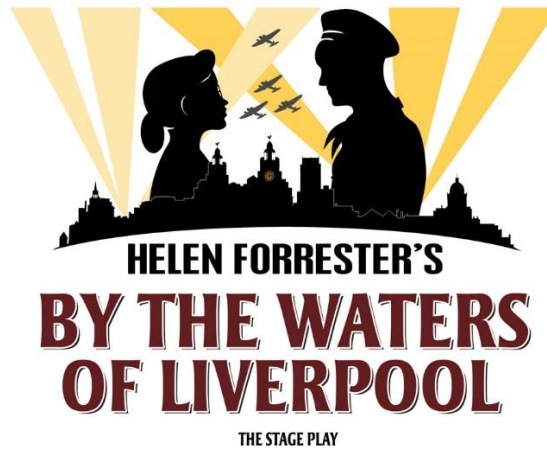


Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms present



FIRST WAVE OF CAST REVEALED FOR PREMIERE OF NEW TWOPENCE SEQUEL

Mark Moraghan, Emma Dears and Maria Lovelady return as the Forrester family at Liverpool Empire this Autumn



The **first wave of cast** for the **new stage play sequel** of **Helen Forrester's** much-loved **Twopence To Cross The Mersey** has been announced.

By The Waters Of Liverpool will be given its **UK premiere this Autumn in Liverpool**, where the famous books are set.

The play follows the smash-hit success of **Helen Forrester's 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.

The Forrester family has been cast, and it's a warm welcome for three much-loved actors who return to their roles.

Maria Lovelady who received rave reviews for her portrayal in the lead role of Helen Forrester will resume the part.

This will be the third time Maria has played Helen. She made her debut in the premiere of the new stage play of Twopence To Cross The Mersey, which ran for three weeks at the city's Epstein Theatre in 2015 and was followed by two North West tours.

Maria was also given high praise by Helen Forrester's son Robert Bhatia, who travelled from Canada in 2015 specially to see the new stage play. He described her portrayal of his mother as "superb".

Helen Forrester's son Robert Bhatia said: *"I thoroughly enjoyed seeing Twopence To Cross The Mersey as a stage play. The staging was innovative and appropriate to the book. And the cast, led by Maria Lovelady was superb! She was utterly convincing playing my mother!"*

Emma Dears returns to play Helen's Mother. Emma performed alongside Maria in the new stage plays of Twopence since 2015. Emma is best known for her West End performances in *Les Miserable* and *Miss Saigon*.

Mark Moraghan has recently appeared in the world premiere of new stage comedy Lennon's Banjo, he **will play Helen's Father.** Mark previously played the role of Father in 2007 when Twopence To Cross The Mersey was a musical. Mark is best known for his roles in *Coronation Street* and *Brookside*.

By The Waters Of Liverpool is being staged at the Liverpool Empire from Tuesday 2 October to Saturday 13 October 2018. Tickets are on sale.

Rob Fennah has written both the stage play versions of Twopence To Cross The Mersey and By The Waters Of Liverpool. This next chapter in Helen Forrester's life story is once again produced by **Pulse Records Ltd in association with Bill Elms.** The play will be **directed by Gareth Tudor Price.**

More than 170,000 people have seen Twopence since it was premiered and now the long-awaited sequel visits the theatre where it all began for the original musical at the Liverpool Empire.

By the age of 17, Helen had fought and won two bitter battles with her parents – the first to educate herself, the second for the right to go out to work.

Her parents are as financially irresponsible as ever, wasting money while their children still lack adequate food and clothing. But for Helen, things are looking up as she begins to make new friends and develop some social life outside the home.

By The Waters Of Liverpool takes us to the next chapter in Helen's life. It's now 1939, Britain is on the brink of war, Helen is now aged 20 and has never been kissed by a man. That is until she meets a tall, strong seaman. And falls in love.

Rob Fennah, co-producer and writer, said: *"I am thrilled that Maria, Emma and Mark are able to resume their roles of Helen, Mother and Father in our new stage play of By The Waters Of Liverpool. Their strong portrayals of the Forrester family really struck a chord, and I know audiences will be delighted to see them in the play."*

"Fans of Helen's books have waited a long time to see this second book brought to life. The new play is as much a labour of love as Twopence was for me. We're going back to where it all started, the stage of the Liverpool Empire, a place Helen was very fond of and where the musical was first staged in 1994. We're bringing Helen's story home."

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 on stage in this exciting new stage play adaptation.

The new stage adaptation is fully endorsed by the Helen Forrester estate, and is part of the Liverpool Empire's **#Liverpool2018** celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the city's **European Capital of Culture** year.

Website: www.bythewatersofliverpool.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ByTheWatersThePlay>

LISTING INFORMATION

BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL

Liverpool Empire

Tuesday 2 October – Saturday 13 October 2018

PERFORMANCES:

Tuesday 2 October at 7.30pm

Wednesday 3 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Thursday 4 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Friday 5 October at 7.30pm

Saturday 6 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 7 October at 5pm

Monday 8 October at 7.30pm

Tuesday 9 October at 7.30pm

Wednesday 10 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Thursday 11 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Friday 12 October at 7.30pm

Saturday 13 October at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

TICKETS:

Tickets from £12 plus booking fees

Concessions and Group Rates available

To book visit the Empire's box office, call 0844 871 3017* or buy online at [atgtickets.com/Liverpool*](http://atgtickets.com/Liverpool)

*fees apply to online and telephone bookings. Calls cost up to 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

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

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.