

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE  
NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

Present

**ALI BABA**  
*and the forty thieves*

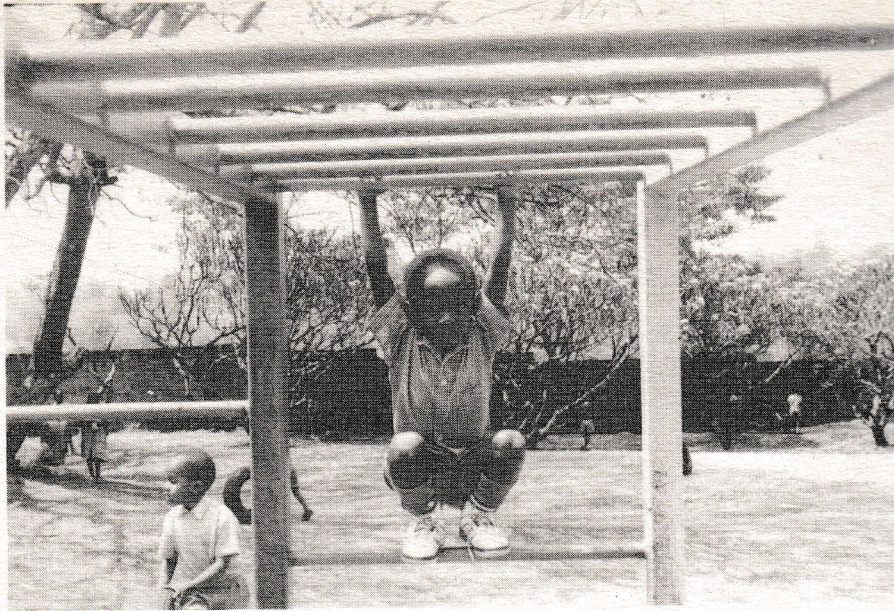
A GRAND  
TRADITIONAL  
PANTOMIME

DIRECTED BY: JON TARLTON  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: BEN MASON  
CHOREOGRAPHER: CHARLOTTE  
SJOSTROM-FLANAGAN

December

4 to 21 91

1991



# KHA

Kindergarten  
Headmistress  
Association

## Nursery School

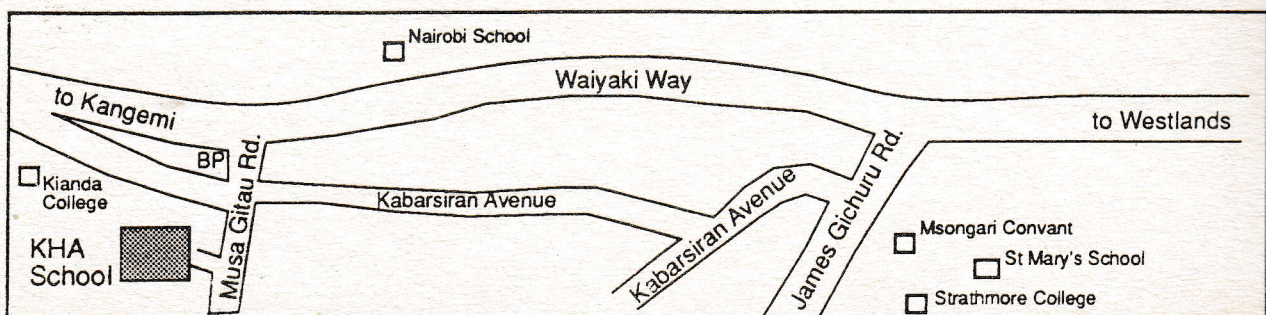
P.O. Box 40026  
Nairobi  
Telephone 441970

Located on spacious grounds in the Lavington area, the KHA Nursery School is a well planned and carefully controlled nursery, pre-primary school which caters for children aged between 2 1/2 and 6 years.

The permanent staff of qualified and experienced teachers follow an international syllabus which lays a firm foundation of early learning skills for each child in preparation for entry to primary school.

The school is administered and managed by a committee of Association members. The profits from the school help fund the KHA Teacher Training Programmes.

