



MMUDS

presents

# THE ELEPHANT MAN

By Bernard Pomerance

# CAST

**JACK ARROWSMITH**  
John Merrick

**SANDY MACKINNON**  
Dr Frederick Treves

**IAN TODD**  
Mr Carr Gomm

**BEC BOLWELL**  
Mrs Kendall

**MEREDITH NEWMAN**  
Ross, Miss Sandwich, Countess

**RICK LINDSAY**  
Bishop How

**LIAM WILSON**  
Lord John, Policeman, Porter

**CATHIE SMITH**  
Pinhead Manager, Duchess

**SIMONE BOYD**  
Pinhead, Princess Alexandra

**SAMUEL ARROWSMITH**  
Conductor, Snork

**JOANNE ARROWSMITH & SUZIE ROBERTS**  
Hospital Nurses

**VICTORIA BROWN**  
Pinhead

**ABIGAIL & IVY HERON**  
Street Urchins



# PRODUCTION CREW

**Director & Producer - Karen Pirie**

**Stage Manager - Camille Murphy**

**Set - Rick Lindsay, Scott Ersvaer**

**Props - Joanne Arrowsmith**

**Costumes - Karen Pirie**

**Sound set-up & Operatoration - Bernadette Gifford, Michael Isbister**

**Lighting Design & Operation - Chris Williams, Michael Isbister**

**Wig Design - Andy Dolling**

**Props Manager - Joanne Arrowsmith**

**Make-up Manager - Cathie Smith**

**Microphone Manager - Lynne Taylor**

**Stage Crew - Geoff Pitt, Alannah Harper**

**Front of House Manager - Erica Morgan**

**Front of House Crew - Tim Morgan, Atlas Lamont,**

**Charlie Wilson, Sarah Ollerenshaw, Catriona Wilson, James Wilson**

**Poster Design - Daniel Belle**

**Program - Karen Pirie**

**Photography - Kym Stubbs, Daryl Hunt**

**Back stage crew - Jackie Cesnik**

*Special thanks to:*

*Mansfield Coffee Merchant, Mansfield Produce Store, Rosehaven Shop, Geroge & Al Roy,*

