

The Story of Aesop

by

STEVE FITZPATRICK



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

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IN THE STUDIO

First performance: 31st December 1987

THE HISTORICAL AESOP

According to the Greek historian Herodotus, Aesop lived in the sixth century B.C. on the island of Samos. He appears to have been the slave of a man called Iadmon, whose grandson claimed compensation when Aesop was put to death by the people of Delphi. Herodotus also tells the story of the war waged by Croesus of Lydia against the Persian King Cyrus, and how Croesus was deceived by an ambiguous oracle and saved from execution at the last moment, although he does not connect Aesop with Croesus.

By the time the first surviving version of the fables was written down in the first century A.D., tradition had added a great deal to these bare facts. We are told that Aesop was dumb until the gods rewarded him for his honesty with the gift of speech, and that he was extremely ugly and deformed. His owner — who is now described as a philosopher named Xanthus — found his clever slave something of an embarrassment, although he also made use of his talents, especially when wishing to be reconciled with his shrewish wife.

Later Aesop is supposed to have entered the service of Croesus, and it was while he was on a mission to Delphi for the king that he met his death. However, I have preferred to let him survive to accompany Croesus on his ill-fated Persian expedition. There is nothing in either history or tradition to suggest that Aesop ever got married, but then there's nothing to suggest he didn't, either.

As for the fables, it has long been customary to attribute all animal fables to Aesop, even though many of them plainly originate in India or elsewhere. Of the fables used in the play, all but one appear in the earliest texts as being invented by Aesop. The exception is the story of the Cat who invaded the country of the Mice, which is loosely based on a folk-tale from Tibet.

S.F.

THE STORY OF **AESOP**

by

STEVE FITZPATRICK

Music by **PHILIP LEE**

CAST in alphabetical order

FOX (in 1st Act)

HARE

ALTHAEA, *the daughter
of the Governor*

AESOP'S MOTHER

TORTOISE

FOX (in 2nd Act)