Interested parents are most welcome to visit the school, talk to the staff and see the children's work.



---

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE  
Nairobi City Players

PRESENT

**ALI BABA**  
*and the forty thieves*

A GRAND TRADITIONAL PANTOMIME

DIRECTED BY: **JON TARLTON**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: **BEN MASON**

CHOREOGRAPHER: **CHARLOTTE SJOSTROM-FLANAGAN**

---

---

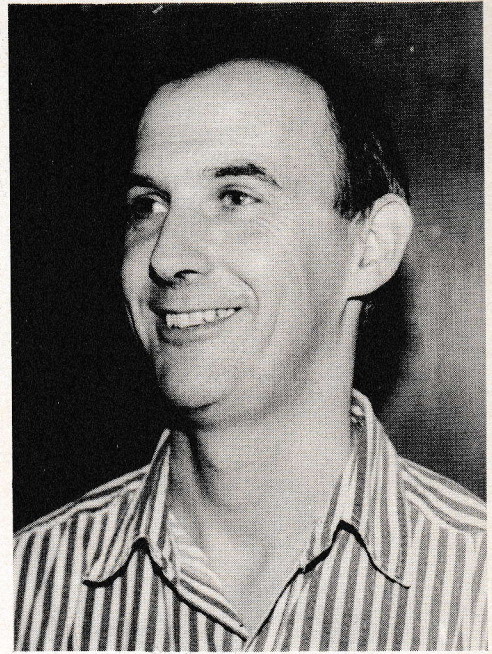
## JON TARLTON A Letter from the Director

Welcome to this year's pantomime — our version of the famous story of "ALIBABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES".

The original version of this story was part of the "A Thousand and One Arabian Nights" — a sequence of stories told by Scherezade to her husband, the Caliph. He had ordered her execution and she told him these stories and delayed her untimely death by ending each night with a "cliffhanger" or a "trailer" for the next episode — just like a modern television soap opera such as "Neighbours". In the end, she softened the Caliph's heart and was reprieved. Others of the stories Scherezade told were "Sinbad the Sailor" and "Aladdin", both subjects which have also been used for pantomimes. We have, of course, changed things to make our pantomime and you might enjoy going back to the original to see how we have altered things.

As you will see, this is a big show with a cast of 38 players and at least as many people working backstage and in preparing costumes, properties and scenery. But we always need more help. If you are interested in taking part in the work of Nairobi City Players shows please get in touch with us on Nairobi 740208 or by writing to us at P.O. Box 40026, Nairobi.

Jon Tarlton has worked in professional theatre in the UK for twenty-five years. After work in stage management and as an actor, he took up directing in the mid-seventies and has now directed more than seventy productions in regional theatres and drama schools. This is Jon's third pantomime production for Nairobi City Players.

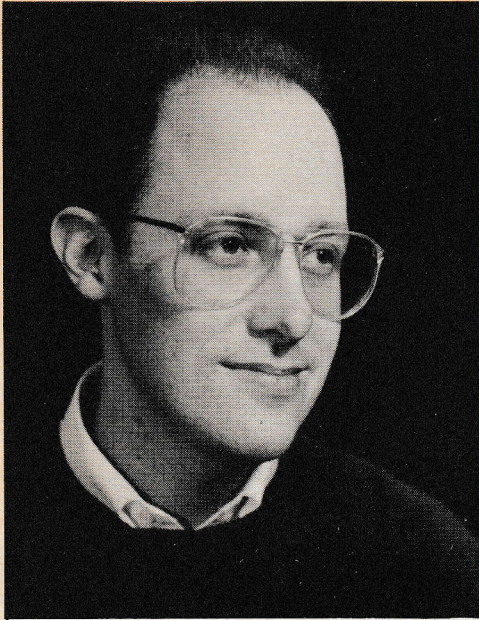


The  
Nairobi **ncp** City Players

wish you all  
A Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year

**Keep Smiling!**

---



## **BEN MASON** Musical Director

Ben Mason studied Music at Oxford University and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

He arranged and conducted his first show while a student at Oxford and, since then, has worked on a wide variety of musicals and theatre productions. Ben is also a composer, and for the last 3 years has worked for a leading UK jingle and film music production company, scoring TV and radio commercials.