*Mansfield Courier, Delatite Wines.*



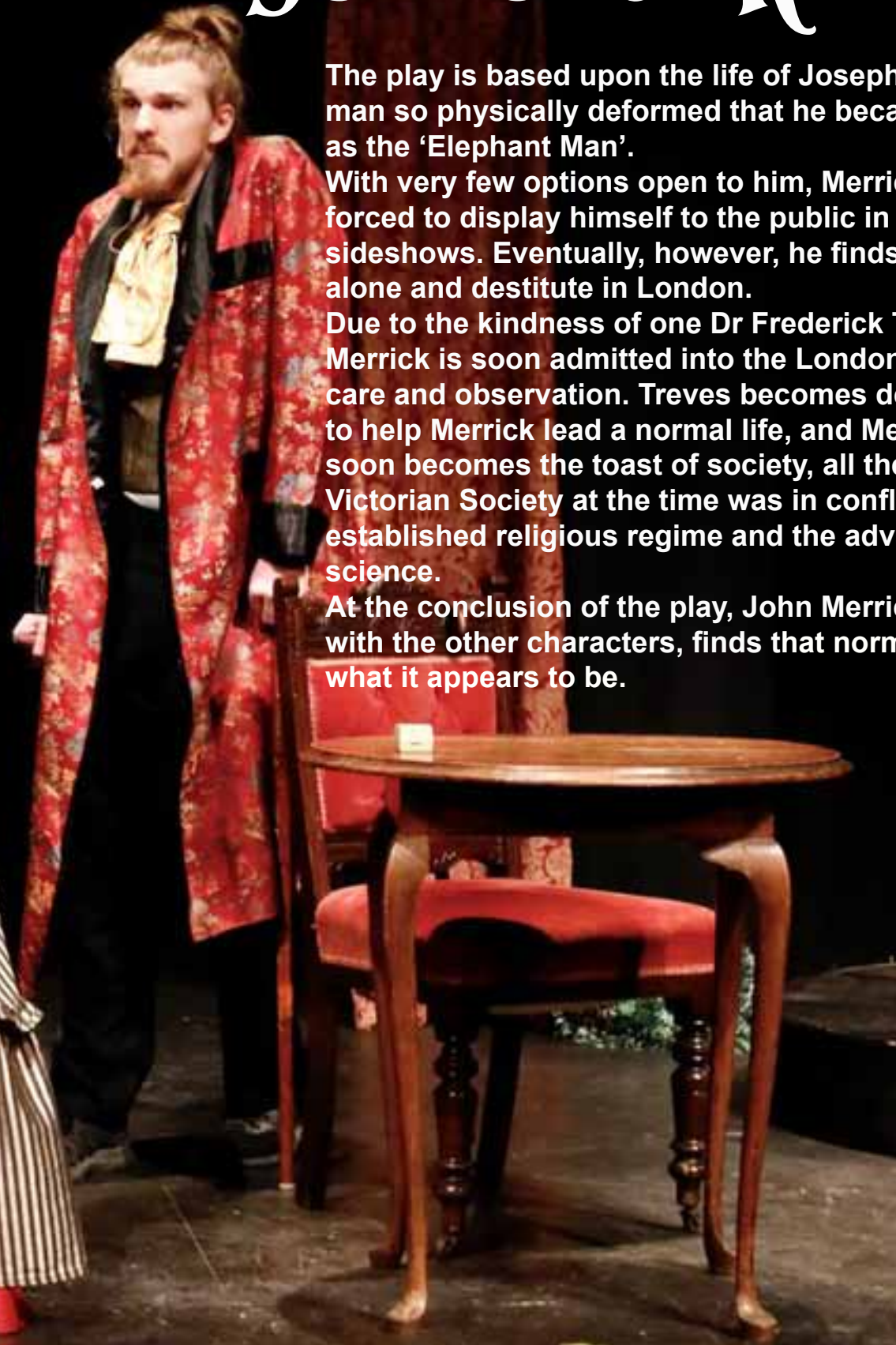
# SCIENCE & RELIGION

The play is based upon the life of Joseph Merrick, a man so physically deformed that he became known as the 'Elephant Man'.

With very few options open to him, Merrick is forced to display himself to the public in travelling sideshows. Eventually, however, he finds himself alone and destitute in London.

Due to the kindness of one Dr Frederick Treves, Merrick is soon admitted into the London Hospital for care and observation. Treves becomes determined to help Merrick lead a normal life, and Merrick soon becomes the toast of society, all the while Victorian Society at the time was in conflict between established religious regime and the advancement of science.

At the conclusion of the play, John Merrick along with the other characters, finds that normality isn't what it appears to be.







**Jack Arrowsmith.** This is my first time on stage in a theatre production and I was lucky enough to land the role of the Elephant Man. As I've delved into the true life of John Merrick, I've discovered that he was an incredibly interesting man but due to his condition he was mis-treated and misunderstood. I'm happy that he found what he was searching for in his life, in that society saw beyond the disfigurement and recognised him as an intelligent and creative person.

**Sandy Mackinnon.** I play the role of Dr Treves. I first played this same role 40 years ago as a 19 year old and have loved the play ever since. The role is one of deep psychological complexity as it traces the evolution of Treves from a self-approving and idealistic young doctor to a broken man who comes to doubt everything that he once thought unshakeably certain.



**Ian Todd.** In my first serious role in a MMuDS play, I portray the administrator of the London Hospital, Carr Gomm. He is based on a true figure in the Elephant Man's story. He did, in fact, write to The Times in order to raise the funds for John Merrick's stay at the hospital. In my mind, he came from working class roots and lifted his position in life through dint of a good education and hard work. Hence his passion for helping the poor of London, while harbouring a healthy disdain for the upper crust of society. Finally, he is a man of science, with all that it entails, like me.



**Bec Bolwell.** I have been involved in MMuDS since my teenage years and this role as Mrs Kendal is a new challenge into the portrayal of a character whose relationship with the 'Elephant Man' proves to be an unconventional one. Dame Madge Kendall in truth was renowned for her lifelong commitment to the theatre a parallel that I would love to see in my own life. My daughters Abigail & Ivy are also very keen and talented participants in this production and can also be seen on stage with us each night.



**Meredith Newman.** The Elephant Man explores the beautiful and tragic complexities of the human condition and our social consciousness. It also reminds us that there are always two or more sides to every story. I play the role Merrick's manager, Ross. His real name was Tom Norman, a well-established showman in London who agreed to take over the Elephant Man act from Merrick's previous managers and employ him on an equal share of the takings. From all accounts, Tom was a good man towards Merrick, who himself said that Tom had treated him with 'kindness and consideration'.



**Rick Lindsay.** Bishop How has been a fun role. In today's social context everything he says seems ridiculous, so it's easy to ham it up. But in real life, Waltham How was apparently a progressive, but must have felt threatened by the rise of science and Darwinism. He was austere, and shunned the trimmings of his office. He even wanted a simple flat headstone as a memorial in his church yard. He was apparently a kind man and probably had the best intentions for John Merrick. So I'll send him a posthumous text after closing night to apologise for making fun of him.



