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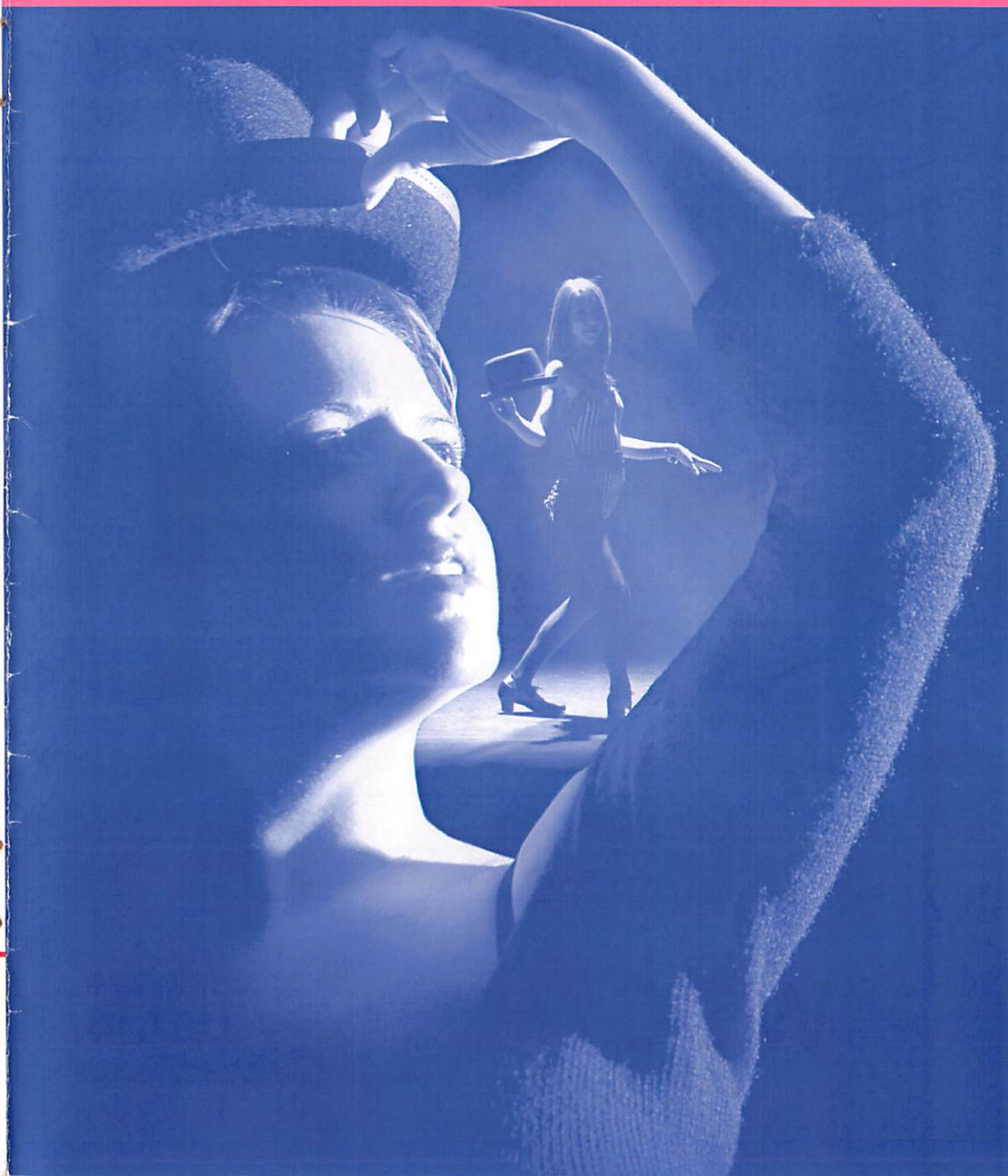
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JUNE 2006 (D. YOUNG)

STEPPING Out



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Jan Bursby Clare Downs

The tap dancers with Rebecca Feltham (inset)

and stepson whom she refers to as 'wonderboy', having never had any children of her own." Jo first remembers dancing when she was four. "My mother had taken me to Bournemouth gardens for the afternoon. The band was playing and I remember going to the front of the band-stand and moving around trying to dance. When the music stopped, people began to clap, which obviously at the time I thought was for me!"

