

# A39 and Cornish Theatre in the 1980s

Paul Farmer

PAUL FARMER



## AFTER THE MINERS' STRIKE

A39 AND CORNISH POLITICAL THEATRE  
VERSUS THATCHER'S BRITAIN

# bus driving into professional theatre



# Miracle theatre – McBeth and the Joke Machine 1984



<https://miracletheatre.co.uk/time-capsule/>



<https://miracletheatre.co.uk/time-capsule/>

# meanwhile in the coalfields....



# into A39

Paul Farmer

Sue Farmer (Suzy Lewis)

Lucy Kempton (Roll Up Theatre)

Mark Kilburn (Roll Up Theatre)

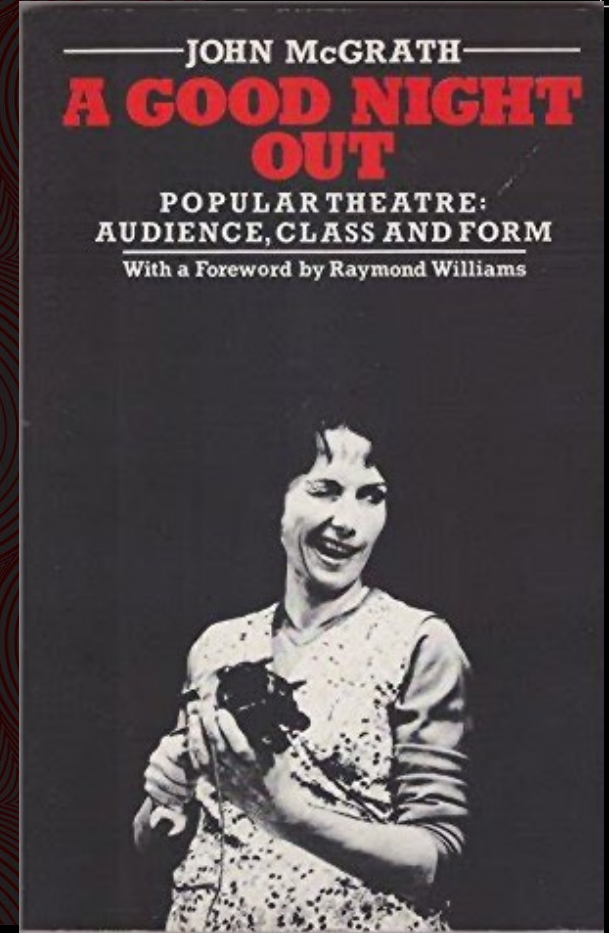
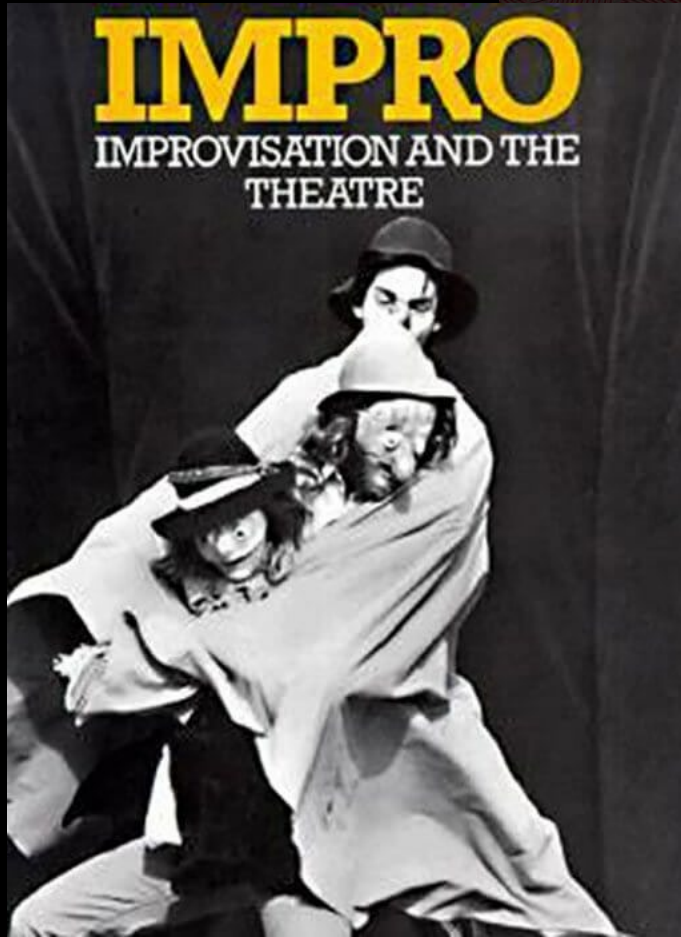
**Why continue with theatre at all?**

