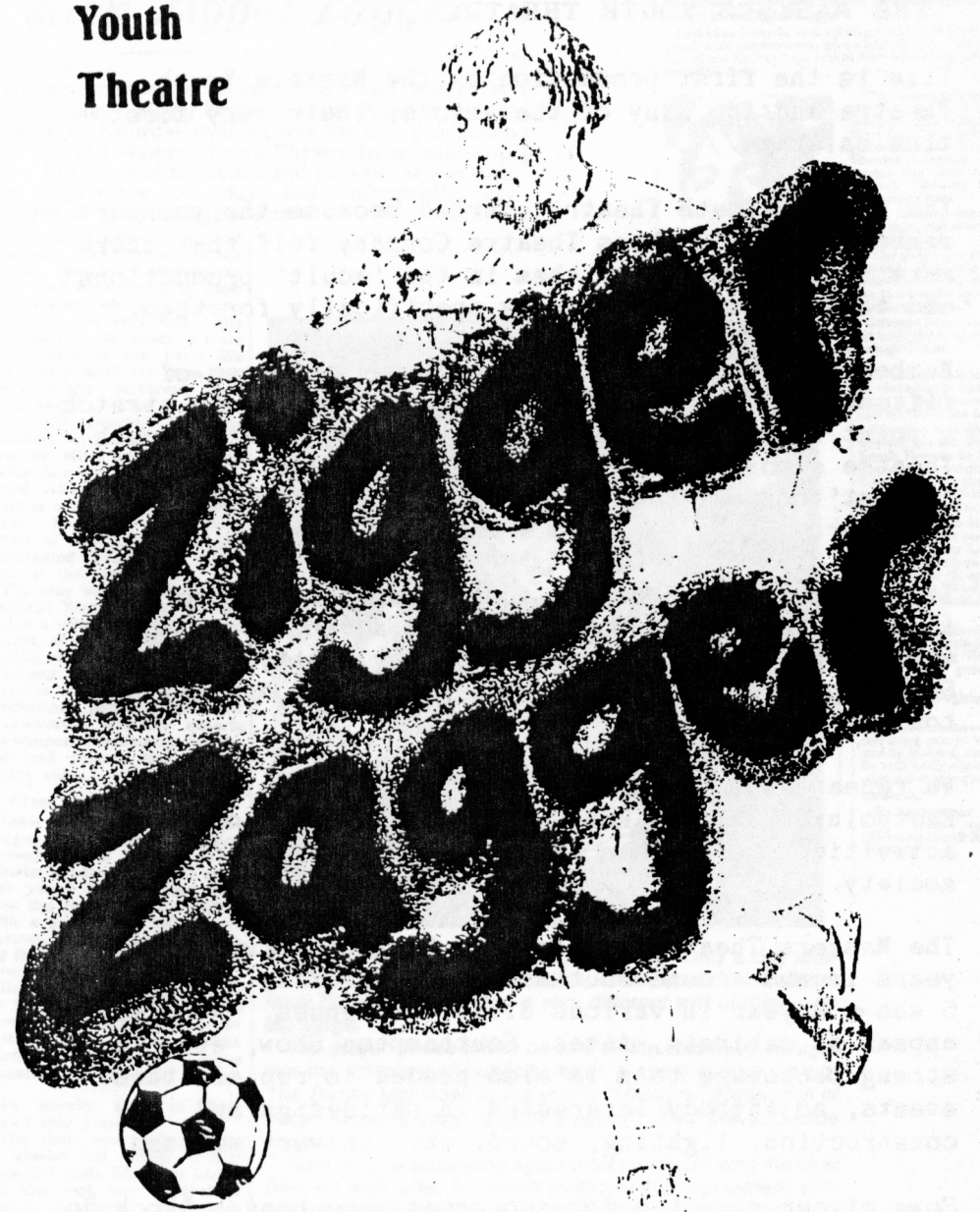




■ What is he up to this time? Bad boy of football, sacked Saint's player Mark Dennis might find there's a new career in store for him — on the stage. For full story see page 3.

