



Lambeg|players
present

ROBINSON CRUSOE

a pantomime by
Leonard H Caddy

ROBINSON CRUSOE

chairman's message

Welcome to the Lambeg Players' production of Robinson Crusoe. The cast and backstage team have been working away since early September to produce this year's extravaganza. Our triumvirate production team of Paul Bennington, Colin Boyd and Laura Kerr have been pooling their creative talents to create this year's show and I hope that you will go home agreeing that they have at least matched, if not surpassed previous pantomimes.

We are doubly blessed this year in that our producers' acting talents are once again being utilised as they each take a leading role in the show. We are especially delighted to have Laura in the leading role as she is in great demand following her highly acclaimed performance as Annie in "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Grand Opera House.

This year we are concentrating our production in Lisburn's Island Civic Centre and not taking the show to the Group Theatre, where we have performed our pantomime for nearly twenty years. This was not an easy decision but the two contrasting theatres meant it was not practical to produce two different shows. However, the upside of this decision is that we can increase the size of the cast and give debuts to a number of talented people.

The Lambeg Players is very much a team effort with everyone's contribution vital to the success of the show and that goes from the youngest member of the junior chorus to our most senior "player". However, I would

like to single out some of our team leaders – Catherine and Della (costume), Graham (set construction) and Kevin (music and sound).

Enough of the waffle, sit back, turn off the mobile phone, pop the pastilles and enjoy the song, dance, colour and comedy that is Robinson Crusoe.

On with the show!

Roberta Bennington
Chairman

ROBINSON CRUSOE



Producers: Colin Boyd, Laura Kerr and Paul Bennington

message from our president

I am very pleased to be invited to contribute to the Programme for this Pantomime and my first words are to every member of the cast to say "Very well done".

I have been in and out during the long rehearsal period and have enjoyed seeing the improvements week by week. Now you have the audience and in there your friends, relations, strangers all here to see you.

To you, the audience, "thank you for coming". I can tell you in advance, you are going to see a first class show performed by a dedicated group of amateur performers who have thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsals. Now I hope you will experience some of that enjoyment and be transported to distant lands in music and song and then go home just that wee bit happier for having been there.

May I say thank you for your help in a little known part of our operations. You have helped us raise nearly £50,000 for various charities and organisations over the past ten years of our fifty year history.

I am hopeful that we will continue to help others while we bring you enjoyment.



Many thanks and enjoy the show.

RJC Boyd OBE

President Lambeg Players

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ROBINSON CRUSOE

the cast

Robinson Crusoe Laura Kerr
Kathie (Sir Roger's Daughter) Paula Brown
Man Friday Winston Kerr
Sir Roger De Botherus Neil Lynas
Lady Mildred Karen Webb
Gilbert (Roger's Servant) Ian Bennington
Long John Copper Paul Bennington
Queen Neptune Therese Boomer
King Neptune Moore Brown
Mrs Crusoe Colin Boyd
Chief Yum Tum Wilnor Tennant
Pom Pom Sue Lynas
Fair Breeze Roberta Bennington

Female Chorus

Amy Bennington Alex McAleenon
Christina Bennington Phoebe Murray
Anna Bruce Sophie Radcliffe
Ellen Bruce Judy Spence
Nicola Carlisle Suzanne Warwick
Lindsey Freeman Christine Williams
Kimberley Hammonds Rachel Williams
Naomi Hegarty Victoria Williams
Sophie Hunniford
Shirley Johnston

Male Chorus

Sam Boyd
Patrick Boomer
Andrew Brown
Andrew W. Brown
Pete Cummings
Simon Harris
Aaron Hegarty
Mathew Good
Daniel McKinney
Jonathan Moore

Back Stage Team:

Stage Manager Eddy Kerr
Lighting Simon Baird, Dermott McCurdy
Spotlight Henry Brown
Sound & Background Music Created by Kevin Sage
Pianist Tom Whyte, Judith Martin
Drums Charlie Brown
Choreography Laura Kerr
Costume Catherine Bennington, Della McKinney
Costume Assistants Emily Pentland, Marie Bennington
Roberta Bennington, Joan Brown
Fiona Dickson, Sandra Brown

