

THE MYSTERIES What the Critics Say ...

MEDIAEVAL MYSTERY MARVEL

There were lovely comic moments with Cain and Abel, Mrs Noah refusing to board the ark, and the parody of the nativity through the shepherds and the sheep-stealer. The audience sat on the floor of the Cathedral watching the action unfold in front of, behind, around and above them.

"Together the two plays -

The Creation and The Pass-

ion, are a skilfully wrought

tapestry of high thought

and low life, of serious drama and broad comedy,

through which the music,

much of it on medieval-

style pipes and drums,

weaves a golden thread

blending the styles of differ-

ent periods, from the 14th

Lament to the contempo-

rary Lord of the Dance."

Century's

Tristram's

... Metro News

"A triumph . . . a moving spectacle, long to remain in the memory."

... The Stage

The whole production was superb. Amateurs maybe, but a very professional production which could do justice to Broadway.

"The style throughout this big community production is simple and direct, with strong singing, brash portrayals, and a commitment which sometimes spills over into unscripted smiles at supporters in the audi-

... Gazette - David Ford

... Metro News 1991

THE BIRMINGHAM MYSTERIES 1991 **BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL**

The Medieval world is joyfully recreated in The Mystery Plays at Birmingham Cathedral.

Noah's Flood performed in the Cathedral's grounds is the best Mystery - the set is superb.

The magical entertainment would come back every year if I had my way.

. . . Birmingham Focus – July 1991

revealing the naive charm not to be missed. of these plays without ever becoming arch.

In fact, the music and the cast's singing are a pleasure

I am hard-pressed to criti- throughout the evening. cise the acting, which is The director, Ken Pickerconsistently professional, ing, and his team have characterful and intelli- created a joyous piece of gent. The tone is just right, theatre which is definitely

> ... The Stage Ann Fitzgerald

There was a moment in Friday's performance when setting, text and staging fused into grim perfection.

Squatting on the floor of the nave, the audience became more than spectators - they became participant witnesses to Christ's kangaroo court as, elevated on podiums, Ciaphas the high priest

hissed venom as Pontius Pilate placed vanity before instice

The debate was punctuated by the people calling out for the Saviour's blood. The feeling of being present at perhaps the greatest injustice in history, in a Cathedral turned Roman basilica, was momentarily overwhelming.

... July 1991

The Bishop's view was They were wonderful, absolutely wonderful, and I would certainly welcome performances in the Cathedral in the future".

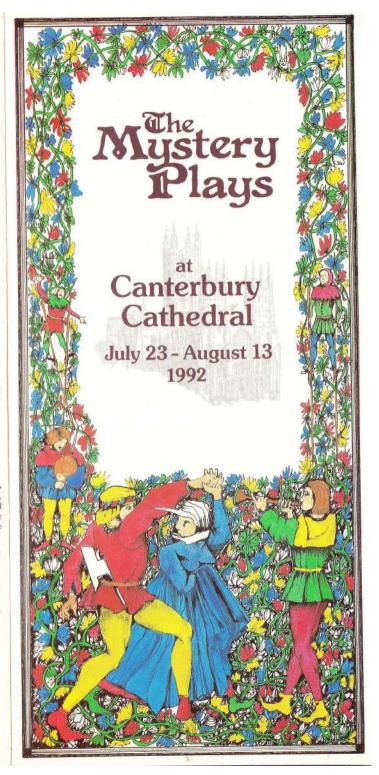
... Birmingham Post

"Full of humour . . . they should not be missed."

The Gazette

For Further Information, please contact:

MIRACLE PRODUCTIONS 5 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7JA Telephone: (0304) 365515



CANTERBURY MYSTERIES 1992

From July 23rd, until August 13th, Canterbury Cathedral will become the glorious setting for a cycle of Medieval Mystery Plays which return for the third time at the invitation of the Dean and Chapter. A cast of hundreds of local people, headed by *Peter Barkworth*, one of Britain's leading actors, will be reviving a tradition dating back to 1200AD, when the city's workers guilds each presented their own — often spirited and sometimes irreverent—version of the Bible stories. These spectacular performances represent a communal achievement of enormous proportions, and promise to offer the dramatic experience of a lifetime!

The Creation

"I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last."

So God begins His creation of the world, and so begins the Canterbury Mysteries. In this first play we tell the Bible story from the beginning of Man to the beginning of Christianity, from Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ in a stable in Bethlehem. The rich tapestry that is The Creation includes the stories of Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses and the Prophets, and Mary and Joseph, culminating in the Nativity.

