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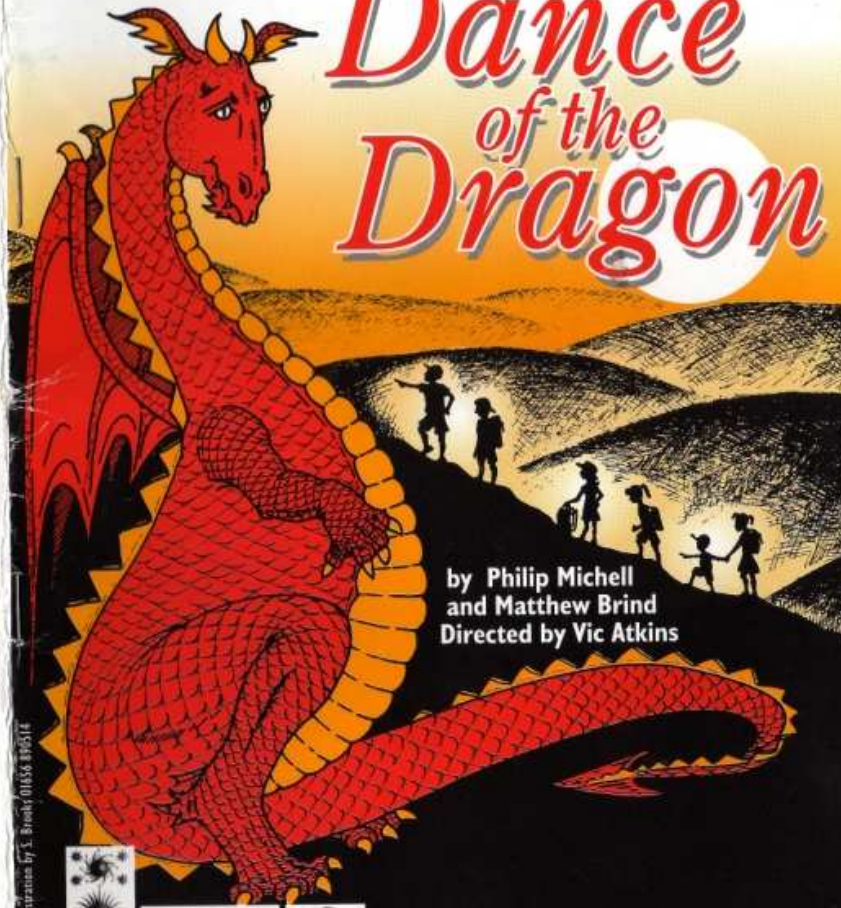
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*We would like to wish  
The Unknown Theatre Company  
every success with  
Dance of the Dragon*

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**The Unknown Theatre Company**  
proudly presents the premier of a new musical

# Dance of the Dragon



by Philip Michell  
and Matthew Brind  
Directed by Vic Atkins

Illustrations by J. Brind 01455 846314



Made possible by the National Lottery

Souvenir Programme 50p

## THE CAST

Marsha.....	Elizabeth Gauder
Dean.....	Ryan Clement
Bethan.....	Alexandra Wood
Jez/Tom.....	Christopher Hibbert
Rhian.....	Justine Mead
Teacher/Poet.....	Rebecca Gauder
Spike.....	Liam Donovan
Soulcatcher.....	Jemma Lewis
Cavall.....	Laura Harries
Drudwyn.....	Kieran Pugh
Merlin.....	Matthew Atkins
Young Merlin/Knight.....	Ben Francis
King Arthur.....	Nick Cook
Guinevere/Poet.....	Jenny Donoghue
Knights.....	Lindsay Black, Sian Morgan
Llaesgymyn/Claire.....	Amanda Phelan
Miserable Kid.....	Ashleigh Brooks
Soul Dealer/Poet.....	Gareth King
Soul Destroyer/Poet.....	Lianne Teague
Soul Searcher/Poet/Knight.....	Jody Williams
Ryan the stand-up dragon/Miner.....	Christopher Case
The Dragon.....	Steven Payne

### The Company

(Pupils/Lost Souls/Souls for sale/Soul Destroyers Groupies/  
Soldiers/Sick Souls/Souls of Mercy/Handmaidens/Miners)

Nicholas Brooks, Steven Donoghue, Kerry Donovan, Richard Hibbert,  
Craig Keane, Jenna Lane, Kelly Littlechild, Kim Littlechild, Melissa Moore,  
Lauren Morgan, Katie Murphy, Katie O'Brien, Rosalind Richards,  
Areesha Shalton, Abbie Thomas, Jessica Vickery, Emma Williams.



## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT 1

1. Prologue
2. Good Girls Don't Fight
3. You are not Alone
4. You are not Alone (Reprise)
5. Out and About
6. No Way Out, No Way In
7. Dog's Duet
8. Soulcatcher
9. Believe
10. Land of Souls
11. Queen's Quartet
12. Believe (Reprise)

### ACT 2

13. Over the Top
14. Safe in your Dreams
15. Dog's Dinner
16. Cry for the Moon
17. New Souls for Old
18. Can it be True?
19. Life and Soul
20. A Life to Live
21. The Catcher of your Souls
22. Dance of the Dragon



## SCENES

### ACT 1

Prologue.....	Coming of the Mists
Scene 1.....	Fight Club
Scene 2.....	Marsha Alone
Scene 3.....	Out and About
Scene 4.....	The Secret of the Mists
Scene 5.....	The Knights of the Round Table

### ACT 2

Scene 1.....	Tale of the Trenches
Scene 2.....	Llaesgymyn – Man of Ambition
Scene 3.....	The Soul Searcher
Scene 3.....	The Dragon's Lair

## NOTES FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

During the summer of 1999, Matthew and I were commissioned by The Unknown Theatre Company to write a new musical for the Millennium, funded by ACW Millennium Festival Commission the project was to be performed during October 2000.

With a few initial ideas in hand, we embarked on a series of workshops with the company. The first explored working as a team and pooled our knowledge of famous people from Welsh history, legend and literature. We achieved a wide list of Welsh celebrities from the Stereophonics to Neil Jenkins, from Shirley Bassey to Charlotte Church. However, tucked away in the list were also the names of Merlin, King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table and the tales of the Mabinogion. Not wanting to go for the obvious or to attract lawsuits from characterizing famous sporting stars onstage (!), the Mabinogion fuelled many of the ideas which formed the structure of the show. The second workshop expanded on ideas for the content: a journey, a gallery depicting scenes from Welsh history and the plight of the outsider. The journey remained as the central driving force through the show, the gallery became simply a collection of souls with their guardian curator the Soulcatcher and the outsider is reflected in the character of Marsha. A third workshop looked at choral speaking, which was later developed with Matthew into the opening you see tonight.

Rather than deal with the more headline hitting issues such as drugs and underage pregnancy that are constantly thrown at young people, I wanted the show to be about the fears and doubts we all experience on a daily basis: the courage to work through problems, the strength to stand apart from the expectations of others. As the play developed, it became something of a 'yellow brick road' of discovery for the central characters. Indeed there are echoes from a number of musicals and films present in *Dance Of The Dragon*, see if you can spot them.

Have you ever been really down, fed up, at the point of despair when you feel you can't do this any more and all you want is to just give up? Yes? Then perhaps you've met the Soulcatcher already! In my original scenario, the Soulcatcher was an evil character who imprisoned unlucky souls. However, as I wrote, she soon grew to become an angel-like figure who looked after our doubts and fears, so that we could live our lives fully and achieve our goals. The Land of Fallen Souls was born. But how would this feature our characters from history, literature and legend? Simply they would appear as almost opposites to the heroes we know. Kings unable to rule, knights without chivalry, poets that can't rhyme and comedians without a sense of humour. Somewhere in the Land Of Fallen Souls, we could probably find the part of Neil Jenkins' soul that can't kick a rugby ball for peanuts - sorry Neil!

So welcome to the bizarre world of the Soulcatcher as we follow Beth, Dean, Jez, Marsha and Rhian on their journey through the Land Of Fallen Souls to find the Fire of the Dragon and a strange boy named Spike! I hope you enjoy the show!

Philip Michell

## Who's who in the Crew!

Director & Choreographer.....	Vic Atkins
Producer.....	Jane Donoghue
Stage Manager/Lighting Operator.....	Lucy Chiplin
Lighting&Sound Designer/Sound Operator.....	Carlton Gronow
Follow Spot/Special Effects.....	Nick Jones
Dragon Operator/Crew.....	Vic Atkins
Special effects stage/Crew.....	Wayne Brewer
Props Buyer/Designer.....	Lynne Brooks
Wardrobe Mistress.....	Cheryl O'Brien
Crew.....	Jane Donoghue Philip Michell Matthew Atkins
Poster Artist.....	Sally Brooks
Poster graphics.....	Mark Coleman
Front of House Manager.....	Annette Littlechild

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to say a BIG thank you to Joan, Roy and Phil and all the Howardian staff, Mo Milner of Fancy This, Fancy That, Kevin Derby Costumes, Lynne & Roy Brooks, Sally Brooks, Mark Coleman, Jeff Davison, Kim Shay, Cheryl O'Brian, Jean Gray, Jenny Hibbert, Sue Harries, Carol Jones of R.A.T.S. Anne Francis, Stage Lighting, Stage Sound, Hugh Gough, WGW, ALS, GLN, Scenic Properties, Sainsbury's PLC, St Margaret's Church Hall, Al Steele and all at Shabbey Road Studios, and Urdd Gobaith Cymru, for all of the help with costumes, props, posters, hall facilities, equipment and services. We would also like to thank all of the parents of the children for their help.

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