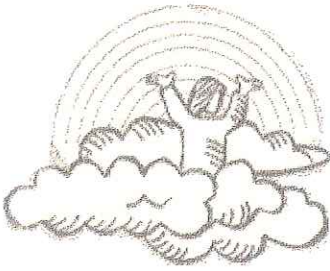


CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS



BACKGROUND



2002 PRODUCTION



PRESS BOX



MYSTERY EVENTS



TICKETS

2002 PRODUCTION

Chester Mystery Plays is traditionally a community event staged by amateurs under professional direction. Hundreds of enthusiasts of all ages from throughout the region make up the cast and crew.

WHEN

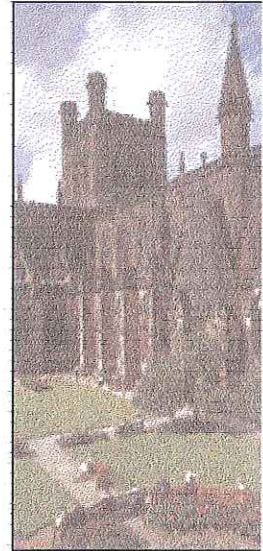
Chester Mystery Plays are performed every five years. The next production takes place June 29 – July 17, 2002.

WHERE

On Chester Cathedral Green, an enchanting setting in the heart of this ancient walled city.

In the shadow of the historic cathedral whose own story can be traced back to the year 907AD

(www.chestercathedral.org.uk) Chester Mystery Plays 2002 is to be staged in the open air while the audience is seated under cover.



Chester

Artistic Director 2002

Robin Goddard

A true Cestrian, born within Chester city walls, Robin began his career in theatre while still studying drama, dance and English at Exeter University. During his time there he worked at the Northcott Theatre, for regional television and with Western Theatre Ballet.

His passion for mystery plays began when 'as an awe-inspired sixth-former I watched Chester's 1967 production', and continued when as a teacher in Cheshire he inspired students with the subject as part of the syllabus and directed them in performances of the plays.

Teaching full-time, Robin also directed productions at summer residential drama courses at the Menai Centre, Anglesey 1975-86, and was director of Cheshire Youth Theatre 1981-87 and 1992-93. He went freelance in 1996 as a director, tutor and consultant in theatre art

Current projects include involvement as director/Head of Musical Theatre at Mersey Dance & Drama Centre, Liverpool; co-ordinator for Flintshire's FLAIR production at H Castle; artistic director at The Mulberry Theatre, Chester; director for Chester Music Chester Operatic Society; and work on an Artists in Schools project for Denbighshire Council.

A veteran of Chester Mystery Plays, he has acted in them as Lucifer (1977), Christ (Noah (1997), and directed plays from the cycle for Cheshire Youth Theatre.

Highly regarded throughout the region as an actor, scriptwriter, director and teacher vision for Chester 2002 is an exciting one. 'I am a great believer in the use of spectra modern technology,' he said, 'and plan to mount the plays in an epic style against a background of traditional Chester architecture – roman, saxon, norman and medieval.'

'My aim is to please the eye, ear and mind of the audience while staying true to the behind the plays and reinforcing their integral links to Chester's religious, cultural an legacy. It is not an intellectual exercise but a theatrical experience that I want the au enjoy.'



Stage Manager

Mal Proffitt

Mal enjoys a dual career as a pub landlord and stage manager, the former often as entertaining as the latter, he says. Well experienced on the theatrical front with many to his credit, his dramatic cv includes *Chester Tales* at Chester Cathedral, *Gangshow* productions at the Chester Gateway Theatre and other works for the Huxley Players Operatic Society and the Hammond School, Chester.

About 2002

Robin Goddard's production is in two parts, each ticketed separately and performed different times, each a performance in its own right.

The programme of each separate part consists of the following plays:

PART ONE: THE COMING OF CHRIST

Gobbet's Introduction, Creation and Fall, Cain and Abel, Noah's Flood, Abraham and Isaac - INTERVAL - The Nativity, The Shepherds, Magi and the Innocents.

PART TWO: THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Gobbet's Introduction, Temptation, A Woman Taken in Adultery, The Raising of Lazarus, Judas, The Last Supper, The Trial - INTERVAL - The Crucifixion, The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Last Judgement.

Running from June 29 – July 17, 2002, there will be no performances on Sundays. It will be approximately three hours long including an interval for refreshments etc. Full will include access for people with disabilities and a scheduled signed performance.

Preparing for 2002:

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting is being held on March 1st at 7.30pm at the Guildhall, Watergate & Chester. Everyone interested in taking part in the forthcoming production is welcome.

Hosted by artistic director Robin Goddard, he will outline his plans and there will be opportunities to ask questions and register interest in all areas. Backstage workers & technical crew to wardrobe, make-up and front of house staff are needed as well as performers and musicians.

People are welcome individually as group representation is not essential.

Robin plans similar meetings in rural areas for those unable to attend on March 1st. Dates will be announced here in due course.

AUDITIONS: Scheduled for first week in May 2001

CAST: To be announced June 2001

REHEARSALS: Start first week September 2001, two evenings a week.

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CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS



PRESS BOX

Some press comments from the last full-scale production in 1998

'...a tribute to an astonishing act of faith and a particularly stubborn bre northerners who have been replaying the Bible's greatest hits since Midd monks wanted to be the Valentino of their day... For seasoned collectors of medieval cycles it is always a joy to discover how changed... a revival of Britain's most enduring piece of theatre.'

