

Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms present



TELEVISION STARS SIAN REEVES, PARRY GLASSPOOL AND LUCY DIXON COMPLETE CAST OF BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL

Trio join Mark Moraghan, Eric Potts, Lynn Francis, Danny O'Brien,
Chloe McDonald and Roy Carruthers for 2020 UK Tour

The final three cast members for the Spring 2020 UK Tour of Helen Forrester's By The Waters Of Liverpool have been revealed.

After a hugely successful premiere run at the Liverpool Empire Theatre last Autumn, the play will now make its way round the country bringing Helen's fascinating story to life on stage.

Star of stage and screen Sian Reeves is joining the tour. Sian is best known for her television roles in **Emmerdale, Mount Pleasant, Still Open All Hours, Lunch Monkeys, Hope Springs, City Lights, Where The Heart Is, and Cutting It.**

Hollyoaks' Parry Glasspool and Lucy Dixon, from Waterloo Road and Hollyoaks, join Sian to complete the cast.

The cast also includes the recently announced **Mark Moraghan** and **Eric Potts.**

Mark Moraghan will play Helen's Father. Mark previously played 'Father' in the 2007 and 2009 adaptations of **Twopence To Cross The Mersey.** He returned to play the role in **By The Waters Of Liverpool** in 2018. Mark is best known for his roles in **Holby City, Coronation Street** and **Brookside.**

Coronation Street and **Doctor Who's Eric Potts** will play 'Mr Ellis', Helen's fiery-tempered boss. Eric has also appeared in **Peak Practice, Heartbeat, The Royal, Last Of The Summer Wine,** and **Steel River Blues.**

Other confirmed cast members are **Lynn Francis** as the 'Deaconess'; **Danny O'Brien** as 'Harry O'Dwyer'; **Chloe McDonald** as 'Fiona' (Helen's sister); and **Roy Carruthers** as 'The Detective'.

By The Waters Of Liverpool is the stunning production from the team that brought you **Helen Forrester's timeless story, Twopence To Cross The Mersey.**

To celebrate what would have been **Helen Forrester's 100th Birthday,** the 11-week tour opens at **New Brighton Floral Pavilion, in Wirral, from Tuesday 3 March to Sunday 8 March 2020** – just a few miles from where the writer was born.

The production will then travel to **Stockport, Warrington, St Helens, Lancaster, Crewe, Southport, Rhyl, Swansea, Darlington and Malvern.** The second leg of the tour will be announced shortly.

Sian Reeves will play Helen's Mother, Parry Glasspool will play Helen's brother Alan, while Helen Forrester will be portrayed by Lucy Dixon.

West Bromwich born **Sian Reeves** is an original cast member of the 1985 stage production of **Les Misérables.** She also later appeared in the 25th anniversary performance at London's O2.

Sian has already shared a stage with fellow cast member **Mark Moraghan.** They competed against each other on celebrity TV singing contest, **Just The Two Of Us.** Paired up with opera

singer Russell Watson, **Sian** took the winning honours, while Mark was runner-up with Atomic Kitten's Natasha Hamilton. **The pair will be reunited on stage as Helen Forrester's parents.**

Sian Reeves commented: *"I'm thrilled to be part of the telling of this wonderful book. I've been a fan of Helen Forrester for years, I've read nearly all her books – and I can't wait to help tell her story. It's also just fabulous to be teaming up with Mark Moraghan again."*

Sian's television credits also include Casualty; Mountain Goats; Doctors; Holby City; Linda Green; Making Waves; Swallow; In A Land Of Plenty; Making Astronauts; The Bill; Gypsy Girls; and Sum Of The Parts. Films include Time Of Their Lives; No Deposit No Return; Five Seconds To Spare; Love Bites; This Little Life; Sweet Night Good Heart; and Intimacy.

Theatre credits include Love Me Tender; It's A Family Affair; God Of Carnage; Misconception; Vernon God Little; Talk Of The City; The Merchant of Venice; The House Of Bernada Alba; The Case Of Rebellious Susan; Red Balloon; West Side Story; Kiss Me Kate; And Then There Were None; Pere Goriot; The Good Natured Man; and The Little Match Girl.

Parry Glasspool is best known for playing **Harry Thompson in Hollyoaks**. He was born and raised in the Midlands, before moving to London to study for his BA Hons in Acting for Stage and Media at the University of West London. After five years in Hollyoaks, **Parry** recently made a dramatic exit in a high-profile storyline when he was murdered.

Parry was nominated for Best Newcomer at the prestigious National Television Awards 2016 for his role in the Channel 4 soap. His character was first introduced to the show in Hollyoaks Later in 2013. Other television credits include Hollyoaks Later; Our Zoo; and film The Cutting Room. Theatre credits include Proud.

Parry commented: *"After five amazing years on television, I'm excited to finally step onto a stage again. It'll be a shock to the system, playing five different characters, but I love a challenge – bring it on. I can't wait!"*

Lucy Dixon, who hails from Greater Manchester, is widely known for her television roles as **Danielle Harker in Waterloo Road** and **Tilly Evans in Hollyoaks**. Lucy received a nomination for Best Actress at the TV Choice Awards 2012 for her portrayal of Tilly. The following year, she also featured on the longlist for Best Serial Drama Performance at the National Television Awards 2013.

Last year, **Lucy** took to the stage to play Catherine in Proof at Manchester's Hope Mill Theatre. Her starring role as "shepherd number one" at an early age sparked her love for acting! She went on to train at The David Johnson and Vernon Acting Method.

