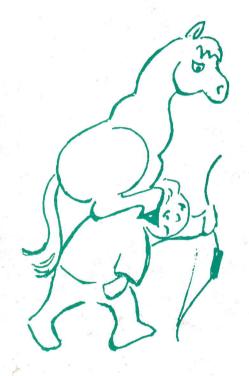


Anniversary production 40 pears



Tabes in the Moods



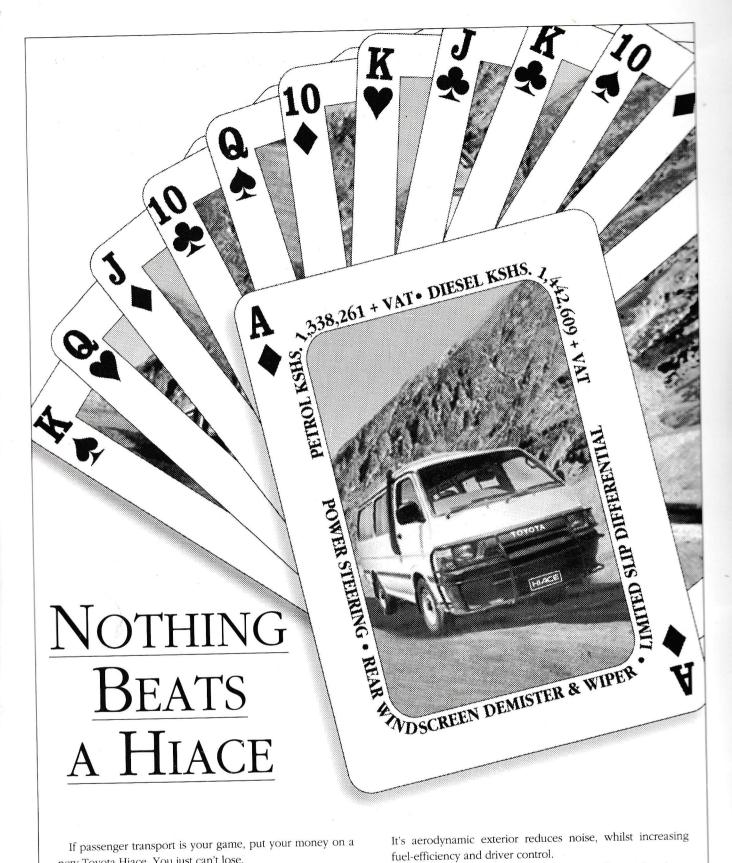


Misdirected by: Richard Pitt-Kennedy

> 測lay 避ritten by: Alfonso 且uvet







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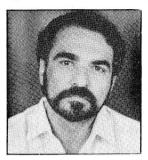


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JENNY DUNNET Executive Member



GAIL LANGTON Secretary



ROY LAWRENCE Member



LESLEY MULLAN Member



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FOREWARD



FRANCES CATTERMOLE
Chairman

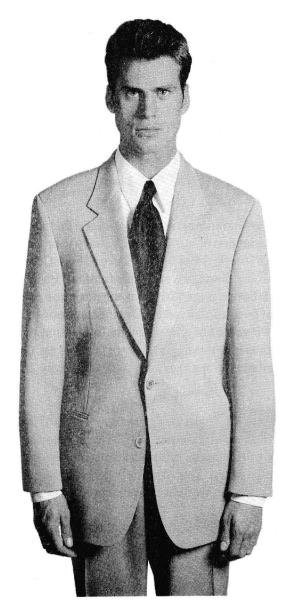
This year's pantomime is a very special one for the group as it marks the last production of our 40th anniversary year. Since starting the group in 1956 with the play "The Love of Four Colonels", NCP has with the production of this year's pantomime "Babes in the Woods", presented theatre goers 126 plays, musicals and pantomimes. The number of people involved both on the stage and behind the scenes over the 40 years are just too many to mention by name, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of them who has contributed to the theatre in what ever way and helped NCP going.

A special mention must also go the supporters of the group in such capacities as sponsors especially Swissair who has supported the group by providing us with airtickets for visiting directors and actors for 25 years. This extremely generous support has allowed NCP to present high quality productions for so many years.

We must as a group also thank you the audience, for without your support over the years we would not have been able to continue going.

The pantomime this year sees many new faces in a very talented cast and we must thank all the members for the diligent work they have put into rehearsals for the production under the direction of Richard Pitt-Kennedy who makes his debut as a director on the Kenyan stage. A big thank you to Roy Lawrence for assisting Richard, who also choreographed the dances for this show, and to Geoffrey Njogu, Francis Oludhe and Gacigi Kungu for the musical side. May we also thank all the people who worked behind the scenes ensuring that all the aspects of putting a production together go smoothly, many of whom serve as committee members for the group and therefore spend a lot of their free time working on the different productions staged.

Enjoy the show.



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INTRODUCTION

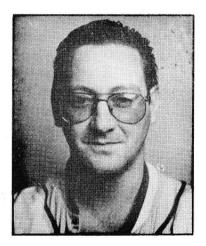
By

Richard Pitt-Kennedy
Director

&

Roy Lawrence Co-Director

The tale of "Babes in the Woods" concerns the plot by Prince John, who is ruling England in the absence of his brother King Richard who is away at the crusades in the Holy Land, to murder the King's wards, the wealthy children of the Duke of Leicester and place the crown of England on his head. Prince John enlists the help of the conniving Sheriff of Nottingham and hires Dame Atilla Grott and Murderous Malcolm to do the dirty deed, under threat. Mad Meg, a fortune teller, warns Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men, Maid Marion and Abigail, Dame Grott's assistant that evil doings are about to happen in Sherwood Forest - who all set out to save the babes and foil Prince John's plot. All manner of funny goings on with lively song and dance makes this the show not to miss!

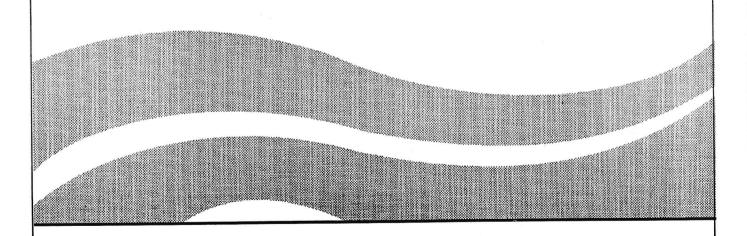


Richard Pitt-Kennedy Director

Richard started his dancing career with Vera Zerkovitch here in Nairobi. From Kenya he moved to Elmhurst Ballet School under Mercia Hetherington for advanced Royal Academy dancing and Solo Seal. He moved briefly to the Royal Ballet under Anthony Dowell and then to Ballet Rambert under Richard Alston and Robert North. After being injured on tour in Italy, Richard gave up commercial dancing and moved in to the Pub business and also opened an entertainment agency in London. He is at the moment in the process of selling his pub in England as he moved back to Kenya in March 1994 due to his mother's illness. Sadly she passed away at the end of September last year. Richard is a Director of MD Kampf Insurance Agents and has no plans to leave Kenya. He choreographed last year's pantomime "Little Red Riding Hood".

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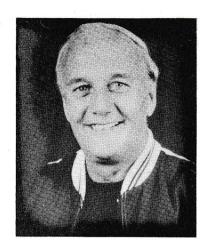
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ROY LAWRENCE CO-DIRECTOR

also playing

Dame Atilla Grott



As the youngest of a large family, his mother retiring from the chorus line after only three years to produce a near football team, it was left to Roy to follow her 'nyayo'. For the first time he is playing the dame in an panto (though he did an apprenticeship as an Ugly Sister in N.C.P.'s Cinderella three years ago). He hopes no one tries to compare his dancing ability to hers! Perhaps he should stick to being the villain, he says.

More about Roy. He came to East Africa as a young man where he worked in Kampala, Dar-es-Salaam, and finally Nairobi. He has produced, choreographed and taken part in several successful productions including "Kiss Me Kate", "The Rivals", "Guys and Dolls", "A Funny Thing....", "Wait Until Dark" and "Man For All Seasons". His pantomimes include "Sinbad the Sailor", "Cinderella", "Aladdin", "Dick Whittington", "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Little Red Riding Hood". The latter four he directed, and in each one had to step in to play the leading roles!! Roy plays the very entertaining character of Dame Atilla Grott in this pantomime.

