



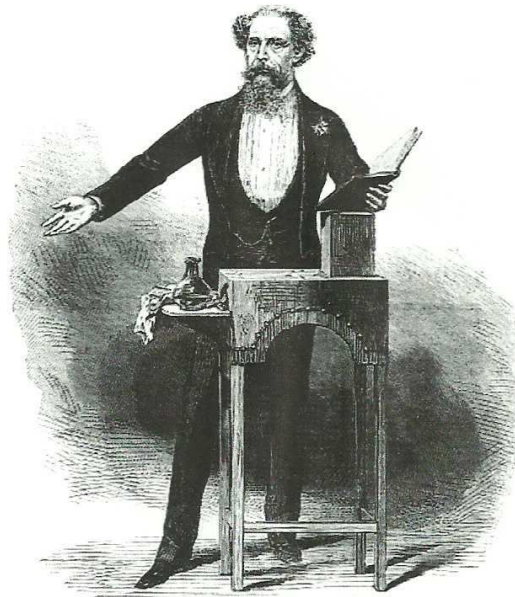
ATENEIO DE MADRID



**Saturday 19th May 2012,**  
**19.00** (*taquilla a la 17.00, 3€*)

# CHARLES DICKENS

*A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations,  
The Pickwick Papers and David Copperfield*



## ATENEIO DE MADRID

Calle Prado 21, 28014, Madrid, 91 429 1750

**The LewisJones Players:** Thisbe Burns, Richard Carlow,  
James Duggan, Lois Humphrey, Robbie K Jones and Susannah Jones

email: [lewis.susannah@gmail.com](mailto:lewis.susannah@gmail.com) or tel. 679 234 707



A dramatized reading of extracts from the works of

## **Charles Dickens**

Charles Dickens was born on 7th February 1812 and lived until 9th June 1870, making this year - 2012 - a very special year: the two hundredth anniversary of his birth! And this year, all over the world, the work of the greatest English novelist of the Victorian age, the “Michael Jackson” of his day, is being honoured with new performances, film adaptations and readings from his novels. And we will be doing just that here in Madrid!

He, himself, first popularised his work by undertaking reading tours in England, Scotland and notably the United States of America, where he performed to packed houses. These readings were so successful that, for example, on one occasion, a charitable reading he gave in 1858, on behalf of the Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital, raised enough money to buy the building next door outright for the hospital. At the Steinway Hall in New York in 1867, crowds queued all night for tickets to hear him read his new story: *A Christmas Carol*.



### Our Order of Performance

#### **The Pickwick Papers**

1. The Pickwickians
2. Introducing Mr Samuel Weller
3. Mr Pickwick has a proposal for Mrs Bardell

*(Musical Interlude - The Ratcatcher’s Daughter - a traditional song of Dickens’ time)*

#### **Great Expectations**

4. