THE LIFE & ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY

CAMINO ACTING COMPANY

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE
Nicholas Nickleby, the Recurring Phenomenon
by Fecicia Hardison Londre

It may be a measure of the influence of Charles Dickens' Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby that Brian Friel nicknamed one of his characters in Translutions "The Infant Phenomenon." Henry James, author of the novel on which Theory is based, saw a theatrical performance of Nicholas Nickleby (his boyhood and, at 67, remembered it vividly enough to write of it in his autobiography: "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 Force in Two Acts at the Adelphi Theatre created and revived at the Savoy 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 65-chapter 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, costume, 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' 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—theatrical and other—into the form of The Mortal Struggle or of Romeo and Juliet to the people of Portsmouth and other provincial towns. It was with an understandable affection that Dickens brought out the little vanities and invincibilities of theatre people.

Dickens' novel documents not only the early Victorian provincial stage's comic 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 floor-cushioned 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 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 puckers 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.
CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE NICKLEBY FAMILY
Nicholas Nickleby Bryan Burch-Worch
Kate Nickleby Allegra Swift
Ralph Nickleby Paul Coats
Mrs. Nickleby Bobbie Holt

LONDON
Newman Noggs Randy Bower
Hannah Bonni Sue Marcus
Miss La Crecy Paula Hershey
Sir Matthew Puker James Bradford
Mr. Bonnye Mark Crane
Irute Gentleman Scott Hunter
Furious Gentleman Steve Novak
Mr. Snawley Bill Barker
Snawley Major Sheri Galan
Snawley Minor Laura Skill
Belling Brendon Brooks
William Steve Novak
Waitress Bonni Sue Marcus
Waitress Laura Kalinowsky
Coachman James Bradford
Mr. Mantalini David Mayhan
Madame Mantalini Marc Barker
Miss Knag Allison Bergman
Rich Lady Bobbie Holt
Rich Daughter Kimberly Gammon
Milliners Lisa Beezley
Brendon Brooks
Paula Hershey
Laura Skill

Yorkshire
Mr. Squiers Jeremy Lawrence
Mrs. Squiers Helen Hull
Smike Michuie Venedicito
Phila Laura Kalinowsky
Fanny Squiers Lisa Beezley
Wackford Squiers Justin Tanner
John Brownlie Roger Hampton
Tilda Price Laurel Green
Tomkine Ray Woodson
Coutes Ramara Welchel
Mobbs David Mayhan
Graymarsh Maria Teresa Rangel
Jennings Mark Crane
Bolder Steve Iray
Pitcher Brian P. Newkirk
Jackson Kent Stoddart
Cubbey Don Washburn
Peters Scott Warmer
Speouter Scott Hunter
Roberts Bill Barker

London Again
Mr. Kenwigs James Bradford
Mrs. Kenwigs Laura Kalinowsky
Morleea Kenwigs Bonni Sue Marcus
Mr. Lillywick Jeremy Lawrence
Miss Petrowker Paula Hershey
Mr. Crow Scott Warmer
Googe Steve Novak
Mr. Cutler Don Washburn
Mrs. Cutler Laura Skill
Kenwig's Daughters Kimberly Gammon
Lady from Downton Laurel Green
Miss Green Bobbie Holt
Fugiulyst Kent Stoddart
Old Lord Dutch Van Der Laan
Young Fiancée Sherry Galan
Babysitter Brian Newkirk

Portsmouth
Landlord James Bradford
Mr. Vincent Cummles Roger Hampton
Mrs. Cummles Helen Hull
The Infant Phenomenon Kimberly Gammon
Master Cummles Steve Iray
Master Percy Cummles Scott Hunter
Mrs. Grudden Lisa Beezley
Miss Snevellici Maria Teresa Rangel
Mr. Folair James Bradford
Mr. Levrile David Mayhan
Miss Ledrock Tamara Welchel
Miss Bravasa Marc Barker
Mr. Wagstaff Kent Stoddart
Mr. Blythe Dutch Van Der Laan
Miss Beluvnwe Allison Bergman
Miss Gazangi Laurel Green
Mr. Heatherington Brian Newkirsk
Mr. Bane Mark Crane
Mr. Fluggers Bill Barker
Mrs. Levrile Sheeri Galan
Mr. Curdle Steve Novak
Mrs. Curdle Laura Kalinowsky
Mrs. Snevellici Steven Novak

The Crumline's Company
Romeo Bryan Burch-Worch
Juliet Maria Teresa Rangel
Tybalt David Mayhan
Rosaline Tamara Welchel
Lady Montague Sheeri Galan
Lady Capulet Helen Hull
Balthasar Steve Iray
Paris Mark Crane
Watchman Brian Newkirk
Prince Kent Stoddart
Juliet's Brother Scott Hunter
Friar Lawrence Bill Barker
Nun Lisa Beezley
Lord Capulet Roger Hampton
Attendant Laurel Green
Benvolio/Benvilla Marc Barker
Page Allison Bergman
Romeo's Sister Kimberly Gammon
Lord Montague Dutch Van Der Laan
Violist Allison Bergman
Apoteocrisy Michael Venedicito