Set Design Alan Marshall

Set Construction Graham Boyce, Colin Agar
Alastair Dickson, John Clarke, Mark McLarnon

Set Painters Lauren Kinnear, Lisa Fowler

Front of House Manager Henry Brown

Backstage/Front of House Team Graham Boyce
John Clarke, Colin Agar, Alastair Dickson, Barbara Boyd
Ross Hamill, Jackie Brown, Mark McLarnon, Sid Harrison

Prompter Sandra Brown

Thanks To:

Chris Hill Photographic
MC Print
Methodist College Belfast, for the loan of the shrubbery.

synopsis of the plot

Robinson loves Kathie, Sir Roger objects. A storm, caused by Queen Neptune, washes up an old bottle with a message in it. It is from Mrs Crusoe's long lost husband Robin. It leads them to a Tropical Island where he meets Man Friday. They are captured by Yum Tum's natives and only just escape from the "big black pot". They are pursued by the Bad Pirates and despite meeting King Neptune under the sea, they all arrive home safely to live happily ever after (or do they?).

ACT 1

Scene 1 The Harbour Square Plymouth
Scene 2 On the Way
Scene 3 All at Sea (on board the "Rainbow" and the "Cutlass")
Scene 4 On the Beach
Scene 5 Yum Tum's Tropical Island

Act 2

Scene 1 Yum Tum's Tropical Island
Scene 2 Below Decks
Scene 3 Aboard the "Cutlass"
Scene 4 Homeward Bound
Scene 5 Back in Plymouth

ROBINSON CRUSOE

biographies of cast



Laura Kerr Robinson Crusoe

Even a synopsis of Laura's drama and musical career would run to pages and would contrast unfairly with the rest of us, so be prepared for some judicious editing.

Scout gang shows galore, school plays and musicals and Salvation Army productions too numerous to mention. Laura has acted with many groups and organisations winning numerous best actress awards in our national one act festivals.

In her career with Lambeg Players over some 20 years she has had leading roles in most of our pantos and plays and as can be seen from this programme, she produces and choreographs as well as getting the most out of the kids! More recently she has tasted major success in the Grand Opera House with Belfast Operatic with her very memorable "Dolly" Levi and "Annie" Oakley title roles.

Her achievements in leading the choir at Pond Park Primary School are well known locally and she has also led choirs and produced ambitious productions for the Salvation Army. Indeed her work with the Salvation Army has taken her musical and acting talents and directorship to many European countries and the USA.



Colin Boyd Mrs Crusoe

Colin has been with the Lambeg Players for over 30 years with many leading roles in both pantomime and plays. His early theatrical performances were on the stage of the Grand Opera House in the Belfast Gang Shows of the 70's and 80's and he has recently returned there in guest appearances with Belfast Operatic Company. He has also made guest appearances with Dunmurry Dramatic Society and Lisnagarvey Operatic Society.

Colin's stage credits include Councillor Albert Parker in JB Priestley's "When we were married" and Benjamin Tapeworth in "Strike Happy" by Duncan Greenwood. Although he has often entertained us as the Dame, Colin's favourite panto role has been as "Fairy Liquid" in Babes in the Wood.

He has been part of the panto production team, along with Laura and Paul, for over 10 years as well as producing many of Lambeg Players' plays.



Ian Bennington Gilbert

Ian began his association with amateur drama at school playing "Tom Sawyer", "Oliver", "Nicholas Nickleby" and the narrator in "Joseph".

He then appeared in Scout Gang Shows before joining the Lambeg Players in 1988. Since then he has played a host of comedy characters in pantomimes and plays with the company and has produced two Sam Cree plays.

His favourite roles were "Buttons" in Cinderella, "Wishy Washy" in "Aladdin" and of course "Tickles" where he got to tickle all his leading ladies. Ian is highly valued in Lambeg Players for his serious contributions to AGMs and during the hectic rehearsal schedule and for his dedication in learning his lines and perfecting his dance routines – the consummate professional.

