Based on the H.G. Wells novel "KIPPS: The Story of a Simple Soul"
and the original musical by Beverley Cross and David Heneker

BROS
THEATRE COMPANY

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CAMERON MACKINTOSH
presents

Original Songs by
DAVID HENEKER

New Music and Lyrics by
GEORGE STILES AND ANTHONY DREWE

Book by
JULIAN FELLOWES

KIPPS
THE NEW
HALF A SIXPENCE
MUSICAL

Orchestrations by
WILLIAM DAVID BROHN

Co-Created by
CAMERON MACKINTOSH



29 MAY - 2 JUNE, 2023

MINACK THEATRE

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.mtishows.co.uk



A note from our Patron

The story of Arthur Kipps has always had a special place in my affections, not least because I met my future wife Alison in BROS Theatre Company's production of Half a Sixpence at Richmond Theatre back in 1972. Fifty-one years on we are still together, and so is BROS! Coming down to the Minack every other year for the last thirty years or so has given us an enormous affection for the theatre and for this part of Cornwall. To celebrate the show that brought us together makes this visit particularly special. I'm proud to be the Patron of BROS Theatre Company and hope that you will find this evening as special as we do.

Alan Titchmarsh MBE DL





Message from the Chair

Welcome to the iconic Minack Theatre, and to BROS Theatre Company's production of Kipps: The New Half a Sixpence Musical. If you're reading this, congratulations … you have found our e-programme. As part of the Minack Theatre's sustainability efforts we've produced this soft-copy programme, replacing the standard format and mirroring our efforts back home in south-west London. Let us know your thoughts by emailing chair@brostc.org.

BROS TC's association with Half a Sixpence goes back over 50 years, having first performed it in 1972 and subsequently bringing productions to Richmond Theatre in 1986 – one performance in the presence of the author David Heneker nonetheless! – and here at the Minack in 2001. We should have been here with Kipps in 2021, but something significant got in the way…. Having started their preparations more than three years ago, our production team has worked so hard to bring Kipps to life for you - and their efforts have been matched by an enthusiastic company of performers and technicians over the last seven months. I am so very grateful to everyone involved with Kipps, on-stage and off.

I feel honoured to have become Chair of BROS TC in November last year, a company that has been delivering high-quality musical theatre for 115 years. My personal connection with BROS goes back 37 years and my first visit to this stage was as 'Slightly Timid' Bill Hickok, 20 years ago. Having been MD on five productions for BROS since then, I'm very much looking forward to treading the concrete as part of the company once more this time around.

If you find yourself in south-west London, I hope to see you at future BROS TC productions. Next for us will be Calendar Girls: The Musical in November. Do follow us on social media or save our website 'www.brostheatrecompany.org' as a favourite for news on this and future productions.

We are very proud and humbled to have had an association with Minack for a massive thirty years now! Kipps is the 14th big-scale musical we have brought to the cliffs of Porthcurno since our debut in 1993, working with local musicians and a fabulous team of staff to create some treasured memories. Our members have been blessed with experiencing the magic of the "theatre under the stars", always with amazing audiences and we never take the opportunity for granted. I hope we will back down here soon – this place really is good for our souls!

Thank you for your support. On with the sun cream, sit back and enjoy the show.

Martin Wilcox
Chair, BROS TC



















Deb McDowell : DIRECTOR



Janet Simpson : MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Jen Moorhead : CHOREOGRAPHER

Director's Notes

On behalf of Jen, Janet and all the production team I would like to express the sheer joy we feel at being able to present Kipps: The New Half A Sixpence Musical for you this week at the most beautiful theatre in the world. We are so grateful to all the Minack staff, local friends and musicians who are always so supportive and a vital part of any show's success.

Kipps is a new stage version of the better-known Half A Sixpence. It is a lively, energetic piece set in the seaside town of Folkestone in the early years of the 20th Century. Adapted from the H.G. Wells semi-autobiographical novel, Kipps, Stiles and Drewe added fabulous new melodies which work alongside well-known classics like "Flash, Bang, Wallop" to refresh the story for a new audience. It delivers the classic, romantic storyline with an appropriately upbeat happy ending, but also allows for the key female characters to show more agency than was evident in the original version. This story is set at a time when people began to fundamentally challenge the many class-based social conventions restricting the economic independence of the many for the benefit of the few, and when women of all classes were beginning the fight for greater freedom and representation. I am hoping that in small but significant ways our production reinforces the importance of these ideas.

I have been a regular visitor to the Minack for more than 20 years, along with Janet (Musical Director) and Jen (Choreographer), performing in and supporting BROS TC shows here. Having directed a number of successful shows in south-west London, it was an honour to be invited to lead the team for Minack. Although experience of this unique venue is vital, we also know that no one forgets the first time they come to this magical place, and we are so happy that our highly talented and enthusiastic company and crew is a wonderful mix of 'old hands' and new faces. We all hope you enjoy the show!

