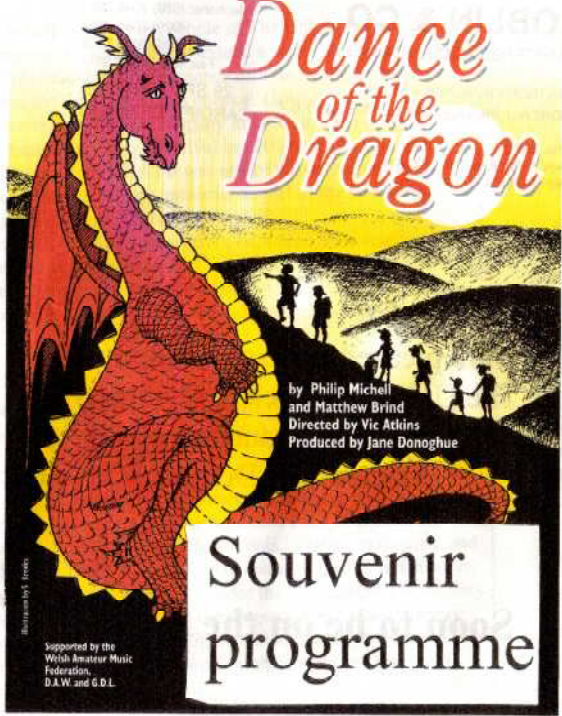


The Unknown Theatre Company  
proudly presents the award winning musical

# Dance of the Dragon



by Philip Michell  
and Matthew Brind  
Directed by Vic Atkins  
Produced by Jane Donoghue

Souvenir  
programme

supported by the  
Wish Amateur Music  
Federation,  
D.A.W. and G.D.L.

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We are pleased to be associated with  
The Unknown Theatre Company  
and their production of  
Dance of the Dragon.

**Soon to be on the move?**

### Welcome from The Unknown Theatre Company



On behalf of the young people of The Unknown Theatre Company we would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. This evening's performance of Dance of the Dragon marks the next step in this musical's history. Originally commissioned by the company in 2000, it was performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2001 to critical acclaim. Following that in 2002 it was one of the winners of the Sony Global Search for new musicals as part of the International Festival of Music Theatre in Cardiff. Later this year the company are honoured to be selected to perform at the International Festival of Amateur Theatre in Monaco where Dance of the Dragon will once again be seen. However, for now just sit back and relax as we present -

#### DANCE OF THE DRAGON

Please note that the version performed tonight is an abridged version of the original production.

#### Synopsis of Dance of the Dragon

A group of teenagers become separated from their friends on an outward bound hike across Snowdonia. The mists descend and the Soulcatcher lures them into her strange land of fallen souls. The Dragon has lost its fire. Under the Soulcatcher's spell, they embark on a journey to find the dragon's fire. Along the way they meet a bizarre array of historical and mythological characters who help them confront the doubts and fears that trouble their lives.

B

#### **PHILIP MICHELL – BOOK & LYRICS**

Philip was born in Swansea and has been working as a professional writer and actor for the last 20 years. In that time he has written over 20 shows covering a broad spectrum of styles and audiences. He wrote the first stage adaptation of Alexander Cordell's *Rape of the Fair Country* for Chrysalis Theatre and his play *The Final Appearance of Miss Maimie Stuart*, enjoyed a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe and tour of South Wales, before being taken on by the Torch Theatre in Milford Haven. He has written for many companies, including Theatr Iolo in Cardiff and Hijinx now based at the Millennium Centre. Much of his work has been for young people, either as the audience or as performers. These include many plays for Gwent Theatre in particular the recently published *Home Front* and across the other side of the country *East Anglian Psychos* for Eastern Angles in Ipswich. Commissioned in 2000 by The Unknown Theatre Company, *Dance of the Dragon* is Philip's first musical and he thoroughly enjoyed working with the company on the show. He is currently writing a stage and film script for a company of young people in Tredegar, about Aneurin Bevan and the National Health Service and has been commissioned to write a new production for Gwent Theatre in the autumn, called *The Music Box Maker*.

#### **MATTHEW BRIND – MUSIC & LYRICS**

Matt works as a musical director and composer in London and Cardiff. He studied music in Cardiff university, graduating in 2003. His composing career began when he wrote a string quartet for a local concert at 8 years of age. A former pupil at Whitchurch High School, he wrote six songs to accompany *Gregory's Girl* there. This led to *The Messiah* for his local church group and then *Dance of the Dragon*, followed by *Gold Woman* for The Unknown Theatre Company.