The Passion

"Unto you is born this day, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

The Passion follows the life of Jesus from his birth to the crucifixion and resurrection, from adoration by the shepherds to his trial by Pilate. In addition, this second half of the Mystery Cycle includes the stories of The Three Kings, John the Baptist, Lazarus, Palm Sunday and The Last Supper.

"The Creation" and "The Passion" are each a complete cycle of plays, but seen consecutively, they tell the whole Bible story from Adam and Eve to the Crucifixion and Ascension of Christ.

Peter Barkworth



One of the country's leading actors, Peter makes a welcome return to Canterbury this summer to recreate the role of God which he filled so admirably — and joyfully — in the 1989 Mysteries. Peter has many theatre and film credits to his name, including West End appearances in "Donkey's Years", "Hidden Laughter" and "Crown Matrimonial", in which he played Edward VIII — a role he later recreated for television. Other television roles have included Kenneth Bligh in "The

Power Game", Professor Anderson in Tom Stoppard's "Professional Foul", and of course Mark Telford in "Telford's Charge". More recently he has appeared in "The London Embassy" for Thames T.V. and "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" for Granada T.V. Peter Barkworth's own one-man show "Siegfried Sassoon" toured extensively throughout the country before running at the Apollo Theatre in London.

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES 1992

| JULY | 23 | Thursday | THE CREATION | |
|--------|-----|-----------|----------------|------------|
| | 24 | Friday | THE CREATION | |
| | 25 | Saturday | No Performance | |
| | *26 | Sunday | THE CREATION | (7pm only) |
| | *27 | Monday | THE CREATION | (7pm only) |
| | 28 | Tuesday | THE CREATION | |
| | 29 | Wednesday | THE CREATION | |
| | 30 | Thursday | THE PASSION | |
| | 31 | Friday | THE PASSION | |
| AUGUST | 1 | Saturday | No Performance | |
| | *2 | Sunday | THE PASSION | (7pm only) |
| | *3 | Monday | THE CREATION | (7pm only) |
| | 4 | Tuesday | THE CREATION | |
| | 5 | Wednesday | THE PASSION | |
| | 6 | Thursday | THE CREATION | |
| | 7 | Friday | THE PASSION | |
| | 8 | Saturday | No Performance | |
| | * 9 | Sunday | THE CREATION | (7pm only) |
| | *10 | Monday | THE PASSION | (7pm only) |
| | 11 | Tuesday | THE CREATION | |
| | 12 | Wednesday | THE CREATION | |
| | 13 | Thursday | THE PASSION | |

THE PERFORMANCES

The Mystery Plays are promenade performances, following in the tradition of their medieval origins, so that each play is performed in a different part of the Cathedral or its grounds, and the audience follow the action of the plays as they move. The Creation and the Passion each last approximately two hours. Usually the evening's performance is presented twice, once for an audience beginning at 7pm and then again for another audience beginning at 7.45pm. Thus at any one time, the two audiences will be seeing different parts of the same cycle in different parts of the Cathedral. Audiences for the 7pm performance will leave the Cathedral at about 9pm, and those at the 7.45pm performance will be finishing at about 9.45pm. If you or any of your party have mobility problems we advise attending performances on a Sunday or Monday. There is no interval.

TICKETS, BOX OFFICE AND ADVANCED BOOKINGS

Tickets: Ticket prices for the Mysteries are £10.00. You can save 10% if you book for both The Creation and The Passion – £18. Groups: One free ticket in every ten.

Passion – £18. Groups: One free ticket in ev

Special Concessions at the performances marked *:

£8 for OAPs, students, children, unemployed.

Bookings: Tickets are available in advance from:

Canterbury Bookings Ltd., Canterbury Visitors Centre,

34 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury,

Kent CT1 2TG. Telephone: (0227) 766567.

Please use the booking form opposite. The Centre is open from 9.30am - 5pm seven days a week.

BOOKING FORM

THE MYSTERIES AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 1992

Please complete and detach this form and send it with payment and a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

THE MYSTERIES
CANTERBURY BOOKINGS LTD
CANTERBURY VISITORS CENTRE
34, ST. MARGARET'S STREET
CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 2TG

Tickets are £10

Telephone No:

| | DATE | TIME (7pm or 7.45pm) | No. of TICKETS | TOTAL VALUE | |
|--------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| THE CREATION | | | | | |
| THE PASSION | | | | | |

| THI | E PASSION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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