



the
**Pirate
Princess**

THE LITTLE THEATRE MOVEMENT OF JAMAICA AND THE PANTOMIME TRADITION

THE PIRATE PRINCESS

The Little Theatre Movement of Jamaica was founded in 1940 and is Jamaica's longest-established theatre organisation. It is known to Jamaicans best of all for the Pantomime — a tradition which began in 1941 when the first such show was produced. The production was then *Jack and the Beanstalk* and it contained all the elements of the English tradition — Principal Boy, the Dame, etc. For a few years, the English style Pantomime continued and gradually a Jamaican form evolved. The Pantomime began to reflect Jamaican folklore themes in story line, music, design and use of dialect. A distinctive feature of the Jamaican-style Pantomime is satirical and witty commentary on contemporary events in the island and elsewhere.

The National Pantomime has always been a great unifying influence, rich and poor, young and old, from country and from town, of every colour, class and creed — audiences totalling over 1.25 million come to the Ward Theatre year after year to enjoy a production which, each year, brings its message of inspiration and cheer to the whole nation.

Greta Fowler, who founded the National Pantomime, had a vision that it should have a sociological function of unification as well as of cultural inspiration. The National Pantomime has always aimed at being the showcase of Jamaican talent and excellence, and the nursery of Jamaican actors, artists, writers and musicians.

THE PIRATE PRINCESS is a comedy based on a true story . . . a story of the capture of the ship captained by the English-born pirate John Rackham, also known as "Calico Jack", off the Negril coast of Jamaica in 1726.

When Rackham and his crew were taken for trial, it was discovered that two of his pirate crew were women — Anne Bonny and Mary Read. Such records as exist in the Archives of Jamaica show that the women, discovered to be pregnant, were pardoned at the last minute and so escaped hanging. One is alleged to have died in prison and the records show no trace of the other.

Writer Barbara Gloudon took the basic theme and adapted it to a more light hearted story, exploiting the novelty of women in such an unusual situation. Rackham emerges as a cowardly bungler, eager to please those whom he feels stronger than he (and that includes Mary Read, the older of the women) and a bully to those he perceives to be weaker — meaning his crew.

Jamaican audiences loved *The Pirate Princess*. It broke all box office records in terms of run and audience attendance. It was the fifth such Pantomime written by Barbara Gloudon who is the only writer in the series of contributors to the Jamaican Pantomime to have written so many. Of the seven which she scripted; one *Johnny Reggae*, also became a box office record breaker.

Henry Fowler — *The Little Theatre Movement of Jamaica*

(Barbara Gloudon's latest Pantomime *Trash* is now on stage in Jamaica.)



Milton Godfrey: Singer, writer and actor. He composes his own songs and an anthology of his poetry, stories and songs is due to be published in the Autumn. He wrote and directed *Take Me Back* and has written, directed and acted in *Reflections*, *Education* and *Lampshade Man*.

Alby James: Co-Director, is Temba's Artistic Director, and was formerly Assistant Director with the RSC and The Royal Court. His Temba productions include *Scrape Off The Black* by Tunde Ikoli in last year's Black Theatre Season, *Pantomime* by Derek Walcott, *All You Deserve* by Debbie Horsfield and *Chameleon* by Michael J. Ellis. *Mamma Decemba*, written by N.D. Moffat, has just finished a successful season at The Place Theatre.

Deidra Lovell: Born in New York, Deidra has danced and choreographed throughout Europe and America. Her work has been staged at Sadlers Wells, The Albany Empire, The Albert Hall, The Phoenix Theatre, The Shaw Theatre, The Donmar Warehouse, The Half Moon Theatre, The Place, and for the Women's Playhouse Trust production of *Spell No. 7*. Her TV credits include *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Entertainers*, Grampian TV and most recently *Behind the Bike Sheds* for YTV.

Vernon Nesbeth: As a teenager he formed THE SOUTHLANDERS and had six hits. As a Cabaret Artiste, in addition to performing solo, he arranges and choreographs a show touring night clubs in Europe, with frequent TV appearances. In 1982 he sang at the Paris Opera with Jessye Norman in *Great Day in the Morning*. His theatre credits include Eddie in *Eddie's Game*. He created a part in *Utopia Unlimited* and played the MC in the Jazz Opera *Prezz*. He is in great demand for pantomime in the part of Man Friday. He recently played Pish Tush in *The Black Mikado*.

Eddie Nestor: Has acted with the National Youth Theatre and The Royal Court Young Activists Youth Theatre. Other productions include *Riot Party* at the Young Vic, *Bronx 300* at the Oxford Festival, *Blackskin/White Mask* for Umoja, *Fire Island* for the Mermaid Molecule, and *Johnny was a Good Man* for Double Edge. His work for Temba includes *Chameleon* and *All You Deserve*.

