

MASKERS FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Bah Humbug?

Directed by Avril Woodward
at The Tudor Merchants Hall
off Bugle Street, Southampton
8-13 December 2008

Tickets £7 - to include a glass of mulled wine and mince pie
Box Office: 023 80551489

Little Women

By Louisa M Alcott
Directed by Sheana Carrington
at The Nuffield Theatre, Southampton
27-31 January 2009

For more information visit www.nuffieldtheatre.co.uk

The Homecoming

By Harold Pinter
Directed by Ron Stannard
at The Maskers Studio, Shirley
30 March - 4 April 2009

The Maskers Studio has a licensed bar and is accessible for patrons with disabilities.
The Maskers Theatre Company is a Registered Charity 900067
For more information visit www.maskers.org.uk



the maskers theatre company

THE BEGGAR'S OPERA

by John Gay and Dr Pepusch
Adapted by Philip de Grouchy

Monday 20th to Saturday 25th October 2008



Director's Notes

This piece, first staged in 1728, made history as the longest run - 63 nights! - on the English stage up to then. John Gay's play-with-songs was the experimental theatre of its day, and was the forerunner of many more such 'ballad operas' during the 18th century, in which the dialogue was interspersed with appropriate short songs set to traditional or currently popular tunes. The society of its time is satirised in the play, where self-interest and greed are the only motivations of most of the characters, and where the behaviour of the ruling class is parodied by that of the criminal class. Our version of this 'Newgate Pastoral' does not claim to be fully authentic; we have taken some liberties with the script, but have endeavoured to capture the vigor and rumbustiousness of the original. Our singing may be in places enthusiastic rather than operatic, but this is an entertainment to be performed by singing actors, rather than acting singers, so we hope you will accept it in that spirit!

The Setting

The Scene is the inside of Newgate Gaol, London, in which all the action is supposed to take place.

There will be no interval.

Refreshments available in the bar after the performance.

Acknowledgements

John Evans for Assistance in Accompanying at Rehearsals, Wendy South and Jackie Hollins for loan of Pistols, Index Engineering for manufacture of Manacles

The Cast

The Governor of Newgate Gaol
The Governor's Lady
The Beggar
MacHeath
Peachum
Mrs Peachum
Filch
Polly
Lucy
Lockit
Mat o' the Mint
Jemmy Twitcher
Ben Budge
Crook-fingered Jack

Robin of Bagshot
Nimming Ned
Wat Dreary
Jenny Diver
Sukey Tawdry
Mrs Coaxer
Mrs Slammekin
Dolly Trull
Mrs Vixen
Mrs Trapes
Guards

The Crew

Director
Musical Director
Director's Assistant
Accompanist
Setting

Props

Costumes

Technical & LX

Stage & Production Manager
Business Manager
Artwork and Programme
Printing
Photography
Box Office
Front of House
Catering

Philip de Grouchy
Avril Woodward
Graham Buchanan
Lewis Brunt
Ian Wilson
Hazel Burrows
Daniel Humphreys
Ruth Kibble
Joanna Iacovou
David Jupp
Ian Morley
Ken Hann
Graham Buchanan
Ken Spencer
(Saturday only : Terence O'Farrell)
David Collis
Paul Baker
Ron Randall
Hayley Cheesworth
Rae Kibble
Leah Barlow
Moyra Allen
Katy Mortimer
Hazel Burrows
Avril Woodward
Ken Hann
David Collis

Philip de Grouchy
Pam de Grouchy
Avril Woodward
Rosa Longman
Ken Spencer
Roger Lockett
Gill & Graham Buchanan
Adam Taussik
Ella Lockett
Christine Baker
Kay Hann
Jamie McCarthy
Clive Weeks
Meri Mackney
Sarah Russell
Anja McCloskey
Geoff Wharam
Clive Weeks
Christine Baker
Julia Jupp
Jan Spiers