His next venture was *Tickledom* and more recently *Only the Brave* which premiered at the New Theatre. He is also working on a further commission for the Unknown – Life Actually. Matt's TV credits include the theme music for ITV's *What on Earth*.

His recent musical director work has included Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Guildford School of Acting, Espresso Trasho Arts Theatre and Street Magic Notting Hill. He is currently the children's musical director on Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the London Palladium.



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### Victor Atkins – Director & Choreographer

Vic was born and educated in Cardiff training at the Joyce Marriott school of dance (BBC). Vic has directed, choreographed and acted for many theatre companies in Wales & the West Country. His productions include: *Chicago, Fame, Cabaret, Grease, Half a Sixpence, Little Shop of Horrors, Anything Goes, Biograph Girl, Godspell, Guys & Dolls & Honk to name just a few.* Vic has had leading roles in musicals which include: *Paul (A Chorus Line), Cosmo Brown (Singing in the Rain), Pheadra (La Cage Aux Folles), Cowardly Lion (Wizard of Oz), Cut (Honk), Woody (3 Little Pigs), Cricket (Pinocchio).* Leading roles in plays include: *John Merrick (Elephant Man), George Wickham (Pride and Prejudice) & Felix (Play it Again Sam).* He has worked on concerts and shows with Shirley Bassey, Iris Williams, Lesley Crowther, Tommy Cooper and Sir Geraint Evans. Vic has also directed and choreographed musical extravaganzas for the Applause Theatre Company at St David's Hall Cardiff raising funds for Kidney Research, Velindre Hospital, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Cardiff Zion & George Thomas Hospice Care. Other credits include: TV work for S4C, BBC Wales, Trouble TV & Disney Channel. Film Credits include: *Plots with a View, The Inside, Pleasure Pill.* Currently artistic director and choreographer for The Unknown Theatre Company he has directed twelve of their productions, two of these were successful at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival gaining 4\* reviews. A further production was taken to Japan to the World Festival Fusion. His productions of *'Allo, 'Allo, Pride & Prejudice, Steel Magnolias & Agnes of God* all gained awards. Vic's next project for The Unknown Theatre Company is *Seussical*.

### Ben Davies – Musical Director

Ben is currently studying music at Cardiff University, but in his spare time he works as a musical director. *Dance of the Dragon* is his second production with The Unknown Theatre Company and he is looking forward to future shows with them. Ben has also worked for other companies on shows including: *The Sound of Music, Honk! Chess, Wizard of Oz, Jesus Christ Superstar,* and *The Pyjama Game.* Ben also works as an accompanist and has been lucky to work with professional performers such as opera star Anthony Stuart Lloyd. As well as performing Ben teaches at Anita's Theatre School and previously taught at Stagecoach Theatre School, as well as teaching private piano lessons.

### Musical Numbers

Prologue	Company
You're Not Alone	Marsha
Out and About	Company
No Way Out, No Way In	Soulcatcher & Company
Dog's Duet	Cavall & Drudwyn
Believe	Merlin, Young Merlin & Company
I am Time and Tide	Soulcatcher
Over the Top	Company
Safe in Your Dreams	Soldier
Cry for the Moon	Llaesgymyn & Dean
I've Lost My Way	Rhian
A Life to Live	Dragon
Finale	Dragon, Soulcatcher & Company
Dance of the Dragon	Company

### Scenes

- Scene 1 – Fight club.
- Scene 2 – Marsha Alone
- Scene 3 – Out and About
- Scene 4 – The Secret of the Mists
- Scene 5 – Knights of the Round Table
- Scene 6 – Tale of the Trenches
- Scene 7 – Llaesgymyn – Man of Ambition
- Scene 8 – The Soulsearcher
- Scene 9 – The Dragon's Entrance

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Book & Lyrics	Philip Michell
Composer & Lyrics	Matthew Brind
Director & Chorcographer	Victor Atkins
Producer	Jane Donoghue
Musical Director	Ben Davies
Front of House Manager	Annette Littlechild
Stage Manager	Lucy Chiplin
Technical Director W.M.C.	Martin
Technician in charge WMC	Adrian
Wardrobe	Geraldine Roberts
Company photographer	Jenny Hibbert
Video by	Christine Moore
Poster artwork	Sally Brooks
Poster Graphics	Mark Coleman