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MUSIC DIRECTORS



GEOFFREY NJOGU

Geoffrey joined Starehe Boys' Centre in 1989 where he began to study the piano and saxophone. During his four years of Secondary Education he achieved the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Grade 8 piano and Grade 5 saxophone. He also won first place in the 1992 Kenya Music Festival in the advanced piano solo class and the Kibuhosya Cup for woodwinds. In 1993 he won a British Council Scholarship to study music at the Chichester College of Arts, Science and Technology where he was highly commended. At 22, he is one of the youngest Musical Directors with Nairobi City Players, although as you can gather, not the least talented. Geoffrey is currently a student of Architecture at the University of Nairobi. His support for NCP is tremendous and in this production he trebles his role by being the musical director and playing Prince John and King Richard.

FRANCIS OLUDHE

Francis is the head of music at Kenton College and enjoys teaching music, a job he has done for 8 years non-stop. He feels guilty about being called a co-director for music when, he says, Geoffrey has done the bulk of the work in terms of teaching the songs as well as selecting the music, especially as this is the part that requires so much skill and patience.

Francis has been working with N.C.P. since 1994 and has found great joy in working with us again. He feels that the challenges of music direction are many, but once surmounted, they hopefully make one a better musician, and there are lessons to be learnt. His message to you, "I hope you enjoy the musical numbers as much as we have, in selecting and arranging them specially for you!".

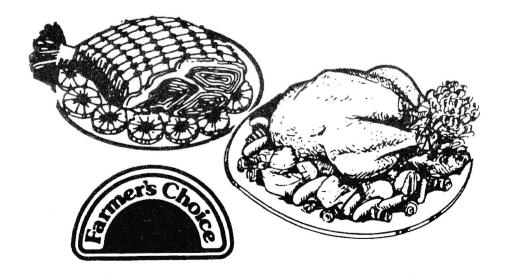




GACIGI KUNG'U

Gacigi works as a piano teacher with the "Kenya Conservatiore of Music". Letting you judge her abilities as music director from this pantomime, she explains the conciseness of her introduction by "Brevity is the Spice of Life".

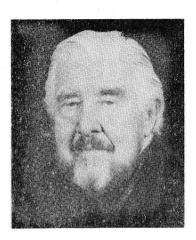
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A PROFILE OF NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS

BY RURIK RONSKY

Consultant Member of the Committee and a Founding Member of the Group



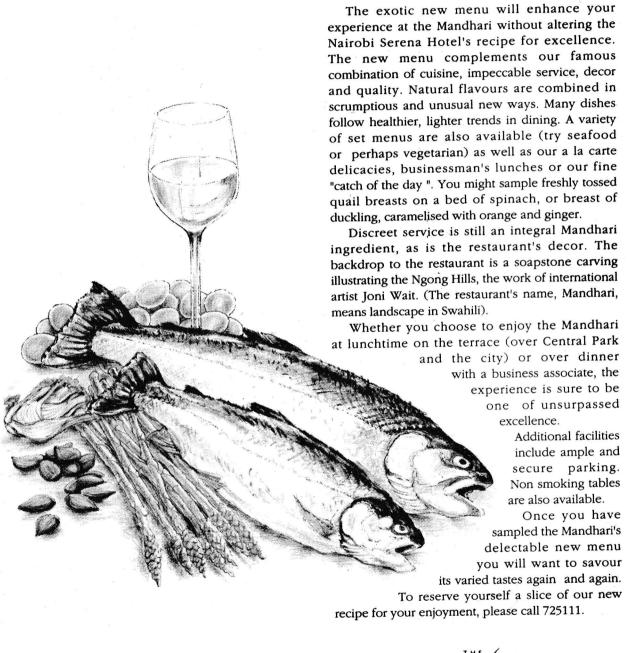
Way back in 1956 a group of friends including John Ebdon, Donald Whittlem, Noreen Antrobus and Bryan Epsom got together to form an amateur theatre group dedicated to producing plays of the highest standard and called themselves "Nairobi City Players". The Constitution of this new group was unusual for an amateur society as the main aims and objectives 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 fulfillment 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 Nairobi City Players, despite vastly changed circumstances affecting theatre in Kenya since their inception, have adhered faithfully to these aims and presented over 120 productions, including many full scale musicals, mostly at the Kenya National Theatre.

