

*Our next production:*

## Dance of the Dragon

at  
Wales Millennium Centre  
Weston Studio

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2005

The Unknown Theatre Company's  
award-winning production returns, in a  
special performance before leaving for Monaco,  
to represent the United Kingdom at the  
**World Festival of Amateur Theatre**  
in July 2005

TICKETS £10.00/£8.00

For tickets, please call 08700 40 2000

[www.unknowntheatre.co.uk](http://www.unknowntheatre.co.uk)



*The Unknown Theatre  
Company presents*

*Souvenir  
Programme*

# Nell's Belles

*by Kjaran Poskitt*

*Howardian Centre*

*Wed 23rd - Sat 26th February 2005 at 7.30pm*

*[www.unknowntheatre.co.uk](http://www.unknowntheatre.co.uk)*

Welcome from the Company

The committee and cast members of The Unknown Theatre Company would like to extend a warm welcome to their first full-scale production of 2005. We would like to thank Lon David, director, for her tireless efforts in putting this show together in a relatively short space of time.

The company had a very busy year last year which culminated in a group of our young people spending a week at LaGuardia High School (the Fame School) in New York!

This year we have a number of projects in the pipeline including a summer school, community performances and shows. Furthermore, we are honoured to have been chosen to represent the UK at the World Amateur Theatre Festival in Monaco in July and will be taking our commissioned work *Dance of the Dragon*. Why not catch it at the Wales Millennium Centre in June!

A bit closer to home, we have been asked to perform at a grand event at the City Hall in September ...more details later. So it looks like another busy year!! In the meantime, sit back and enjoy tonight's performance of *Nell's Belles*!

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**All of us at The Unknown Theatre Company would like to convey our eternal gratitude for the outstanding support from**

**THE PRINCIPALITY BUILDING SOCIETY**

**which has sponsored the costumes for *Nell's Belles*. THANK YOU!**

**Why not become a sponsor of The Unknown Theatre Company?**

Ask for details of our patron scheme or corporate sponsorship scheme. To enable us to take part in these exciting projects.... we need YOUR help!

**Tel 029 2076 6056 to find out more information about how you can be involved.**

Director's notes

Once upon a time, I had the great joy of performing in a Kjartan Poskitt show myself, back when I was a student, and I remember it best of all for the sheer fun of it. It was silly and it was surreal, but it worked as well as it did because it was so carefully constructed and well-written. So when I was looking for a musical for The Unknown Theatre Company to perform, I was delighted to find Kjartan had recently written a new show that fitted our needs exactly. Welcome, then, to the 1660s and to *Nell's Belles*.

Once again, The Unknown Theatre Company has allowed me to come and play. It is a particular pleasure to work with such a talented and committed group and I am grateful to you all - with particular thanks to the committee members for their help, especially Jane, who never stops; to Annette, who is such a support, and to Geraldine who has sewed so much for this production, she should have a *medal*; to Marcus Anthony Thomas who defines 'pleasure to work with'; to Lucy Chiplin, who just makes things *happen*; to Alex Jones who brought an infectious, shining-eyed passion for design to this project; and to John Hughes and Merete Bang, who listened to all my worries and concerns, and were still prepared to see the show!

Thank you all - and to everyone I haven't mentioned - and mostly thanks to you for coming tonight. I hope you enjoy the result of everyone's hard work. Groooooovy!

Lon David, Director

About the play

The sixties was an amazing time  
The war was finally over,  
The government was relaxed,  
The country was in a party mood and  
The people had never had it so good.

No wonder the details are a bit hazy.

A lot of what you'll see tonight actually happened.  
Most of the rest *probably* happened.  
As for the fine details -  
Anyone who claims to know it all  
Can't have been there....

## The Company

### *The Belles*

Neill Gwyn  
 Agatha  
 Mercy  
 Annie  
 Bess  
 Rose Gwyn (Neill's Sister)  
 Violet

King Charles II  
 Queen Catherine

Charles Hart/Titus Oates/The Reaper  
 Duke of Buckingham/Robert Duncan/Guard  
 Barbara Villiers  
 Helena Gwyn (Neill's mother)/Hortense  
 Louise

James (the King's brother)/Tom Farrinor/Doctor  
 Mr Chiffinch

Mrs Chiffinch  
 Irene, Head Charlady

Rita, Charlady

Elsie, Charlady

Nurse / Barmaid

Soldier 1 / Father Huddlestone

Newspaper seller 1

Soldier 2/ Newspaper seller 2

Newspaper seller 3

Guard/Newspaper seller 4

Ivy, a charlady

Vera, a charlady

Pauline, a charlady

Dot, a charlady

Connie, a charlady

Chorus of members of the Company

Band members

David Thompson

Mike Sutherland

Melissa Moore  
 Naomi Wright  
 Katie Murphy  
 Sarah Way  
 Amy Way  
 Katie Peek  
 Claire Batchelor

