

Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms present

'A BIG SWEEPING STORY WITH REAL EMOTION!'

THE STAGE



FIRST WAVE OF CAST ANNOUNCED FOR BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL UK TOUR

Mark Moraghan and Eric Potts return to reprise their roles

The producers of **Helen Forrester's By The Waters Of Liverpool** are thrilled to announced the **first wave of cast** for the play's major UK tour in **Spring 2020**.

By The Waters Of Liverpool is the stunning production from the team that brought you **Helen Forrester's timeless story, Twopence To Cross The Mersey**.

After a hugely successful premiere run at the **Liverpool Empire Theatre** last Autumn, the play will now make its way round the country telling the next part of Helen's fascinating tale.

Tour dates have already been announced for **Wirral, Stockport, Warrington, St Helens, Lancaster, Crewe, Southport, Rhyl, Swansea, Darlington and Malvern**. The second leg of the tour will be announced shortly.

Writer and friend of Helen Forrester, Rob Fennah has written both the stage play versions of **Twopence To Cross The Mersey** and **By The Waters Of Liverpool**.

The new touring production is again produced by **Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms** and is **directed by Gareth Tudor Price**.

The creative team are delighted to reveal the first cast members for the 2020 tour.

Mark Moraghan will play John Forrester (Helen's father). Mark previously played 'Father' in the 2007 and 2009 adaptations of **Twopence To Cross The Mersey**. He returned to play the role in **By The Waters Of Liverpool** in 2018. Mark is best known for his roles in **Holby City**, **Coronation Street** and **Brookside**.

Coronation Street and **Doctor Who's**, **Eric Potts** will play 'Mr Ellis', Helen's fiery-tempered boss. Eric has also appeared in **Peak Practice**, **Heartbeat**, **The Royal**, **Last of the Summer Wine** and **Steel River Blues**.

Other confirmed cast members are **Lynn Francis** as the 'Deaconess'; **Danny O'Brien** as 'Harry O'Dwyer'; **Chloe McDonald** as 'Fiona' (Helen's sister); and **Roy Carruthers** as 'The Detective'.

The search is now taking place to find the lead role of 'Helen' - together with 'Mother' and 'Alan' (Helen's brother).

By The Waters Of Liverpool is the next chapter of Helen Forrester's life story. The production follows the smash-hit success of **Twopence To Cross The Mersey** and is being brought to audiences by the team behind both the musical and stage play versions of the award-winning true story.

Millions of people know Helen Forrester's **best-selling volumes of autobiography – Twopence To Cross The Mersey, Liverpool Miss and By The Waters Of Liverpool**.

By The Waters Of Liverpool is a period drama set in the 1930s. The story opens in 1935. Helen Forrester is 16 years old and fighting a bitter battle with her parents for the right to educate herself and go out to work.

During the Great Depression, Helen's father lost his fortune when the stock market and the family were suddenly thrown into poverty. Leaving behind the nannies, servants and comfortable middle-class life in the South West of England, the Forrester's chose Liverpool as the place to start over. They were in for a terrible shock. Taken out of school to care for her younger brothers and sisters while her parents struggled to re-build their shattered lives, Helen is treated as an unpaid slave and desperate to escape.

By 1939, now aged 20 and with Britain on the brink of war, she has never been kissed by a man. But things start looking up for Helen when she meets a tall strong seaman and falls in love.

And in celebration of what would have been Helen Forrester's **100th Birthday**, the 11-week tour will open at Wirral's **New Brighton Floral Pavilion from 3 to 8 March 2020** – just a few miles from where she was born.

The tour will then move on to the **Stockport Plaza from 10 to 12 March; Warrington Parr Hall on 14 and 15 March; St Helens Theatre Royal from 17 to 21 March; Lancaster Grand on 23 and 24 March; Crewe Lyceum on 25 and 26 March;** before heading to **Southport Theatre on 27 and 28 March.**

It continues with dates at **Rhyl Pavilion Theatre from 31 March to 4 April; Swansea Grand Theatre on 6 and 7 April; Darlington Hippodrome from 9 to 11 April;** followed by **Malvern Theatres on 14 and 15 April.**

Playwright Rob Fennah commented: *“We had an amazing response when we premiered By The Waters Of Liverpool last autumn at the Empire Theatre in Liverpool. Helen Forrester’s books resonate with millions of people across the UK and many more around the world.*

“This adaptation of By The Waters Of Liverpool features a sizeable chunk from Liverpool Miss, Helen’s second volume of autobiography, together with flashbacks to Twopence To Cross The Mersey, so newcomers to Helen’s story will get a complete picture of her life.

“As with its prequel, Twopence To Cross The Mersey, this next instalment of Helen’s autobiography is once again staged using a ‘narrative style’ of theatre whereby our cast of nine take on multiple roles. This way of telling a story is new to many audiences and those who witness it are amazed at how such an epic tale can be told in just a couple of hours.”