Deb McDowell, Director



Synopsis

Arthur Kipps, an orphan, is an over-worked draper's assistant at Shalford's Bazaar, Folkestone, at the turn of the last century. He is a charming but ordinary young man who, along with his fellow apprentices, dreams of a better and more fulfilling world. One of his friends, Sid Pornick, has a strong sense that socialism has a lot to offer the working man and seeks fairer access to life opportunities, a theme which is reinforced throughout the story. As a result of a chance meeting with Mr Chitterlow, a burgeoning playwright, Kipps finds he has unexpectedly inherited a fortune! This propels him into high society and confuses everything he thought he knew about life. As Arthur wrestles with his new identity, Ann Pornick, his childhood friend and Sid's sister, watches from a distance. She sees with dismay how he is being made over in a new image by the money-grabbing Mrs Walsingham and her son James. Mrs Walsingham's daughter, Helen is trying to escape the bounds of her conventional upper-class existence and recognises Arthur's decency 'despite' his working-class credentials. She is always there with well-meant helpful hints on how Arthur could improve himself and make his life richer and more meaningful, if only he would believe in himself. Sadly, she becomes implicated in her family's somewhat less honourable plans, and when Arthur proposes, she agrees to marry him.

A chance meeting with Ann re-kindles happy memories for Kipps of simpler times when they were children, and causes him to reflect, somewhat critically, on the life he is now trying to fit into. Both Helen and Ann love Arthur – there is no doubt about that – but which one should he listen to? With the help of his friends, Arthur learns that if you want to have the chance of living the right life, you need to make the right choices.



SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One:

Overture (Instrumental)

1. New Romney Beach (flashback)
   Half A Sixpence – Part 1 (Kipps, Ann)

2. Shalford's Emporium, Folkestone
   Look Alive (Shalford, Carshot, Apprentices, Shoppers)

3. The Apprentices' dormitory
   Money To Burn – Part 1 (Sid, Flo, Pierce, Buggins, Kipps)

4. Night School Art Class
   Believe In Yourself (Helen, Kipps)

5. Street Scene
   She's Too Far Above Me (Kipps)

6. The Hope and Anchor Pub
   Money To Burn – Part 2 (Kipps. Chitterlow, Crowd)
   Binge On A Mango (Kipps, Chitterlow, Ensemble)

7. Shalford's Emporium, Folkestone
   A Proper Gentleman (Shalford, Kipps, Apprentices, Ensemble)

8. Folkestone Promenade
   Half A Sixpence – Part 2 (Kipps, Ann)

9. New Romney
   Long Ago (Ann)

10. The Grand Hotel, Folkestone
    A Simple Lunch (James, Mrs. Walsingham, Kipps)

11. The Hope and Anchor Pub
    The Joy Of The Theatre (Chitterlow, Ensemble)

12. The Walsingham House
    Just A Few Little Things (Kipps, Helen)

13. Folkestone Promenade
    Just A Little Touch Of Happiness (Ann, Flo)

14. Lady Punnet's Garden
    If The Rain's Got To Fall (Kipps, Ensemble)

Act Two:

1. Folkestone Promenade
   The One Who's Run Away (Kipps, Chitterlow)

2. Lady Punnet's House
   Pick Out A Simple Tune (Kipps, Ensemble)

3. Outside the Hope and Anchor Pub
   I Never Get Anything Right/I Know Who I Am (Ann, Kipps)

4. A Plot of Land
   We'll Build A Palace/ I Only Want A Little House (Mrs. Walsingham, James, Lady Punnet, Mr. Maxwell, Kipps, Helen)

5. The Hope and Anchor Pub
   In The Middle There's Me (Kipps, Apprentices)

6. Folkestone Promenade
   Long Ago – Reprise (Kipps, Ann)

7. The Walsingham House

8. Folkestone Promenade

9. The Hope and Anchor Pub
   Flash, Bang, Wallop! (Kipps, Ann, Sid, Pierce, Buggins, Flo, Photographer, Ensemble)

   Flash, Bang, Wallop! – Reprise (Chitterlow, Company)

The recording or streaming of this performance is strictly prohibited.