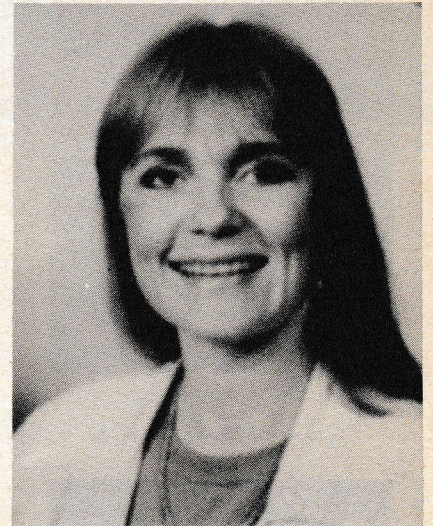
Last year, Ben and his long-time lyricist collaborator Paul James, were invited by the Producer Cameron Mackintosh to join the Stephen Sondheim masterclass at Oxford University. These classes took place over a period of six months and covered all aspects of writing and composing for the musical theatre. Ben and his collaborator Paul continue to work in the musical theatre and are also writing pop songs and comedy songs for British TV.

This is Ben's first visit to Nairobi.

## **CHARLOTTE SJOSTROM- FLANAGAN** Choreographer

Charlotte Sjostrom — Flanagan studied dance in Scandinavia where she also obtained her B.Sc. in Physiotherapy. She received her MCAT in Movement and Dance Therapy from the Laban Centre, London. She has worked for 6 years in the Middle East and USA where she has also produced and directed several dance shows for smaller theatre-dance groups. Charlotte has also worked closely with film directors in the Middle East and on multimedia shows.

This is her third musical show with Nairobi City Players since she arrived in Nairobi with her husband in September, 1990. Charlotte is currently working as a freelance Movement Therapist in Nairobi.