Maskers Youth Theatre



by Peter Terson

THE MASKERS YOUTH THEATRE

This is the first production by the Maskers Youth Theatre and for many of the actors, their very first time on stage.

The Maskers Youth Theatre started because the younger members of The Maskers Theatre Company felt that there were too few parts for them in the 'adult' productions and they wanted to do a play specifically for them.

Membership is open to anybody between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five - and we're prepared to stretch a point in either direction. Membership of the Youth Theatre automatically makes you a member of the 'parent' company and the two groups work closely together.

If you would like to join the Maskers and become involved in future productions and a variety of social events, please contact our secretary, Betty Riggs, on Southampton 472619 or speak to any of the Maskers here tonight.

We rehearse, build sets and entertain ourselves at Eastpoint, Burgoyne Road, Hightown. All of our activities are open to anyone interested in joining the society.

The Maskers Theatre Company has been performing for 18 years in and around Southampton. Currently we produce 5 shows a year in various different venues. We also appear at cabarets, fêtes, Southampton Show, etc. A strong backstage team is also needed to run all these events, so anybody interested in set design and construction, lighting, sound, etc. is very welcome.

Some of our recent major successes have been: 'Lock Up Your Daughters', 'Cyrano de Bergerac', and 'The Dresser'.

Maskers Youth Theatre produce slick Zigger-Zagger

THE performance of Romsey playwright, Peter Terson's play "Zigger Zagger" at the Plaza Theatre in Romsey on Saturday evening was the first production ever for The Maskers Youth Theatre from Southampton. For many of the actors and actresses it was their first appearance on stage; and undoubtedly they brought off a resounding success.

The cast of well over 40, and especially the very young chorus, brought tremendous verve and enthusiasm to their performance, which they maintained to the very end. The age range in the group is from eight years to the early 20s and it says much for them that every single performer was word perfect. The show was very well directed by Tony Lawther, with his wife, Meri Lawther, Miles Spencer, Angela Barks, Ron Tillyer, Clive Weeka, David Allan and Edwin Beacroft as a very efficient back-up team. The slick, unobtrusive action of the props team also contributed considerably to the pace of the production.

The play was written for the National Youth Theatre in 1967 and is a witty story with hidden depths, of football hooliganism, equally relevant in 1987.

Among the many excellent features of The Young Maskers' production, perhaps the most praiseworthy was the superb, maintained characterisation by the lead players and support actors alike.

Great Diversity of Talent

John Carrington as Zigger Zagger, the football addict, showed great diversity of talents; but the star of the show was young Dave McKee, who took the part of Harry Philton with a particularly telling, dry humour, exhibiting a fine feeling for timing and also audience awareness.

Harry's sister, Edna, portrayed by Debbie Moorhouse, was another example of inspired casting, and Vique Hobbs Gardner Chalmers, Ravin Ganatra and Shauna Lockett

were equally good in their varied role playing.

The show was performed to an almost full house. Pupils from Oaklands School at Lords-hill also took part as football fans in the chorus, and obviously enjoyed this successful show, as much as the rest of the cast and the audience.

Vincent, the football hero in the play, adored by all the young fans in the cast, was played at the Plaza by Mr. Dave Edom, Vice-Chairman of Romsey Football Club.

Bad boy is stage hero

SAINTS bad boy Mark Dennis tonight makes his acting debut - as idol of the terraces in the soccer play Zigger Zagger.

Left back Dennis, sent off nine times in a career littered with controversy, plays hero figure Vincent, a Boy of the Rovers type centre forward who is mobbed by female fans.



Stage star Mark Dennis

"The character is supposed to be very handsome and charming," said Meri Lawther, publicity officer for the Maskers Theatre Company, which stages the play at the Gantry Theatre for a three night run.

"He is very much an idol figure who everybody looks up to.