COLIN PILE (Geoffrey)

Colin has been a member of Wimborne Drama for 5 years. His roles have included Melchior in *On the Razzle* and Traddles in *David Copperfield*. Colin has also been a member of local musical societies, his first musical being *My Fair Lady* in 1988. He has played Will Parker in *Oklahoma* and Tommy Keeler in *Annie Get Your Gun* and been a dancing chorus member in shows such as *Hello Dolly*, *The Great Waltz* and *Kiss me Kate*. Colin plays Geoffrey, "a quiet and introspective man who is unused

to large groups. Tap dancing is something that Geoffrey has wanted to try but has only just plucked up the courage. Although not very confident he does enjoy it." Colin came to dancing late in life (well, his mid 20s) when he appeared in the chorus in a pantomime. "I'd never been interested in it as a youngster."

JEN STACEY (Rose)

Jen played Young Rose in our 2005 production of *Flesh & Blood*. She has been interested in the performing arts from an early age and was involved in many productions at school before joining The Angel Players where she appeared in *The Tolpuddle Martyrs* and *Blithe Spirit*. Jen is also involved with the Wimborne Militia, both 'on the field' and in the design and production of historical costumes.

KRISTIN WILLIAMS (Mavis)

Kristin is a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer who has worked in both the UK and abroad. She started dancing at the age of three. "My teacher

Elizabeth Harrison, known to me as the 'Funny Lady', turned out to be my biggest inspiration. I didn't understand too much about dance then, only that it gave me so much joy and I never wanted it to end. To this day my passion for dance continues to grow and remains a constant source of joy." In *Stepping Out* Kristin plays Mavis Turner, the ex-professional dancer who didn't quite make it in 'the business' and who decides to start her own tap class. "Mavis has a close relationship with Mrs Fraser," says Kristin. "Mavis's mother walked out on her when she was a tiny baby and Mrs Fraser, who lived next door, has always been looked upon as a second mother."

Tonight's cast is completed by newcomers MARION ALBOROUGH, MATTHEW ANDREWS and ANDY CRAGG, GRAHAM HAWKINS, who appeared in *Murder in the Cathedral*, REBECCA FELTHAM, who played one of the Micawber children in *David Copperfield*.

Coming soon... **THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR** by Nikolai Gogol. 2-4 November 2006

One of the most famous comedies in world theatre, Gogol's masterpiece has lost none of its bite in this brilliant new adaptation by award-winning satirist Alistair Beaton. Directed by Richard Neal



Kristin Williams Colin Pile Boo Feltham Jackson Ellen Jen Stacey Kristin Williams
Tracey Nicholls Jan Bursby Jean Dishington Jolene Palmer Colin Pile

the Floral Pavilion. She said I was the wrong shape for dancing and the angora would set my allergy off so I had to take piano lessons instead. The rest is history." In *Stepping Out* she plays Mrs Fraser, "a batty old soak on the piano".

BOO FELTHAM (Lynne)
This is Boo's eighth play with Wimborne Drama. In this production Boo is playing the part of Lynne, a delicate, quiet, sensitive type who is a competent dancer. Unfortunately in reality Boo had only attended four tap classes prior to rehearsing this play. "I did ballet as a child. I gave up at eight because I didn't like having to shake hands with the sweaty-palmed pianist at the end of class." Her previous roles with Wimborne Drama were Julie-Ann in *RolePlay*, Ginnie in *Outside Edge*, Henrietta Angkatell in *The Hollow*, Alais in *The Lion in Winter*, Sheila Birling in *An Inspector Calls* and Rosa Dartle in *David Copperfield*. She also appeared in *Murder in the Cathedral*. Before joining Wimborne Drama, Boo performed

in musicals and pantomimes at the Tivoli, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Me and My Girl*, *Showboat* and *Little Miss Muffet*.

