Youth Action Theatre Presents

"BRITICANNA"

A NEW PLAY BY COLIN SMITH

★

DIRECTED BY DAVID LEWSEY

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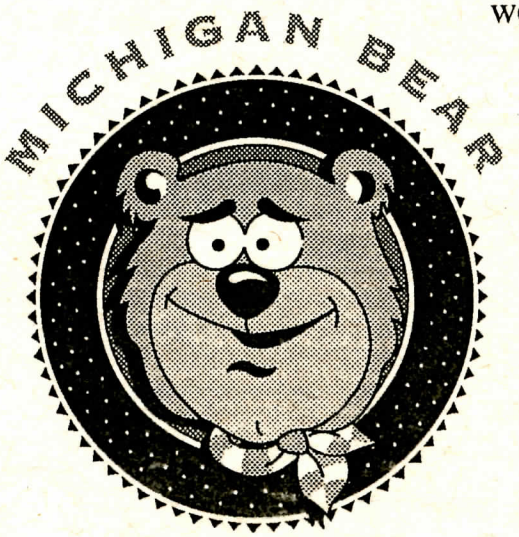
HAMPTON COURT THEATRE 27 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 1995

“I have done that” says my memory. “I cannot have done that” says my pride, and remains adamant. At last - memory yields. Friedrich Nietzsche (1885/6)

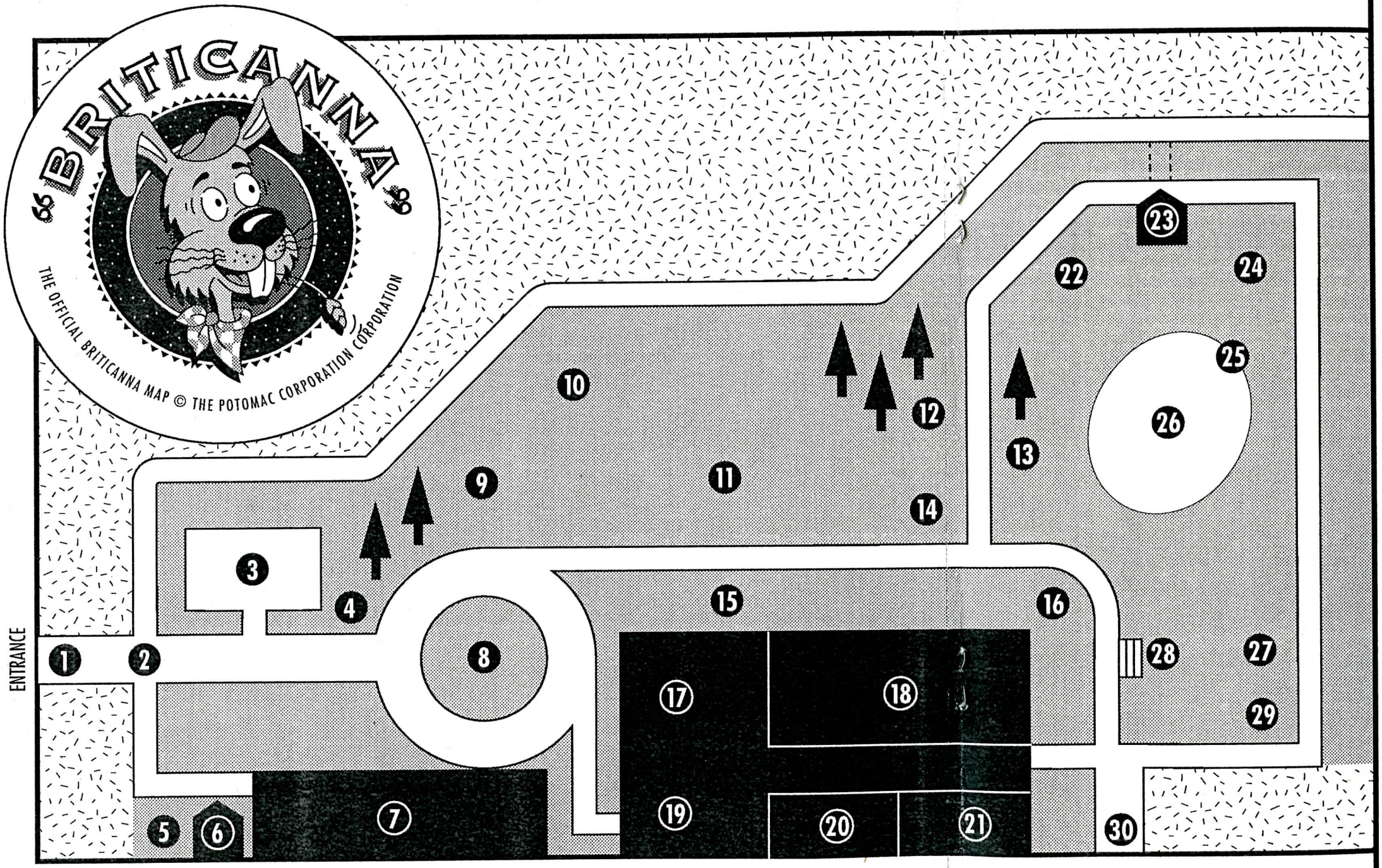
“Some think it is the historian’s business...to grasp in a single intuition the ‘spirit’ or ‘meaning’ of the period. With some hesitation, and with much great respect for the great men who have thought otherwise, I submit that this is exactly what we must refrain from doing. I cannot convince myself that such ‘spirits’ or ‘meaning’ have much more reality than the pictures we see in the fire...The ‘canals’ on Mars vanished when we got stronger lenses.” C.S. Lewis (1945)