**Liam Wilson.** It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance Ladies & Lords, although I do have some business in the city soon so I must be off. Lots of important meetings to attend and deals to sign. You know how it is being in high society - a morning meeting with Her Majesty Queen Victoria, lunch with the Prime Minister Robert Cecil and then a visit to see London's latest attraction - The Elephant Man. I have big plans for him. Anyway, farewell until next time. Sincerely, Lord John.

**Cathie Smith.** The Manager of the Pinheads. In the 1880's King Leopold II of Belgium was also the founder and sole owner of The Congo Free State. His administration of the Congo was a reign of brutality which included torture and murder which has since been described as "Crimes against humanity". So it is no surprise that freak shows were a big part of entertainment in Belgium at that time. Birth defects that weren't understood, at the time, meant that afflicted people were treated as less than human and exploited to make money for their "managers". People who suffered from Microcephaly were commonly referred to as Pinheads. My character is one of the people who exploited their charges and treated them as less than human.

**Simone Boyd.** The Elephant Man is Simone's first play with MMUDS, having been involved with an amateur theatre company in the Yarra Valley many years ago. Simone has enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside a diverse cast and crew, and is looking forward to being involved in future productions.

**Joanne Arrowsmith.** I feel that my role in life as mother of four boys has been a great study to play the role of a hospital nurse in this production of The Elephant Man. Our involvement with MMuDS has been a wonderful way to meet new people in the community since we moved here from Melbourne only a few years ago. I'm really enjoying being in this production with two of my boys.

**Suzie Roberts.** I will be playing a nurse in the late 19th Century, which is something I can relate to as a daycare worker. The importance of a nurse hasn't changed over time, however their roles have become significantly larger, more complex and they are more highly regarded.

**Samuel Arrowsmith.** The Elephant Man is my debut theatre performance. I am playing various characters including the conductor and Snork, the hospital orderly. I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of working in this production and thank all the more experienced cast members for their support and encouragement.

**Victoria Brown.** Victoria Brown - transport planner by day and pinhead by night. Wife to one and mother of two. Having watched the Elephant Man film as a child, I was keen to be part of this theatre production. To me, pinheads do not seem to have a fight or flight response but more a fright response. The world around them is confusing and complicated & they are trying to survive by doing as told. Yet they are capable of being and achieving more if someone would just give them the chance.



# PATRONS

Many thanks to MMuDS Patrons whose support enables us to make big plans and realise dreams.

Al Rozefsky  
Ann & John Herbert  
Anne & Ian Todd  
Bernadette & Jon Gifford  
Bob & Isabel Appleby  
Bonnie Doon Caravan Park  
Carey's Paint Place  
Carrun Squires - Naturopath | Clinical Nutritionist  
Cat & Pete Wright  
Catriona & James Wilson  
Central General Practice Pty Ltd  
Chris & Julie Walpole  
Cindy McLeish, MP. State Member for Eildon  
Deb & Brian Dodgson  
Delatite Dental  
Eisner's Guardian Pharmacy  
Emily & Harvey Odd  
Jackie Cesnik  
Joan and Tony Tehan  
Karyn Hoseason  
Kate & Bill Parsons  
Kieren & Catherine Innes-Irons

Linda Terry & Michael Lamin  
Mal, Ryan & Glen Solicitors  
Mansfield Coffee Merchant  
Mansfield & District Community Bank  
Mansfield Financial Planning  
Mansfield Printing  
Mansfield Regional Produce Store  
Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School & Kindergarten  
Marie Sellstrom & John McCombe  
Marion & Robert Friday  
Marsha & Andrew Grimwade  
Monica & Monty Sketcher  
Paul & Maja Valente  
Peter Brett  
Pop Stoney & Matthew Morrow  
Raffindale Nominees  
Rick & Charlotte Lindsay  
Ron Black  
Sally & Jeremy Madin  
Sally Harvey & Chuck Wark  
Tim & Nicole Ross  
Sue McDonald & Ed Adamson  
Miriam Zolin



MMuDS

MMuDS has been presenting performing arts programs since 1982, providing entertainment and participation opportunities for community members. MMuDS also supports complimentary arts activities, including MAD Orchestras, Play Reading Group, Local Vocals Choir and The Actor Factory youth program.

Patron support helps MMuDS to create productions of high artistic standard, within a pricing framework, which promotes community accessibility.

The support of Patrons is vital to the long-term success of local theatre in Mansfield and the encouragement of ever more ambitious projects for the enjoyment of our audiences, cast and production personnel.

To thank MMuDS Patrons we will provide you with two complimentary tickets to MMuDS productions. Our appreciation will also be demonstrated by the acknowledgement of Patrons in show programs, newsletters, on our website and in our annual report.

Thank you again for your generous support.