By The Waters Of Liverpool by **Helen Forrester** has sold more than **a million books**. Now this is your chance to see it come to life in this exciting new stage play adaptation.

Adapted by Rob Fennah · Directed by Gareth Tudor Price
Produced by Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms
Fully endorsed by the Helen Forrester Estate

Website: www.bythewatersofliverpool.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ByTheWatersThePlay

LISTING INFORMATION

Helen Forrester’s

BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL

FLORAL PAVILION

Tuesday 3 March – Sunday 8 March 2020

Marine Promenade, New Brighton, Wirral, CH45 2JS

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.floralpavilion.com

Box Office: 0151 666 0000

STOCKPORT PLAZA

Tuesday 10 March – Thursday 12 March 2020

Mersey Square, Stockport, SK1 1SP

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.stockportplaza.co.uk

Box Office: 0161 477 7779

WARRINGTON PARR HALL

Saturday 14 March – Sunday 15 March 2020

Palmyra Square, Warrington, WA1 1BL

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: <https://parrhall.culturewarrington.org/whats-on>

Box Office: 01925 442345

ST HELENS THEATRE ROYAL

Tuesday 17 March – Saturday 21 March 2020

Corporation Street, St Helens, WA10 1LQ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.sthelenstheatreroyal.com

Box Office: 01744 756000

LANCASTER GRAND THEATRE

Monday 23 March – Tuesday 24 March 2020

St Leonardgate, Lancaster, LA1 1QW

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.lancastergrand.co.uk

Box Office: 01524 64695

CREWE LYCEUM

Wednesday 25 March – Thursday 26 March 2020

Heath Street, Crewe, CW1 2DA

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.crewelyceum.co.uk

Box Office: 01270 368242

SOUTHPORT THEATRE

Friday 27 March – Saturday 28 March 2020

The Promenade, Southport, PR9 0DZ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.waterfrontsouthport.co.uk/events/whats-on

Box Office: 01704 500036

PAVILION THEATRE RHYL

Tuesday 31 March – Saturday 4 April 2020

East Parade, Rhyl, LL18 3AQ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.rhylpavilion.co.uk

Box Office: 01745 330000

GRAND THEATRE SWANSEA

Monday 6 April – Tuesday 7 April 2020

Singleton Street, Swansea, SA1 3QJ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.swansea.gov.uk/swansea-grandtheatre

Box Office: 01792 475715

DARLINGTON HIPPODROME

Thursday 9 April – Saturday 11 April 2020

Parkgate, Darlington, DL1 1RR

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

Box Office: 01325 405405

MALVERN THEATRES

Tuesday 14 April – Wednesday 15 April 2020

Grange Road, Malvern, WR14 3HB

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.malvern-theatres.co.uk

Box Office: 01684 892277

ENDS

For more information, interviews or images please contact Bill Elms at Bill Elms Associates on 0151 245 0135 or bill@billelms.com

Production Shots from 2018 production: credit Anthony Robling

EDITORS NOTES

More about Helen Forrester

Helen Forrester was born June Huband in Hoylake, Cheshire (now in Merseyside), the eldest of seven children of inept, socialite, middle-class parents who lived on credit. When her father was made bankrupt during the Great Depression, the family was thrown into poverty. Evicted from their comfortable home in an English market

town and with nothing more than the clothes they stood up in, the large family took the train to Liverpool where they hoped to rebuild their lives. While Forrester's father searched unsuccessfully for work, the family were forced to live together in a single room. As the eldest child, the 12-year-old Helen was kept away from school to look after her six younger brothers and sisters. For the next few years the family were forced to rely on meagre hand-outs from the parish, and the kindness of strangers. At the age of 14 Forrester rebelled against her life of drudgery and her parents agreed to allow her to attend evening classes to make up for her missed years of education.

Throughout her teenage years, Forrester worked for a charitable organisation in Liverpool and Bootle, which provided background for her novels *Liverpool Daisy*, *A Cuppa Tea and an Aspirin*, and *Three Women of Liverpool*. After surviving the Blitzing of Liverpool and losing two consecutive fiancés to the Second World War she met and, in 1950, married Dr. Avadh Bhatia; her life with him in India provided background for *Thursday's Child* and *The Moneylenders of Shahpur*. The couple travelled widely, eventually settling in Edmonton, Canada, in 1955, where Dr. Bhatia became the director of the Theoretical Physics Institute at the University of Alberta. He was a pioneer in electronic transport theory and the study of diffraction of light by ultrasonic waves. The best-selling memoir of her childhood was *Twopence to Cross the Mersey*. It was later turned into a successful musical. Living in Alberta provided background for Forrester's novels *The Latchkey Kid* and *The Lemon Tree*. *Yes Mama*, which takes place mostly in late 19th and early 20th Century Liverpool, also includes a section about Alberta. She died on 24 November 2011 in Edmonton, Alberta.