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The
Chester Cycle
of **Mystery**
Plays
1982

THE CHESHIRE PLAYERS

President: Her Grace Anne, Duchess of Westminster

present

The Chester Cycle of Mystery Plays

in the

Precincts of Chester Castle

by kind permission of Cheshire County Council

Wednesday 23 June Saturday 3 July 1982
at 7.45 p.m.

DIRECTED BY:

PETER DORNFORD-MAY

Tickets in covered stand at £6.00, £4.50, £2.00
available from Mrs G. Wasley — see attached form, and
from 23 June 1982 at The Mystery Play Booking Office,
Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Chester.
Telephone: Chester (0244) 40144 Extension 2111.

Each performance will end at approximately 10.45 p.m.
Free Car Parking in Castle Square.

Refreshments will be available prior to performances and
during the interval.

First performed over 700 years ago, the Chester Mystery Plays are the earliest of only four surviving cycles handed down since mediaeval times, which now remain in this country. The 1982 production, to be presented in the historic surroundings of Chester Castle, will offer a rare opportunity to see this spectacular presentation, which is performed only once every five years, and which forms a priceless part of Chester's rich heritage. There will be only eleven performances and early booking is advised.

According to the banes or proclamation read before the 1600 performance, the author of the Chester plays was declared to be a certain monk of the Chester Abbey named Randall Higgenett, who travelled three times to Rome to beg leave of the Pope to play them in the English tongue. The Mayor of Chester in 1328 was responsible for the original staging of the plays which were performed during the years of his mayoralty by the citizens of Chester in open pageants. Up to the end of the 13th century onwards the plays emerged from the churches into the open streets while crafts guilds took over from the clergy the responsibility for the presentation of the plays. The theme of each of these great mediaeval cycles was vast being the whole cosmic story ranging from the creation of the world to the last judgment, as revealed in the stories of the old and new Testaments. With the reformation the plays were viewed with some suspicion by the authorities. They were played in 1572, 1575 and possibly in 1600. From then on there is silence until their revival in 1951. Since then they have been presented on a number of occasions, the last production being in 1977.

In 1982 the Cheshire Players will present the old testament story, reflecting the way in which the Guilds depicted the plays in the middle ages. The new testament will incorporate a cast of over one hundred and twenty players to present a very exciting and spectacular interpretation.

To: Mrs G. Wasley, Newlyn, Whitchurch Road, Christleton, Chester. (Telephone 36703)

Please forward tickets for the performances as follows:—

	Number required	Price
Wednesday 23 June		
Thursday 24 June		
Friday 25 June		
Saturday 26 June		
Sunday 27 June		
Monday 28 June		
Tuesday 29 June		
Wednesday 30 June		
Thursday 1 July		
Friday 2 July		
Saturday 3 July		

A cheque for made payable to Cheshire Players is enclosed, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Bookings accepted from 1 April.
Tickets dispatched early May.