TRAVELLER

PRIESTESS

ASS

STORK

WIFE OF XANTHUS

CAT

WOLF

AESOP *as a boy*

1st MOUSE

XANTHUS, *the philosopher*

Executioner

..... **ALEX BEW**

..... **JULIA COOKE**

... **GRACE CRADDOCK**

..... **RICHARD DAVIES**

..... **ADAM DRYER**

CRETINUS, *a thief*

WIND

ATHENE

LION

QUEEN

2nd MOUSE **SARAH HORN**

AESOP **PAUL MOREL**

GOVERNOR

SEA-CAPTAIN

KING CYRUS

AESOP'S FATHER

PASSER-BY

KING CROESUS

FELONIUS, *a thief*

SUN

..... **DENYS GASKILL**

..... **PAM GOWER**

..... **KEITH PARRY**

..... **JOHN TURNER**

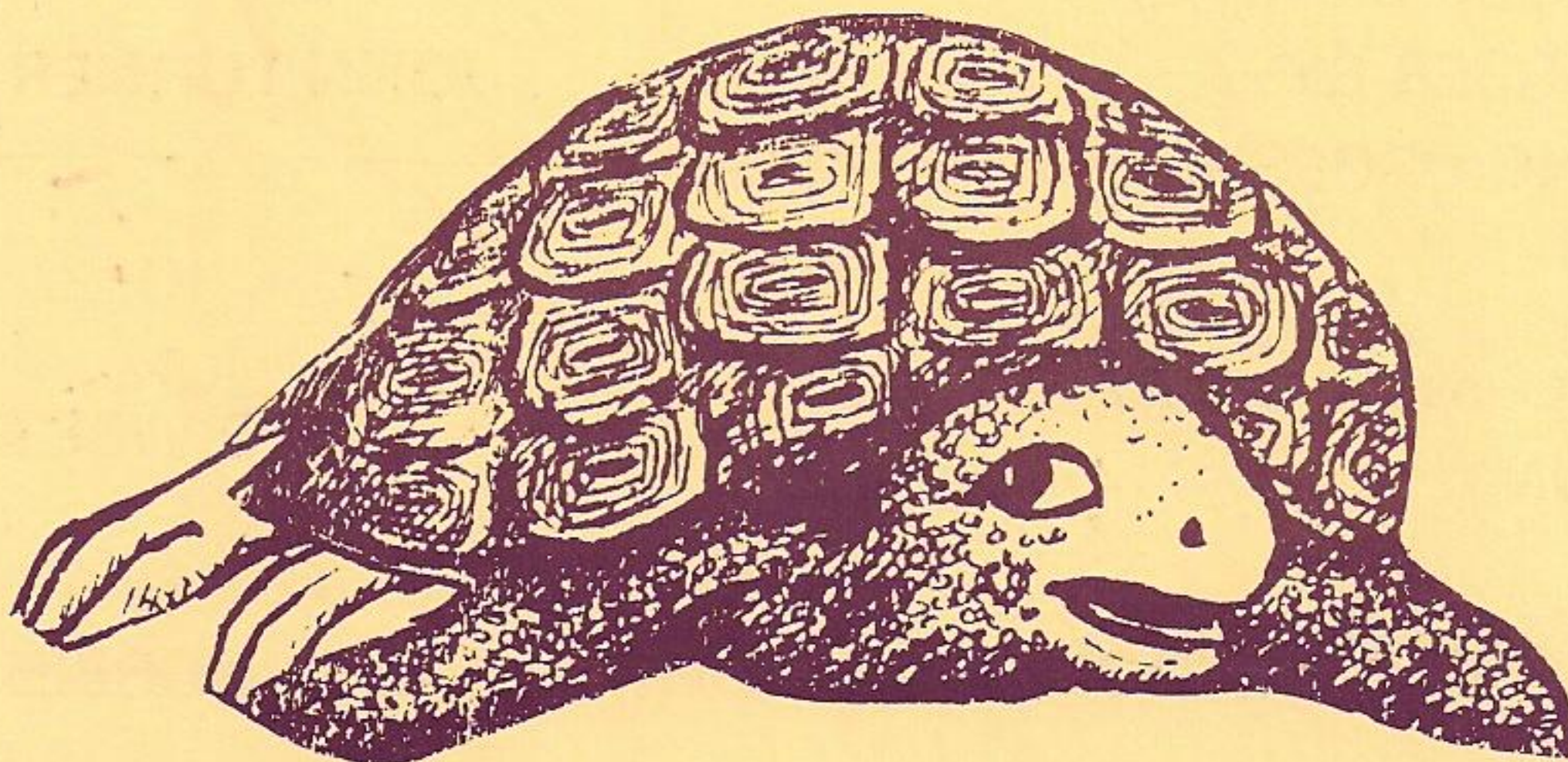
..... **SUE WEST**

with **STUART DOLLIN** *and* **JOHN McLAY** *as* DOBBIN

Directed by **STEVE FITZPATRICK**
Set design by **STUART DOLLIN**
Lighting design by **IAN BRIGGS**
Costume design by **BRONWEN DACE**
Musical Director **PHILLIP LEE**
Sound design by **JOHN KENDALL**
Masks by **PAUL JIGGINS and**
VIN BURNHAM
(Moulds lent by **NIKKI LYONS**)

STAGE MANAGER	:	SUE SMITH
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER	:	NATALIA SIABKIN
ASSISTANT STAGE	:	JOHN McLAY
MANAGERS	:	CHRISTIAN DARKIN
PROPERTIES	:	BEVERLY HOPWOOD
PROMPT	:	SUE DEMETRION
MAKE-UP AND WIGS	:	JULIE CRUTTENDEN
		JANET BROWN
LIGHTING OPERATOR	:	JONATHAN WOODARD
LIGHTING ASSISTANTS	:	LIZ AUSTIN
		PAUL COUCHMAN
		ANDREW GARBUTT
		HELEN GARBUTT
		HANNA WINE
SOUND ASSISTANTS	:	MARTIN COSTER
		MARY KERRIGAN
ADDITIONAL MASKS	:	MICHELLE ROSE

Thanks to: **ACTON PET STORE**
STEVE ANDERSON



COMING EVENTS

CURRENTLY RUNNING IN THE PLAYHOUSE

DANGEROUS CORNER by J.B. Priestley

Directed by Jeffrey Smith

Jan 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 at 7.45pm

Jan 3 at 3.00pm

sponsored by GREENE, KING & SONS PLC



NEXT IN THE STUDIO

A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Simon Meadon

Jan 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 at 7.45pm

NEXT IN THE PLAYHOUSE

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

by Bertolt Brecht

Directed by David Emmet

Jan 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 7.45pm

Jan 24 at 3.00pm

sponsored by STEPHEN BLAND and CO.
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