In fact this year marks the 40th 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 theatres' 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.

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Contd/.....

A PROFILE OF NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS

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 high standard of production of which this group is understandably proud. Some of the highlights of our 40 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. "The Sound of Music" (1967), "Guys and Dolls" (1968) and revived in 1979. "My Fair Lady" (1968), "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971) and revived in 1991, "Hello Dolly" (1972), "Godspell" (1974) and revived again in 1990, "Cabaret" (1976), "Side by Side by Sondheim" (1980), "Cantebury Tales" (1982) and "Westside Story" (1992).

Gilbert and 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 pantomimes at Christmas with "Cinderella" (1984) to mark our 100th production, "Mother Goose" (1987) and "Little Red Riding Hood" last year. Travelling revues has also been a popular part of our programme with "Minstrels" (1974), (1975), and (1978), "Happy as a Sandbag" (1983) and "Cabaret Magic" (1993).

Particularly successful plays offered by the group were "Love of Four Colonels" (our first production in 1956), "The Diary of Anne Frank" (1960), "Conduct Unbecoming" (1973), "The Business of Murder" (1987) and "Twelve Angry Men" (1989) and for the first time in Nairobi, the group presented a Dinner Theatre play "Darling I'm Home" at the Norfolk Hotel in June of this year which was very well received.

Over the last 25 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, Fernard Monast, Jon Wiliamson, David Middleton, Olivia Breeze, Sid Livingstone and Barry Martin and for the productions of "The Merry Widow" and the "Barber of Seville", director, musical director, soloist and musicians from the Vienna Volksoper 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 theatre standards in this country.

THE CAST

Robin Hood:

Atilla Grot: Prince John: The Sheriff

Maid Marion: Friar Tuck:

Murderous Malcolm: Little John:

Abigail: Will Scarlet:

Mad Meg:

Alan O'Dale: Cedric:

Alice:

Captain of the Guard: The Groom:

King Richard: Hattie the Horse: **HUSSEIN KHALID**

ROY LAWRENCE

GEOFFREY NJOGU CONRAD MAKENI

JENIFFER MURAI THOMAS OMONDI

KAREN KATIBI

SAHEEM ALI PAUL MAKUMI

ELIZABETH NJOGU ALBERT MAINA

BEVON GITUMA

GEORGE OWOUR KHAIROON SAVANY

DAVID THIONGO

STEPHEN GITERI

GEOFFREY NJOGU WYCLIFF MUNABI &

MAINA MWANGA

THE VILLAGERS & OTHERS

John Odor

Daniel Manyasi Maina Mwanga

Robert Mghanga Hamisi Olukhanda CAROLINE MURIMI

MAUREEN KHATHUKU

LINDA OWOUR SUSIE KIMANI NAOMI MULWA

THE ORCHESTRA

Drums:

ROBIN MASON

Keyboard:

GRACE MUREITHI

Flute:

MARGARET NABUTETE

Saxophone:

MURIUKI MUGAMBI

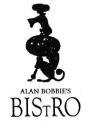
Trumpet:

JULIUS WATATUA

Music Directors:

GEOFFREY NJOGU

FRANCIS OLUDHE **GACIGI KUNGU**



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SCENES

ACT I

Prologue	By the Great Oak in Sherwood Forest
SCENE 1	The courtyard of the Flying Horse
SCENE 2	Inside the Flying Horse
SCENE 3	Back in the court yard
SCENE 4	Inside again
SCENE 5	The Babes Bedroom
SCENE 6	The Sherwood Forest

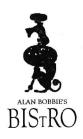
INTERVAL (20 minutes)

ACT II	
SCENE 1	Robin Hood's Camp
SCENE 2	Another part of the Forest
SCENE 3	By the Great Oak
SCENE 4	Back at the Flying Horse
SCENE 5	Nottingham

MUSICAL NUMBERS:

Act I		Act II	
1. 2.	Rythm of Life Material Girl	1. 2.	Tonight's the night Boom Boom Boom (UV Spook Dance)
3.	Comedy Tonight	3. 4.	Make 'em laugh When I fall in love
4. 5.	A wink and a smile Busy Doing Nothing	4. 5.	Don't Push it
6.	A few of my favourite things	J.	

