, 1888. The identity of Jack the Ripper is hinted at, but the show is an atmospheric commentary rather than an historical re-enactment, shifting between reality and artificiality, with characters representing "real" people as well as members of the music hall audience and players.

It blends historical mystery with emotional storytelling and bawdy Music Hall theatricality.

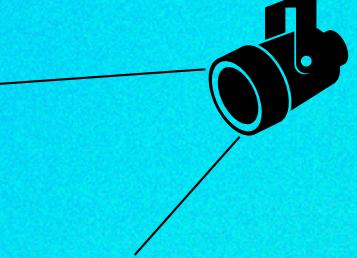


Don't forget, Annie will be asking everyone taking part in the show to build their own 'Whitechapel character'. This is slightly easier for named characters as they have dialogue and, in most cases, some facts to help.....



# SHOW TIME

## Show Reviews from Annie



On 28th August Eric and I went to the theatre at Milton Keynes to see Blood Brothers for the seventh time!

I first saw it in London in 1988 with Con O'Neill playing Mickey. He will always be the best Mickey in my opinion but Sean Jones who we have now seen five times comes a very close second. Sean has been playing the role for over twenty years, which makes him probably in his mid-40s now. Wow, he bursts onto the stage as a seven-year-old boy and throws himself around in the play. I was not surprised that the night I saw him he was wearing a knee brace!

The show continues to tour the UK and plays to packed houses, with little change to its original concept and still brings a hushed house as the tension build in the last scene, which continues to bring a tear to my eyes. Yes, it is a play with music rather than a musical but it is a wonderful piece of theatre with a gritty story that is as relevant today as it was nearly forty years ago.

We went to Milton Keynes again at the end of September and were joined by JC to see Top Hat. Obviously, a total contrast to Blood Brothers!

The original film dates back to 1935 and starred Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Following his win on Strictly Come Dancing, Tom Chambers took the lead role of Jerry in the show in 2012 which we saw in London. This latest production started at Chichester this summer and then went on tour. I personally found some of the leads a bit 'heavy' and lacking the laid-back charm and style of the 1930s but the songs kept coming which were a delight. Of course it has a very flimsy, old-fashioned story line, and relies mainly on the big song and dance routines to move it along. These routines were breath-taking - especially ones when the large dance team performed intricate tap dance routines with changing patterns while throwing and catching walking canes! Watch out Cara and Kerri!

I do from time to time venture into the field of plays and recently we have seen a play in Wheathampstead that a friend was in, called 'The thrill of love' which is about Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in England.

Just last week we went to Loughton to see a play called 'Home I'm darling' an unusual play about a married couple who live a 1950's style life in today's environment!



Kings Langley Players  
Always a good show!

Coming up for Kings Langley Players is 'A Christmas Carol' Brimming with classic carols and festive frivolity, this new adaptation of a classic tale will bring Christmas cheer to the whole family... and you will also see our very own Laurence who is playing a super role!



# Who is in the spotlight ?

## SIAN WEAVERS!



Where is your favourite place you've ever visited?  
New York - The city is electric and exciting

What is the cutest animal you've ever seen in person?  
Kobie - my daughter's dachshund

If you were a musical instrument, what would you be and why?  
A trumpet as I love hearing them tune up in an orchestra!

Do you have a party trick, if so what?  
I can pick a small piece of paper/cardboard off the floor using only my mouth (no hands!)

What is the best book you have ever read?  
No specific title but I enjoy anything written by Jane Fallon and Mary Kubica...  
nothing too heavy!

How would your friends describe you?  
Slightly quirky, slightly nuts, an acquired taste to some but a loving, loyal and  
kind person on the whole

If your wardrobe could only be one colour, what would it be  
Boring, but probably black

What was the first show you were in and what was your role?  
The Red Shoes ballet - ensemble

What is your favourite musical of all time?  
Mamma Mia



# Who is in the spotlight ? CONTINUED...



What is your favourite film?  
Any Bridget Jones film

If you could only have one food for the rest of your life, what would you choose?  
Fish and chips!!

What is your guilty pleasure?  
A gorgeous red wine (ideally a Malbec or Pinot Noir)

How would you spend your ideal weekend?  
With friends and family - a lovely walk followed by a roast dinner in a cosy pub

Do you have any tattoos  
Yes, I have 4 tattoos

What is your favourite season and why?  
Summer - long days of sunshine and it's my birthday season!

How do you drink your coffee?  
Strong coffee with a little milk and half a teaspoon of sugar!

What is your claim to fame?  
I met and served Martin Kemp on a flight from LA to London

What is the best gift you have ever received?  
My two daughters (and now my grandson) without a doubt

Tell us something about yourself that we don't already know?  
I once got locked in an aeroplane toilet for over an hour - the whole door had to be removed by the first officer to get me out !!!





We hope you enjoyed the Autumn  
Curtain Call News

If there is anything you would  
like to see in future editions, or  
have some news to share, please  
drop a note to the Committee  
with your suggestions

That's all folks!

