

INTRODUCING THE CAST OF TONIGHT'S SHOW.....



Miss Helen Watson is delighted to present her 7th Music Hall in Basingstoke for Age Concern. This year Helen has been involved in creating many shows around the country, from the gala re-opening of the Theatre Royal, Margate to traditional Music Halls at the famous Hackney Empire. She recently appeared at the internationally known Players Theatre in London and The Leicester Square Theatre.

Helen's work includes TV, theatre, cabaret, Music Hall, radio and directing. She began her own shows at the Watermill Theatre in 1987 & "Seasonal Sauce" will be there again in January 2010. Other formats of her productions have been seen around the country and abroad. She is no stranger to the RSC Stratford on Avon having presented shows in 1991, 1992, 1993 and in 2003 at The Swan Theatre. Her show had great success at The Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh famous for Benjamin Britten operas and will be there again in the winter season.

Helen's TV work includes Beneath the Skin, Down To Earth, The Bill, The Knock, (playing Dennis Waterman's girlfriend), London's Burning, Where the Heart Is, Crossroads, Dr Who, and Anything We Can Do.

She has spent many seasons in regional theatre around the country including Leicester, Northampton, Manchester, Plymouth, Canterbury and Westcliff beginning her career in her home town at the Derby Playhouse. The roles she has played have been as diverse as Janet Weiss in the Rocky Horror Show, to the classic Hedda Gabler. She has toured in plays and musicals both in this country and as far away as Canada, the USA, Scandinavia and Jordan. She has many pantomimes to her credit and has appeared in many TV Commercials.



Chris Vincent - Master of Ceremonies

Chris is new to the show this year but was MC at Helen's Seasonal Sauce show in 2008 at The Watermill. He recently appeared as Roy in The Odd Couple at The Mill at Sonning (2009) and has appeared as Thenardier in Les Miserables in the West End (2006/08) and European Tour (2000).

Other stage credits include Tabooed; Legends of Swing; Du Barry was a Lady; Annie; 9^{1/2} Quid Revue; Little Shop of Horrors; Giving up the Ghost; When it Rains & Alec D'Urberville in Tess of the D'Urbervilles.

Chris' film & TV credits include Sketch Show, Dark Film, Transverse, Breeze of the Cold War, Girls Aloud Backstage, Days that Shook the World, Cry me a River, Only Hotel and Make My Day.



Laurence Payne - Musical Director

Laurence studied the trombone and piano at the Royal Academy of Music.

As Musical Director of shows ranging from rock 'n roll compilations to the very English Salad Days, he has travelled all over Britain and as far afield as Hong Kong, where he will always remember 1000 Chinese voices responding "Ah so!" to Dorothy saying she wasn't in Kansas any more!

Laurence now works mainly in Variety and Music Hall shows, both around the country for the Hiss & Boo Company and at the Brick Lane Music Hall in London's Docklands.

When not playing live, he can be found in his studio, coaxing music from computers, keyboards and singers.



Jane Webster studied at the Royal Academy of Music where she won several major prizes. She continued studying in Switzerland, by personal invitation, with the distinguished soprano Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, and subsequently in Chicago.

Jane made her ROH Covent Garden solo debut in R. Strauss "Elektra" and has performed over 25 principal Operatic roles. She has recorded for BBC Radio and TV, RTE and various recording companies and released two solo albums in 2006.

Jane is in great demand with her one woman cabaret shows on various cruise lines. She appeared in the West End in The Phantom of the Opera, and from 2006 - 09 was an original cast member of the highly acclaimed Andrew Lloyd Webber production of The Sound of Music at The London Palladium with over 100 performances as Mother Abbess.

Philip Day is delighted to return to The Anvil. He has supported Helen Watson on many occasions and will be returning to the Watermill Theatre, Newbury with her early next year.

Philip's credits in the West End include Showboat,

The Boyfriend, They're playing our song, Oliver! and The Mousetrap.

Leading roles include Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar, Gratiano in The Merchant of Venice, Dick in Dames at Sea, Rooster in Annie and Side by Side by Sondheim.

His TV work includes The Lavender List, The Bill, Library of Romance and Bluebell. He is one of the regular actors on Newsnight, has been guest soloist on BBC Radio 2's Songs from the Shows, and has recorded musicals for That's Entertainment Records.



Peter John was born in Liverpool and trained at RADA. His career as a performer, writer and director has ranged from twice-nightly weekly Rep to Shakespeare with the National Theatre Company of which he was a founder member with Olivier's Othello.

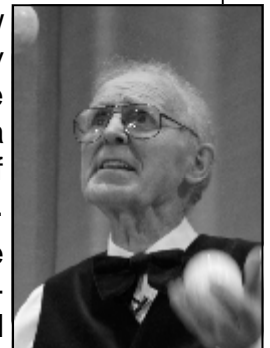
He is a veteran pantomime performer having appeared in over 30 and written 6. In recent years Peter has concentrated on Music Hall and Variety performances and has a large repertoire of character/comedy numbers, many of which he has written himself. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Music Hall Society.

Michael Pearse saw a circus juggler as a boy and wanted to juggle from then on. It took a long time as he was self taught.

Following retirement he entered a stage competition in Eastbourne and won the comedy section,

opening up a whole new career. At 65 he was awarded Best Promising Comedy Newcomer prize by Ken Dodd.

Michael is now 76 and still going strong. At the recent Bristol Day of Magic his delivery of one-liners whilst juggling various objects had the audience holding their sides with laughter.



Jim McManus Some audience members will recall Jim from previous Music Hall shows where he has acted as MC. He is Co-director and Chairman of The Hackney Empire Music Hall Company and has a long list of stage, film & TV credits. Jim is delighted to make a guest appearance and help draw the raffle tonight, direct from his appearance in The Mousetrap at St Martin's Theatre, London. He will shortly be seen in the latest "Harry Potter" Film and "Easy Virtue" with Kristen Scott-Thomas.