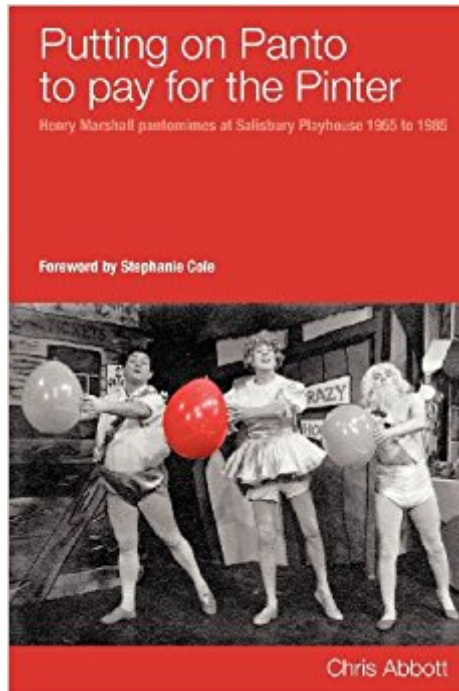




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Putting On Panto To Pay For The Pinter



Synopsis

Fully illustrated history of the pantomimes written by Henry Marshall and performed at Salisbury Playhouse (Wiltshire, England) between 1955 and 1985, including the full text of Marshall's gagbook, and reminiscences by many of the performers who went on to become famous nationally and internationally.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Inside out on British Pantomime! Well written, detailed and often hilarious. Gag-archive is a goldmine for all those who fell in love with The Laugh.

"... On Monday evenings, the theatre put on more challenging fare such as one act plays by Harold Pinter, and Beckett's Waiting for Godot. 'We put on the panto to pay for the Pinter'", p25 Hence the title of the book, a tribute to Henry Marshall, the Salisbury Playhouse pantos and all who performed in them. Written with Chris Abbott's accustomed clarity, the fruit of his meticulous research, but with a lot more gags than usual, this labour of love will appeal to anyone with an interest in theatre. Reading the reminiscence of others will also awake the memories of anyone who has ever performed in panto, pro or amateur, in however small a role." ... As King Neptune, he wore a lot of fabric seaweed and a liberal coating of green face paint and glued-on sequins. In the interval - and with only a single cold water tap - he had to wash all that off and then black up as the Cannibal King. As if that wasn't enough, John Barron insisted that he then change back again to green as

King Neptune for the walk-down, so that he could appear opposite the Fairy. ..." p33(Enter Dame gorgeously dressed) How do you like my new dress? I call it my Mills Bomb dress. You take out the pin and it's every man for himself. " ..`- reclining on a chaise longue at the beginning of the second act of a thriller, phone in hand, only to watch in horror as the opening curtain snagged on a cocktail cabinet bringing the whole lot to the floor to the accompaniment of the sound of breaking glasses and bottles. With a level of sangfroid appropriate to his character, he improvised a request over the phone for someone to come and clear up the mess - and the actress playing the maid duly obliged.'

" p52Love ... it starts when you sink in his arms and it ends with your arms in his sink." ... She also remembers a dentist scene in Aladdin that never went right; at one performance David Daker as the Emperor added a gag by spitting out Mint Imperials as his teeth, but they couldn't be cleared up in time and the dancers on point all fell over. " p67There's nothing I wouldn't do for you. There's nothing I wouldn't do for you. If we were married we could spend the rest of our lives doing nothing for each other." `The pantomimes were of their age. Of their type, they were brilliant. They were tiny, they were tight and they were well directed' ". P161 Now we'll do some harmonising. You know what harmonising is don't you? Yes. The stuff they put on the Christmas cake.

APPENDIX III Henry Marshall's Gag Book is full of those little routines, the Tree of Truth for instance, which work so wonderfully in performance. I guess anyone who has ever done a stint in panto in their local church hall will recognize a lot of this material, still being performed annually throughout the country. What have you got in that bucket? Horse manure. What are you going to do with it? Put it on my rhubarb. Funny, I usually put custard on mine. This is a quality publication, the paper pleasant to handle, the typeface easy on the eye. Of course " ` ... it's a matter of complete imbuggerance to me old cock.' " (p19) if you choose not to buy this book, but then you will be missing a beautifully polished gem.

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