

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY, THE RECURRING PHENOMENON by Fecicia Hardison Londre

It may be a measure of the influence of Charles Dicken's *Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* that Brian Friel nicknamed one of his characters in *Translations* "The Infant Phenomenon." Henry James, author of the novel on which *The Innocents* is based, saw a theatrical performance of *Nicholas Nickleby* (in his boyhood and, at 67, remembered it vividly enough to write of it in his autobiography: "who shall deny the immense authority of the theatre, or that the stage is the mightiest of modern engines?"

Dickens always longed to harness his talent to that mightiest of modern engines, but was not successful in his occasional efforts as a playwright. His considerable influence on Victorian and later theatre came about through dramatizations by others of virtually all of his novels and many of his stories. His third novel, *Nicholas Nickleby*, which was published in serial installments in 1838-39, generated unauthorized theatrical versions even before half of its chapters had appeared in print.

In the 1838-40 seasons, London theatre audiences could see *The Infant Phenomenon* at the Strand Theatre, *Nicholas Nickleby, A Farce in Two Acts* at the Adelphi Theatre (revised and revived at the Surrey Theatre in 1839), and *The Fortune of Smike; A Sequel to Nicholas Nickleby* at the Adelphi Theatre. A company in Hull produced its own adaptation, *Nicholas Nickleby, or Doings at Do-the-Boys Hall,* in 1838. Other versions appeared in 1857, 1864, 1871, and 1885. A French version was staged in Paris in 1842.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's magnificent achievement in bringing to the stage in 1980 the first dramatization of *Nicholas Nickleby* that tells the entire story of the 65installment novel came about partly because of an eagerness to give the original author his proper due. Adapter David Edgar's introduction to the acting edition offers this guidance for other companies using his script: "Luckily, producers are able to purchase, at most good bookshops, a companion volume which contains the most comprehensive acting, costuming, staging and setting instructions, and a lot else besides. It is called *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, and it was written by the English novelist Charles Dickens in the early years of the 19th century."

The novel contains the most fully developed of all of Dickens's literary sketches of theatrical life, and theatre historians have corroborated the accuracy of his depiction of conditions under which small touring companies like that of Vincent Crummles labored benightedly to bring Art-be it in the form of *The Mortal Struggle* or of *Romeo and Juliet*-to the people of Portsmouth and other provincial towns. It was with unmistakable affection that Dickens brought out the little vanities and invincibilities of theatre people.

Dickens's novel documents not only the early Victorian provincial stage's comical side, but also the tragically deplorable conditions that existed in the infamous Yorkshire schools of the period. These cheap depositories for unwanted children had been advertised as early as 1749. Before he began to write *Nicholas Nickleby*, Dickens travelled to Yorkshire under an assumed name, accompanied by his illustrator "Phiz," to gather information. Mr. Squeers of Dotheboys Hall was undoubtedly modelled after William Shaw, whom Dickens met near Greta Bridge. Shaw had been brought to trial by the parents of two boys who went totally blind in his academy from infection. Although convicted of gross neglect (maggoty food and flea-infested beds among other offenses) and fined, Shaw continued to operate his school.

The vividness with which Dickens painted social conditions in his day cannot alone explain the appeal of *Nicholas Nickleby* for modern audiences, 145 years after the novel was written. His timeless, irresistible characterizations are a strong point. Although some critics object to his caricatures, Dickens scarcely exaggerates in many of his embodiments of human failings, like Squeers, Noggs, and Mantalini. Santayana avers: "There *are* such people; we are such people ourselves in our true moments, in our veritable impulses; but we are careful to stifle and hide those moments from ourselves and from the world; to purse and pucker ourselves into the mask of our conventional personality; and so simpering, we profess that it is very coarse and inartistic of Dickens to undo our life's work for us in an instant, and remind us of what we are."

In *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* Dickens also presents a moral point of view that comes across to the theatregoer. The existence of evil is acknowledged, but the possibility of human goodness is affirmed.



Charles Dickens, photographed about 1843, not long after the invention of photography.

Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy in association with Community Services

presents



Adapted for the stage by DAVID EDGAR

From the novel by CHARLES DICKENS

Produced by NORMAN MENNES

> Directed by FRED FATE

Set and Lighting Design by RANDALL L. EDWARDS

> Costume Design by DIANE SISKO

Music composed by MARJORIE POE

Lyrics by JEREMY LAWRENCE

Associate Directors: PAUL COATS & JAMES BRADFORD

May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 1984 Major Production numbers 652 and 653 in the 55th Season



CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE NICKLEBY FAMILY

Nicholas Nickleby Kate Nickleby Ralph Nickleby Mrs. Nickleby

Bryan Burch-Worch Allegra Swift Paul Coats **Bobbie Holt**

LONDON

Newman Noggs Hannah Miss La Creevy Sir Matthew Pupker Mr. Bonney Irate Gentleman **Furious** Gentleman Flunkey Mr. Snawley **Snawley Major Snawley Minnor** Belling William Waitress Waitress Coachman Mr. Mantalini Madame Mantalini Miss Knag **Rich Lady Rich Daughter** Milliners Trumpeteers Minister Policemen Don Washburn

Randy Bowser Bonni Sue Marcus Paulla Hershev James Bradford Mark Crane Scott Hunter Steve Novak Scott Warner Bill Barker Sheri Galan Laura Skill Brendon Broms Steve Novak Bonni Sue Marcus Laurissa Kalinowsky James Bradford David Mayhan Marci Barker Allison Bergman **Bobbie Holt** Kimberleey Gammon Lisa Beezley Brendon Broms Paulla Hershev Laurissa Kalinowsky Bonni Sue Marcus Maria Teresa Rangel Laura Skill Bonni Sue Marcus David Mayhan Brian Newkirk Roger Hampton

YORKSHIRE

Mr. Squeers Jeremy Lawrence Mrs. Squeers Helen Hull Smike Michale Venedicto Phib Laurissa Kalinowsky Fanny Squeers Lisa Beezlev Wackford Squeers Justin Tanner John Browdie Roger Hampton **Tilda** Price Laurel Green Tomkins Ray Woodson Coates Ramara Welchel Mobbs David Mayhan Graymarsh Maria Teresa Rangel Jennings Mark Crane Bolder Steve Izay Pitcher Brian P. Newkirk Kent Stoddart Jackson Cobbey Don Washburn Peters Scott Warner Scott Hunter Sprouter Roberts Bill Barker

LONDON AGAIN

James Bradford Mr. Kenwigs Laurissa Kalinowsky Mrs. Kenwigs Morleena Kenwigs Bonni Sue Marcus Jeremy Lawrence Mr. Lillyvick **Miss** Petowker Paulla Hershey Scott Warner Mr. Crowl Steve Novak George Don Washburn Mr. Cutler Mrs. Cutler Laura Skill Kimberleev Gammon Kenwig's Daughters Laurel Green Lady from Downstairs Allison Bergman **Bobbie Holt** Miss Green Pugstyles Kent Stoddart Old Lord Dutch Van Der Laan Sheri Galan **Young Fiancee** Babysitter Brian Newkirk

PORTSMOUTH

Landlord Mr. Vincent Crummles Mrs. Crummles The Infant Phenomenon Master Crummles Master Percy Crummles Mrs. Grudden Miss Snevelicci Mr. Folair Mr. Lenville Miss Ledrook Miss Bravassa Mr. Wagstaff Mr. Blightey **Miss Belvawney** Miss Gazingi Mr. Pailey Mr. Heatherington Mr. Bane Mr. Fluggers Mrs. Lenville Mr. Curdle Mrs. Curdle

Roger Hampton Helen Hull Kimberleev Gammon Steve Izay Scott Hunter Lisa Beezlev Maria Teresa Rangel James Bradford David Mayhan Tamara Welchel Marci Barker Kent Stoddart Dutch Van Der Laan Allison Bergman Laurel Green Brian Newkirk Justin Tanner Mark Crane Bill Barker Sheri Galan Steve Novak Laurissa Kalinowsky Mr. Snevelicci Steven Novak Mrs. Snevelicci Marci Barker

