

KIPPS

THE NEW HALF A SIXPENCE MUSICAL

Bridewell Theatre, 5-9 November 2019

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

Original Songs by David Heneker

Book by Julian Fellowes

New Music and Lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe

Orchestrations by William David Brohn

Co-Created by Cameron Mackintosh

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

AUDITION NOTICE

Geoids Musical Theatre is delighted to announce auditions for our upcoming production of *Half A Sixpence*. We are excited to confirm that we will be staging the updated version of the show with new songs from Stiles and Drew (*Honk*, *Betty Blue Eyes*) and book by Julian Fellowes (*Downton Abbey*) which premiered at Chichester Festival Theatre in 2016 before a successful London transfer.

About the Show

Half A Sixpence is a musical adaptation of **H.G. Wells**'s disguised autobiographical novel *Kipps: The Story Of A Simple Soul*, based on the his unhappy apprenticeship as a draper at Hyde's Drapery Emporium in Southsea.

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, but he likes his fun just like any other, except not quite.

When Kipps unexpectedly inherits a fortune that propels him into high society, it confuses everything he thought he knew about life. Watching him wrestle with his new identity is his childhood companion and not-quite girlfriend, Ann Pornick, who sees with dismay how Arthur is being made over in a new image by the beautiful and classy Helen Walsingham. She is always there with helpful hints on how Arthur could improve himself and make his life richer and more meaningful, if only he would believe in himself, and listen to her. Both of these young women love Arthur – there is no doubt about that – but which 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.

The original production of 1965 was nominated for nine Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Direction and Best Original Score. This new version reunited bookwriter **Julian Fellowes** with **George Stiles** and **Anthony Drewe**, the musical team that co-creator **Cameron Mackintosh** first put together to create the smash-hit stage adaptation of *Mary Poppins* with Disney. Nominated for three Oliviers, this show provides an exuberant score that is inspired by and features several of composer **David Heneker**'s memorable songs from the original production,

which he co-wrote with **Beverley Cross**, including the show-stopping *Flash Bang Wallop*, *Money To Burn* and the irresistible *Half A Sixpence*.

If you would like to be involved in the show in any other capacity or have any questions please contact us at sixpence@geoidsmt.co.uk. **If you would like to audition please email us with your preferred slot.**

Performances

5th November – 9th November at 7:30pm 19:30 with a matinee on Saturday 9th November, 14:30, all at the Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, Blackfriars, London, EC4Y 8EQ

Casting

We are aiming to create a production that is high-energy, fast-moving, joyful and heart-warming, The show will be supported by strong production values enforced by your commitment to the most professional possible result. The nature of this show requires a diverse cast of all ages who are strong singers and accomplished actors. We expect all parts to require a basic level of dance ability with some ensemble and principal parts requiring more advanced skills.

Please come prepared to stretch yourself, and support everyone in achieving a fantastic experience.

List of Characters

A full character breakdown will be available at the audition workshop.

Note: Some roles may be combined, this will be subject to final casting

Principals

Arthur Kipps, Ann Pornick, Helen Walsingham

Supporting Roles

Sid Prnick, Buggins, Pearce, Mrs Botting, Chitterlow, Mr. Shlford, Mrs Walshingham

There are numerous other featured roles which will be cast individually or as part of ensemble.

Pre-Audition Workshop

We will be holding a pre-audition workshop on Sunday 9th June, 13:00-16:00 at London Bubble Theatre Company, 5, Elephant Lane, Rotherhithe, SE16 4JD. This will be an opportunity to meet the team and hear more about the show and our concept for this production, as well as to learn the choreography and some of the music. Spaces are limited so please register your place at the workshop in advance by emailing sixpence@geoidsmt.co.uk. There is no charge for attending the workshop.

Auditions

There will be two first round auditions dates; **Wednesday 10th July and Saturday 13th July**.

The initial round audition will involve a group dance audition and an individual singing audition - lasting around 45 minutes in total. Please email requesting your audition and preferred date and we will respond with your corresponding slot. Auditions are first come first served so please don't delay in emailing.

- **Wednesday, 10th July at 19:00** at London Bubble Theatre Company, Rotherhithe, which is a short walk from Bermondsey or Rotherhithe stations
- **Saturday, 13th July between 12:00 and 18:00** also at London Bubble Theatre Company.

You will only be required for the 45 minute slot you are allocated following your registration.

Members and non-members of Geoids Musical Theatre may audition for this show. We ask that non-members consider a £5 donation to support the costs.

If you have any questions about the auditions process please email sixpence@geoidsmt.co.uk as an additional audition date may be possible. **You MUST email to request an audition slot.**

Although each session will begin with a quick warm up led by the choreographer, to maximise time, we encourage you to find a space to start warming up ahead of your start time. This will be followed by a dance call. Video of the required dance routines (Standard and Advanced) will be provided on request following the pre-audition workshop on 9 June.