"The girls have life-size cut-outs of him in their bedrooms, but he tends to use the female fans that flock around him."

Offstage he proves a big hit with the lead character's girlfriend.

She falls for him when he visits her in hospital after a shot went wide and hit her in the face!

The play was specially written for the National Youth Theatre in 1967 by Romsey playwright Peter Terson, but its story of a would-be football hooligan still stands good today.

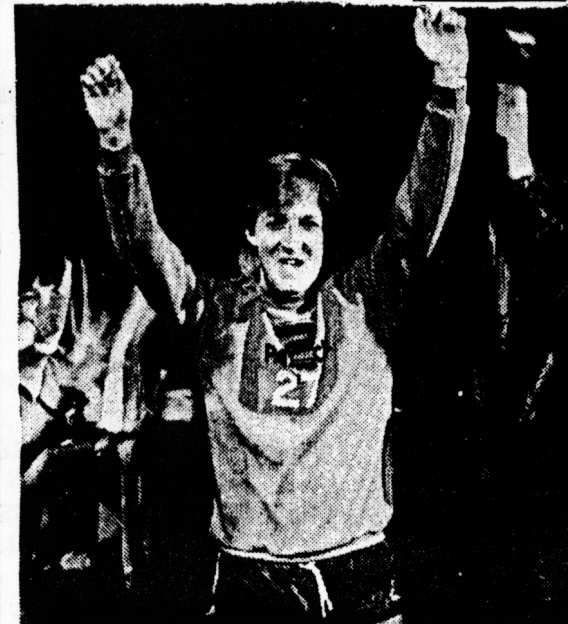
Dennis shares the stage with other raw recruits - producer Tony Lawther has drawn on new young actors from 16 upwards for his first show at the Blechynan Terrace theatre.

He stepped in after the company appealed to Southampton Football Club for a guest appearance.

"We are delighted," said Meri.

"He won't have to do anything except come on and be idolised, but I hope he will hang around and sign a few autographs afterwards."

Performances are at 8pm from tonight (Thursday) until Saturday (April 4).



■ He's never out of the spotlight for long! Only a day after his shock sacking from the Saints, controversial football star Mark Dennis was playing a very different sort of role - on the stage.

The player whose antics on and off the field have brought him the full glare of publicity made a guest appearance at The Gantry last week in the young "Maskers" production of Peter Terson's play "Zigger Zagger". And the audience loved it.

Mark, who is appealing against his dismissal from the First Division side after his much publicised disagreement with manager Chris Nicholl, brought his mum and dad and four-year-old baby daughter Joanne along to the first night.

ZIGGER ZAGGER

by Peter Terson

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY
ALAN WHITEHEAD
AS VINCENT

CAST

ZIGGER ZAGGER	JOHN CARRINGTON JNR
HARRY PHILTON	DAVE MCKEE
POLICEMAN	CHRIS BENNETT
HEADMISTRESS	SHAUNA LOCKETT
CARETAKER	GARDNER CHALMERS
TEACHER	JULIA CAMPONE
NEWSAGENT	ROB CLOTHER
MRS PHILTON, <i>Harry's Mother</i>	LOUISE WHITE
UNCLE ALBERT	CHRIS BENNETT
EDNA, <i>Harry's Sister</i>	DEBBIE MOORHOUSE
LES, <i>Edna's Husband</i>	JOHN TREVORROW
CLUB CHAIRMAN	HUGH STANLEY
YOUTH CAREERS OFFICER	VIQIE HOBBS
UNCLE BRIAN	MILES SPENCER
RECRUITING SERGEANT	HUGH STANLEY
MEDICAL OFFICER	SHAUNA LOCKETT
1ST LETTER READER	CHRIS BENNETT
2ND LETTER READER	ROB CLOTHER
3RD LETTER READER	VICKY RICKMAN
4TH LETTER READER	SHAUNA LOCKETT
OLD SOLDIER	GARDNER CHALMERS
MAGISTRATE	JULIA CAMPONE
YOUTH CLUB LEADER	GARDNER CHALMERS
SANDRA	VIQIE HOBBS
GLENICE	VICKY BOWERS
STANLEY	BARRY GLASSPELL
1ST MAN ON BUS	GARDNER CHALMERS
2ND MAN ON BUS	GURMAIL PADDAN/AJAY MAJITHIA
BUS CONDUCTOR	RAVIN GANATRA
VICAR	CHRIS BENNETT
1ST APPRENTICE	ROB CLOTHER
2ND APPRENTICE	HUGH STANLEY
3RD APPRENTICE	GARDNER CHALMERS
CHORUS	RICHARD ALLAN, JOHN ALLEN,
DONNA BATT, SARAH BLACKMAN, EMMA CARRINGTON,	
NICOLA CARTER, HAZEL COUZENS, PAULA CURTIS, JAMES DEAN,	
CLAIRE DOBSON, ROBERT DOBSON, BEN DUNLEAVEY,	
GEMMA HAYES, NEIL LISTER, DAVE MACDERMOTT,	
WARREN MAXWELL, CHRIS NAYLOR, JOE PRESS, SAM PRESS,	
JAMES SESSIONS, KALVIN SINGH, HELEN TEGGERT	

