



On The Way To The Fair - Rehearsals

by writer Jon Conway

Rehearsals began in early August with opening night at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley set for Friday 12th September.

During the summer we have had great fun in putting the set together. Our designer Colin Richmond devised a clever and intriguing set for which he wants to have authentic props and effects.

So I contacted Bill 'Wiz' Williams the son of the legendary Wall-of-Death rider, Tommy Measham who advised us on where to get galloper horses, dodgems and fun fair equipment. The shells of the dodgems are 1970s originals, which my old friend Dave Pinkney converted, by housing them on a disability mobility vehicle base! They look and move just like the real thing. We are expecting to take orders from pensioners and the disabled for our converted vehicles!

Actually Colin and Nikolai have insisted that everything on the set from costumes to motorbikes and props is as authentic as possible. The cast are looking forward to tucking into toffee apples, hot dogs and candyfloss, although after eating them every night for six months we'll see how they feel then!

One thing we may run out of is Kleenex tissues. The storyline is something of a tearjerker and our cast have been so into their characters during rehearsals, they have been in tears after some scenes. Of course they are having plenty of laughs along the way. Susan Hallam-Wright (Sally) is easily our best dodgem driver, Barry Bloxham (Druid) has been practising his characters darker side by playing the video game *Grand Theft Auto IV* and David Burrows (Harvey) is given to displaying a unique ballet pirouette when his character does something particularly nasty in rehearsals.