LONDON AGAIN
Sir Mulberry Hawk Don Washburn
Lord Fredrick Verisopht Kent Stoddart
Mr. Pluck Scott Hunter
Mr. Pyke Scott Warnier
Mrs. Smob Bob Woodson
Colonel Chower Justin Tanner
Brooker Don Washburn
Mr. Wittitton Brian P. Newkirsk
Mrs. Wittitton Paula Hershey
Alphonse Henry Livingston III
Scalley Jeremy Lawrence
Tix Henry Livingston III
Mr. Hetherington Justin Tanner
Miss Beluvnwe Allison Bergman
Mr. Bane Mark Crane
Mr. Boxkeeper Brenda Broms
Mr. Ned Cheeryble Laura Skill
Mr. Charles Cheeryble Roger Hampton
Mr. Fred Cheeryble James Bradford
Mr. Christ Chemishuck David Mayhan
Miss Linkwater Bill Barker
Arthur Guide Lisa Beezley
Walter Bray Peg Sildersew
Cromphay Mark Crane
Proprietor Brian P. Newkirsk
Waitress Brenda Broms
Umpire Henry Livingston III
Surgeon Dutch Van Der Laan
Westwood James Bradford
Police Henry Livingston III
Young Woman Don Washburn
The New Smike Tamara Welchel
Young Lover in Opera Brenda Broms
Daughter in Opera Mark Crane
Father in Opera Paul Coats

"The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" is set in England in the first half of the Nineteenth Century.
Part I is approximately 3½ hours in length with one intermission. Part II is approximately 4 hours in length with two intermissions.
STUDENT PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Stage Manager Part I
Sylvia E. Contreas

Stage Manager Jim Waterhouse

Assistant Stage Managers
Starr Andrews

Stage Hands

Wigs

Stage Property

Assistant Stage Managers
Curt Hunt

Stage electrician

Stagehands

House Managers

Part II

Stage Manager Barbara Coven

Assistant Stage Managers
Patty Truman

Assistant Stage Managers
Joy Mack

Assistant Props

Michael James

Assistant Props

Carly Giese

Stage Property Supervisor

Richard Coven

STUDENT PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Director
Norman Meanes

Executive Director
Randy L. Edwards

Scene Shop Manager
Jim Mathews

Scene Shop Foreman
David MacMurtry

Costume Shop Manager
Jennifer Harris

Costume Shop Foreman
Nala Alldrin

Box Office Manager
Jason Hatton

Theatre Manager
Cliff O’Connell

Publicity
Jill Dolan

Production Stage Manager
Sylvia E. Contreas

Stage Manager
Jim Waterhouse

Assistant Stage Managers
Starr Andrews

Stage Hands

Wigs

Stage Property

Assistant Stage Managers
Curt Hunt

Stage electrician

Stagehands

House Managers

Part II

Stage Manager Barbara Coven

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Assistant Stage Managers
Joy Mack

Assistant Props

Michael James

Assistant Props

Carly Giese

Stage Property Supervisor

Richard Coven

MUSICAL NUMBERS

PART I

Orchestra

The Coach Song (Lyrics by Dickens, adapted by Lawrence).

The Company

Act One

They Fly

The Company

The Andromedan (Traditional)

Fair Britannia

Act Two

They Fly

The Company

The Lamingo’s Lament

I Will Not Lose Your Eyes

The Club (Reprises)

The Company

Act Four

They Fly (Reprises)

Cindy Bowers & The Crumples Company

Katie

Man of Leisure

The Lourdes’ Lament

I Will Not Lose Your Eyes (Reprise)

Act Five

A Life of Adventure of My Life

The Christmas Carol (Traditional)

Transitional Music and Underscoring

Instrumental Soloists and Ensemble

Special thanks to Jack Feierman, Maureen Pain, Mordcha Rabinowitz, and Ridge Walker

WHO’S WHO

MARK CRANE has played a variety of roles on stage, including his most recent appearance as Judge Botton in "No, No Nan." "Fiddler on the Roof," "Sanctuary," and "The Musician of Cukholt," in the musical version of "Cinderella" and has been featured in other plays such as "Hay Fever," "Peer," and "Infancy." He was a member of the ACTF Regional alternate. He was chosen as a finalist for URSA in 1983 and was named Executive Director of the company in 1983. He plans on completing his theatre training and graduating in professional theatre.

SCOTT HUNTER has been performing on stage since he was five and is now completing his second year of formal training in the theatre. His roles have ranged from Demetrious in "A Midsummer Nights Dream" and to Portia in "Merchant of Venice." He plans on playing David, an ACW Regional alternate. He was chosen as a finalist for URSA in 1983 and was named Executive Director of the company in 1983. He plans on completing his theatre training and graduating in professional theatre.

STEVE IZZY began acting at an early age, greatly influenced by his brother, actor Izzie, an Academy alum, and his mother, Connie Izzie, R.N., Technical Advisor for
DAVID - numerous radio ads. His 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 Bums."

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. 


HENRY LEVINGTON 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 Castleillo.

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 scholarship. 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 Alhout.

TAMARA WIELCHEL 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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