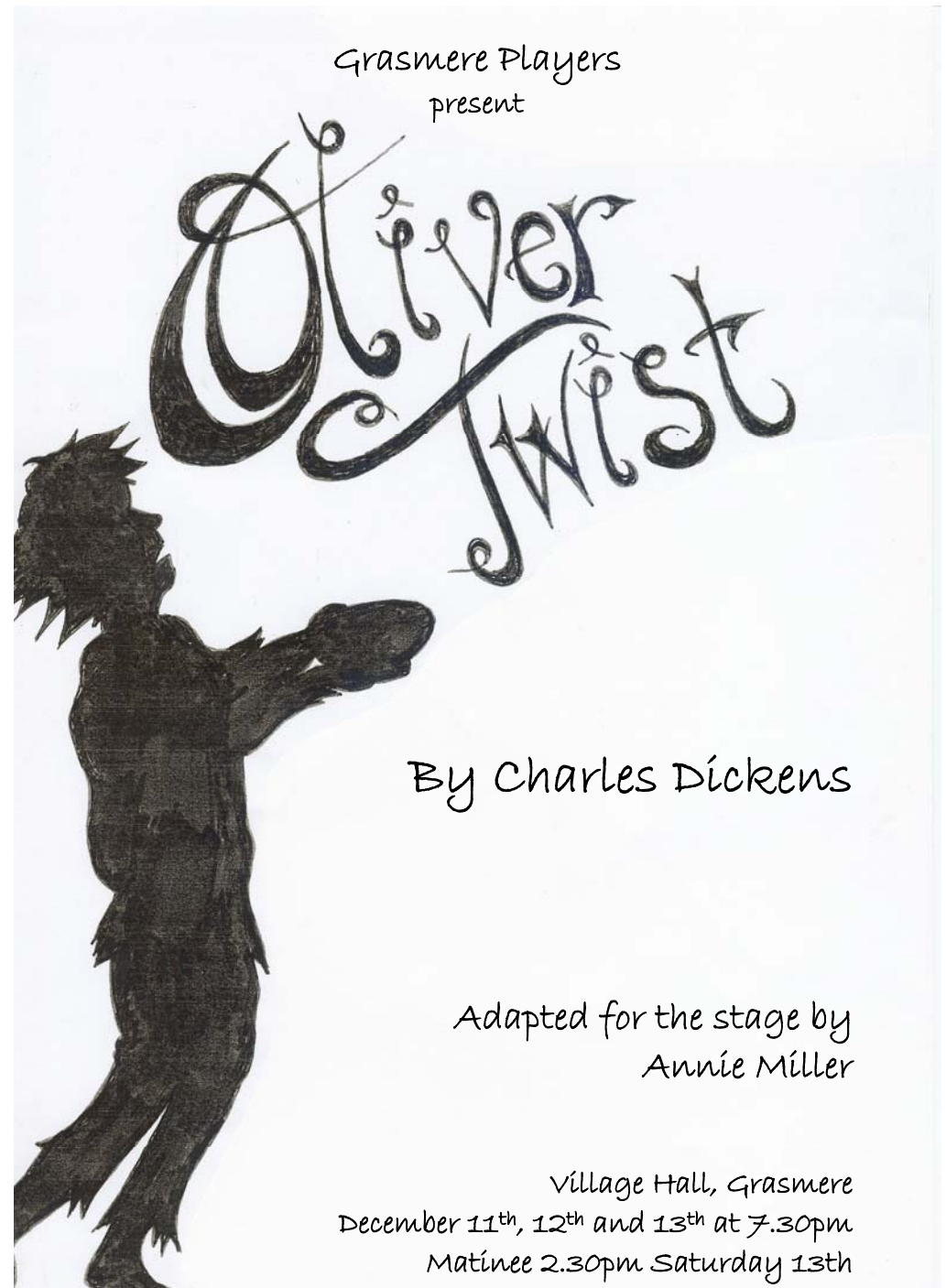


Oliver Twist was Charles Dickens' second novel and was first published in monthly parts, in Bentley's Miscellany, between February 1837 and April 1839. The sheer size of the book made the job of editing the work into a two hour drama with all the vital elements intact, a bit of a challenge! I have made every effort to use Dickens' words where possible but concessions to plot simplification have been made.