THE CRUMMLE'S COMPANY

Romeo Bryan Burch-Worch Juliet Maria Teresa Rangel Tybalt David Mayhan Rosaline Tamara Welchel Lady Montague Sheri Galan Lady Capulet Helen Hull Balthazar Steve Izay Paris Mark Crane Watchman Brian Newkirk Prince Kent Stoddart Juliet's Brother Scott Hunter Bill Barker Friar Lawrence Lisa Beezley Nurse Roger Hampton Lord Capulet Laurel Green Attendant Benvolio/Benvilia Marci Barker Allison Bergman Page Romeo's Sister Kimberleey Gammon Dutch Van Der Laan Lord Montague Violinst Allison Bergman Apothecary Michael Venedicto

James Bradford

LONDON AGAIN Don Washburn Kent Stoddart

Mr. Pluck Scott Hunter Mr. Pyke Scott Warner Mr. Snobb Ray Woodson **Colonel** Chowser Justin Tanner Don Washburn Brooker Mr. Wititterly Brian P. Newkirk Mrs. Wititterly Paulla Hershev Alphonse Henry Levingston III Jeremy Lawrence Scaley Tix Henry Levingston III Mr. Hetherington Justin Tanner Miss Belvawney Allison Bergman Mr. Bane Mark Crane Boxkeeper Brenden Broms Madeline Brav Laura Skill Mr. Charles Cheeryble Roger Hampton Mr. Ned Cheervble James Bradford Mr. Frank Cheerybly Kent Stoddart Tim Linkinwater Mark Crane Arthur Gride David Mayhan Walter Bray Bill Barker Peg Sliderskew Lisa Beezley Croupier Mark Crane Proprietor Brian P. Newkirk **Bobbie Holt** Waitress Umpire Henry Levingston III Dutch Van Der Laan Surgeon Westwood James Bradford Police Henry Levingston III Don Washburn Young Woman Tamara Welchel The New Smike Brendon Broms Young Lover in Opera Mark Crane Daughter in Opera Laura Skill Father in Opera Paul Coats

Sir Mulberry Hawk

Lord Fredrick Verisopht

"The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" is set in England in the first half of the Nineteenth Century.

Part I is approximately 31/2 hours in length with one intermission. Part II is approximately 4 hours in length with two intermissions.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producing Director Norman Mennes Technical Director Randall L. Edwards Scene Shop Manager Jim Mathews Scene Shop Foreman David MacMurtry Costume Shop Manager Jennifer Harrell Costume Shop Foreman Naila Aladdin Box Office Treasurer James Hatton Theatre Manager Cliff O'Connell Publicity Jill Dolan

STUDENT PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Stage Manager Sylvia E. Contreras Part I Stage Manager Jim Waterhouse Assistant Stage Managers Starra Andrews

Part II Stage Manager Assistant Stage Managers Assistant Carpenters Master Electrician Richard Coven Preset Operator

Kenneth S. Sheperd Barbara Coven

Curt Hunt Robin Joy Rumack Master Carpenter Rick B. Yatman Paul Furv Michael James Robert K. Gjerde

Follow Spot Operator Stephanie Cartwright Andrew Dailev Floor Electrician Ritter M. Chism Sound Operator Treece Vahdani Lorraine Williams Assistant Sound Property Master Drew Barnett Assistant Props Ava Alexander Liza Field Eugene Hughes Costume Mistresses Cloudia Carmen Bohn Wardrobe Master Mark Anzalone Wardrobe Assistants Geoffrey Hughes Todd C. Mignola Jon Amirkhan Sasha Stone Nancy Tanner Anastasia Wirick Johann Wolf Wigs Victoria Wilson James Stage Hands Michael Clancy Godfrey Sealy Wardrobe & Property Lenka M. Avers Rose Boulos **Construction Crew** Caroline Chatman Danna D' Amore Kimberly Kierulff Kenneth S. Sheperd Ted R. Trader House Managers Gloria McNeil Susan Ruby House Staff Lenka M. Avers Rose Boulos Danna D' Amore Kimberly Kierulff Ted R. Trader Michael Nigrini