ROBINSON CRUSOE



Paula Brown Kathie

Paula has taken leading roles in both pantomimes and plays with the Lambeg Players in recent years. Notable roles have included Mrs J in "The Mating Season" and Freda Ferguson in "Stop it Nurse". Her professional skills as a stenographer with UTV and the Court Service have helped her with wordy lines. Paula is another member of the cast whose early performances were in Gang Show. She is actively involved in youth work with the Salvation Army.



Winston Kerr Man Friday

This is Winston's third Panto with Lambeg and he has finally been allowed to be a nice guy. His previous roles have been the evil jester Sneere in "Wee Willie Winkie" and the Sheriff of Nottingham in "Babes in the Wood". He made his first appearance in a play this year as Mervyn in "The Mating Season". Previous dramatic activity has been with Salvation Army groups usually under the direction of his sister in law Laura. Those of you who spotted his neat speedy footwork will be interested to know that these skills were learnt at Irish League side Distillery. Winston is also known in Lambeg Players as the "Greatest, Fastest Line Learner Ever" (after Moore that is).



Therese Boomer Queen Neptune

This is Therese's first venture with Lambeg Players after cutting her teeth in college drama. The producers were worried that she was unhappy with her allotted role, possibly preferring Long John Copper, when she turned up for rehearsal on a crutch with her leg in plaster! In her spare time she is a supply teacher, office manager and mother of three boys



Karen Webb Lady Mildred de Botherus

This is Karen's debut with the Lambeg Players successfully fulfilling one of her lifelong ambitions. She is the co-owner of a puppet company – Kaz & Co – which has toured throughout Ireland performing in schools and youth organisations. Karen runs a creative arts group for children which last year performed a musical in Lagan Island Theatre, Lisburn. She has found it much harder to work with the adults of the Lambeg Players!



Neil Lynas Sir Roger de Botherus

This is Neil's debut with the Lambeg Players as he attempts to resurrect a career given birth during his school days at Portadown College. He tells us he plans to transport his character of "Sir Roger" into his professional life in PR. He lists amongst his hobbies singing (!), art collecting and dog walking.

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Paul Bennington Long John Copper

Paul has been with the Lambeg Players for 30 years having first appeared in Dick Whittington in 1975, having cut his acting teeth in school plays and Gang Show. He played "Mr Squeers" in "Smike" (the musical of Nicholas Nickleby) when at Dunmurry High School alongside his brother Ian and they were both invited back many years later to replay their same roles as part of the school's 25th anniversary. He has played various roles in pantomime ranging from the arch villain through comic robber to the dame. Paul has taken a leading role in many of Lambeg Players' plays most recently as "Sid Gillespie" in "The Mating Season" produced by his brother Ian. Paul has been part of the panto production team since 1988.



Moore Brown King Neptune

Moore, another Gang Show veteran, has featured in Lambeg pantos for many years and has taken on many roles ranging from dame to benevolent baron. He has also had parts in the plays with highly acclaimed performances as Harold, (he of the weak bladder), in "Stop it Nurse" and as Uncle Fred in "The Mating Season". (We have to say he was good as he looks after our money and we do not want to lose the annual BBQ by his swimming pool!)



Wилnor Tennant Chief Yum Tum

Wилnor is another debutant with the Lambeg Players, but one with an extensive dramatic CV. He has worked with many Christian drama groups both acting and directing and has taken productions all over Ireland and as far away as Kenya, Romania and Canada. He has taken part in several previous pantos with Arts Care and written a number of plays.



Roberta Bennington Fair Breeze

Roberta joined the Lambeg Players in 1983 enticed along by a budding young thespian named Paul – see where that ended up! She took on a variety of roles in pantos and plays for the next ten years before taking "a rest" and helping behind the scenes. This year she has decided to set a Chairman's example and return in the role of Fair Breeze and we are delighted to have her back in front of the footlights (but her three children are not so sure!)



Sue Lynas Pom Pom

Sue is another of this year's debutants joining Lambeg Players with her husband Neil. She has accused us of type-casting her as she comes originally from a tropical(?) island - Guernsey. She lists among her hobbies, singing and dog and husband walking.

ROBINSON CRUSOE

the full company...



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...including a few brothers and sisters who sneaked into the photo!

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groups



The Bad Pirates

Back row left to right: Judy Spence, Shirley Johnston, Pete Cummings, Simon Harris, Anna Bruce, Sam Boyd
Front row left to right: Andrew W Brown, Rachel Williams, Vicky Williams, Christine Williams, Daniel McKinney



The Rainbow Crew

Back row left to right: Nicola Carlisle, Naomi Hegarty, Alex McAleenon, Patrick Boomer, Andrew Brown, Ellen Bruce
Front row left to right: Aaron Hegarty, Suzanne Warwick, Christina Bennington, Lindsey Freeman, Sophie Hunniford, Kimberly Hammonds, Amy Bennington



The Sea

Left to right: Suzanne Warwick, Alex McAleenon, Christina Bennington, Amy Bennington

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backstage



Backstage Team

Back row left to right: Henry Brown, John Clarke, Barbara Boyd, Jackie Brown, Graham Boyce
Front row left to right: Ross Hamill, Colin Agar, Alastair Dickson, Mark McLarnon



Costume Team

Left to right: Emily Pentland, Catherine Bennington, Sandra Brown, Della McKinney

ROBINSON CRUSOE

it'll be alright on the night



Dancers worship the Producers



Hitting the wrong note with feeling



Long John keels over



Robinson Crusoe gets tough



The 'vulnerable' Simon Harris



Sorry, I had the curry last night



Winston displaying his penchant for understatement

ROBINSON CRUSOE



Blank looks say it all



Advert for anti-perspirant



Laura whips chorus into a frenzy



PR man stalked by designer



Michael Flatley eat your heart out!



Bad Pirates attack innocent producer

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pantomime word search

R	E	M	A	D	Z	B	Y	A	D	I	R	F	N	A	M
R	K	I	T	G	O	E	X	L	F	M	S	B	D	A	E
O	D	E	P	E	N	A	Q	H	A	J	I	I	Z	L	I
B	L	Y	T	B	A	N	U	W	I	C	N	V	G	A	K
I	A	X	R	M	S	S	G	S	R	K	B	S	I	D	N
N	K	L	S	A	Q	T	X	M	B	L	A	N	L	D	I
S	W	M	L	L	W	A	O	U	R	U	D	O	B	I	W
O	Y	D	F	E	E	L	D	T	E	H	B	T	E	N	E
N	I	E	P	M	R	K	H	M	E	T	N	T	R	E	I
K	A	T	H	Y	P	E	K	U	Z	Y	Z	U	T	A	L
F	E	S	X	U	O	T	D	Y	E	L	I	B	B	C	L
E	L	M	O	J	M	S	B	N	C	R	U	S	O	E	I
E	A	K	A	R	P	C	O	G	I	W	Y	P	N	U	W
S	B	C	L	F	O	V	I	R	T	C	A	V	R	M	E
H	K	D	C	I	M	T	H	E	B	A	B	E	S	G	E
N	O	T	G	N	I	T	T	I	H	W	K	C	I	D	W

See if you can find the following words hidden in the square above.

Robinson
Wee Willie Winkie
Buttons
Kathy
Aladdin
Beanstalk
Crusoe
Lambeg
Fair Breeze
Xmas

Cinderella
Dick Whittington
Man Friday
Gilbert
Jack
Sinbad
Yum Tum
The Babes
Pom Pom
Dame

ROBINSON CRUSOE

our work with charities and organisations

For many years Lambeg Players have worked with a variety of other groups to raise funds for charity. This symbiotic relationship has raised over £50,000 in the last ten years. Initially we started out helping local churches by performing plays and pantomimes in their church halls. More recently we have diversified to collaborate with other charities, some of whom are listed below. The Lambeg Players have occasionally adopted our own charity donating directly to them. Most notably two years ago we raised over £1200 for Scouting in Malawi. This year we would like to raise money for famine relief in the Sudan and will be taking up a retiring collection on Friday and Saturday night.

