

# SHOWCALL WHO'S WHERE



OVERLAP No. 92

Overlap rules: Enter answers clockwise. Each starts with the last letters - never fewer than 2 nor more than 3 - of the preceding answer (thus CONE - NEST - ESTEEM would be entered as 'CONESTEEM') and the answer to the illustrated clue overlaps the first.

This week's clues: Snuggle (6); Lower limb (3); Self (3); Horned, bearded animal (4); Minute particle (4); A book dedicated to myself? (4); A pool (4); Genuine (4); High-pitched male voice (4); Play a variety of venues (4); Not rural (5); Stringed instrument (5); Showcall artist Jimmy (illustrated) (5).

Last week's answer: AYAHEADVISEPALDISCARIBOUJAY (Showcall Vol. 1, page 323).

Week: Mon. Jan 7th - Sun. Jan 13th

**THE ACROMANIACS**  
Babies in the Wood, Kings Theatre, Glasgow

**THE ALEXANDERS**  
Babies in the Wood, Parr Hall, Warrington

**THE ANTONS**  
Cabaret, Hotel Burnin, Folkestone

**PAUL ARDEN-GRIFFITH**  
Touring, U.S.A.

**PETER FATS BAXTER**  
Hospitality Inn, Brighton (13)

**ALEX BOURNE**  
Stadium Theatre Company, Crusaing, ss (Canberra)

**CARNIVAL MAGIC**  
Cruising, mv 'Ocean Princess', South American waters and Antarctica

**THE ROB CHARLES ORCHESTRA & SINGERS**  
World cruise, 'Queen Elizabeth II'



FRANKIE DESMOND  
Dick Whittington, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE CHECKMATES**  
Ticks, Guildford, Surrey (11)

**THE CINGALES**  
Cruising, mv 'Black Prince', Canary Isles

**JESS CONRAD**  
'Cinderella', Tameside Theatre, Ashton under Lyne

**FRANK MUSIC**  
The County Arms, Isleworth

**BOOTHBY GRAFFOE**  
O.S.E. Tour, Northern Ireland (8-11)

**SAMANTHA GROVES**  
'Peter Pan', Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

**THE HAVEY MONIE NOES**  
Folk Mass, St. Mary's Church, New Mills (13)

**DON JAMES**  
Pontin's Holiday Centre, Blackpool

**RICHARD & LARA JARMAIN**  
'Dick Whittington', Palace Theatre, Manchester

**PETRINA JOHNS**  
'Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs', Lewisham Theatre, SE5

**SZARA KING**  
Cruising, mv 'Eurosun', Canary Islands

**TERRY PEARSON**  
'Aladdin', Old Repertory Theatre, Birmingham

**DON REID**  
Civic Theatre, Rotherham

**CLAIRE REYNOLDS**  
'Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs', Broadway Theatre, Barking

**RHUBARB THE CLOWN**  
Touring, Australia (until 8)

**GERTRUDE SHILLING**  
Greenwich Sound & Radio Thamesmead (13)

**THE SOUTHLANDERS**  
Cruising, mv 'Sun Viking', Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Caribbean

**ANDY TURVEY**  
Severn Sound Radio, Gloucester

**NICK URRY, HS ORCHESTRA & SINGERS**  
Town Hall, Watford (12)

**SHARON WOOD**  
Cruising, mv 'Sun Viking', Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Caribbean

**PAUL ZENON**  
'Dick Whittington', The Dome, Brighton

**ZODIAC BROTHERS**  
World Cruise, mv 'Sagaford', Cunard Lines

This column is a free service for Artists listed in Showcall 1991. Dates should be submitted in writing - as far in advance as you wish, but to arrive not later than fourteen days prior to the engagement. Only one engagement per Artist per week will be published. Please quote the venue and town, plus the dates the engagement starts and ends. Long-term residences can be advised as until further notice and will be included weekly. An Agency advertisement in Showcall permits the inclusion of one listed Artist (who would not otherwise qualify) per week.

Send your entry to SHOWCALL WHO'S WHERE, Stage House, 47 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XT.

The Publishers reserve the right to reject any entry or to suspend the column at their discretion.

