

LONDON TOAST THEATRE

The Rise of King Arthur

eller "Arthur - op og stå!"

by Vivienne McKee



Crazy Christmas Cabaret 1997

Welcome to the 15th anniversary of the Crazy Christmas Cabaret

Every year, since 1982, the London Toast Theatre - the English Theatre of Copenhagen - has presented its remedy for "juledepression" - The Crazy Christmas Cabaret, written and directed by Vivienne McKee.

The very first show was presented in a tiny venue with just enough space for four English actors, one piano player, and a very "hyggelig" audience! Today - fifteen years later - we are delighted to offer our audience the much larger and splendid surroundings of Det Ny Teater, and our actors, the luxury of a real stage!

The Crazy Christmas Cabaret finds its roots in the Comedia Del Arte, traditional British Christmas Pantomime, vaudeville and, more recently, Monty Python's Flying Circus. Every year the stories and characters change, but the humour remains the same. A humour which is as British as fish and chips and warm beer! - A catchy cocktail of slapstick, songs and silly gags! Of course, after fifteen years, some danish humour has inevitably crept in - a humour as danish as a plate of "biksemd" and a "kold bajer"! This crazy mixture was once described in the newspaper, Berlingske Tidende as: "...Javist, the Crazy Christmas Cabaret med sin barnlige og begavede, frivole og uskyldige form for anarkistisk humor er for kendere. Vi kan stilen på fingrene, men ikke hvert år på de samme fingre. Og som alle fanatisk troende er vi ivrige efter at hverve nye proselytter... det er levende og legende, velkendt og uforudsigeligt. Og det er byens sjoveste show."

"Arthur - op og stå"

After last year's journey back in time to the bloodthirsty days of the French Revolution when Les Miserables were revolting - extremely revolting! - and the aristocracy lost their heads! This year we take you even further back to the days when knights were bold, ladies were untouchable, and the sheep were very nervous! Merlin, the Wizard is on a quest to seek the future King of England. The man destined to become King must be able to lift the legendary sword EXCALIBUR from the stone! Anyone can try - even you! So don't be shy! Come along and try to pull it out! Of course, we all know that Arthur was the man who founded the legendary Round Table at his castle of Camelot, and surrounded himself with "rund-tossede riddere".

This is the story of how he rose to such an upstanding position - "Arthur! Op og stå!!"





The Rise of King Arthur

Off Stage

Director

VIVIENNE MCKEE

Set & Costumes Designer

KIRSTEN BRINK

Assistant Designer

ELLEN DAM JENSEN

Musical Director

CHRISTIAN DAHLBERG

Lighting Designer

PETER GLATZ

Choreographer

MICHAEL SANDWICK

Fight choreographer

TINA ROBINSON HANSEN

Sound Effects

CHRISTIAN DAHLBERG &

SØREN B. PETERSEN

Stage Manager

BERIT WOLSTED OLSEN

Assistant Stage Manager

THOMAS KLEMMER

Light & Sound Manager

MIK STANGERUP

Costume Makers

BRITTA KUNICKA, UNN GELTING

Program

HANNE VESTERGAARD, CICERO

Administrative Director

SØREN HALL

Administrative Assistant

CHARLOTTE SASS MØNSTED

Act One

The village of Thickinthehead

Castle Camparound, the main hall

The witches lair on theblasted heath

Act Two

The knights hall

The torture chamber

The dragon's forest

Queen mordreda's banqueting hall

The royal tent at the grand tournament

The songs:

"The rest of the morning",

"Why Shouldn't I find Love?",

"Oh, What a Knight for my Nights"

"Castle Camelot"

were written by Vivienne McKee with
music composed by Christian Dahlberg

Special Thanks to:

Michael Chalmer, Bornholms Middelalder-
center for lån af gabestok, Louise Schouw,
Firmaet Flise Bent

On Stage

- in order of appearance



Mordreda

VIVIENNE MCKEE

Merlin the Wizard

DAVID BLUESTONE

Archimedes - an owl

TINA ROBINSON HANSEN

Baron McBraggart

PETER TURNBULL

Wart - his Squire

MARK HUBBARD

Lady Guinevere

RIKKE STEFFENSEN

Lady Likesalot

DAVID BLUESTONE

Sir Lancelot du Lac

PETER TURNBULL

Smallpiece - a hunchback MARK HUBBARD

The wandering minstrels:

Codpiece : CHRISTIAN DAHLBERG/ PETER LYSTER

Earpiece: SØREN PETERSEN

Hairpiece: TOM MOTHE JENSEN

TIPS FOR THE AUDIENCE

We hope that you will enjoy the show, and join in, by:

- shouting "Boo" at the evil sorceress, Mordreda, Queen of the Black Arts!
- shouting "Hurray" for the hero - the wise magician - Merlin The Wizard!
- warning the actors with shouts of "Look out!" and "Behind you!"
- standing up for the Danish Queen when she telephones for a chat.
- and singing along with the Song Sheet in true Viking Tradition!