Paulette Randall: Co-Director, was also a Trainee Assistant Director at The Royal Court and an Assistant Director at The Octagon Theatre, Bolton. Her Temba productions include: *Chameleon* by Michael J. Ellis and *Basin* by Jacqueline Rudet. She is also a playwright and her play *Fishing* was presented at The Royal Court Upstairs and at The Arts Theatre, in the first Black Theatre Season.

Vivienne Rochester: Played in *Money to Live* by Jacqueline Rudet and also played a lead role in *Blues for Railton* by Felix Cross. She also played in Paulette Randall's *Fishing* in the first Black Theatre Season.

Clarinda Salandy: Is a graduate from the Theatre Design course of Wimbledon School of Arts and from the postgraduate course at Riverside Studios. Her designs include *The Last Judgement* (Finborough Arms Theatre Co.); *The Komogatia Matu Incident* (Jericho Theatrical Productions) and *Pacific Overtures* for BBC2's programme *Debut*. She has also designed for the Notting Hill Carnivals. She has been with Temba since 1985 and designed *All You Deserve* for the Outreach programme and *Mamma Decemba* at The Place Theatre.

Connie Thomas: Trained at the London School of Contemporary Dance and is also an experienced actress. She had a film role in *Brazil*. She has danced in pantomime and musicals. Her TV credits include: Thames TV's *Lytton's Diary*, *Forsyth Follies*, *Setbacks* and *Gems*; and for BBC TV *Jury* and the *Leo Sayer Series*.

Junior Walker: Born in Jamaica where he spent his early childhood, Junior came to England in the late sixties. He graduated from Bulmershe College (Reading) and completed his training at the Welsh College of Music and Drama in 1982. He made his professional debut at the Salisbury Playhouse where he spent two seasons. He has since worked for: Moving Being, Made-in-Wales, Welsh National Opera (in *Carmen*), Polka Children's Theatre, Umoja and has toured England and Wales with Temba in the original production of *Chameleon*. He has recently appeared in *Super Ted — The Musical* at the New Theatre, Cardiff. His TV credits include: *Sidni*; *Bowen áí Bartner*; *Function Room*; *Bulman* and *The Good Doctor*. Junior also co-presented *Body and Soul* with Mavis Nicholson.

The Company:

Paul Armstrong: Recently lighting designer for the second and third Black Theatre Season at the Arts Theatre, has worked extensively for The National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company and on the fringe in London, Edinburgh and Off Broadway. Most recent work includes *No Place To Be Nice*, *Vigilantes*, *The Hardware Store*, *Fire In The Lake*, *Chameleon*. *Scrape Off The Black*, *Pantomime* and *Mamma Decemba*.

Susan Harper-Brown: Trained at the Corona Academy of Theatre Arts. Her productions include *Schools Out* for the Newham Youth Theatre, *Nice* by Carol Williams, Black Theatre Co-operative's production of *Money to Live* and recently appeared in *Basin* and *God's Second In Command* at the Royal Court Theatre, a Jacqueline Rudet season. For Temba, she has also done *Chameleon*.

Dona Croll: Trained at Birmingham and has worked extensively in the theatre for nine years. She has appeared at Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, Leicester, etc. Recent theatre work includes *The Relapse* at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, *Back to Methuselah* for the Cambridge Theatre Company, *Golden Girls*; and *God's Second In Command* and *Basin* in the Jacqueline Rudet season at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. She was last seen as the Good Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel* at the Theatre Royal Stratford East. Television credits include *Boys from the Blackstuff* (BBC), *Gentle Touch* (LWT), *The Nation's Health* (C4), *Black Silk* (BBC) and *Black and White and Read All Over*, a children's book programme for Channel 4. She has also appeared a number of times as a guest presenter for *The Six O'Clock Show* (LWT). This is her first appearance at the Arts Theatre.

Felix Cross: Is an actor, musician, author and journalist. He has written a handbook for teachers on Caribbean music, and is the author, composer and presenter of *The History of Caribbean Music*. Felix Cross is an Associate Artiste of Temba Theatre Company. He wrote a specially commissioned piece for Temba to perform on the BBC TV *Ebony's Christmas Programme*. Felix is currently musical director and Composer for The Place Theatre's Youth Dance Performance Project.