**Production thanks to:**

Philip Michell and Matthew Brind for joining some of our sessions. Tricia Burfoot, Brian Shapcott and Roath Church House, St Philips church, Tremorfa community centre, Christchurch Hall, Fiona Allan, Louise Miles-Crust and all the staff at Wales Millennium Centre, Alan Blakoc of Staging Lighting, Phil Hurley of Stage Sound Services, Marigold costumes, Kim Shay for the Dogs, Dragon and Soulcatcher costumes, Elaine and Claire for helping Geraldine who is as fantastic as ever with the costumes, Legends of Nottingham, RATS, Australian Welsh Printers and anyone we may have forgotten to mention or who helped us after the programme went to print.

THANKS TO YOU ALL!

Cast



Soulcatcher	Justine Mead
Dragon	Steven Payne
Marsha	Melissa Moore
Rhian	Jenny Donoghue
Beth	Kelly Littlechild
Dean	Ben Francis
Jez/Tom	Harry Ferrier
Spike	Sam Jones
Cavall	Claire Batchelor
Drudwyn	James Costas-Michael
Merlin	Matthew Atkins
Young Merlin	Richard Hibbert
Arthur	Steven Donoghue
Guinevere	Giorgia Warsama
Knights	Hannah Murphy
	Katie Murphy
	Olivia Spence
	Kim Littlechild
	Lauren Roberts
Llaesgymyn	Katie Murphy
Chorus parts played by the company including: Teacher, school children, lost souls, soldiers of the First World War, Souls of Mercy.	

## ROLL OF HONOUR

We would like to thank the following people who have helped us to bring our project a step closer. Some have made donations of money or arranged fundraising activities, some have given their time and commitment to help. Thanks to you all! (please excuse anyone we may have forgotten or who helps us after the programme has gone to print.... Thanks to you in retrospect!.

In alphabetical order: Personal acknowledgements.  
Hilary Bassett, Janet Batchelor, Councillor Tricia Burfoot, Mrs Chiplin, Mrs Dow, Sue & John Ferrier, Kevin & Sue Glendinning, Barri Jones, Andrew Prankerd, Lowri Reed, David Seligman, Joan Simmonds, Miss O Williams.

Company acknowledgements.  
Algebra, Arriva Trains, Adrian of Australian Welsh Printers, Beaufort Research, Drama Association of Wales, Gary of Marks & Spencer, Glamorgan Drama League, Morgan Crucible, Mike Kelly & Queen's Arcade, Parkhouse Club, Welsh Amateur Music Federation.

And of course to all of the parents of the cast who continually supported fundraising events such as bag packing, quiz night, garden party and tirelessly shaking buckets!

THANKS TO YOU ALL. YOU'RE GREAT!!!

## Patrons to the company

The Unknown Theatre Company would like to thank their patrons for the continued support they give to the company. Special thanks go to:

Mrs Jean Gray, Councillor Tricia Burfoot, Captain Ray Brinkworth, Mrs Rhiannon Williams and also to our anonymous patron.

Why not consider becoming a patron of our company.

Contact Jane on 029 20 766056 for more details.

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Fault Finders are pleased to be associated with  
The Unknown Theatre Company  
and their production of  
**Dance of the Dragon.**



**Off to Monaco**

The Mondial du Theatre is a prestigious amateur theatre event that happens in Monaco every four years. The UK rotates its selected group between England, Scotland and Wales. Consequently, a Welsh group have the chance to go to Monaco every 12 years. We are therefore extremely honoured to have been selected to represent both Wales and the UK this year. Altogether a total of 24 countries participate in the festival, undertaking both theatrical performances and a cultural evening where the performer's own country is promoted.

As you can imagine the costs involved in performing in the 'Millionaires Playground' are phenomenal and we are grateful for the help we have received so far (see Roll of Honour). However, we still have a long way to go. If you are able to help us in anyway-- by sponsoring a part of the production, or by making a donation, or by company sponsorship, please contact us on 029 2076 6056 to discuss further. Thank you!!!



**Wanted!**

In September we will be auditioning for our new production - Seussical the Musical (the story of the Cat in the Hat). If you would like details of the auditions or would like to be involved in backstage work of any kind, please contact us. Keep up to date with information about the company by visiting our website: [www.unknowntheatre.co.uk](http://www.unknowntheatre.co.uk)



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