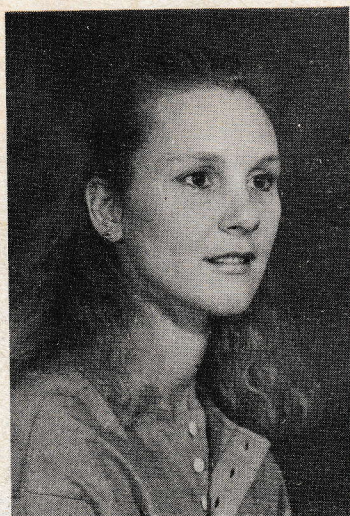
*"Mrs. Baba"*  
**KEITH ATKINSON**



*"Ali Baba"*  
**CHERYL MACEY**



*"Morgiana"*  
**CECILIA NDEGWA**



*Cassim Baba*  
**JULIA GROOCK**



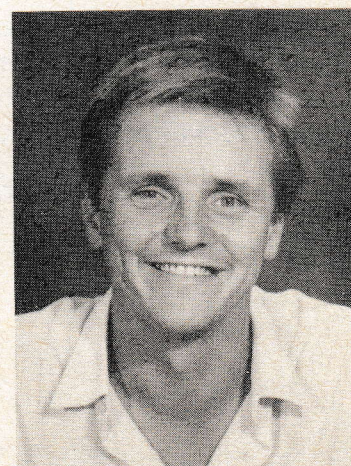
*"Abu Hassan"*  
**STEPHEN MEACHER**



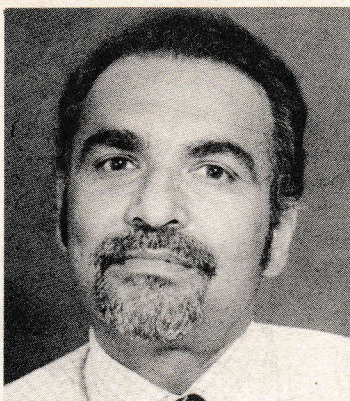
*"Abu Daisy"*  
**DUNCAN LINSOTT**



*"Factotum"*  
**JACKIE HOLT**



*"Azalea"*  
**ADRIAN RATCLIFF**

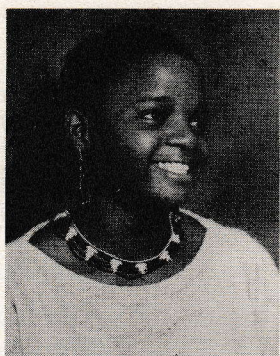


*"The Caliph of Baghdad"*  
**RAJ THAKAR**

*"Wives of the Caliph"*



**CATHY ATER**



**MUDASIA VIHENDA**



**DENISE WHITE**



**JANE CORFIELD**



**NAZ COCKER**

## **NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS**

Next Production  
will be

## **HABEAS CORPUS**

by  
**ALAN BENNETT**

Written in 1973 this brilliant comedy lampoons the so-called "permissive society". As Lady Rumpers (a colonial lady newly returned to the United Kingdom) puts it: "That's one thing I've noticed returning to these shores, there's great deal more touching going on". And there certainly is. This seaside postcard cast of stereotypes, such as the lecherous general practitioner, the flat-chested spinster, the wet vicar and the busty young girl, takes the Latin phrase "Habeas Corpus" to heart. It literally translates as "have the body"—and that is exactly what they would like to do!!

This production will be directed by Jon Tarlton and will take place at the end of February next year at the Kenya National Theatre. Watch the press for details of the performances.

---

# ALI BABA

## *and the forty thieves*

DIRECTED BY: JON  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR:  
CHOREGRAPHER: CHARLOTTE S

### The Cast

In order of appearance

### THE MUSICIANS

Trumpet	PATRICE KIKUYU
Clarinet	HIROSHI MATSUMURA BARRY JOBLING
Guitar	KEN LARSEN
Bass Keyboard	GEOFFREY NJOGU
Drums	ANTON LEVITAN
Piano	BEN MASON

### STAGE DIRECTOR

MIK MAGNUSSON

### STAGE MANAGER

FRANCES CATTERMOLE

### SET DESIGN

GRAZIELA SORIA DE ALBRECHT

### COSTUME DESIGN

MARY EPSOM

Cassim Baba — Ali Baba's brother  
Factotum } Mrs. Baba's Servants  
Azalea }

Mrs. Baba - Ali Baba's mother

Abu Hassan }  
Abu Daisy } Thieves  
Abu Haram }  
Abu Ahmed }  
Abu Rashid }

Ali Baba

Cynthia - a camel

Delilah }  
Shelina } Wives of the Caliph  
Sue Ellen }  
Ihuoma }  
Maud }

Morgiana - a slave girl

The Caliph of Baghdad

Creatures of the Cactus Grove

### PEOPLE OF BAGHDAD, THIEVES, JEWS

LILLIAN AGOLA, DEREK E. BBANGA, JENNIFER  
ANDREW KIGARU, DELANO LONGWE, TITUS  
ROSE M. NKAAMBI, DAVID ODERO, JOSEPHINE OHUNDO, C

### CITY URCHINS, JEWEL PEOPLE, CHILDREN

GRACE CUNNINGHAM, STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM  
PURVI SHAH, RAJUL SHAH, ANNA TURVEY



# BABA

## forty thieves

BY: JON TARLTON

DIRECTOR: BEN MASON

LOTTE SJOSTROM-FLANAGAN

### The Cast

Order of appearance

Caliph's brother JULIA GROOCOCK  
Caliph's Servants JACKIE HOLT  
ADRIAN RATCLIFF  
Mother KEITH ATKINSON  
STEPHEN MEACHER  
DUNCAN LINSOTT  
DEREK E. BBANGA  
RICHARD MWENDWA  
TITUS N. MUTANDA  
CHERYL MACEY  
{ DELANO LONGWE  
DAVID ODERO  
{ DENISE WHITE  
NAZ COCKER  
CATHY ATER  
MUDASIA VIHENDA  
JANE CORFIELD  
CECILIA NDEGWA BARUA  
RAJ THAKAR  
{ LILLIAN AGOLA  
NJOKI KARIUKI  
CHARITY OUKO