Lucy added: *“I am thrilled to be joining the cast of **By The Waters Of Liverpool** – and to be playing such a strong female role. I am particularly excited for my family to watch me following in Helen’s footsteps, a story they have read and know well themselves. Liverpool has always felt like home to me, even more so now I live there, and I am so excited to welcome people of all ages to this heart-felt story.”*

Lucy’s other TV credits include *Birds Of A Feather*; *Casualty*; *Scott And Bailey*; *Endeavour*; *Hollyoaks Later*; *Waterloo Road Reunited*; *The Power of Poetry*; *Doctors*; and short film *Comedienne*. Theatre credits include *The Stretch*; *Proof*; *Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons*; *Merchant Of Venice*; *Rehearsal For Murder*; *The Girl From The Ward*; *Keeper*; *Aladdin*; *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs*; *Lord Of The Flies*; *Lysistrata*; *Snoopy The Musical*; *The Rivals*; *Love On The Dole*; *Maria Marten*; *Sweet Charity*; *Sleeping Beauty The Musical*; *The Wiz*; and *Peter Pan*.

The new touring production of **By The Waters Of Liverpool** is again produced by **Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms** and is **directed by Gareth Tudor Price**.

Writer and friend of Helen Forrester, Rob Fennah has written both the stage play versions of **Twopence To Cross The Mersey** and **By The Waters Of Liverpool**.

During the Great Depression, Helen’s father lost his fortune when the stock market and the family were suddenly thrown into poverty. Leaving behind the nannies, servants and comfortable middle-class life in the South West of England, the Forrester’s chose Liverpool as the place to start over. They were in for a terrible shock. Taken out of school to care for her younger brothers and sisters while her parents struggled to re-build their shattered lives, Helen is treated as an unpaid slave and desperate to escape.

By The Waters Of Liverpool is a period drama set in the 1930s. The story opens in 1935. Helen Forrester is 16-years-old, and fighting a bitter battle with her parents for the right to educate herself and go out to work. By 1939, Helen is now aged 20 and with Britain on the brink of war, she has never been kissed by a man. But things start looking up for Helen when she meets a tall strong seaman and falls in love.

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 in this exciting new stage play adaptation.

By The Waters Of Liverpool’s Spring 2020 UK Tour opens at **New Brighton Floral Pavilion** from **3 March to 8 March 2020**, before heading to the **Stockport Plaza** (10 March to 12 March); **Warrington Parr Hall** (14 March and 15 March); **St Helens Theatre Royal** (17 March to 21 March); **Lancaster Grand** (23 March and 24 March); **Crewe Lyceum** (25 March and 26 March); **Southport Theatre** (27 March and 28 March); **Rhyl Pavilion Theatre** (31 March to 4

April); **Swansea Grand Theatre** (6 April and 7 April); **Darlington Hippodrome** (9 April to 11 April); followed by **Malvern Theatres** (14 April and 15 April).

Helen's best-selling volumes of autobiography include *Twopence To Cross The Mersey*, *Liverpool Miss* and *By The Waters Of Liverpool*.

**Adapted by Rob Fennah · Directed by Gareth Tudor Price
Produced by Pulse Records Limited in association with Bill Elms
Fully endorsed by the Helen Forrester Estate**

Website: www.bythewatersofliverpool.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ByTheWatersThePlay

LISTING INFORMATION

Helen Forrester's

BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL

FLORAL PAVILION

Tuesday 3 March – Sunday 8 March 2020

Marine Promenade, New Brighton, Wirral, CH45 2JS

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.floralpavilion.com

Box Office: 0151 666 0000

STOCKPORT PLAZA

Tuesday 10 March – Thursday 12 March 2020

Mersey Square, Stockport, SK1 1SP

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.stockportplaza.co.uk

Box Office: 0161 477 7779

WARRINGTON PARR HALL

Saturday 14 March – Sunday 15 March 2020

Palmyra Square, Warrington, WA1 1BL

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: <https://parrhall.culturewarrington.org/whats-on>

Box Office: 01925 442345

ST HELENS THEATRE ROYAL

Tuesday 17 March – Saturday 21 March 2020

Corporation Street, St Helens, WA10 1LQ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.sthelenstheatreroyal.com

Box Office: 01744 756000

LANCASTER GRAND THEATRE

Monday 23 March – Tuesday 24 March 2020

St Leonardgate, Lancaster, LA1 1QW

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.lancastergrand.co.uk

Box Office: 01524 64695

CREWE LYCEUM

Wednesday 25 March – Thursday 26 March 2020

Heath Street, Crewe, CW1 2DA

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.crewelyceum.co.uk

Box Office: 01270 368242

SOUTHPORT THEATRE

Friday 27 March – Saturday 28 March 2020

The Promenade, Southport, PR9 0DZ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.waterfrontsouthport.co.uk/events/whats-on

Box Office: 01704 500036

PAVILION THEATRE RHYL

Tuesday 31 March – Saturday 4 April 2020

East Parade, Rhyl, LL18 3AQ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.rhylpavilion.co.uk

Box Office: 01745 330000

GRAND THEATRE SWANSEA

Monday 6 April – Tuesday 7 April 2020

Singleton Street, Swansea, SA1 3QJ

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.swansea.gov.uk/swanseagrandtheatre

Box Office: 01792 475715

DARLINGTON HIPPODROME

Thursday 9 April – Saturday 11 April 2020

Parkgate, Darlington, DL1 1RR

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

Box Office: 01325 405405

MALVERN THEATRES

Tuesday 14 April – Wednesday 15 April 2020

Grange Road, Malvern, WR14 3HB

Tickets from £22 plus booking fee

Website: www.malvern-theatres.co.uk

Box Office: 01684 892277

ENDS

For more information, interviews or images please contact Erica Dillon at Bill Elms Associates on 0151 708 5158 or erica@billelms.com

Production Shots from 2018 production: credit Anthony Robling

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.