“People say that what we’re seeking is a meaning for life. I don’t think that’s what we’re really seeking. I think that what we’re seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances within our innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive.” Joseph Campbell (1989)

“You long for Heaven. You see what *is* a Disneyworld. Sweet. Free. Happy families. Your mood darkens. The same place is now an Auschwitz. But *you* have never had to face an Auschwitz. You haven’t the right to weep for those you believe suffered as you do. You wish to feel and belong to a place where all belong. You want a good world and anything else must be a bad world. Angels and Nazis, Evey. Smile for the one, fear the other. And in your fear, you fear you yourself may wake up to find the bad world at your door. ★ You wish to redeem *yourself* with your concern. You think that if you are sorry enough, the Angel of Death will mark you out as a *good* person, will pass you by. But many more await TODAY and you do not weep for them. You don’t try to help them. You’re just sorry. You are a poor student, Evey. All you see is all that is not there to be seen. A poor, poor student.”



Colin Smith. Briticanna, 1994.


BRITICANNA
THE OFFICIAL BRITICANNA MAP © THE POTOMAC CORPORATION CORPORATION
ENTRANCE
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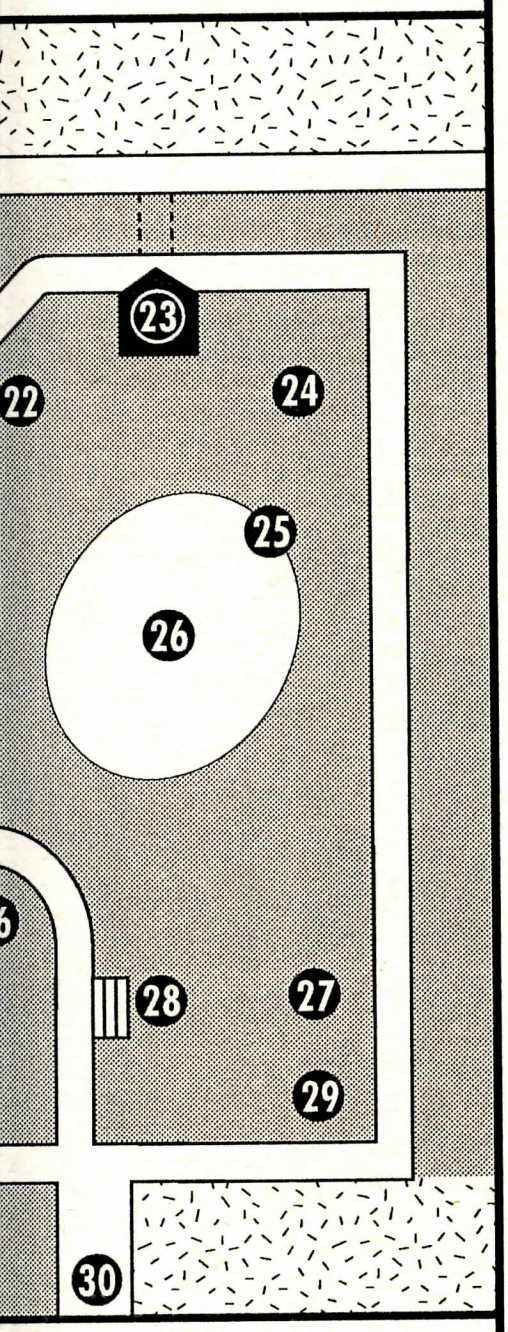


KEY:

1. Statue of George III & George Washington shaking hands
2. The Atlantic Crossing
3. The "Happy Animals Nestling All Together" Car Park
4. The PCC multi-character Mile High Helter Skelter
5. The "Fit Wooden Dentures on the George Washington" ride
6. The Laundry
7. The Victoria & Potomac Cultural History Museum
8. The FDR vs Churchill Wheelchair Races
9. Ronderworld Wonderworld Fair (inc. The Big Teeth Wheel)
10. Washington Rabbit Ronderworld
11. Hammering Bill Mole-bumps with RealHammers Attraction
12. The Squirrel Twins Tree House
13. The Other Squirrel Twins Tree House
14. "Nobody Shoots Washington Rabbit" Shooting Range
15. "Getting Bucked by Bareback Bronco" Ride
16. Hetti the Hens Little Chick Creche
17. The Briticanna Entertainment & Education Offices
18. The Special Relationship Discotheque
19. The Consumer Daoist Supermarket
20. Washington Rabbits Milk Bar (Kids only)
21. Dylan & F.Scotts Bar (Adults only)
22. The JFK "I am a Sandwich Too" Political History Multi Media Exhibit
23. George The Penguin & The Allied Special Forces Dry Skiing across Norway NATO Attraction
24. Boston Tea-Party Tea-Rooms
25. Shallow Section of Lake (For Bear Drowning)
26. Dickie The Dolphins Boating Lake
27. The Great Varnished Chocolate Sculpture of Mr.Potomac
28. The 51 States-Steps
29. "The Brits Burning Washington in1812" Bear-B-Q
30. Marshall Plan "Save Europe from Communism" Interactive Exhibit

CAST

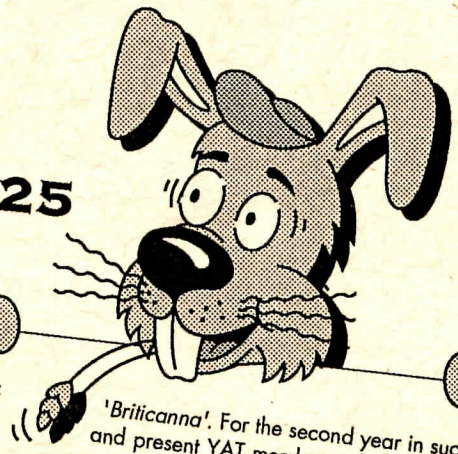
Evey	★	Anneke Sando
Paul / Mr Brink	★	Henry Everett
Angel of Death / Mother	★	Jo Viney
Angel of Death / Juggler	★	Peter Gardiner
Evey's Mother	★	Cath Hardy
Mrs Potomac	★	Lisa Morrison
Jenny / Agent	★	Alice Langrish
Donna / Agent / Lackey	★	Sophia Burrows
Washington's Girl / Child	★	Jo Rose
Chairman / child / Guard	★	Jerome Phelps
Washington Rabbit	★	Norman Selwood
Nav / Agent	★	Ben Davies
Evey's Father / Guard	★	Peter Rixham
Mr Potomac / Board member	★	Robin Johannsen
Michigan Bear	★	Bill Compton
Agent / Lil'child	★	Nina Humphrey
Mother / Agent / child / Schoolgirl	★	Kitty Marie Beck
Lackey / Agent / Schoolgirl	★	Zoe James
Mother / Agent / Schoolgirl	★	Hannah Smith
Child / Sociology Teacher	★	Robert Lee
Lackey / Agent / Schoolgirl	★	Sumana Bhoothalingam

CREW

Play written by ★	Colin Smith
Outside directed by ★	Chris Ivey
Inside directed by ★	David Lewsey
Play produced by ★	Eric Yardley
Set designed by ★	Christine Osborne
Lighting designed by ★	Simon Roose
All graphics designed by ★	Alex Beauchamp
Multi-media by ★	Matt Hilliard
Sound by ★	Brian Brignall
Stage Manager ★	Alex Beauchamp
Assisted by ★	Louise Doubble & Daisy Hughes
Costumes ★	Eileen Baker
Concept of Washington & Michigan ★	Colin Smith
Washington & Michigan made by ★	Alison Barker
Wings made by ★	Louise Doubble
Props by ★	Stephen Hogben
General construction & Photos ★	Den 'Get the job done' Baker
Songs composed by ★	Mark Crossland & Colin Smith
Choreography ★	Lisa Morrison
preset devised by ★	Jo Viney, Peter Gardiner & Anneke Sando
Box Office ★	Biddy Osborne

Paper donated by G F Smith & Sons, Many thanks to TTC,
Mark Crossland for Musical Direction, Mike Elgey and Mike Fisher

YAT's FIRST 25



YAT caps 25 years with this production of *'Briticanna'*. For the second year in succession, the Spring production is written by, directed by and performed by, past and present YAT members who have received or are receiving theatre training within this group.

So we review these years. Always ambitious, always seeking the unusual, often inclined to recklessness with choice but never arrogant or over-bearing with its successes.

The very fact that it has operated for so long, means that it has influenced the development of many hundreds of young adults and helped them to mature. Those first members who joined in the early Seventies when in their late teens, are now in their early Forties, scattered all over the country and in many professions - but still recall with affection their days with YAT.

The first production in 1971 was *the Diary of Ann Frank*, rehearsed entirely in the director's lounge and finally dressed rehearsed and given its only performance both on the same day, in a local hall. But even so, just as much care was taken to get every detail right, just as it is today..

New members joined - there has always been a steady influx of new members - and through drama workshops and improvisations, the next production was created. Telling the story of a runaway, pregnant young girl from her strict parents and followed by the boy, the father of her child, it was a poignant, little tale and titled, from the original song that ran through it *'Waiting to Be Born'*.

In 1973, probably the most significant event in YATs history. It was given affiliation with Teddington Theatre Club which allowed two periods, Spring and Autumn in its Hampton Court Theatre with all its facilities, for YAT productions. Whilst retaining its independence, it has had a very close and fruitful relationship with TTC and many YAT members have proceeded into the club as they grew older.

An early unusual activity of YAT was for each production to have a resident rehearsal weekend at what was affectionately known as The Mill. An old water mill in Northamptonshire which the group was allowed to use, rehearsing all day, camping out in the mill and spending the evening in the local country pub!

A personality who influenced the group hugely when he joined in 1977, was Peter Roberts, a young, brilliant musician who was Musical Director for YATs first Musical *'The Dracula Spectacular'*. Since that date, twelve musicals have been presented, many under his 'baton'.

In 1981, a policy of undertaking a Summer production in the long, school holiday period was formed and the first of YATs foreign tours took place. The play was the musical *'Godspell'* and was presented in Hamburg. Six similar tours have followed - *'Cabaret'*, *'Merrily We Roll Along'* and *'Pippin'* in Berlin: *'Accrington Pals'* in Vienna: *'Blood Brothers'* in Kiev: and *'Billy'* in Leipzig.

The visit to Kiev in 1989, then part of the Soviet Union, was memorable, for *'Blood Brothers'* was played inn the packed 2000-seater, Palace of Culture. The following year, the Soviets were hosted by YAT at Hampton Court, where they presented a remarkable *'Midsummer Night's Dream'*.

Perhaps the production on the grandest scale was in the Summer of 1984, when over fifty members performed *'Jesus Christ Super Star'* for a week in an over-full kingston Parish Church.

Now, with David Lewsey and Rick de Kerckhove, both previous YAT members, directing on a regular basis, the group looks forward to the next 25 years, with confidence and can look back with considerable pride on the achievements of the past.

For Further information contact Eric Yardley on 0181 979 7904