### THIEVES, JEWEL PEOPLE, COURTIERS

DEREK E. BBANGA, JENNIFER GETECHA, NJOKI KARIUKI,  
DELANO LONGWE, TITUS N. MUTANDA, RICHARD MWENDWA,  
MUDASIA VIHENDA, CHARITY OUKO, ELIZABETH WAMAI, ESTHER N. NZUKI

### PEOPLE, CHILDREN OF THE CALIPH

STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM, GEORGIA MULLEN,  
ANNA TURVEY, SAM TURVEY, HIRAL VORA

### SCENES

In Old Baghdad

### ACT ONE

**Scene 1.** The Bazaar  
**Scene 2.** The Desert  
**Scene 3.** A Courtyard in the Caliph's Palace  
**Scene 4.** The Desert  
**Scene 5.** The Cactus Grove  
**Scene 6.** Outside the Thieves' Cave  
**Scene 7.** Inside the Thieves' Cave

### INTERVAL

### ACT TWO

**Scene 1.** The Desert  
**Scene 2.** The Bazaar  
**Scene 3.** The Kitchen of the Palace  
**Scene 4.** A Courtyard of the Palace  
**Scene 5.** The Kitchen of the Palace  
**Scene 6.** The Cellars of the Palace  
**Scene 7.** "The Singing Sands"  
**Scene 8.** The Wedding

---

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT ONE

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. "Not Since Nineveh"              | CASSIM, ALI, MORGIANA AND<br>THE PEOPLE OF BAGHDAD |
| 2. "You Should Never, Never Worry"  | MRS. BABA AND THE CITY URCHINS                     |
| 3. "Salt, Pepper, Vinegar, Mustard" | CASSIM, FACTOTUM AND AZALEA                        |
| 4. "The Robbers' Chorus"            | THE THIEVES  |
| 5. "Not since Nineveh"(Reprise)     | THE TOWNSPEOPLE                                    |
| 6. It's Never Too Late"             | THE CALIPH AND HIS WIVES                           |
| 7. "Behold Our Caliph"              | EVERYONE   |
| 8. "Only Make Believe"              | ALI AND MORGIANA                                   |
| 9. "The Sand Dance"                 | MRS. BABA, FACTOTUM AND AZALEA                     |
| 10. "Was I Wazir"                   | ABU HASSAN AND THE THIEVES                         |
| 11. "Ghostbusters"                  | THE CREATURES OF THE CACTUS<br>GROVE               |
| 12. "It's Not Where You Start"      | ALI AND MORGIANA                                   |
| 13. "The Jewel Dance"               | THE JEWEL PEOPLE                                   |

## ACT TWO

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 14. "Baghdad Rap"                          | THE TOWNSPEOPLE                             |
| 15. "I Yi, Yi, Yi, Yi"                     | MRS. BABA AND THE<br>TOWNSPEOPLE            |
| 16. "Pick Yourself Up"                     | ALI AND MORGIANA                            |
| 17. "Rahadlakum"                           | THE COURTIER                                |
| 18. "Arabian Dance"                        | MORGIANA                                    |
| 19. "Shinaniki Da"                         | CASSIM, AZALEA AND FACTOTUM                 |
| 20. "Rahadlakum" (reprise)                 | THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF<br>THE CALIPH     |
| 21. "Me And My Shadow"                     | MRS. BABA AND CYNTHIA                       |
| 22. "Why Do I Love You?"                   | ALI, MORGIANA, MRS. BABA AND<br>ABU HASSAN  |
| 23. "Let's All Sing Like The Birdies Sing" | MRS. BABA, CASSIM AND<br>THE ENTIRE THEATRE |
| 24. "The Best Of Times"                    | THE WEDDING GUESTS                          |
-

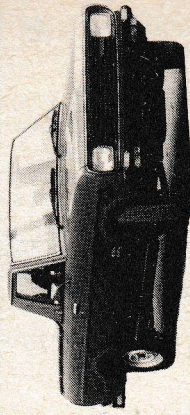
# TRAVELER'S SAM



**IT'S THE SAME... ONLY DIFFERENT.**

*Apart from its up to date fresh, new look the Nissan 1200 pickup is the same versatile, reliable, economical, proven, honest pickup that it was when first locally assembled ten years ago. Why look any further?*