The story is one we all know. Oliver Twist is born in the workhouse, immediately orphaned, and nurtured in his early years at Mrs Mann's baby farm. In reality the vast majority of babies and children did not survive the tender loving care of these establishments but Oliver is one of the lucky ones. At the age of nine he returns to the workhouse to earn his living by picking oakum. This was a back – breaking and finger – blistering job involving the unpicking and de-tarring of old ship's ropes.

After boldly asking for more gruel, Oliver is apprenticed to Mr Sowerberry, the parish undertaker. He sleeps amongst the coffins and survives on other people's scraps including the dog's. After a well provoked attack on the bullying Noah Claypole, who casts doubt on the virtue of Oliver's dead mother, our hero takes to the open road. There he meets Jack Dawkins, otherwise known as The Artful Dodger. From here onwards Oliver's life becomes much more exciting!

The story may seem a little bleak at times and indeed Dickens meant it to be so, but there is plenty of humour to be had in his wonderfully rich characters. I hope you will sit back and enjoy your evening in the company of Mr and Mrs Bumble, Bill Sikes, Nancy, Dodger and of course the rascally old villain Fagin. Here's hoping that this is the start of a memorable festive season for you all and, on behalf of everyone involved in the production, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Village Hall, Grasmere
December 11th, 12th and 13th at 7.30pm
Matinee 2.30pm Saturday 13th

The Cast in order of appearance

Sally, Mrs Bedwin	Vivienne Rees
Susan	Alex Rigby
Mrs Corney	Elaine Nelson
Agnes, Rose	Jenny Rhodes
Doctor, Gentleman 3, Barman,	
Officer Penny Feather, Brittles	Alistair Gorringe
Mrs Mann, Woman 1	Hilary Beskeen
Mary	Beth Routledge
Mr Bumble	Paul Nelson
Oliver Twist	Michael Rhodes
Gentleman 1, Mr Brownlow	Peter Coward
Gentleman 2, Mr Fang, Giles	Richard Beskeen
Mr Sowerberry, Undertaker,	
Shopkeeper, Mr Grimwig	Trevor Eastes
Mrs Sowerberry, Woman 2	Christine Wright
Noah Claypole, Undertakers lad,	
Man in the Street	John Coombe
Charlotte, Undertakers housemaid	Charlotte Ellwood
Artful Dodger, young pickpocket	Edward Prince
Charley, young pickpocket	Isaak Gledhill
Fagin, thief and fence	Hugh Wright
Nancy, thief and street girl	Lucy Clarke
Bill Sikes, thief and burglar	Paul Wisse

Orphans and Street Children

Jack Barwise, Saphy Beaver-Kieft, Ross Blood, Maddie Broomhead, Molly Calveley, Freya Forecast, Megan Forecast, Ebony Gledhill, Eliza Hodgson, Jenna Irwin, Matthew Jackman, Sarah Jackman, Kate Magennis, Mary Jane Wenlock, Kim Wilson, Megan Wisse

The Crew

Director	Annie Miller
Producer	Nancy Stringer
Stage Manager	John Coombe
Back Stage Crew	Jordan Wainwright, Adam Pickford
Lighting and Sound	Andrew Leech
Costume	Gaynor Rhodes and team
Set Design and Construction	Bob Allen and team
Set Painting	Richard and Jennifer Hardisty
Prompt	Sue Trevelyan
Front of House	June Maddison and team
Publicity	Hilary Beskeen
Properties	Lin Allen and team
Musical Director	Ken Hodgkinson
Fiddler	Alison Prince
Art work	Lucy Wisse

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Please remember to join us again for the REAL start to Christmas, in Grasmere Village Hall on the 22nd December for the Christmas Reading. Doors open at 7.30pm for mulled wine.

For details of upcoming events, past and future productions and booking tickets please visit www.grasmereplayers.co.uk