TRACEY NICHOLLS (Andy)
Tracey joined Wimborne Drama in 2001 working backstage on *Ten Times Table*. Over the past five years Tracey has played Agnes Wickfield in *David Copperfield*, Marie in *On the Razzle*, Edna (and company stage manager) in *An Inspector Calls* and Fanny Robin in *Far From the Madding Crowd*. Tracey has also done plays with Wimborne Community Theatre and played Hermia in the Swan Theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Last year Tracey was in the female chorus of *Murder in the Cathedral* and played her "dream role" as Mrs De Winter in *Rebecca*. Tracey is delighted to be playing the part of Andy in *Stepping Out* and would like to thank her Mum for all her support and for letting her tap on the kitchen lino! "I remember as a seven year old I learned ballet, tap and majorettes at the Starlight Dance School at the Allendale Centre in Wimborne. One of my most vivid memories

was of a certain majorettes' routine. There I was, tapping and whirling away, when my baton flew out of my hand and narrowly missed my dance teacher. I was absolutely devastated so I can definitely sympathise with poor Andy who has the same problem with co-ordination!"

JOLENE PALMER (Maxine)
Jo is 'Stepping Out' for a second time having appeared in the play ten years ago at Constitution Hill College where she studied drama and theatre history and took her LAMDA qualifications. Her other credits include *The Visit*, and *Rosie's Quest* and *Room 101*, both of which she performed in and produced. Having had a break from acting, she is delighted to have been given the opportunity to perform on stage once more. Jo plays Maxine in *Stepping Out*. "She's loud, sharp and very shrewd," says Jo. "She runs a second-hand clothes shop and is always on the look out for an opportunity to sell whenever she can. The tap class gives her this opportunity and she really gets a buzz out of doing it. Maxine lives with her husband

WIMBORNE DRAMA

presents

STEPPING OUT

by

Richard Harris

Directed by Stuart Glossop
Choreography by Kristin Williams

1-3 June 2006

TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

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DIRECTOR'S Notes

HELLO and welcome to Wimborne Drama's closing production of our 2005-6 season.

I can't believe how quickly time has flown since I became a member of Wimborne Drama almost three years ago. Since then I have directed *Charley's Aunt* which was a wonderful experience. I have appeared on stage in *Outside Edge*, *Murder In the Cathedral* and *RolePlay*, all of which I have had the most wonderful times being involved in.

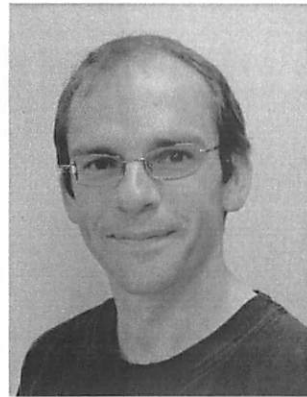
Come to think of it, I have been involved in three of Wimborne Drama's murder mysteries, again very happy times. One question that must be asked, "Why choose *Stepping Out*?"

Well, for the past couple of years I have heard various people ask why don't we do a production with a larger female cast. At the time I could only think of three productions and they were *Love Me Slender*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Stepping Out*. So I thought about each production and I thought, how best could

we challenge our actors? Then, after a night of too much vodka and encouragement from my partner it seemed to me that *Stepping Out* would be the obvious candidate.

I know it sounds crazy, but why don't we do a production where our cast are presenting something they have never done before (in this case tap dancing)? I knew that this would be an enormous task, but I can honestly say that they all took up this challenge and have worked very hard to present the production you are about to watch today.

My heartfelt thanks have to go out to my team both on stage and off stage in putting this production together. Their energy and enthusiasm have been excellent. I would have to also like to thank David Williams who has done a wonderful job as our Production Manager and has been a constant support and joy to work with. Also, Kristin Williams who has combined both the role of Choreographer and the lead role of Mavis and who has never failed to impress me with her hard work day by



day. I would also like to thank our committee under the leadership of Dave Pile who has supported me behind the scenes and also to both Richard and Chrissie Neal whose support has been invaluable. In fact everyone involved in Wimborne Drama has been fantastic and long may this continue.

Finally, a very special mention for our show sponsors Westover Nissan whose financial assistance is much appreciated.

So, sit back and enjoy the show. I hope you all have a good time.

Stuart Glossop
Director

P.S. A bit of trivia here: did you know that in the film of *Stepping Out* the characters of Rose, Geoffrey and a couple of others didn't actually tap dance? Today you have the Full Monty.