Charities and organisations who have raised funds by supporting Pantomimes and Plays produced by Lambeg Players:

Meningitis Research
Sargent Cancer Care for Children
Missionary work with children in Africa
Fullerton House PTA
Banbridge Lions
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Hillsborough Primary PTA
St Hilda's Parish Church Kilmakee Mothers Union
Salvation Army
Bannside Presbyterian Church Banbridge
Scouting in Malawi
Masonic Charities (including Masonic Widows)

Charities and organisations being supported by this year's show:

Tuesday	Bannside Presbyterian Church Fullerton House PTA Children in Zambia
Wednesday	Salvation Army Meningitis Research Masonic Charities
Thursday	Cystic Fibrosis Trust (In association with Pond Park PS PTA)
Saturday Matinee	Sargent Cancer Care for Children

a brief history of Lambeg Players

The company was formed almost half a century ago in the Lambeg Hall attached to Lambeg Presbyterian Church and moved to its present base in Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church in the 1960's when the new church was built. In fact this year we will celebrate our 50th Birthday and we look forward to doing this in style and hope you will be able to join us at some of the celebrations.

We have put on both Pantomimes and Plays since those early days with the occasional alternative entertainment interspersed between these two. As well as the church hall we have performed in many other venues but have also built a strong link with the Group Theatre in Belfast over the last 20 years. We hope this theatre will survive its current difficulties. Over the last 10 years we have taken our Spring Play to the Portrush Summer Theatre, a very successful and enjoyable development.

Three years ago we performed for the first time in Lisburn's new Civic Centre's Island Hall. This modern venue allowed the Lambeg Players to innovate and to expand the cast. This year's cast of almost 50 is our biggest ever.

The Lambeg Players has always had a strong family ethos with both parents and children in the company and we even have one family with three generations in "The Players". We are always keen to welcome new talent, both in front and behind the footlights, so if you would like to join us, speak to one of the producers or the office bearers.

Office Bearers 2004 -2005

President	Clifford Boyd
Chairman	Roberta Bennington
Vice – Chairman	Jackie Brown
Secretary	Eddy Kerr
Membership Secretary	Winston Kerr
Social Secretary	Catherine Bennington
Treasurer	Moore Brown
Business Manager	Henry Brown

ROBINSON CRUSOE

previous productions

1974 - Robin Hood
1975 - Dick Whittington
1976 - Aladdin
1977 - Jack and the Beanstalk/Wedding Fever
1978 - My Favourite Family
1979 - Strictly for the Birds
1980 - Cupid Wore Skirts
1981 - The Feminine Touch
1982 - Stop It Nurse
1983 - Rhyme or Reason/Married Bliss
1984 - Second Honeymoon/Dry Rot
1985 - Simple Spymen
1986 - Babes in the Wood/Dry Rot
1987 - Wee Willie Winkie
1988 - Sinbad the Sailor
1989 - Jack and the Beanstalk/When We Were Married
1990 - Cinderella/Rhyme or Reason
1991 - How the Other Half Loves/My Favourite Family
1992 - Red Riding Hood/Tons of Money
1993 - Goldilocks and the Three Bears/Money to Burn
1994 - Beauty and the Beast/Post Horn Gallop
1995 - Aladdin/Second Honeymoon
1996 - Dick Whittington
1997 - Mother Goose/Cupid Wore Skirts
1998 - Sleeping Beauty/Widows' Paradise
1999 - Robin Hood Meets Frankenstein/When We Were Married
2000 - Cinderella/Wedding Fever
2001 - Family Fever
2002 - Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves/Strike Happy
2003 - Wee Willie Winkie/Stop It Nurse
2004 - Babes in the Wood/The Mating Season
2005 - Robinson Crusoe