**The 1200 pickup - built to last, economical to run, with a high resale value.**



**The Big Little Pickup**



**NISSAN**

D.T. Dobie

---

## The Production Team

Stage Director	Mik Magnusson
Stage Manager	Frances Cattermole
Assistant Stage Managers	Sasha Ronsky, Simon Young
Stage Crew	George Asava, Stephen Kamau, Jim Were, Eddie Ongwae, Lazarus Tsumu, Josphat Muhu, Samson Angutu
Scenery Flying Team	Sasha Ronsky, Daniel Mbugua
Lighting	Neil Davidson, Martin Sherwin, Jason Mwai, Jackson Kitunga
Follow Spot Operators	Shabbir Hussein, Mark Sherwin
Properties	Moira Turner, Katrina Tilley, Jenny Dunnet, Rhiann Dunnet
Set Construction by	“Pop” Aisthorpe of Aisthorpe Timber Engineers Ltd., Daniel Mbugua
Set Designer	Graziella Soria De Albrecht
Assisted by	Mary Collis
Painters	Ian Chisholm, Monika Chisholm, Anna Perez, Andrew Kigaru, Elizabeth Wamai, Rose Nkaambi, Richard Mwendwa, Titus Mutanda, Mudasia Vihenda
Sound	Jim Turner, Simon Young
Costume Designer	Mary Epsom
Costume Team	Janet Tonks, Tabitsa Amalemba, Julie Epsom, Nancy Atkinson
Tailoring	Patty Ltd.
Production Assistant	Ruth Sherwin
Cast Refreshments and Children’s Supervision }	Maria Cunningham, Lesley Mullan, Di Turvey, Rita Shah, Renu Vora Lata Shah,
Front of House	Joan Greene
Publicity	Bryan Epsom
Programme	Bryan Epsom
Programme Printing	Man Graphics Ltd.
Photographs	Roger Athaide of Foto-Unique

---

# Acknowledgements

SWISSAIR for airline ticket for Director.

Mary and Bryan Epsom for Musical Director's accommodation.

Moira and Jim Turner for Director's accommodation

Gerry Tebbutt, the professional director who has worked for NCP on a number of occasions, for assistance in appointment for Musical Director.