MUSICAL NUMBERS

PARTI

Overture	
Act One	
The Coach Song (Lyrics by Dickens, adapted by Lawrence)	
Act Two	
They Fly	
PART II	
Overture	
Act Three	
I Will Not Lose Your Eyes	
Act Four The Crummles Company, Hetherington, Lenville, Pailey	
They Fly (Reprise)	
Katie	
The Lamplighter's Lament.	
I Will Not Lose Your Eyes (Reprise)	
Act Five	
The Adventure of My LifeJustin Tanner	
The Christmas Carol (Traditional) The Company	
Transitional Music and Underscoring	
Special Thanks to Jack Feierman, Maureen Pairn, Mordechai Rabinowitz, and Ridge Walker	

WHO'S WHO

*MARCI BARKER is a graduate of LACC Theatre Acacemy. Some of her stage appearances include Ann in "All My Sons," Kate Parr in "Royal Gambit," and Cynthia in "The Real Inspector Hound." Marci studied dance at UC Irvine and recently choreographed, and performed in the equity waiver West Coast premiere of "Peer," an original musical version of "Peer Gynt,"

*BILL BARKER LACC Theatre Academy alumnus, is well versed in all aspects of the dramatic arts. His credits include George in "All My Sons," Hunker in the original musical "Drac" and Melo Crawford in "Lu Ann Hampton Laverty Oberlander" with Diana Canova. Widely acclaimed as a playwright, Bill's award winning play, "Best Wishes," is currently in preproduction in Los Angeles and Dallas.

*LISA BEEZLEY A graduate of LACC Theatre Academy. Her theatre credits include Judith Bliss in "Hay Fever," Rosalind in "As You Like It," and Anne of Cleves in "Royal Gambit." Her performance in the original production of "Best Wishes" earned her an Irene Ryan nomination. Recently she was featured in "Likely Stories" which aired on Select TV.

ALLISON BERGMAN came to LACC Theatre Academy in 1982 after a twelve year study with Francis Lederer at the Academy and a Co-starring role in the CBS television series "The Bad News Bears." She has had extensive training in musical theatre, dance, and singing and plans to incorporate all of these in her theatrical career.

*RANDY BOWSER active in Theatre for twenty years; twice received the Best Actor award at the University of Oregon. Performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. encouraged his move to Los Angeles where he's acted on stage and TV, and directed for the Masquers Club in Hollywood. A composer; he currently has two musical plays in preproduction stages.

*JAMES BRADFORD an LACC alumnus and member of N.Y.'s famed Actors Studio, now finds himself in demand as a director, having already directed over 30 Equity waiver, community and college productions. A veteran of over 200 plays as an actor throughout the country, Jim has also appeared as a regular in "Room 222," "Lucas Tanner," "Rich Man, Poor Man," and can be found in such feature films as "Big Wednesday," "Baby Blue Marine," and "Heavens Gate."

DAVID BRENDAN BROMS is a second year acting major at the LACC Theatre Academy, and "Nicholas Nickleby" marks his debut on the Camino stage. He has appeared in productions of "Jesus Christ Superstar," "The Fantasticks," "Medea," "My Fair Lady," "Guys and Dolls," "The Man Who Came To Dinner," and "Festival." He can currently be seen in Lionel Richie's "Hello" video.

*BRYAN BURCH-WORCH returns to California after completing his M.F.A. degree in directing from the University of Missouri. He appeared in "Wings," "Picnic," and "Cabaret" with the Missouri Repertory Theater. While on location in Kansas and Los Angeles he was the production assistant to Nicholas Meyer for the filming of "The Day After," Bryan is currently employed at Witzend Productions, an independent film company.

*PAUL COATS finished his training at the Academy last year, having performed in "Best Wishes," an ACTF regional winner, and "The Elephant Man" as Dr. Treves, also an ACTF Regional alternate. He was chosen as a finalist for URTA in 1983 and was Los Angeles City College's outstanding student in 1983. He plans on completing his theatre training and furthering his acting, directing career in professional theatre.

MARK CRANE has played a variety of roles on stage, including his most recent appearance as Judge Botton in "No Place To Be Somebody." He starred as the Prince, in the musical version of "Cinderella" and has been featured in other plays such as "Hay Fever," "Peer," and "Infancy." Television credits include "Couplets" and "Benson." Mark is now completing his second year with the Theatre Academy at LACC.

