

EXTRAVAGANZA PRODUCTIONS LIMITED. DIRECTORS: DAVID VICKERS & RICHARD CHANDLER

In his early teens, self-taught actor, director, scenic artist and costumier David Vickers, founded a theatre club in Notting Hill Gate.

On leaving grammar school he joined the window display team at Selfridges in Oxford Street, who at that time were starting the famous Christmas Grottos and animated toy and puppet windows.

David then appeared in five years of weekly repertory with director Douglas Emery, of Oldham Repertory fame, at the intimate theatre, Palmers Green as character actor and designer. Then followed many years of pantomimes and summer shows, including playing ugly sister.

Richard Chandler began dancing at the age of three, specialising in modern dance and tap. He danced his way through many musicals. Meanwhile, he was concentrating on studying voice in opera and operetta with Constance Shacklock.

He was seen singing in 'Puccini's 'La Boheme at the Cliffs Pavilion by David Vickers, designer and costumier who worked for pantomime producer Jerry Jerome. David booked Richard to play Dick Whittington in Plymouth where David was stage director as well as playing Alderman Fitzwarren and the Sultan of Morocco. .

David and Richard then formed the International Mosaics, a life size puppet act in ultra violet lighting which won opportunity knocks and gave them a Blackpool season, a tour of South Africa, a Royal Command Performance, the London Palladium show in Toronto and took them several times around the world on P&O, Holland America and Cunard cruise liners, including many world cruises aboard the famous QE2.

They built and operated the fantastic transformation sequence for 'Jack and the Beanstalk' with Russ Abbot at the Palace Theatre, Manchester and also the Giant Puppet Dream Ballet in 'Hans Andersen' at the London Palladium, starring Tommy Steele. They also toured the UK with his anniversary show, and supplied puppets for his three Christmas television specials, receiving the golden rose of Montreaux.

They founded Extravaganza Productions Ltd and were an instant success with spectacular family pantomimes. With good scripts, fabulous scenery and costumes, and wonderful stage effects, they have gone from strength to strength becoming a much respected name in the theatrical profession.