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THE CAST



KAREN KATIBI — Mad Meg

Karen attends University of Buckingham in England. She blames her impulsive nature for radical activities like parachuting, white water rafting, and dying her hair blonde. Playing the role of Mad Meg of Mathare Valley, with her constant bother and plaguing the group with her sooths, has been quite an enjoyable challenge for Karen.

HUSSEIN KHALID — Robin Hood

Hussein is a graduate of Jamhuri High School and is nineteen years old. He is currently working for an insurance agency in Nairobi. His hobbies and favourite pastimes are based on meeting people, socialising, corresponding and having fun, which is why he likes the theatre. He feels working in the theatre gives him a good balance of fun and responsibility. Hussein has previously acted in his school's production of "Grease".





ALBERT MAINA — Will Scarlet

With a lot of support from family, friends and Pambazuka Africa, Albert has been involved in acting for the last 6 years. He would like to become a professional actor and develop Christian theatre in Kenya. He is nineteen years old and is currently going to college.



Paul firmly believes in "Art is Life" and is actively involved in acting, modelling and sports. He has previously acted in "Marriage of Ananseur" with the Mbalamwezi Players and a school production of "An Adaptation of East African Poetry", among others. He is a salesperson by profession.





BEVON GITUMA — Alan O'Dale

Nineteen year old Bevon is studying Business Administration at Graffin's College. He has acted in "Grease", at school. His main interests are soccer, acting, swimming, travelling and reading. He wants to be a Business Executive.

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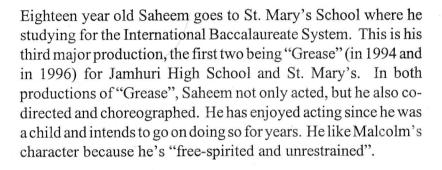
THE CAST



JENNIFER MURAI — Maid Marion

Jennifer went to Limuru Girls, and wants to study psychology to become a psychiatrist. Needles to say, she loves people and working with the cast of N.C.P. has been especially fun. This is not her first time in acting, she played in "Grease" with St. Mary's school.

SAHEEM ALI — Murderous Malcolm





CONRAD MAKENI — The Sheriff of Nottingham

Conrad's active theatre life started as early as Standard 2, at City Primary School. Since then he has worked with various church youth groups, the Wadada Cultural Heritage, Friends Theatre, Theatre Workshop Production and the African Arts Ensemble. He won the Best Actor award from Busia District in 1989. Conrad is currently the Artistic Director of Arts Ablaze and has enrolled at the Nairobi Theatre Academy for a theatre course.

DAVID THIONGO — Captain of the Guard

Having been born and brought up in a theatrical family, David started acting from Wadidi Nursery School through primary, secondary and college. He was introduced to Nairobi City Players by Frances Cattermole in 1995 and has continued since to be an active supporter.





STEVEN GITERI — The Groom

Nineteen year old Steven is studying Business Administration at Graffin's College. He was involved in various productions at school including "Grease", in April 1996. He likes theatre because he can be himself. His main interests are swimming, travelling, reading, music and dancing.

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THE CAST



THOMAS OMONDI — Friar Tuck

This is the first time Thomas is appearing on stage, although he was actively involved in his high school drama club. He is an insurance sales agent and is studying various courses through correspondence. In 1990, he worked behind the scenes for "Jam City" and "Win a Car" disco competition. He enjoys chess, hockey, basketball, books and classical music.

KHAIROON SEVANY — Alice

Khairoon is thirteen years old and goes to the French school, Lyceé deuis Diderot. She intend to study international law and is therefore pursuing a variety of languages, both European and Eastern. Acting is not the only subject of the arts that Khairoon excels in: she has obtained grades in ballet by the Royal Academy of Dancing, and piano by the Royal Academy of Music, England.





GEORGE OWOUR — Cedric

George goes to Rusinga High School and is 9 years old. He truly enjoys being in the theatre and working with others. More than acting, he enjoys the "publicity, attention and just being on stage". He is a budding poet and has won a prize in a poem competition at St. Austin's.