Alphonsia Emmanuel: Her theatre includes *Dick Whittington* at The Shaw Theatre. With the RSC she has performed in *Measure for Measure*, *Dillan*, *Golden Girls*, Rosalyn in *Love's Labours Lost* and most recently Sophy in *Camille* at the Comedy Theatre following its run with the RSC. She also sings, dances and is accomplished in sword fighting.

Barbara Gloudon: The Author, is a well known theatre and media personality in Jamaica and a driving force in the development of Theatre and the Arts. She is the host of one of the most popular call-in shows *Hotline* on Radio Jamaica. She wrote her first National Pantomime in 1969. Six others followed: *Moonshine Anancy*, *Hail Columbo*, *The Witch*, *Johnny Reggae*, *The Pirate Princess*, *Ginneral B* and currently on stage in Jamaica *Trash* which became her seventh LTM National Pantomime.

Doreen Ingleton: Has had many TV and theatrical roles, in 1983/84 with the National Theatre she played in *You Can't Take It With You*, *Let's Have Another Cup O' Coffee* and *A Supplement to the Voyages of Captain Cook*. Her musical roles in the West End include Berthe in *One Mo' Time* and Bloody Mary in *South Pacific*.

ABOUT TEMBA

This production of *The Pirate Princess* opening at the beginning of Caribbean Focus as part of the GLC Black Theatre Season, is planned to bring to the attention of audiences in Britain an example of one of Jamaica's great cultural achievements: the National Pantomime. It also denotes a further step in the fulfilment of Temba Theatre Company's Artistic Policy, the central aim of which — within the general aim of promoting the art of drama for as large and as varied an audience as possible — is to enable people to share in the artistic expression of Black cultures and the heritage and experience of Black people around the world.

Temba's next production will be a new play with music and dance called *Glory!* This will be produced in association with The Place Theatre (Contemporary Dance Trust) and was commissioned by Temba for Caribbean Focus from Felix Cross who is composer/arranger/musical director for the music in *The Pirate Princess* and who co-authored the highly successful *Blues For Railton* which premiered at the Albany Empire in Deptford last May.

Glory! is set in Trinidad and England and tells the story of a particular Trinidadian family in the late 1950's who have moved to England to fulfil their ambitions. Their assimilation into the English way of life is disturbed by the arrival of an elderly relative from Trinidad who comes to visit.

Glory! is about family ties, a battle between two cultures and the power of faith. It is also about the nature of oppression and the behaviour of an oppressed people; but mostly it is about traditions versus ambitions.

Glory! will have its premiere at The Place Theatre from 3 June until 24 June.

In the autumn, Temba will be presenting a tour of *Woza Albert* produced in association with the Leicester Haymarket Theatre.

Future projects include productions of new plays commissioned from John Matshikiza, Tunde Ikoli, Shirley Barrie and Lisa Evans. Temba has also acquired the rights to adapt Colin MacInnes' popular novel about Black people in 50's London, *City of Spades*, into a major piece of epic theatre. Plans also exist for a production of *Othello* and for a new musical set in Trinidad.

Temba's Education & Community activities will continue to expand during 1986 with the base for this administration moving to Leicester. There will not be another Outreach tour until early next year, but we have devised a series of projects which will come under the general title of **Black Theatre Initiatives** and which offer a comprehensive range of the work of the Company. We know from past response to these projects that they will find an eager audience with schools, community groups and among the Black Population as a whole. Please contact us for any further information.

Temba always welcomes feedback from our audiences and initiatives from artists are always carefully considered. Temba is a developing company and we hope that our productions and workshops might reveal and respond to Black Community interests. There is a growing wealth of artistic potential coming from within the Black Community and we will continue to play our part in providing access as well as campaigning for it to be developed and seen by as large and as varied an audience as possible.

Alby James — Artistic Director.

THE PIRATE PRINCESS

by Barbara Gloudon

The first performance of *The Pirate Princess* was on
Saturday 26 December 1981 at The Ward Theatre in Jamaica.

The first performance of this revised version of *The Pirate Princess*
was on Wednesday 5 March 1986 at The Arts Theatre in London.

Synopsis of Scene

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

Scene 1 On the Deck of Captain Rackham's Ship
Scene 2 Inside Rackham's Cabin
Scene 3 On the Deck of Captain Rackham's Ship
Scene 4 Inside Rackham's Cabin
Scene 5 Seaside Harry's Bendown Plaza
Scene 6 On the Deck of Captain Rackham's Ship
Scene 7 The Jail
Scene 8 Seaside Harry's New Bendown Plaza

Free at Sea, Bad Cap'n Rackham,
I Want To Be A Girl Again,
Three Piece Suit, Strange Things
At Sea, Not Easy For A Woman,
Bendown Plaza (1), Tavern
Song, Higgerling, Bendown
Plaza (2), The Plaza Anthem,
Can't Find This Man.