ZIGGER ZAGGER was especially written for the National Youth Theatre in 1967.

FOR THE MASKERS

DIRECTOR	TONY LAWTHER
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	MERI LAWTHER
STAGE MANAGER	MILES SPENCER
SOUND	ANGELA BARKS
LIGHTING	RON TILLYER
	CLIVE WEEKS
SET CONSTRUCTION	DAVID ALLEN
	ANGELA BARKS
	EDWIN BEECROFT
PROPS	HILARY BOWEN
	JANET CAIRNEY
	ROS LIDDIARD
	CATHERINE NOLAN

OUR THANKS TO :

The Staff of The OAKLANDS CENTRE
Southampton Football Club
Draper Tools
Shirley Furnishing Stores
Vincents Van Hire

The Maskers acknowledge financial assistance from
Southampton Arts Council.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM by George Farquhar
In the open air at MOTTISFONT ABBEY
Friday 17th to Saturday 25th July
Box Office Lockerley 40757

or come and see us at Southampton Show on the Common,
July 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Spotlight on sacked Saint



ON STAGE: Sacked Saint Mark Dennis.

SACKED soccer star Mark Dennis tearfully bowed out in public last night to a chorus of *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

The hell-raiser, dubbed soccer's Mr. Nasty, turned nice for the youth of Southampton.

He briefly appeared on stage at The Gantry Theatre in the football hooligan play *Zigger Zagger* by Maskers Youth Theatre.

Dennis didn't say a single word in the play — but he still enjoyed a rousing ovation.

Billed as the soccer idol "Vincent", Dennis popped on stage for a few seconds while the youngsters danced around him in hero worship.

"It's been a great night with these young people and I'm looking forward to the next two shows," said Dennis clutching the hand of his four-year-old daughter Joanne.

Ovation as sad Dennis bows out

"But I'm sad that I'm leaving the club and the fans I love. It was the decision of the directors and the manager."

There were only about 40 people in the audience last night and half of those were Press waiting for Dennis to appear.

But the youngsters have been richly praised for their performance and hope more will turn up tonight and tomorrow.

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY
 IN THE OPEN AIR AT
MOTTISFONT ABBEY
 George Farquhar's Classic Comedy
**THE
 BEAUX'
 STRATAGEM**
 Directed by Ken Spencer
**FRIDAY 17th to
 SATURDAY 25th JULY**
 Performance at 7.30 Grounds open at 6.30
 Tickets - £4.00 • Concessions £2.50 from The National Trust Kiosk
 Mottisfont Abbey, Romsey SO51 0LP Telephone - Lockerley 40757
 and from
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 Shaw's, Market Place, Romsey

Bar: Refreshments: Please bring a rug or folding chair