# Show People A chip off the old block

IN the heyday of great British variety, audiences could see Max Miller and Gracie Fields top the bill, but inevitably, either opening the first half or interrupting the second half, you would often find a bizarre act filling an eight minute spot. Some were extraordinary, some were awful.

Back in the forties and fifties on the Moss Empire Circuit were Joe Adams - The Human Billiard Ball, Professor Sparks and Thelma - Washing the Electric Baby, Terri Carol - a large lady who tore paper to music - and Henri Vadden, the infamous cartwheel juggler who wore a fireman's helmet.

Then there was Resista, favourite artist of late comic Ted Ray, who stood motionless on stage and bet the audience that no one could move her from her spot. Nobody apparently won the bet.

Although at 32 he is by no means old enough to remember, Anthony Irvine is now keeping the tradition alive in clubs and theatres as The Ice man.

He melts enormous blocks of ice on the stage and has been doing so since 1983. He is now on block 141 and has an Equity card. A full one.

To the accompaniment of Duke Ellington's I Can't Realise You Love Me he erects a makeshift

"I've always introduced myself at the beginning of the act as a Nice Man and proceed to use various agents to try and melt the block of ice. They are breath - that's the audience contribution - friction, salt and a blow torch, iron or an explosion," explains Irvine.

"Audience reactions are

platform on bamboo legs with a bowl and a rubber duck underneath it which swims as the ice is melted.



The ICEMAN

# A Law unto herself

By JOHN HANNAM

THIS year, instead of spending a pantomime Christmas in Scotland, Stoke or Blackpool, Ryde comedienne Mimi Law was at work in 20 minutes. She starred in her first-ever Isle of Wight panto, after 30 years of productions all over Britain.

Mimi's husband, Billy Whittaker, is still rated one of the best pantomime dames in the country but following an illness was not fit enough to tread the boards this Christmas. So Mimi was more than happy to appear on her own

doorstep, at Newport's Medina Theatre.

Born into a true showbusiness family, she first appeared as a 14-year-old, playing Cinderella in a South London professional pantomime with her father and elder brother, known as comedy duo Charles Gladwell and Leslie Rome.

Long before that she had been brought up in theatres and was a backstage regular at Christmas. Once, at the age of four, she was so terrified by the giant in Jack and the Beanstalk she fell down a flight of stairs.

After eventually meeting husband Billy Whittaker she gave up pantomime to follow him around and act as his manager, dresser and secretary. He was constantly in demand to play alongside major stars like Norman Wisdom and Ken Dodd.

In 1961 Mimi was in Bristol, with Billy, when the panic call came from her impresario brother, Jerry Jerome, in Essex, that his wife, also the principal girl, was seriously ill with pneumonia. Could she deputise?

Billy and Norman Wisdom came off at Bristol Station and the very next day I was on stage at Westcliff-On-Sea, with no time for rehearsals, in Robinson Crusoe.

"It was the first time I had worked with my brother since we were a boy and girl act, June and Jerome, with Hughie Green," reflected Mimi.

Of course, she was an instant hit and for the next three years directed and appeared in productions at the Hoe Theatre, Plymouth. Since then she has seldom missed.

Among those she has directed and appeared with are Clive Dunn, Charlie Drake, Charlie Chester and the late Hylda Baker. The latter caused her problems at Southsea, in 1975.

"I directed Hylda Baker and it almost gave me a breakdown, although I had great admiration for her as a performer."

That unexpected comeback into pantomimes, in 1961, made her aware of just what she had been missing. Directing productions, for the first time, gave her a new incentive.

In more recent years she joined husband Billy for pantomimes and even teamed up with him to play the Ugly Sisters at Southend and Stockport.

Children are Mimi's forte and she instantly brought her natural flair for comedy into her principal boy roles, which was somewhat innovative.

"I added comedy to my principal boy roles, instead of all that thigh slapping, and a lot of others have now followed me," said Mimi.

In her last two major productions, at Hanley and Blackpool, Mimi portrayed a baddie for the first time. Now she can't wait to follow the Wicked Queen and Queen Rat.