ELIZABETH NJOGU — Abigail

Elizabeth is currently studying at a secretarial college. This being her first production, she has enjoyed herself tremendously and has realized what she has been missing. She now promises that we shall see more of her at Nairobi City Players. She loved playing the naughty role of Abigail.

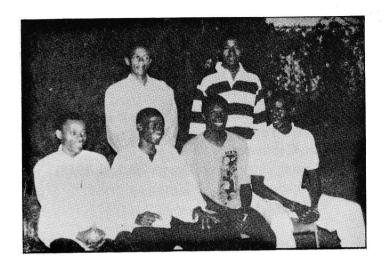


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on their
40th Anniversary and the
Production of 1996 Pantomine
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Kilimanjaro Mineral Water

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MALE CHORUS



STANDING (L - R):

MAINA MWANGA } Also play the role WYCLIFF MUNABI } of Hattie the Horse

SITTING (L - R):

ROBERT MGHANGA DANIEL MANYASI JOHN ODOR

HAMISI OLUKHANDA

FEMALE CHORUS



STANDING (L-R):

NAOMI MULWA MAUREEN KHATHUKU

SITTING (L-R):

CAROLINE MURIMI SUSIE KIMANI LINDA OWOUR

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1956	"The Love of Four Colonels"
1957	"The Man Who Came to Dinner"
	"Ring Round the Moon"
	"Payment Deferred"
	"Will any Gentleman"
1958	"Romanof and Juliet"
	"Two Gentlemen of Soho"
	(Winning entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1958)
	"Carrington V.C."
	"Will any Gentleman"
1959	"Rope"
	"You Can't Take It With You"
	"The Paragon"
1960	"The Diary of Anne Frank"
	"Six Characters In Search of An Author"
	"A Farrago" Comprising
	"The Proposal"
	"Uneasy Lies The Head"
	"Red Peppers"
1961	"The King and I"
	"The Caine Mutiny Court Martial"
	"The House by the Lake"
	"The Bespoke Overcoat"
	(Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1961)
	"The Hole"
	(Drama Festival Entry 1961)
1962	"Ceaser and Cleopatra"
	"The Long and the Short and the Tall"
	"Men Without Shadows"
	(Placed Third Wining Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1962)
	"No Fixed Abode"
	(Drama Festival Entry, 1962)
1963	"See How They Run"
	"Annie Get Your Gun"
	"Irma La Douce"
	Excerpts form "St. Joan"
	(Placed Second Wining Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1963)
	"The Resounding Tinkle"
	(Drama Festival Entry, 1963)
1964	"South Pacific"
	"Rose"
	"The Valiant"
	(Wining Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1964)
	"The Scar"
	(Placed Third Wining Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1964
	and also Best Original Play)
	"Oklahoma"

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1965	"The Country Wife"
	"The Duchess of Malfi"
	(Placed Joint Third Wining Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1965)
	"The Wizard of Oz"
1966	"A View From The Bridge"
	"The Man Who Came to Dinner"
1967	"Twelve Angry Men"
	"A Double Bill of "Lunch Hour"
	"Our Way Pendulum"
	"The Sound of Music"
1069	"A Street Car named Desire"
1968	"Guys and Dolls"
	"My Fair Lady"
1969	"The Affair"
1707	"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"
	"After the Fall"
	"Kiss Me Kate"
1970	"The Magistrate"
1770	A Double Bill of
	"The Dock Brief"
	"The Real Inspector Hound"
	"The Lion and the Jewel"
	"The Pyjama Game"
1971	"Hadrian VII"
	"Fiddler on the Roof"
	"Kismet"
1972	"Under Milk Wood"
	"Salad Days"
	"Saint Joan"
	"Hello, Dolly"
1973	"Conduct Unbecoming"
	"Man of La Mancha"
1074	"A Voyage Round My Father"
1974	"Minstrels 1974" "Eventhing in the Gorden"
	"Everything in the Garden" "Godspell"
	"The Rainmaker"
	"Oliver"
1975	"Minstrels 1975"
1973	"The Masters"
	"Genesis"
	"An Inspector Calls"
	"Another Opening"
1976	"Hostile Witness"
emente ser elf	"Cabaret"
	"A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum"

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1977	A "Trio" Season of Productions including - "The Man in the Glass Booth" "The Fanaticks"
	"The Desperate Hours"
	"The Merry Widow"
	"The King and I"
1978	"Minstrels 1978"
	"The Barber of Seville"
	"Oklahoma"
1979	"The Pirates of Penzance"
	"Guys and Dolls"
1980	"Side by Side by Sondheim"
	"H.M.S. Pinafore"
	"Crown Matrimonial"
	"Toad of Toad Hall"
1981	"The Lady of Camellias"
	"Savoy Knights"
1982	"The Fanaticks"
	"Canterbury Tales"
1983	"Happy as a Sandbag"
1984	"The Gondoliers"
	(With Nairobi Music Society)
	"Cinderella"
1985	"Alladin"
1986	"Annie"
	"Jack and the Beanstalk"
1987	"Old Time Music Hall"
	"The Business of Murder"
	"Mother Goose"
1988	"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"
1989	"Godspell"
	"Twelve Angry Men"
	"Robinson Crusoe"
1990	"Stepping Out"
	"Sleeping Beauty"
1991	"Fiddler on the Roof"
	"Ali Baba and The Forty Thieves"
1992	"Habaes Corpus"
	"West Side Story"
	"Dick Whittington"
1993	"Cabaret Magic"
1001	"Cinderella"
1994	"Dancing at Lughnasa"
1005	"Alladin"
1995	"A Taste of Honey"
1007	"Little Red Riding Hood" "Big Magair"
1996	"Big Maggie" "Davling Her Home"
	"Darling I'm Home" "Pakes in the Woods"
	"Babes in the Woods"

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director : Frances Cattermole

Stage Managers : Sasha Ronsky, Rob Dugand, Ingrid Dugand

Stage Crew : Eddie Ongwae, Jim Were, Daniel Mbugua,

George Onyango, Hezron Wakoli

Lighting : Neil Davidson, Suraj Shah, Jason Mwai,

Moses Musimi, Benson Muroki

Sound : Jon Freeman, Eddie Ongwae

Properties : Ingrid Dugand, Chris Meck

Costumes : Jenny Duznet, Khadija Shamte,

Patty Ransom, Pauline Gikunju

Set Design : Chris Meck

Set Artist : Chris Meck

Set Construction/Painting : Chris Meck, Katrina Tilley, Suraj Shah,

Khadija Shamte and the crew

Front of House : Joan Green, Ingrid Dugand

Programme : Raj Thakar, Steven Maingi, Adept Systems

Publicity : Jenny Dunnet

Production Secretaries: Gail Langton, Khadija Shamte

Photography : Mike Seldon

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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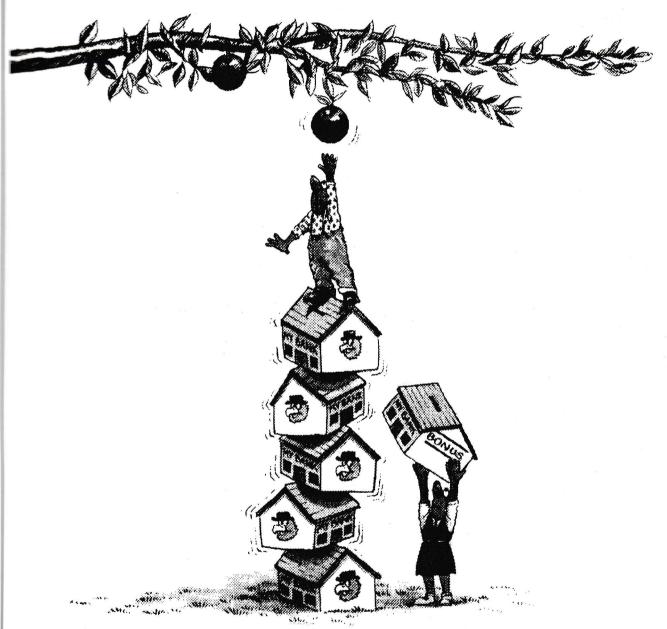
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Nairobi City Players upon their
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What do Heathrow and children have in common? Swissair!

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