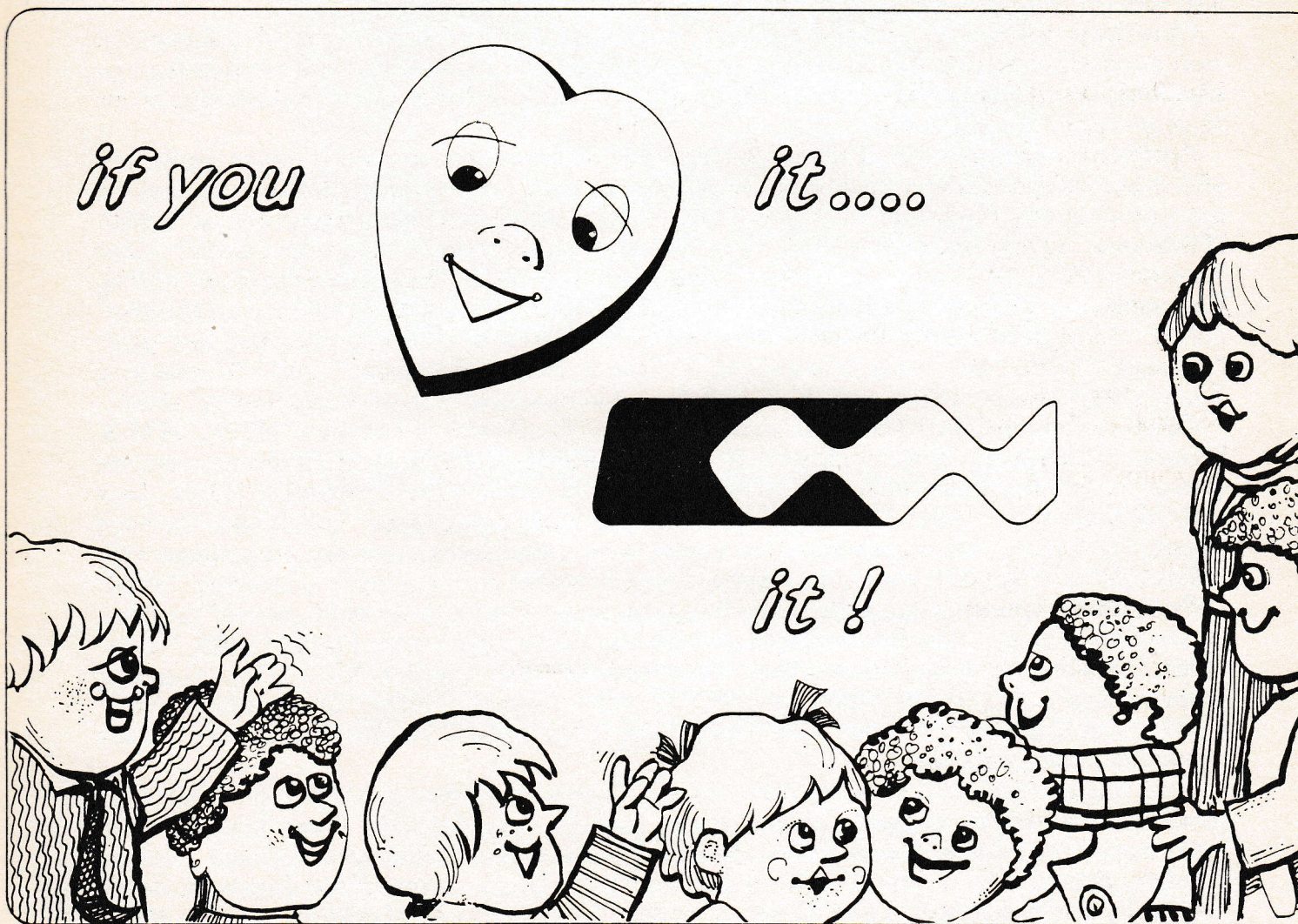
Ruth Sherwin for assistance in assembling musicians.

Simon Hunt for assistance in rehearsals.

Assanands for sound equipment.

The Manager and Staff of Kenya National Theatre.

Nairobi City Players wish to gratefully acknowledge all those persons who so willingly gave assistance after this programme went to press.



All paints for this pantomime donated by



# NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS AND THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

In 1956, John Ebdon and Donald Whittle (both ex-professional actors), the late Noreen Antrobus and Bryan Epsom, all dedicated thespians, met and decided to form an "acting group" to be known as "The Nairobi City Players". The Constitution of this new group was unusual for an amateur society as the main aims and objects were stated as follows:

- (a) Regularly to present theatrical productions of a good dramatic and artistic standard by utilising and coordinating the best available acting talent, directors, set designers and technical stage assistants in Kenya.
- (b) Towards the fulfilment to (a) above, to be unstinting in the cost of productions, subject to the budget limits set by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To take all necessary steps to encourage drama and to improve the facilities available for theatrical productions.

The City Prayers, despite vastly changed circumstances affecting theatre in Kenya since their inception, have adhered faithfully to these aims and the presented over 120 productions, including many fullscale musicals, mostly at the Kenya National Theatre.

In fact, this year marks the 35th year of N.C.P's association with the Kenya National Theatre which the group affectionately regards its home ground. Since 1956, the rentals paid by N.C.P. have formed a major contribution to the Kenya National Theatre's revenues; in addition the group has given donations from time to time to assist the Theatre. Apart from this, N.C.P. has made substantial contributions to a number of worthy charities by way of Charity Premieres and also gifts in cash and kind.

