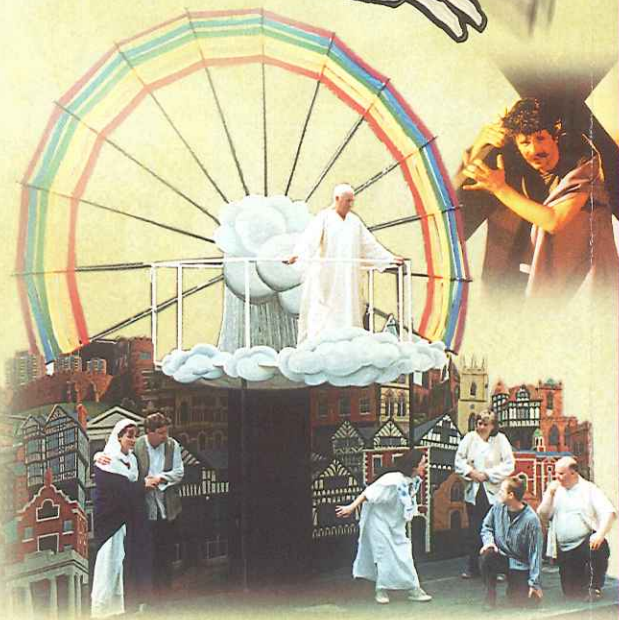


CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS

CMP/4/14/2

How to be an Angel



June 30 - July 19
2003



As you may know, 'angels' are people who invest in plays...

While our Chester Mystery Plays' charitable status means we cannot offer financial returns, there are other **rewards for anyone who would like to be associated with us**. The city's medieval plays are a treasured part of Britain's cultural heritage and with your support, the next production in 2003 - the first of the third millennium - could be better than ever.

By investing in us you will be investing in one of the country's rarest forms of theatre. By investing in us you will ensure your company's name on permanent record in the history of Chester's cultural life and know you have seriously contributed to our heritage.

Robust in that they have straddled the reign of 30 British monarchs since Richard II, yet fragile in that the staging of this 14th century invention requires 21st century funding,

Chester Mystery Plays are now actively welcoming sponsorship for the 2003 production.

In return, sponsors' names and logos will be displayed when possible on supporting material such as stationery, posters, leaflets and other promotional aids including our new web site.

Qualifying donations enable your logo on our web site to be linked to your own site.

Why the plays are so special

Few towns were able to stage mystery plays in medieval times and original texts have survived in only five English cities. Chester's original texts are the most complete in existence. By defying an ecclesiastical ban in the 1500s, Chester also managed to stage its plays for a much longer time than anywhere else.

But what are they exactly?

Earthy, funny, moving dramas taken from the Bible to depict the story of mankind, these plays were first performed on open waggons by Chester guildsmen in the 1300s. The guilds were a powerful influence in the city, much as commercial enterprise is today. There was no manufactured entertainment in those days, of course, and such plays could be said to be the first street theatre.

A cornerstone of national culture, Chester Mystery Plays attract visitors from all over the world as well as in Britain. The last full-scale production in 1997 involved over 700 amateur cast and crew of all ages from throughout the community. It attracted an audience of more than 10,000 over 21 performances, generated 2,000 column inches of editorial and featured on BBCTV and Channel 4 programmes as well as regional TV and radio. Your company name could be sharing this wide profile.

Work on the 2003 production got underway in the year 2000 and preparations are now in full swing, combining talented individuals from all over the north west with a few carefully selected professionals to lead the team.



Chester Mystery Plays 2003, directed by Robin Goddard, will take place on the Cathedral Green in the open air. The audience will be seated under cover. Each performance will last approximately three hours, including the interval when refreshments will be available.



Arrangements for corporate hospitality may be made.

www.chestermysteryplays.com

The show must go on...and your company can play a part

People all over the world eagerly await news of the dates of the five year cycle of Chester Mystery Plays and often make special journeys to the city just to see them. They are studied by all nationalities and form the subject of academic theses and books. The essence of medieval drama and wit, the plays have survived through the centuries, their magic formula attracting increasingly large crowds, pleasing old fans and always tempting new ones.



Here is an opportunity to share in this valuable aspect of Chester's life, help sustain it and therefore invest in its future.

In demonstrating your own interests in this way you would be nurturing one of England's greatest dramatic gifts to the world, a work of historic richness that belongs to Chester alone.

An 'entertainment' that portrays the human spirit in its eternal confusion and has done so since the 1300s, hopefully it will continue for centuries to come - if we all play our part.

As is demonstrated here, the practicalities of sponsorship can help ensure long-lasting gains for us all and most importantly help generate the long term success of these Plays written so long ago.

Innovative artistic direction and communal enthusiasm are two vital components in meeting regional arts criteria. Education was never so effortless in watching performances of this early English drama in productions which exclude no facet of society. It is truly one of the greatest "investments in people".

Chester Mystery Plays Ltd, an independent company with charitable status, is committed to staging the plays every five years and is specially formed for that purpose. The Lord Mayor of Chester and the Dean of Chester traditionally sit on the board which appoints a professional director and administrator.

BANK OF SCOTLAND



Urenco
(Copenhurst) Limited

Patron: The Lord Lt of Cheshire, WA Bromley Davenport

Artistic director of 2003 is

Robin Goddard, a freelance director, tutor and consultant

in theatre.

A well-known

and highly regarded

theatre

professional,

Robin's vision

for 2003 is an

exciting one involving large-

scale spectacle and modern

technology. He plans to

mount the plays in epic style

against a Chester backdrop

and give the audience a

thoroughly enjoyable and

entertaining experience from

start to finish.

In two parts, each one is a

performance in its own right

and ticketed separately.

A veteran of Chester Mystery

Plays, Robin has acted in

them three times and

directed students in

individual plays from the



Not only does such a special event increase tourism to the city but by causing the local community to reconnect their own history and nurture their cultural heritage, so it aids the social and economic well-being of the region.

Chester Mystery Plays are not just a cultural issue in the old

A magnet for anyone interested in England's rich mix of cultural life, Chester Mystery Plays put the city well and truly in the limelight. As each director interprets the plays in his own way, every one of his huge cast and crew - making up one of the largest community events in the theatre world - add their unique contribution to create what is essentially a modern take on medieval quirkiness. Such an electric combination produces an entertainment every bit as enjoyable as it was in the beginning and in doing so stretches the hand of human drama and the eternal foibles of mankind across the centuries.

Do join us, do consider being an angel

sense, encompassing the arts and many disciplines within it. They are also about drawing the community together, creating an upward surge economically and heightening play we'd love to hear from you.

This is truly an entertainment to discuss sponsorship

please contact

CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS Sponsorship Committee

that affects the fabric of society, a precious element of the arts

stretches the hand of human drama and the eternal foibles of

which enriches everyone who becomes involved.

Reply form

Yes, I would like to know more about sponsoring

2003

Name (Title)..... (First name)..... (Surname).....

Company name.....

Address.....

Tel No..... Fax No.....

email.....

If you would like
to support us

Whether you are interested
in general sponsorship or
wish to support a particular
play we'd love to hear

from you.

To discuss sponsorship

please contact

CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS Sponsorship Committee

The Secretary,

34 Cuppin Street,
Chester CH1 4BN

Or fill in the form below
and send it to

34 Cuppin Street,
Chester CH1 4BN

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