

Back in August in a fit of enthusiasm I offered to direct this winter's panto. My first thought was Peter Pan, but later that August on a weekend in the Coniston area, I visited Beatrix Potter's farm, and thoughts of a different Peter developed. Deciding to avoid the challenge of flying cast members, I opted for an adaptation of the Tale of Peter Rabbit. Back in the 1990s I wrote two pantomimes for Chorlton Players, before being struck with '3rd panto syndrome'. This became a chance to escape writers block and put pen to paper again (or more accurately fingers to keyboard). Also, this year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter – Peter Rabbit will appear on 50p pieces in the spring!

As with my earlier pantomimes I wanted to combine the traditional pantomime fare with a broadly green message. Amongst a number of environment-related challenges we face is a major decline in bee populations. Bees (and some other insects) play a vital role in the pollination of plants including many that are important foods for us humans. There is plenty of scientific research to say that a major factor in this decline is the use of certain pesticides ('Neonicotinoids'). Back in July, the UK Government took a decision to allow farmers to use these bee-harming pesticides, even though they are banned across the EU. The campaign against that goes on (although I am writing this well in advance of the show so things may change); 'Friends of the Earth' (<http://www.foe.co.uk/>) are a good source of information on this.

The original Tale of Peter Rabbit focuses on a naughty boy rabbit, with Mister MacGregor almost as the victim. I have retained the original characters and basic story, but expanded the plot, added some bees and other extra characters, and in this tale MacGregor takes on a more villainous hue. I probably should state at this point that any resemblance between the names of any corporations and individuals which crop up in this Panto and in the real world is purely co-incidental (Oh yes it is!...). And of course it is well padded out with songs, dances, terrible jokes and audience participation.

Huge thanks to everyone involved – whether on-stage, backstage or in any other capacity. There is a lot of work needed to go into a pantomime and I really could not ask for a better group of people to work with!

Brian Candeland, Writer and Director.

Our Special thanks go to:

Anne Finnegan Theatre & Dance School
www.annefinnegantheatreschool.co.uk

Sam Smith at “Enchanted Nymph Ltd” for Dames Costume
www.enchantednymph.com 07711 999644

Withington Bowling Club; 31A Derby Rd, Manchester M14 6UX;

CAST AND CREW

Mother Rabbit
Flopsy
Benjamin
Squirrel Nutkin
Peter Rabbit
Farmer MacGregor
Broad Bean
Runner Bean
Witch Hazel
Unicorn
Queen Bee
Gorilla
Sparrow/Bee
Sparrow/Bee
Mopsy/Bee
Cottontail/Bee
Sparrow

Director
Producer
Children's Director
Stage Manager
Publicity Manager
Costume Co-ordinator
Costume Assistant
Stage Crew:

Technical Manager
Lighting
Sound
Makeup
Photography
Front of House

Simon Vause
Lucinda Curley
Emma-Jane Brazier
Darren Evans
Michael Johnson
Rohan Shenoy
Gerard Devney
Heidi Knight
Rachel Chadwick
Mark Smith
MaiLi Lavin
Jay Sanderson
Gracie Bergin
Evie Bergin
Leyla Greaves
Sienna Smith
Joe Karran

Brian Candeland
Jennifer Archer
Jean Hall
Suzanne Clare
Stephen Lewyckyy
Celestina Mahovic
Mary Candeland
Simon Butler
Anthony Morgan
Annie Wallace
Simon Parkin
Adam Ion
Kim Bradley
Barry Pritchard
Matron and her helpers

Also thank you to Laura Kelly and Laura Kay Davies

About Chorlton Players...

We are a non-profit making theatre group established in 1963 so we've been going for over fifty years now. We are a group of about forty members, and we put on five productions per season. Our two mainstays are our pantomime every New Year, and a comedy review in summer. We meet every Monday and Wednesday evening for rehearsals and are always keen to see new members. Even if you don't fancy acting, we are always in need of all the other talents it takes to put productions on: backstage, costumes, front of house, set-building, audio-visuals, make-up, advertising etc. So, if you are interested in taking any part in our shows, please get in touch.

Go to our website: www.chorltonplayers.co.uk and drop us a line at enquiries@chorltonplayers.com. Or come and chat to us after this performance.

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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS
By David Mamet

March 17th - 19th 2016

**Chorlton
Players**
present

Peter Rabbit and the Bees

*A Pantomime by
Brian Candeland*



Tickets: £6 Adults, £4 Concessions

St. Werburgh's Hall
St. Werburgh's Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester
M21 0TL

Curtain Up
Jan 14th - 16th 2016
at 7.30pm
&
Matinee Jan 16th at 2pm

www.chorltonplayers.com