Over the years many talented people have made major contributions to the work of the group, working in all fields of theatrical enterprise. Their remarkable endeavours have resulted in a high standard of production of which this group is understandably proud. Some of the highlights of our 35 year history are as follows:

Among the musicals were: "The King and I" (1961). This was revived in 1977, sixteen years later with the original leads Peter Pearce and Dulcie Atwill, known as the Bangkok Pensioners for the latter production. "Annie Get Your Gun" (1963), "Irma La Douce" (1963), "South Pacific" (1964), "Oklahoma" (1964) Revived in 1978, "The Sound of Music" (1967), "Guys and Dolls" (1968) Revived in 1979, "My Fair Lady" (1968), "Kiss Me Kate" (1969), "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971), Revived by Larry Oaks' superb production this year, "Hello, Dolly" (1972), "Man of La Mancha" (1973), "Godspell" (1974) Revived with Gerry Tebbutt's sparkling production last year, "Cabaret" (1976), "The Merry Widow" (1977) "Side by Side by Sondheim" (1980) "Canterbury Tales" (1982) "Annie" (1986) and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" (1988).

Gilbert & Sullivan works have also been presented—"The Pirates of Penzance" (1979), "H.M.S. Pinafore" (1980) and "The Gondoliers" (1984) with Nairobi Music Society. In recent years the group has presented pantomime at Christmas with "Cinderella" (1984), "Aladdin" (1985) "Jack and the Beanstalk" (1986), "Mother Goose" (1987) "Robinson Crusoe" (1989) and "Sleeping Beauty" last year. Travelling revues have also been a popular part of our programme with "Minstrels" (1974), (1975) and (1978), "Savoy Knights" (1981) and "Happy as a Sandbag" (1983).

Particularly successful plays offered by the group were "The Love of Four Colonels" (our first production in 1956), "Ring Round the Moon" (1957), "The Diary of Anne Frank" (1960), "Ross" (1964), "A View from the Bridge" (1966), "The Affair" (1969), "Hadrian VII" (1971), "Conduct Unbecoming" (1973), "The Masters" (1975), "Hostile Witness" (1976) "Crown Matrimonial" (1980), "The Business of Murder" (1987) and "Twelve Angry Men" the late Nigel Slade's brilliant production two years ago

Over the last twenty or so years Nairobi City Players have followed a policy of "importing" professional directors, choreographers, actors, singers and musicians. These have included – directors Larry Oaks, David Kelsey, Robert Robinson, Gerry Tebbutt, Fernand Monast, Geoffrey Braun, Jon Tarlton, Leo Kharibian and Larry Drew – actors Hope Jackman, Jenny Logan, Lynne Williamson, Tony Rickell, Christina Artemis, David Middleton, Gaynor Miles, Garth Bandell, Olivia Breeze, Sid Livingstone and Barry Martin and for the productions of "The Merry Widow" and "The Barber of Seville", director, musical director, soloists and musicians from the Vienna Volksooper and the Opernhaus Graz.

This policy of strengthening local talent with visiting professionals has been fully justified, we feel, by the ambitious productions we have been able to stage, and has certainly raised standards.  
Bryan Epsom



**SERVICED**

## **SEASCAPES BEACH VILLAS**

Seascapes is situated at Msambweni south coast on a yet unexploited expanse of beach that still reflects the environment and ambience of a bygone age.

Each villa is fully serviced with your own personal steward/cook. Accommodation includes three double bedrooms ensuite, large balcony, generous lounge, dining area and a fully equipped kitchen. Other facilities include swimming pool, squash, tennis, restaurant, pool bar, darts, shop and miles of sandy beach.

For reservation: Phone Nairobi 334996/334280/220486

---



### **V.I.P.**

As you can see, you don't have to be famous to be treated as a Very Important Person by Swissair. You're sure to notice, for example, how understanding and skillful we are in attending to children travelling alone: when you realize how contentedly and happily the little ones are enjoying their flight. Which of course means that our adult passengers can relax and travel in a peaceful atmosphere. For the secret of our success - not only with children - lies in a time-tested Swissair speciality: reading our guests' wishes from their eyes - no matter what their age.

**swissair** 

Contact Swissair Nairobi, Corner House, Kimathi Street, Mezzanine 2, phone 33 10 12, for further information on its 3 weekly flights to Europe: on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.