David Sheehan  
 Hannah Murphy

Steven Donoghue  
 Richard Hibbert  
 Kelly Littlechild  
 Olivia Spence

Jenny Donoghue  
 Sam Jones  
 James Costas-Michael

Lauren Roberts  
 Lizzie Gould

Rebecca Miles

Stefanie Williams

Georgia Warsama

Ben Turner

Charlotte Rees

Angharad Miles

Molly Ferrier

Caru King

Jessica Weymouth

Megan Hayes

Kim Littlechild

Sian King

Rebecca Watkins

Keyboard 2

Drums

Director  
 Producer  
 Musical Director / Keyboard 1  
 Choreographer  
 Stage Manager/Technical Consultant  
 Design  
 Wardrobe  
 Makeup/Hair  
 Front of House Manager

Lon David  
 Jane Donoghue  
 Ben Davies  
 Marcus Anthony Thomas  
 Lucy Chiplin  
 Alex Jones  
 Geraldine Roberts  
 Kelly Littlechild  
 Chris Moore  
 Annette Littlechild

With very grateful thanks to:

Kjartan Poskitt, Brian Shapcott & Tricia Burfoot at Roath Church House, St Phillip's Church, Hannah Shephard, Roy and Phil and all staff at Howardian, Huw Gough & WGW, Alan Blakoe & Stage Lighting, Elaine Cartlidge, Jean Gray, Marigold Costumes, R.A.T.S., the Principality Building Society, Darren at Printall, Welsh Amateur Music Federation, GDL, NODA and all parents for their patience, lifts and continued support.

## Musical Numbers

### Act I

Happiest Days

Palace of Love

A Little Bit of Bawdy

Cross my Palm with Silver

All Shut Out

The Reaper

Charlie Boy

Fire!

Full chorus

Charles, Chiffinches, and Girls

Violet, Agatha and chorus

Mercy, Annie and Bess

Neil and the Belles

Agatha, Ghosts and Corpses

Neil and the Belles

### Act II

The Phoenix

No Commitments

The Seaside Special

Life Without You

Filth!

Gimme the Nurse

Happiest Days (reprise)

The Seaside Revisited

James and full chorus

Neil

Belles and full chorus

Charles and the Belles

The Charladies

Catherine, Charles, and Belles

Company

Company

## Design your own costume for Nell!



The best design submitted will win 2 tickets to our next show.

If you don't want to enter a design, but would like to be kept informed of future Unknown Theatre Company shows and other events, please complete your details below and either give this page to our Front of House staff at the theatre, or send it to us.

Please send your entries/details to:

The Unknown Theatre Company  
 c/o Roath Church House  
 Waterloo Road  
 Penylan  
 Cardiff CF23 5AD

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 .....  
 Email: .....

## The Author - as told by himself.



Kjartan Poskitt is a freelance everything. Since getting his engineering degree he worked on Saturday morning TV (including BBC's *Swap Shop!*), presented science and maths programmes, warmed up thousands of studio audiences, toured his one man show, played a lot of pub pianos very loudly and has been Widow Twankey. In recent years he has appeared all over the country demonstrating mathematical tricks and oddities from his books.

He has written many shows and pantomimes, twice winning the London Fringe Award for Best Production. He has five shows published including his world-wide success *Henry The Tudor Dude* and his latest - *Nell's Belles*.

His other books have been translated in up to 20 languages and include the *Murderous Maths* series, *The Gobsmacking Galaxy*, *Isaac Newton and his Apple*, the *Warp Maze* with cartoonist Stephen Appleby, 4 books in his notorious *Killer Puzzles* series, handbooks on Practical Jokes and Secret Codes, 6 support books for the BBC Schools series *Megamaths*, a GCSE maths guide and a book of conjuring tricks: *The Magic of Pants*.

He has also written songs and scripts and worked as a games consultant for a wide range of children's TV show. His music for TV includes the original themes for the BBC's *Brum* and the long running *Smart* series.

He has written for *Rosie and Jim* comic, *The Beano* and *The Oldie* and is a regular contributor to *Mad Maths* magazine.

...and frankly this petty list of his dismal achievements goes on forever so that'll have to do. He's married to Bridget, they have four girls and his mentionable hobbies include astronomy, pinball tables, magic tricks, making strange noises on his moog synthesisers and collecting copies of *The Beano*.