The Times

'Chester Mystery Plays are one of the glories of English medieval literat'

The Lady

'An unusual vigour...visual delight in the designs... As a community exe obviously a tradition worth preserving.'

Liverpool Daily Pos

'Delightful and enchanting... wonderfully funny and bright...'

Chester Chronicle

'Meanwhile God is in His Heaven and all's fairly well with Chester Myst'

The Liverpool Echo



BACKGROUND



2002 PRODUCTION



PRESS BOX



MYSTERY EVENTS



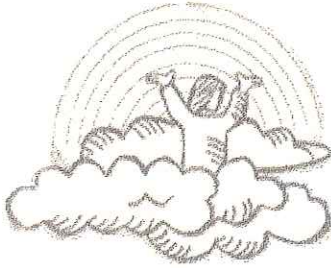
TICKETS

IPress Contact

For all media enquiries and assistance, please call
Eileen Orr, tel +44 (0) 1244 682617; fax +44 (0)1244 676703 or e-mail
eileen@orr-iginals.demon.co.uk

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CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS



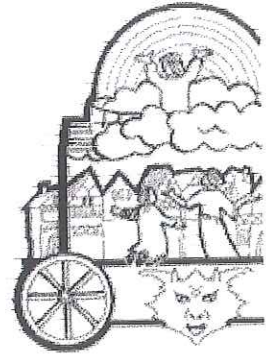
MYSTERY EVENTS

Mystery Plays Walks... In conjunction with Chester Tourism, a new guided walking tour of Chester along the original medieval route of the plays is being launched for 2002.

The new Mystery Plays Walk follows in the footsteps of the medieval audience. Each guild performed its own play on its own waggon, but these vehicles remained stationary during the event at specific sites known as 'stations'. The audience moved from one station to another.

Following the same route more than 500 years later reveals an intriguingly different aspect to the city.

Duration: approximately one hour.



The waggon production to millennium in 2000 was medieval tradition on constructed vehicle, abo by A



BACKGROUND



2002 PRODUCTION



PRESS BOX



MYSTERY EVENTS



TICKETS

Dates, times, meeting point and ticket details of guided walks to be an

Mystery Plays Talks... Professor David Mills, Head of English Language and Literat University of Liverpool, is an internationally acknowledged authority on early drama. To coincide with the 2002 production, he will give three talks in the le theatre at the Grosvenor Museum, Grosvenor Street, Chester.

I. The Chester Plays – A History

What do we mean by 'Chester Mystery Plays'? Tracing the h the plays from the 15th-century Corpus Christi Play to the Tu Whitsun Plays.

II. Playing with Politics – The Mystery Plays in Tudor England

Why did Chester stop performing its plays? A look at the nati local situation during the Reformation showing how the plays drawn into wider religious and political controversies.

III. Playing with the Past – Modern Revivals of the Chester Plays

Why revive the plays? Tracing the links between the aims of day society and the resurgence of interest in the plays.

Dates, times and ticket details of lectures to be announced.

Mystery Plays Quilt... Don't miss this stunning work (6ft x 5ft) by American award-w textile artist BJ Elvgren. Inspired by her visit to the 1992 production, BJ's che focus on Chester Mystery Plays and the city itself made the quilt a national p winner in the USA before the Chester Mystery Plays Company acquired it to to Chester Cathedral where it now hangs on permanent display in the exhibit in the Undercroft. Postcards of the quilt are available in the cathedral shop.



Quilt detail depicting nativity scene
(photo by Geoffrey Newcombe)

Mystery Plays Sources. The [Dept of History & Heritage](#) at Chester City Council has produced a special Chester Mystery Plays research pack. It consists of transcripts of key archive sources, a short history, further reading list, archive source list and a full reproduction of the only original script held in Chester, the Coop Company play, *The Scourging of Christ*. A history of the freemen and guilds of Chester is also available.

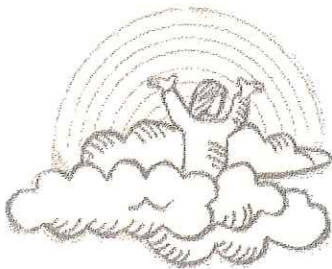
Where to Stay & What Else to Do? Accommodation and other visitor information is available from [Chester Tourism](#).

Founded 2,000 years ago by the Romans during their Occupation of Britain, Chester is the most complete walled city in the UK today. As well as its medieval mystery plays, it is also famous for its medieval shopping galleries known as 'The Rows' and its profusion of black and white timbered buildings.

Less than an hour from Manchester and 300 miles from London with good road and air links, Chester makes a good base for touring north Wales and is a convenient break en route to the Lake District, Scotland or Ireland.

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CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS



TICKETS

Staged every five years, the next production of Chester Mystery Plays is June 29 - July 17, 2002.

An open-air performance on Cathedral Green, the audience will be seated under cover safe from the vagaries of a British summer.

Box office details to be posted on this site in due course.



BACKGROUND



2002 PRODUCTION



PRESS BOX



MYSTERY EVENTS



TICKETS



Group discounts available.



A special price when tickets for Part One and Part Two are bought together.

_____ Full details to be announced later in 2001. Watch this space!

Meanwhile to register interest in buying tickets for 2002, make provisional bookings for travel trade enquiries, please e-mail info@chestermysteryplays.com or write to Chester Mystery Plays Ltd, 34 Cuppin Street, Chester CH1 4BN, England

The Chester Mystery Plays Company warmly thanks the Dean and Chapter of Chester for their continuous goodwill and support.

Chester Mystery Plays welcomes sponsors and gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organisations who help make this major theatrical event possible:



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