



---

## UK PREMIERE OF TWOPENCE SEQUEL ANNOUNCED TO BE STAGED AT THE LIVERPOOL EMPIRE IN 2018

---

A new **stage play** based on the best-selling book by **acclaimed Twopence To Cross The Mersey author Helen Forrester** is to receive its UK premiere in **Liverpool**.

**By The Waters Of Liverpool** is being staged at the **Liverpool Empire** from **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October** to **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018**.

**Tickets go on sale on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October to ATG Cardholders and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to the general public.**

The play follows the smash-hit success of 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.

**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.

**Rob Fennah** wrote 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**.

At seventeen, 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.

In 1939, now aged 20 and with Britain on the brink of war, Helen has never been kissed by a man. That is until she meets a tall strong seaman, and falls in love.

**By The Waters Of Liverpool** 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.

**Rob Fennah, co-producer and writer, said:** *“Over the years people have asked me when the next part of Helen's story was going to hit the stage. Now I have an answer for them - next October at the Liverpool Empire!”*

*“I adapted By The Waters Of Liverpool as a stage play for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it was intended by Helen to be her final volume of autobiography. Secondly, By The Waters Of Liverpool was as big a seller as Twopence and all Helen's readers out there have waited long enough to see it on the stage.”*

*“The fact that her family has fully endorsed the writing of the new show is the icing on the cake. I have always said that, without their full support, I would not do it. Helen entrusted me with her most famous work and it is my responsibility to make sure all her readers recognise it as the story they know and love so well.”*

*“Being back at the Empire Theatre, the place where it all started, is also something I am really looking forward to. Helen loved the Empire and she would have been thrilled to know we were going back there.”*

**The new stage adaptation is fully endorsed by the Helen Forrester estate,** and is part of the **Liverpool Empire's** celebrations to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city's highly-successful **European Capital of Culture** year.

**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 who played my mother, was superb!”*

*“I am now looking forward to the new production of By The Waters Of Liverpool when it opens at the Empire Theatre in Liverpool next October. This is where my mother attended the premiere of Twopence, so for my family and I it will be a very special occasion.”*

**Empire Theatre Director, Diane Belding added:** *“We're absolutely delighted to present the premiere of By The Waters Of Liverpool during the Liverpool Capital of Culture 10 year celebrations. It's going to be fantastic to have a Liverpool story during such an exciting time for the city and we're pleased to have been chosen to host the first performance of this show, particularly after we hosted the premiere of its prequel Twopence To Cross The Mersey!”*

## **LISTING INFORMATION**

### **BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL**

**Liverpool Empire**

**2-13 October 2018**

#### **PERFORMANCES:**

Tuesday October 2: 7.30pm

Wednesday October 3: 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Thursday October 4: 7.30pm

Friday October 5: 7.30pm

Saturday October 6: 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Monday October 8: 7.30pm

Tuesday October 9: 7.30pm

Wednesday October 10: 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Thursday October 11: 7.30pm

Friday October 12: 7.30pm

Saturday October 13: 2.30pm and 7.30pm

#### **TICKETS:**

Tickets from £12 plus booking fees

Concessions and Group Rates available

#### **ENDS**

---

**For more information, interviews or images please contact Bill Elms at Bill Elms Associates on 0151 245 0135 or [bill@billelms.com](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> Century Liverpool, also includes a section about Alberta. She died on 24 November 2011 in Edmonton, Alberta.