INTERVAL — 15 MINUTES

ACT TWO

Scene 1 Seaside Harry's Bendown Plaza
Scene 2 The Jail
Scene 3 A Street
Scene 4 Seaside Harry's Bendown Plaza
Scene 5 On the Beach
Scene 6 Under the Sea
Scene 7 Seaside Harry's Bendown Plaza

Rackham Get Way, Chauvinist
Pig, Do I Know?
I Always Knew,
I Don't Know, Try Dem Hang Dem,
Here Under the Sea, Storm Done,
The Pirate Turn Princess.

(Lyrics for *Bendown Plaza (1)*, *Chauvinist Pig, Do I Know?* and *The Pirate Turn Princess* by Felix Cross.
All other lyrics by Barbara Gloudon.)

Set constructed by: Aldwych Productions Services Ltd. 633-0902

Special thanks to Alastair Minnigan & the Workshop Crew.

Thanks to the RSC Production Office
for Props and Furniture.

Thanks to the Umoja Theatre Company for Props.

Thanks to Chanel for their perfume bottles.

Thanks to The Club of Dance & Self Defence, Searles Road, SE1,
for the use of rehearsal space.

Thanks to Budweiser & Associated Film Promotions.

Thanks to Carl & Jane for extra Costumes, 870-9776.



THE PIRATE PRINCESS

A JAMAICAN PANTOMIME

by Barbara Gloudon

Music by Felix Cross

Co-Directed by Alby James and Paulette Randall

Cast in order of Speaking:

Anne Bonny

John Rackham (alias Calico Jack)

Mary Read

Pirate/Old Man

William

Seaside Harry

Cecline

Lilian

Old Woman

Clarice

Alphonsia Emmanuel

Vernon Nesbeth

Dona Croll

Eddie Nestor

Junior A. Walker

Milton Godfrey

Connie Thomas

Susan Harper-Brown

Vivienne Rochester

Doreen Ingleton

Pirates, Townspeople, American Seamen, etc., played by the young company: Sibihan Agard, Natalie Ajeon, Sharon Bogle, Michael Chin, Tracey Chin, Rohan Debba, Shallon Douglas, Diane Foster, Martin Mathurin, Maria Perry, Iecshiesa Tenyue.

Musicians:

Felix Cross

Alastair Gavin

Sam Kelly

Darryl Jay Lee Que

Pete Scott

Composer/Arranger/Musical Director

Keyboards

Drums

Percussionist

Bass Guitar

Designer: Clarinda Salandy

Assistant Designer: BeBe Barratt

Choreographer: Deidra Lovell

Lighting Designer: Paul Armstrong

Sound Designer: Frank Bradley

Fight Director: Nick Hall

Poster/Leaflet Designer: Paton-Walker Associates

Production Photographer: Robert Aberman

Stage Management:

Annie Milner/Roylyn Leonard/Melanie Bryceland/Shona Penman

Arts Theatre Production Manager: John Waugh

Assistant to Alby James: Sharon Howard

Press and Publicity: Marketing Arts Tel: 01-359 8514

Phototypesetting: Get-Set Graphics 01-226 7889

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1981-1986

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TALAWA THEATRE COMPANY presents

THE BLACK JACOBINS

Toussaint L'Ouverture
& The San Domingo Revolution

a play By CLR James

Feb 21-Mar 15 8.00pm
(No performance Mondays)

CREDIT CARDS: 379.6433

Commissioned by the GLC's RACE EQUALITY UNIT as part of the BLACK EXPERIENCE ARTS PROGRAMME.

HAITI - HISTORY REPEATED!

Starring
NORMAN BEATON
TREVOR LAIRD
MONA HAMMOND
BRIAN BOVELL

Directed by
YVONNE BREWSTER

Designed by
ANDREA MONTAG

Musical Director
LENNY EDWARDS

Lighting Design
RICHARD MOFFATT

riverside studios
Crisp Road Hammersmith W6 748 3354

BLACK EXPERIENCE
GLC

COMING SOON FROM TEMBA THEATRE COMPANY

GLORY

Temba Theatre Company in association with The Place Theatre (Contemporary Dance Trust) present a new play, specially commissioned for Caribbean Focus, from Felix Cross, co-author of the highly successful BLUES FOR RAILTON at the Albany Empire in May, 1985, about which the press said:

"It is fine, strong, stirring community theatre."

Premiere at The Place Theatre, London,
3 to 21 June 1986, followed by a National Tour.

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