The individual singing audition will be a closed audition in front of the audition panel. A male and female suggested piece has been chosen from the libretto and again will be provided after the pre-audition workshop alongside your registration. You can, alternatively perform a song of your choice for no longer than 2 minutes. An accompanist will be provided. Please bring sheet music, backing tracks will not be accepted.

This will be followed by a reading for male / female, principals / ensemble which will also be provided with your registration.

If you are only interested in a specific role, please be honest in noting so on your audition form provided on the day. It will not affect whether you are considered for that role, but it will avoid other potential performers being disappointed if we cast you and you drop out.

Recalls

Recalls will be held on Wednesday 17th July. These will involve singing and script reading depending on the character. Recalls will be held at Wheatsheaf Hall, Vauxhall. Recalls will start from 19:00, however, any specific call times will be notified in advance. Please be advised that not being recalled does not necessarily mean you have not been cast in the show.

Rehearsals

A full cast read-through will be held on Saturday July 20th at 13:00. This will be a chance for the full cast to meet and go over the full materials in advance of the Summer break.

Full cast rehearsals will then be held on Wednesday evenings from 19:00– 22:00 commencing 28th August. Wednesdays will focus on music and script work. This rehearsal will generally be held at Wheatsheaf Hall, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall SW8 2UP.

Weekend rehearsals will be held on Saturdays commencing 31st August. These rehearsals will held at Bubble Theatre Company, Rotherhithe.

There may be additional rehearsals to be determined through the process. This will be arranged based on schedules of relevant cast and production team members.

Availability for rehearsals is a key factor that will be considered by the audition panel and you will be required to notify us of any unavailability for Wednesday and Saturday rehearsals on your audition form. Unfortunately, if there are a number of absences that cannot be reconciled against the proposed rehearsal schedule, we may not be able to cast you. While it is understood that people's busy lives may result in certain unavailability developing after we start work on the show, you are required to promptly notify the production team of any changes in your availability. In the event of major changes in availability from what is notified on your audition form, your participation in the show may be revisited.

Required Availability

Aside from the rehearsals previously stated, all cast will be required on the below dates:

Saturday 2nd November - All day – Final run

Sunday 3rd November All day – Get in and Technical Rehearsal

Monday 4th November from 18:00 – Dress Rehearsal

Call time on performance dates will be 18:00.

Fees

Show fees for Half A Sixpence will be £90, which helps cover production related costs including rehearsal venue hire. You may pay this fee as a lump sum or by agreed installments.

Additionally we require that all performers to become paid up members of Geoids Musical Theatre at a cost of £15 for the year. If you have donated £5 at audition this will be deducted from the cost of membership.

Who are Geoids Musical Theatre?

Geoids Musical Theatre are a central London-based amateur theatre company founded in 1930 by Gilbert and Sullivan-loving students of the Geology and Geography departments at King's College London. With charitable organisation status and in affiliation with NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association), we strive to produce quality productions with the highest performance and production values. We recognise the importance of all people who come together on stage and back stage, to create entertaining and engaging theatre and we seek to establish a supportive environment where members can enjoy, learn, and develop their skills through this process.

You can also find us in the following places:

Website: www.geoidsmt.co.uk

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @GeoidsMusicalT

Production Team

Luke Renwick – Director

Luke began directing after being a member of the National Youth Theatre and attending GSA where he trained in Musical Theatre. He went on to set up his own performing arts company in the Midlands and directed a number of shows including Footloose, The Crucible, The Wedding Singer, Spring Awakening, Parade and Hair. He also worked as a director for a theatre company in Switzerland directing shows including Joseph, Blood Brothers, Alice in Wonderland and The See-Saw Tree. By day, Luke now teaches in North London and is extremely excited to direct his first show with Geoids.

Issie Osborne – Musical Director

Issie moved to London a year ago after graduating with a Masters in Ethnomusicology from Durham University. She works as a music teacher but has always enjoyed being involved with all things Musical Theatre. Recent musical directing credits include A Little Night Music (Geoids), Legally Blonde (DULOG), Mary Poppins (EnterCIC), Seussical (DULOG), Rent (DULOG), Songs For A New World (TDTC), Spamalot (DULOG) and Sweeney Todd (DULOG).

Paul Brookland Williams – Choreographer

Paul started dancing at the age of 12 years old and studied professionally at Merseyside Dance and Drama Centre. Upon graduating he became part of Dougie Squires Next Generation Dance Troupe before spending seven years in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Starlight Express. He has performed at the Bridewell in Legally Blonde (Carlos), Rent (Angel), On the Twentieth Century (Conductor Flanagan), A Chorus Line (Don), Top Hat (Ensemble/ Male Dance Captain) and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (Ensemble). His choreography credits are Little Shop of Horrors (Liverpool Operatic Society) 9 to 5 The Musical & Fame (Centre Stage) Sideshow (Bromley Players) and Pippin (SEDOS).

Giles Burden – Producer

Giles has worked with Geoids for the last 6 years, mostly working in Production or Stage Management roles and has been lucky enough to support the company on previous productions such as Pajama Game, Top Hat, My Fair Lady, On the Twentieth Century, Sunset Boulevard and 42nd Street.