CAST

Arthur Kipps	Tom Nunan
Ann Pornick	Cath Bryant
Helen Walsingham	Heather Stockwell
Mr. Chitterlow	Nigel Cole
Flo Evans	Aggie Holland
Sid Pornick	Jonathan Warriss-Simmons
Buggins	Mathew Madeley
Pierce	Callum Akehurst-Ryan
James Walsingham	Sebastian Roughley
Mrs Walsingham (Tues, Thurs mat, Fri)	Louise Ellard
Mrs Walsingham (Mon, Tues mat, Wed, Thurs)	Lizzie Brignall
Aunt Susan	Rebecca Tarry
Uncle Bert	Russell Bramley
Mr. Shalford/Vicar/Photographer	Jason Thomas
Lady Punnet	Clair Jardella

Mrs. Bindo-Botting	Tracy Sorgiovanni
Lady Dacre	Sarah Perkins
Miss Hayes	Gita Singham-Willis
Mr. Maxwell/Policeman	Martin Wilcox
Carshot	Chris Nash
Miss Ross	Georgina Skinner
Foster/Pub Landlord	Darren Moss
Pub Landlady	Tash Wills
Mary	Laura Grey
Young Arthur	Charlie McDowell
Young Ann	Elsa Clarke

Ensemble

Joe Black, Griffin Godsick, Laura Grant, Lindy Hennessy, Lucy Hennessy, Juliet Manners, Helen Lowe, Gemma Melhuish, Anna Strain, Rachel Williams.



Creative Team

Director	Deb McDowell
Musical Director	Janet Simpson
Choreographer	Jen Moorhead

Band

Keyboards	Tom Chippendale and Millie Millington
Reeds	Verena Watkiss, Laura Hosken and Alex Burley
Trumpets	Mitch Jones and Trevor Irving
Trombones	David Nicholas and Ian Davies
Drums/Percussion	Ross Hamilton
Bass	Zoe Curnow
Rehearsal Pianist	Tom Theakston

Production Team

Production manager	Helen Lowe
Technical Advisor	Wesley Henderson-Roe
Set design and build	Greg Wilmot
Stage Manager	Richard Coveney
Assistant Stage Manager	Danny Rogers
Stage crew	Robin Gow, Janet Jones, Roger Myers, Michelle Spencer, Tracy Townsend Sian Walters, Eric Williams
Lighting Design	Ben Blaber
Lighting Team	Meg Hird, Tony Pike, Chris Pike
Sound Design/Operation	Stuart Vaughan for StuSsound.com
Sound team	Jo Epps, Stewart Gedall-Epps
Properties Lead	Jane Bean
Properties Team	Julie Coveney, Veronica Martin, Anne Pringle
Wardrobe Lead	Mags Wrightson
Assistant Wardrobe Lead	Terrie Cresswell
Wardrobe Team	Lesley Alexander, Suzanne Strachan, Zoe Harvey-Lee, Fiona Breaks, Margaret Bolton, Julia Cutcliffe, Sandra Mortimer, Teddington Theatre Club Sewing Bee
Wigs, Hair & Make-up	Louise Ellard-Turnbull
Chaperones	Julie Coveney, Marilyn Pike
Marketing manager	Faye Brann
Marketing team	Callum Akehurst-Ryan, Louise Ellard-Turnbull Jen Moorhead, Anna Strain
Publicity Design and Photography	Paul Madeley, Louise Ellard-Turnbull

BROS Theatre Company would like to thank:
Emma Knight; Wimbledon High School; Zoe Curnow, Sian Kennedy, Simon Hutchings, Vanessa Jackson, David Gibson and all the staff at the Minack Theatre; Helston Theatre; Lottie Walker; Julie Law at St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Barnes; Marie at the Barn Church, Kew; The Shepperton Wig company; Teddington Theatre Club; White Light Ltd.

JOIN US

BROS Theatre Company is over 110 years old and continues to win local and regional awards for its individual members as well as ensemble work and overall production values. We perform in a number of venues in south-west London, but The Minack Theatre holds a special place in our hearts and this year sees us celebrating 30 years of working together, with Kipps being the 14th musical we have performed at this wonderful venue.

We are lucky to have a wealth of talent on stage but new members are always welcome! BROS have an open audition policy, and unless a particular characteristic is stated within the character descriptions, we welcome auditions from everyone, and actively encourage auditions from people currently underrepresented within amateur dramatics. As an inclusive society, we welcome new members in all capacities, on stage and vitally, behind the scenes – so if treading the boards isn't your thing, we have plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of our family. In addition to shows, we have numerous social events throughout the year, including BROS Academy: a series of workshops and classes for members and non-members to hone their stage skills; group trips to West End shows, summer and Christmas parties, and our biennial awards evening, The BROSCARS, celebrating the efforts and achievements of all. If you're London based and want to find out more about joining us, visit our website at www.brostheatrecompany.org or follow us on social media. We have a full programme of productions for 2023 and 2024 already, and very much look forward to meeting you!








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Minack Theatre

2023



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