SHERI GALAN began her career at the age of five doing still camera work for Kodak. A second year LACC Academy student, she has appeared in many plays and musicals. Her favorites are Stella in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and Patty in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown."

KIMBERLEEY GAMMON has performed in over 37 shows, including the West Coast premiere of "Annie," and has toured in Japan as Sally in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." She has also appeared in the San Francisco Bay Area with the Western Stage Repertory Company for the past 3 years in various productions including: "Pippin," "Gypsy," "Comedy of Errors," and "Anne Frank.

LAUREL GREEN is currently in her second year at the LACC Theatre Academy. Laurel has been a working actress since her early teens. Her varied credits, range from the Callboard Theatre's production of "Saturday Matinee" to films and commercials. "Nicholas Nickleby" marks her first production on the Camino Stage.

*ROGER HAMPTON graduated from LACC in 1974, and worked in local theaters and television for the next few years. On TV he has been seen in "Roots," "General Hospital," "Mash," "Dukes of Hazzard," "Hart to Hart" and "Simon and Simon," among others. Movie credits include "Nickolodean," "When You Coming Back Red Ryder," and "Halloween II." He's glad to return to the LACC boards, his "Roots."

*PAULLA HERSHEY an Academy graduate, is currently studying with Gordon Hunt. She has appeared as The Woman in Green in the original musical, "Peer," Katrina of Aragon in "Royal Gambit," and Charmaine in "Lu Ann Hampton Laverty Oberlander" with Diana Canova. A former disc jockey, Paulla has also dubbed Billy Wilder's "Fedora," and is a contract performer for "Hear-a-Book." Her goal is a career in voice-overs.

*BOBBIE HOLT has appeared in more than 50 plays and mu-sicals, including: "Dylan," "Virginia Woolf," "Carousel" and "No, No, Nanette." She will be seen in her first costarring role as Madge, your friendly axe-murderess in the soon to be released major motion picture, "Dark Sanity."

HELEN HULL is a graduate of LACC Theatre Academy. She has been nominated for various acting awards, her latest was for the ACTF Irene Ryan Award when she played Nadja in the award winning production of "Division Street." She has performed major roles at the La Mirada Civic Theatre. and the Burnite Theatre in Cerritos. Her last appearance as a member of the Camino Acting Company was in the musical "Cinderella."

SCOTT HUNTER has been performing on stage since he was five and is now completing his second year of formal training at the Academy. His roles have ranged from Demetrius in "A Midsummer Nights Dream" and to "Pontius Pilate" in "Jesus Christ Superstar." Scott also appeared in the TV Special "Get High On Yourself" produced by Robert Evans.

STEVE IZAY began acting at an early age, greatly influenced by his father, actor Victor Izay, an Academy alumnus, and his mother, Connie Izay, R.N., Technical Advisor for

"Marcus Welby, M.D." and "M*A*S*H" to whom in loving memory he'd like to dedicate his performance. Steve's appearances include TV's "Little House On the Prairie," Fellini's "Clowns Are for Laughing," "40 Days of Musa Dagh" and LACC Academy's production of "Bleacher Burns."

LAURISSA KALINOWSKY makes her LACC acting debut in "Nicholas Nickleby." Born and bred in Canada, Laurissa winters in LA where she is studying theater and dance.

*JEREMY LAWRENCE stage work includes Tennessee Williams' "Where I Live" for the Mark Taper Forum, "Merrily We Roll Along," "Marat Sade," "The Miser," "She Loves Me," "Night of the 20th," all in L.A. He has appeared at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theater of Louisville, and the Long Wharf. His TV credits are "Happy Days," "Taming of the Shrew," "Comic Book Kids." Film credits are "Nightshift" and Brian De Palma's "Body Double."

HENRY LEVINGSTON III is a native of Kansas City, Missouri and made his 1979 debut in Missouri Southwest Repertory's "A Raisin in the Sun" as Asagai. Other stage credits include: "Purlie Victorious" as Purlie, and Moliere's "The Would-Be Gentleman." Film credits include: "Stir Crazy" and "Penitentiary II." His theatrical training includes LACC Theatre Academy, American Academy of Dramatic Arts and Hampton Institute Academy of Arts.