It was what we knew

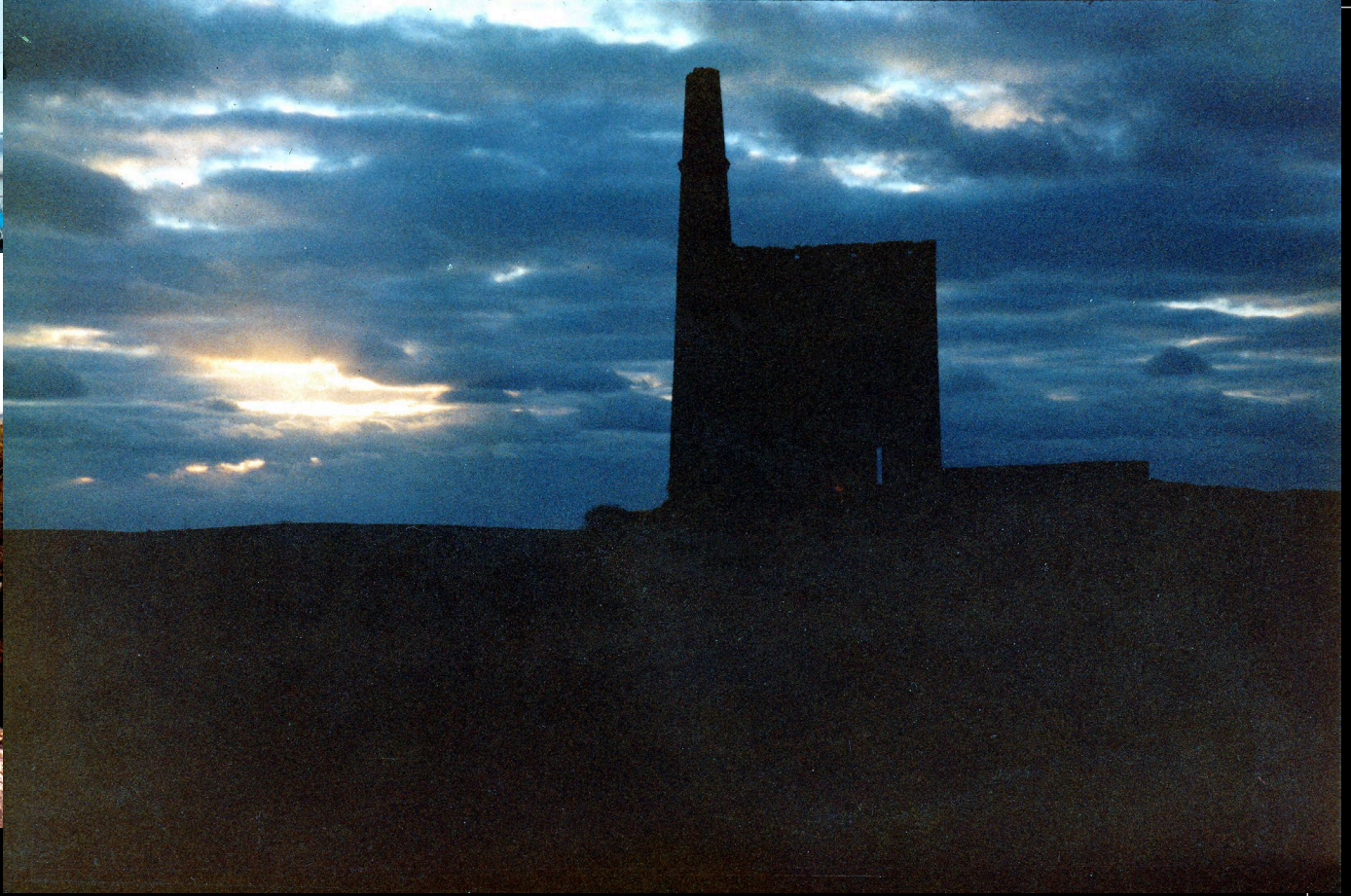
It was a medium we could control  
ourselves



# influences



# what could we do to support the Strike?



# ONE & ALL! An unofficial history of tin mining in Cornwall

## QUALITIES OF WORKING-CLASS THEATRE (from McGrath):

1. Directness. What are we trying to say?
2. Comedy
3. Music
4. Emotion
5. Variety
6. Effect/ 'Affect'
7. Immediacy. Related to audience lives/ experiences
8. Localism
9. Localism in sense of identity with performer

ALL ADDRESSES  
From the Mayor & Magistrates of Helston,  
and the Magistrates of the West  
Division of Kirrier, to the

## MINERS AND LABOURING CLASSES

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# ONE AND ALL!