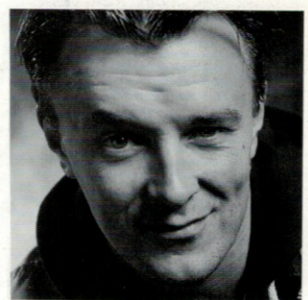
Vivienne McKee

worked extensively as an actress in England before moving to Denmark in 1980. Her TV and film credits include "Coronation Street", "The XYY man" and Bryan Forbes's feature film "The Slipper and the Rose", playing opposite Richard Chamberlain. In 1982, following a season with Det Kongelige Teater, she decided to start her own theatre company, and call it the London Toast Theatre. For the last 15 years Vivienne has been producing, directing and acting in a wide variety of plays by English writers including Shakespeare, Wesker, Pinter and Ayckbourn. Every year she writes the Crazy Christmas Cabaret shows, as well as productions for Danish theatres. In 1992, she was awarded the Herman Bang prize for her contribution to the Danish theatre.



David Bluestone

trained at the famous Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His London West End productions include "Blood Brothers", "Tis Pity She's a Whore", "Desert Song" and Snoopy in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown". Film and TV include "Lovejoy", "The Gulf between Us" and "Eastenders". Most recently David has portrayed Albert Einstein in Terry Johnson's "Insignificance" touring Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo and Beijing and, in 1998, at the Toronto Theatre Festival. For The London Toast Theatre, he has starred in Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and Ayckbourn's "Table Manners", and has become almost an institution here, playing his hilarious "dame" in no less than ten Crazy Xmas Cabarets!!



Mark Hubbard

After many years of working in a suit and tie for the British Government, Mark threw caution to the wind and was accepted for training as an actor at the prestigious Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Since then, his theatre credits include Demetrius in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Diamond Louis in "Calamity Jane" and Archie in "Venom". TV credits include "Eastenders", "Casualty", "Only Fools and Horses". This is Mark's second appearance with the London Toast Theatre, as he played Billy Crusoe in The Crazy Xmas Cabaret 1996. "Coming to Copenhagen is just like coming home!"



Mikke Steffensen

For Rikke, returning to Copenhagen is coming home! She trained, together with Mark, at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and has been working in England for eight years, in productions including "Beethoven's Tenth", "Sleeping Beauty", "In Bed with Magritte" for the National Theatre Studio - and Estelle in Sartre's "In Camera". Her TV credits include "The Vanishing Man" and she has played Lady Macbeth for BBC Radio. She has just finished a tour for Theatre Mélange playing Artemis in the Greek Tragedy "Hippolytus" and the Queen in "The Love of the Nightingale".



Peter Turnbull

trained at the London Academy of Live and Recorded Arts. During his extensive theatre career, his stage roles have included Anthony in "Anthony & Cleopatra", Theseus in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Bill Sykes in "Oliver!", Henry VIII in "A Man for All Seasons", Che Guvara in "Evita" and Doctor Frankenstein in "Frankenstein's Monster". He has also appeared at the Edinburgh Festival with the National Student Theatre Company. His television credits include "Kavanagh QC" (Carlton), "Pineapple Chunks" (BBC), and "Newsnight" (BBC). This is Peter's first visit to Denmark, and he is curious to experience Danish "hygge"!



Tina Robinson

is American/Danish and trained as an actress, singer and a stage fight director. Her American theatre credits include "Laundry & Bourbon", "Wild Wild Women" and "Side By Sondheim". In London, she won an award for best performance in a small role when she played a rabbit (!) which led to her studying Comedie déll Arte in Copenhagen. In 1995 she founded her own company, Nordic Stage Fight. Her theatre credits in Denmark include "Exit 2000" at Bellevue Teatre, DR's slots-konserter "De Tre Musketerer", medieval shows at Tøjhusmuseet, and performance with "Den Opsøgende Ballet". She has choreographed fights for "Atlantis" and "Gudrun's 4. Sang". In 1993, Tina played a Bond girl in the Crazy Christmas Cabaret, "Bondage is Back".

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det er mest
vanvittigt!"**



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"Dead Serious" Feb. 15th - March 15th 1998 - in Sceneriet

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