BONNI SUE MARCUS, a native New Yorker, is presently a Theatre Academy major at LACC. She has appeared as Rose in "Bleacher Bums," the Duchess in "Cinderella" and Lila Hooter in "The Autograph Hound."

*DAVID MAYHEN an 1981 LACC Academy graduate, marks his second Dickens work in this theatre, having portrayed Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol." Recent leading roles in LA include, "On My Way to Where I Am" at the Olio, Brecht's "A Man's a Man" at the Gene Dynarski, and "Charley's Aunt" at the Theatre Rapport. His voice can be heard on numerous radio ads.

BRIAN P. NEWKIRK, also known as "Skippy," is currently studying at the Academy. He made his debut as Simon Bliss in last semesters' "Hay Fever" and was seen in "Cinderella," and played Moe in "The Infancy," a one-act directed by Lisa Beezley.

STEVE NOVAK is in his third semester at LACC. He played Mike Maffucci in our March production of "No Place To Be Somebody."

MARIA TERESA RANGEL is currently attending LACC Academy. Her stage credits include "No Place To Be Somebody," "Loveliest Afternoon of the Year," and the international award winner, "I Bring You Flowers." Her musical credits include "The Wiz of Oz," "Once Upon a Mattress," and numerous reviews.

LAURA SKILL is a third year Academy student whose roles include Cinderella in the musical version, Mary Lou Bolton in "No Place To Be Somebody," Popova in "The Boor," and Jackie Coryton in "Hay Fever," among others. She played Anybody in "West Side Story" at the San Fernando Valley Arts Council production last summer directed by Bill Castellino.

KENT STODDART is a third year Academy acting student who has won the ACTF Excellent Achievement in Acting award, and was nominated for the Irene Ryan acting scholship. At LACC Kent has played Teddy in "When You Comin' Back Red Ryder," Roger in "Division Street," and was last seen as Shanty in "No Place To Be Somebody." ALLEGRA SWIFT is completing her final semester in the Academy, having performed a number of roles including: Susannah in "Bedroom Farce," Celia in "As You Like It," Kathryn Howard in "Royal Gambit" and Sorrel Bliss in "Hay Fever." She plans to continue her education in theatre workshops around Los Angeles and hopes to be a working actress in the professional theatre.

JUSTIN TANNER is in his second year at the LACC Academy. He has appeared in 12 plays and musicals including "Oklahoma," "Under the Gaslight," and "The Music Man" at the Western Stage in Salinas. Justin is also an accomplished pianist and songwriter.

DUTCH VAN DER LAAN has worked in films, television and commercials. He has done a comedy show at the Comedy Store and the Palomino Club plus touring with a Country-Western band as the stand-up comic. Dutch is completing his second year at LACC. Last fall he had a major role in "Hay Fever."

MICHAEL VENEDICTO is presently a theatre major at LACC Academy, and was last seen as Richie in "Bleacher Bums." He was also at the Cast Theatre in Hollywood. He plans to continue his training upon graduation from the Academy. His interests also lie in dance and various types of movement.

SCOTT WARNER is currently studying at Los Angeles Theatre Academy. He has had several television appearances. His latest stage appearance was in "No Place To Be Somebody."

*DON WASHBURN has worked extensively in New York and Los Angeles. He was most recently seen on stage in "Masks/ The Brunch Eaters," in the movie "Space Raiders," on TV in "Cagney and Lacey," and "The Sheena Easton Special" with Kenny Rogers and Al Jarreau. Don studies with Janet Alhouti.

TAMARA WHELCHEL is presently in her third year at LACC Theatre Academy. She's appeared in several LACC productions, most recently portraying the character of Dee in "No Place To Be Somebody." Tamara has also studied broadcasting and has worked as a model. You may remember seeing her in the recent commercial for Schlitz Beer.

RAYMOND WOODSON is in his second year at LACC Theatre Academy. "Nicholas Nickleby" is his second appearance in a LACC production. His first appearance was in "Purlie Victorious."

*Guest Artists

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