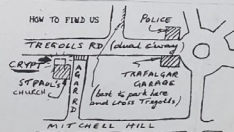
An Unofficial History of Tin Mining in Cornwall.  
DRAMA! COMEDY! MUSIC!

AT:— THE CRYPT CENTRE  
AGAR RD./TREGOLLS RD.  
TRURO. 8.30pm  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 27TH

# A39

THEATRE GROUP

FRANCIS JAMES, Mayor.  
JOHN KENDALL, Justice for Helston.  
JOHN ROGERS, C. W. POPHAM, }  
JOHN PETER, W. THOMAS. } Justices for the West  
Division of Kirrier.



Printed Helston, 27th March 1964



# ONE & ALL! An unofficial history of tin mining in Cornwall



# One & All! – contemporary issues



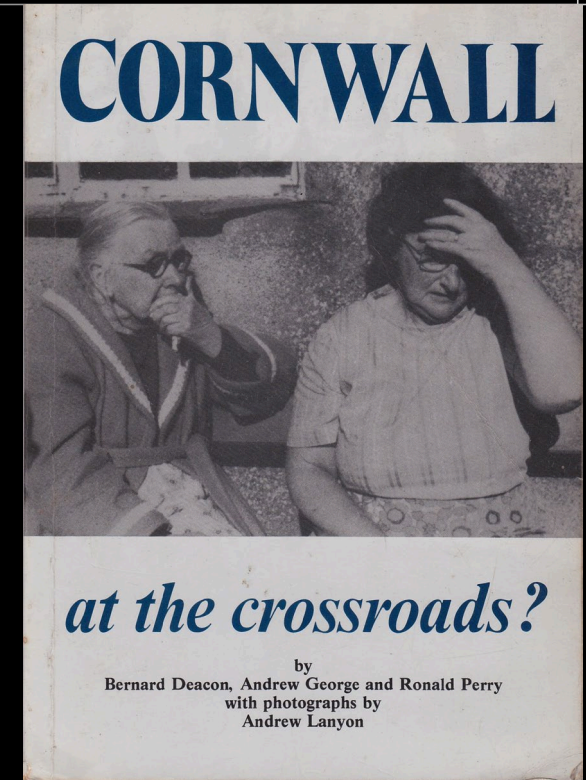
The Tin Crisis, Autumn 1985

South  
Crofty  
Strike  
1939/  
Miners'  
Strike  
1984/85

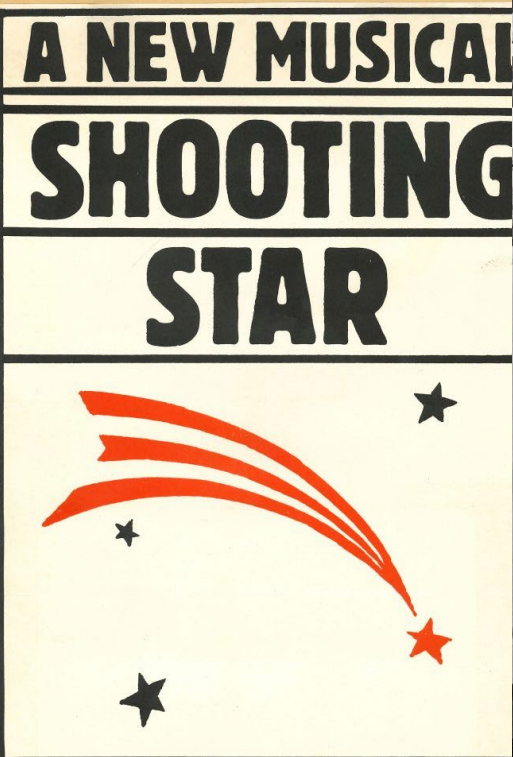
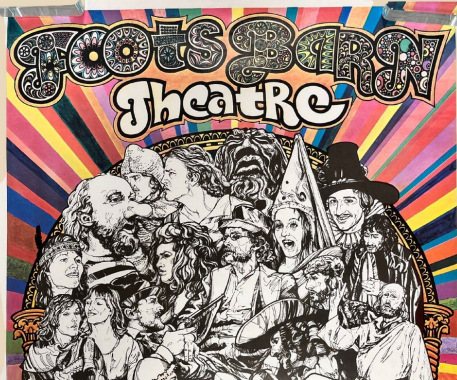


