



THE MYSTERIES What the Critics Say . . .

MEDIAEVAL MYSTERY MARVEL

There were lovely comic moments with Cain and Abel, Mrs Noah refusing to board the ark, and the parody of the nativity through the shepherds and the sheep-stealer. The audience sat on the floor of the Cathedral watching the action unfold in front of, behind, around and above them.

"A triumph . . . a moving spectacle, long to remain in the memory."

... *The Stage*

The whole production was superb. Amateurs maybe, but a very professional production which could do justice to Broadway.

... *Metro News 1991*

THE BIRMINGHAM MYSTERIES 1991 BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

The Medieval world is joyfully recreated in The Mystery Plays at Birmingham Cathedral.

Noah's Flood performed in the Cathedral's grounds is the best Mystery – the set is superb.

The magical entertainment would come back every year if I had my way.

... *Birmingham Focus – July 1991*

"Together the two plays – The Creation and The Passion, are a skilfully wrought tapestry of high thought and low life, of serious drama and broad comedy, through which the music, much of it on medieval-style pipes and drums, weaves a golden thread blending the styles of different periods, from the 14th Century's Tristram's Lament to the contemporary Lord of the Dance."

... *Metro News*

I am hard-pressed to criticise the acting, which is consistently professional, characterful and intelligent. The tone is just right, revealing the naive charm of these plays without ever becoming arch.

In fact, the music and the cast's singing are a pleasure

throughout the evening. The director, Ken Pickering, and his team have created a joyous piece of theatre which is definitely not to be missed.

... *The Stage*
Ann Fitzgerald

There was a moment in Friday's performance when setting, text and staging fused into grim perfection.

Squatting on the floor of the nave, the audience became more than spectators – they became participant witnesses to Christ's kangaroo court as, elevated on podiums, Caiaphas the high priest

hissed venom as Pontius Pilate placed vanity before justice.

The debate was punctuated by the people calling out for the Saviour's blood. The feeling of being present at perhaps the greatest injustice in history, in a Cathedral turned Roman basilica, was momentarily overwhelming.

... *July 1991*

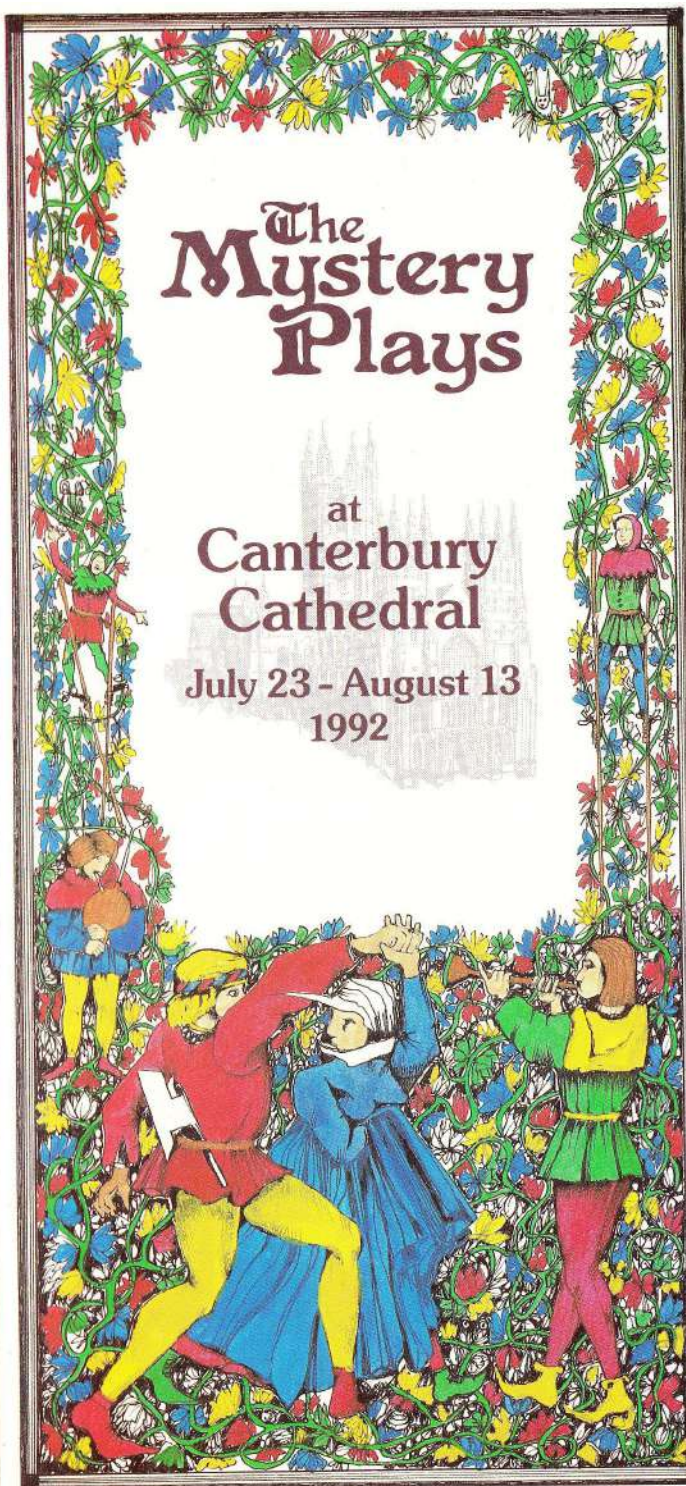
The Bishop's view was "They were wonderful, absolutely wonderful, and I would certainly welcome performances in the Cathedral in the future".

... *Birmingham Post*

"Full of humour . . . they should not be missed."

The Gazette

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The Mystery Plays

at
Canterbury Cathedral

July 23 - August 13
1992