Colin Pile Boo Feltham Jolene Palmer Tracey Nicholls Jean Dishington Boo Feltham Jackson Ellen

JAN BURSBY (Vera)
Jan played Aunt Betsey Trotwood in *David Copperfield*, Sybil Birling in *An Inspector Calls*, Fraulein Blumenblatt in *On the Razzle* and Miriam in *Outside Edge*. Drama school trained, Jan has also played Rita in *Educating Rita*. "This is the second time I have followed in Julie Walters's footsteps. Having trained to master the various tap routines for *Stepping Out*, I'll leave it to you, the audience, to decide whether I should even consider her role in Billy Elliot! And if you have any rubbish please put it in the bin on your way out, not being funny or anything, but it's not very nice is it, and we're not the only ones who use this theatre, are we?" Jan's earliest memory of dancing was "as a fluffy white bunny rabbit tapping my way through *Winter Wonderland*. I was five and wish I was five again. It was a lot easier then!"

JEAN DISHINGTON (Dorothy)
Jean studied drama at college in Manchester and has worked in theatre-in-education and performed with many drama and musical theatre societies. She

joined Wimborne Drama in 1997 and has played Nellie in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, Catherine Mompesson in *The Roses of Eyam*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, Mrs Armistead in *The Madness of George III*, Mama in *David Copperfield* and Midge Harvey in *The Hollow*. She also appeared in *Murder in the Cathedral*. Most recently Jean played Dee in *RolePlay*. With Swan Theatre, Jean played Lady Anne in *Richard III* and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "I initially found the idea of tap dancing terrifying. I have always tried to avoid taking on roles involving dance! Her character Dorothy, on the other hand, says "tap dancing... it's so exciting! I love it... yes!"

CLARE DOWNS (Sylvia)
Clare joined Wimborne Drama in 1998 and her acting credits include *Habeas Corpus*, *No Room for Love*, *The Madness of George III*, *The Hollow*, *Charley's Aunt* and *Rebecca*. She also enjoys working behind the scenes, most recently taking on the role of company stage manager for *RolePlay*. "My character Sylvia just tells it like it is and gets

straight to the point!" says Clare. "Tap dancing doesn't come naturally to her but she has great fun trying and enjoys a well earned drink afterwards – a bit like the rehearsals really!" Clare remembers being about six when she started going to tap and ballet classes on Saturday mornings. "My mum and sister went to the same place and even my dad had a go at tap classes for a while - bit of a family thing! I've really enjoyed learning to tap again and will be keeping it up!"

JACKSON ELLEN (Mrs Fraser)
Although a member for more than five years, this is Jackson's first named role for Wimborne Drama, having focused most of her energies on producing outstanding stage and sound design for *The Hollow*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Outside Edge* and *Flesh and Blood*. She did appear (briefly) as a dancer in *Charley's Aunt*. Now she has the chance to stretch her legs once more. "As a child I begged my Mother to let me go to classes at Nesta Belis's Dancing Academy in New Brighton so that I could wear a pink, fluffy hug-me-tight cardigan like all my friends had and be in 'shows' at

TAP lessons

TAP dancing was derived from Irish jigs and Lancashire clog dancing, brought to America by immigrants, but it was also heavily influenced by the musicality of African tribal dances whose traditions were kept alive by slaves shipped to America.

Although the fusion of West African and British Isles traditions began in the mid-



Fred Astaire

17th century, tap dancing did not become truly popular as a form of stage entertainment in America until the mid-19th century, first through variety shows (the minstrel shows, in which white men blackened their faces to perform the

tap dancing. An American dance form characterised by rapid foot-tapping movement. The dancer wears special shoes with metal plates so that when the toe or heel is tapped on the floor it makes a distinctive percussive sound. Tap routines encompass complex rhythmical patterns and syncopated phrasing, and can be performed to a variety of musical styles, but most especially jazz.

dance and music of the slaves) and then through early Hollywood musicals.

At the turn of the century tap dancing absorbed elements from social dances (like the cakewalk strut or the camel walk), and by the 1920s it had absorbed the new jazz rhythms and found a home on Broadway, where the tap dancing chorus line was born. The term tap dancing came into widespread usage in the early 20th century.