# A39 and the Cornish movement

- *One & All!* contained material in the Cornish language and Cornish traditional music, song and dance (cf McGrath's 'localism')
- Interaction with members of Cornish cultural movement
- The values and issues of Cornwall were the same as those of the Miners' Strike
- Performances and involvement in e.g.
  - Lowender Peran
  - Kescusulyans Kernow



# other theatre companies in Cornwall 1985/86



BASED ON THE LITTLE PRINCE  
MIRACLE THEATRE



Theatre Rotto



Shiva Theatre/  
Cornwall  
Theatre  
Company

# The Cornwall Theatre Alliance


CORNWALL THEATRE ALLIANCE PRESENTS

## THE CORNWALL THEATRE FESTIVAL 1987

AT FALMOUTH 9-13TH SEPTEMBER  
WITH A39, KNEEHIGH, MIRACLE THEATRE, THEATRE ROTTO AND RUMPUS

PLUS THEATRE WORKSHOPS, POETRY, VIDEO, CABARET  
CHILDRENS PAINTING COMPETITION

**KIMBERLEY PARK FALMOUTH**



THE CORNWALL THEATRE ALLIANCE

## PRESENT



**A39 THEATRE GROUP**



and

## THEATRE ROTTO

THE **IN**CABARET 8.30pm.

AT SWAN. TRURO. SAT 18th APRIL

CORNWALL THEATRE ALLIANCE

## PRESENTS

# THEATRE FAIR



**FALMOUTH ARTS CENTRE**  
FRIDAY 23RD MAY  
MONDAY 26TH MAY

**A39 Theatre Group**  
**The Hub Theatre School**  
**Kneehigh Theatre Co.**  
**Miracle Theatre**  
**Rumpus Theatre**  
**Theatre Rotto**

All tickets  
£2, £1.50 (UB40's) £1 for Kids

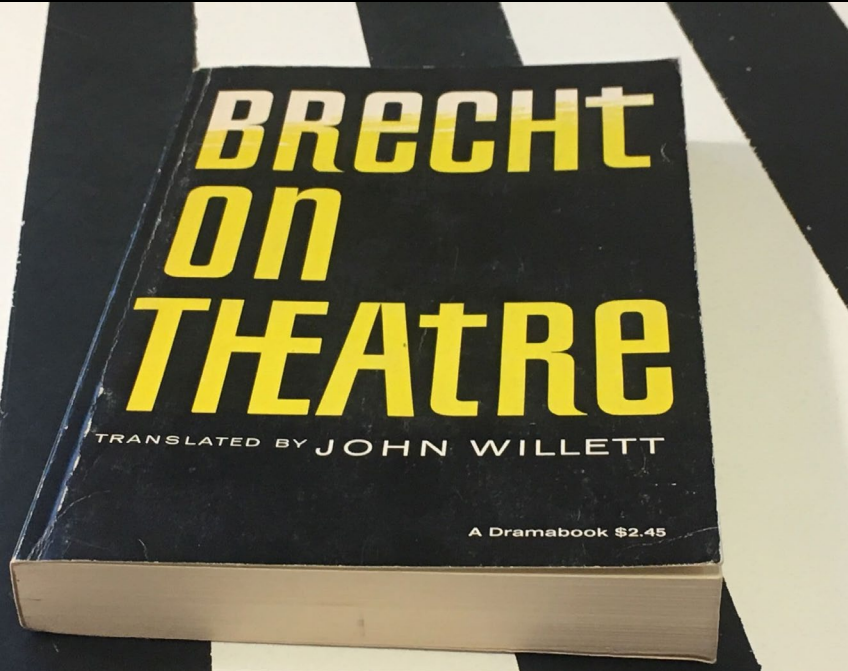
**THEATRE · CABARET · WORKSHOPS**  
**KIDS WORKSHOP · KIDS THEATRE**



*"Cabaret, Street Theatre & much much more!"*

FOR INFORMATION PHONE FALMOUTH (0326) 311410 FALMOUTH ARTS CENTRE, MARKET ST. FALMOUTH  
DESIGNED BY TONY DUCKELS, TYPESET BY INTERFACE AND PRINTED BY FRANCIS ANTONY

# Towards a new show



A39 is 'Epic Theatre'

'The Street Scene'

"Levels of pretence" (from McGrath's observations on pantomime as a popular art form)

# 'The Tale of Trevithick's Tower'



The Tale of  
**TREVITHICK'S TOWER**  
The Incredible Life of  
the Cornish Giant

World Premiere!  
TREVITHICK ARMS  
Camborne

Saturday April 26th  
8.00 £1



FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT  
01208 851122

**A39** THEATRE GROUP

PRINTED BY ART'S AGASSA