In Newport she played Muddles, the page, in Snow White, which opened on December 22.

"Muddles is a great little comedy character, always in trouble and a bit thick," admitted Mimi.

Husband Billy gleefully suggested it took no acting at all. "Oh yes it did," replied Mimi, in true pantomime fashion.

# Making an impression - by not making impressions

AFTER eight years of trying to break away from stand-up comedy and his early reputation as an impressionist, 40-year-old Roger Kitter has made the breakthrough as a TV comedy actor.

"I am replacing Gavin Richards as Captain Alberto Bertorelli in the BBC's 'Allo, 'Allo series," he says. "We are filming ten episodes from October to February. They start on screen in January."

"It means I have had to get a release from pantomime at Eastbourne. Naturally I am delighted because it isn't easy to start a new career as an actor."

"In this country you get pigeon-holed and if you are doing a comedy act or impressions then people think you are not serious about acting."

"But I am - and there are a number of reasons. I stopped doing impressions years ago because I realised that it had a limited future. The clubs are dead and those that remain have only a few artists like Freddie Starr who can fill them."

"So I changed to stand-up comedy and most of my work has been in corporate entertainment. I do a 45-minute act and use three or four impressions at the most."

"In my decade I presented some 50 impressions and I learned that most impressionists have four people they do brilliantly, and the rest of the 'voices' are only so-so."

"I knew it would be a slog and a financial loss while turning into a comedy actor, and to bridge the worst times I

started my own buying-and-selling company."

He began in the business at 19 as an impressionist, went on Opportunity Knocks, and got his first contract with Pontin's holiday centres which meant travelling 1,200 miles a week for £75.

He is the son of a successful professional gambler and for 15 years has been married to actress Karan David, who has been seen in Angels and Crossroads. They have a 17-month-old daughter.

Apart from playing variety theatres including the Palladium, summer seasons, clubs, and in pantomime, radio has kept his name to the fore. For eight years he was in Radio 2's The Impressionists, and he is chairman of the same station's The Names The Game, which returns in the New Year.

"It is essential these days," he believes, "to be seen on television. The best I have had on the box was five years with Who Do You Do? Unless you are on television you are forgotten."

I wanted to move into television sitcom and began as an actor in stage productions of Pyjama Tops and did stints in the West End show Run For Your Wife.

"Then came a call asking me to read for the Captain Bertorelli part in last summer's Blackpool production of 'Allo, 'Allo. That ran for 26 weeks and while I was there the television executives offered me the part in the new series."

"So this is exciting for me and I hope it will lead to more acting in sitcoms, plays, and farces. At least I am out of the no-man's land where I was turning down standup comedy dates to escape the label, and yet I wasn't in acting."

**FORTHCOMING SHOWCASES**

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Banquet Hall, Bournemouth Road, Bournemouth 10pm to 12pm  
Tel: 0803 200039

**RIVIERA ARTISTES SHOWCASE**  
7th Jan 1991  
Wessex Hotel, Westhill Road, Bournemouth  
Tel: 0803 200039

**YORKSHIRE AGENTS ASSOCIATION**  
9th Jan 1991, 12pm  
Farrington Sports Holiday Park, Skipton, Nth Humberside  
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at Gorle Hill Community Centre, Chapel St, Gorle Hill, Swindon  
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Monday January 28th  
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**JME Group of Companies Showcase**  
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**THE ENTERTAINMENT AGENTS ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST BRANCH SHOWCASE**  
ON Wednesday 30th January 1991 at The Wilton Variety Centre, Wilton Lane, Salford  
Enquiries Branch's Secy: IAN COTTEAM  
Tel: 0766 860400

**LES OSMAN SHOWCASE**  
5th February 1991  
Manchester Hotel, Bournemouth  
Tel: 0489 750000

**CEAC SOUTH WESTERN BRANCH SHOWCASE**  
February 6th 1991  
at Redmire Down Ex Servicemen's Club, Bristol  
For Tickets Tel: 0272 931205

EEA or CEAC agents in 'Showcall' may inform Graham Ireland at 'The Stage' of Showcase events they are presenting

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