In the 1930s Fred Astaire brought a new kind of sophisticated and elegant tap dancing to the cinema, in films such as *The Gay Divorcee* (1934) and *Top Hat* (1935). Other famous tap dancers include William Henry Lane, Bill ('Bojangles') Robinson, John W. Bubbles, Ruby Keeler, Ginger Rogers, Eleanor Powell, Ray

Bolger, Ann Miller, Donald O'Connor, Paul Draper, and Gene Kelly, whose film *Singin' in the Rain* (1951) contains one of the most famous tap dances ever committed to celluloid.

By the 1950s jazz and ballet had replaced tap as the dance of choice on Broadway, although the 1990s saw a revival of interest with *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk* (1996), choreographed by Savion Glover, who brought tap up to date by welding it to the heavy bass beat of contemporary African-American music.



Bojangles

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FROM TV to Tap

RICHARD HARRIS, born in 1934, is a prolific writer for the stage and television.

His TV work includes some of the classics from the 1960s and 1970s including *Hancock*, *Adam Adamant Lives!*, *Redcap*, *Police Surgeon*, *The Saint*, *The Avengers*, *The Sweeney*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Hazell* and *Shoestring*. In the 1990s he wrote several episodes of *A Touch of Frost* starring David Jason. Most recently he wrote *The Last Detective* (2003) starring Peter

Davison and adapted from the book by Leslie Thomas. He also adapted his stage play *Outside Edge* for television twice, in 1982 and 1994.

He has written more than twenty plays, including *The Business of Murder*, *Dead Guilty*, *The Ghosts*, *The Maintenance Man*, *Outside Edge*, *Two and Two Make Sex* and *Who Goes Bare?*

Stepping Out was first produced in 1984 at the Thorndike Theatre in

Leatherhead before transferring to the Duke of York's Theatre in the



Tony Hancock

West End. It won the Evening Standard Best Comedy award in the same year. In 1991 Richard Harris adapted the play for the big screen starring Liza Minnelli, Shelley Winters and Julie Walters. In 1997 he joined forces with lyricist Mary Stewart-David and composer Denis King to create a musical version.



Liza Minnelli in the movie version of *Stepping Out*

For the Company:

Director
STUART GLOSSOP

Choreographer
KRISTIN WILLIAMS

Set Designers
STUART GLOSSOP DAVE WILLIAMS
KEVIN WILKINS

Music & Sound
JACKSON ELLEN ROBERT DISHINGTON
MARK ELLEN KEVIN WILKINS

Production Manager
DAVE WILLIAMS

Production Assistants
JAN SINGFIELD
HAZEL AYRTON & PATTI KEATES

Costumes
JEN STACEY & THE COMPANY
with thanks to ANN PONTING
of Eclectia Costumes

Publicity & Programme Editor
RICHARD NEAL

Poster Designed by
KEVIN WILKINS

For the Theatre:

Production Manager
RUSSELL PARKER

Stage Management
ASHLEY THORNE & STEVE CHARTERS

STEPPING Out

By Richard Harris

CAST

Mavis	KRISTIN WILLIAMS
Mrs Fraser	JACKSON ELLEN
Lynne	BOO FELTHAM
Dorothy	JEAN DISHINGTON
Maxine	JOLENE PALMER
Andy	TRACEY NICHOLLS
Geoffrey	COLIN PILE
Sylvia	CLARE DOWNS
Rose	JEN STACEY
Vera	JAN BURSBY

With

MARION ALBOROUGH, MATTHEW ANDREWS
ANDY CRAGG GRAHAM HAWKINS
and REBECCA FELTHAM as the Young Mavis

Sponsored by Westover Nissan



Act 1

Prologue: Approximately 15 years ago
Scene one: Evening. Around 8pm
Scene two: A month later. 7.45pm
Scene three: A month later. Around 9pm
Scene four: A month later. 7.40pm

Act 2

Scene one: A week later. Around 8pm
Scene two: 2 weeks later. Around 9pm
Scene three: 2 weeks later. Around 8pm
Scene four: 3 weeks later. Around 8pm
Scene five: 2 - 3 weeks later. Evening
(And a year later!)

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF
TWENTY MINUTES
BETWEEN ACT 1 AND ACT 2

The Company & Director would like to thank
The Royal British Legion (Wimborne)
for their continuing support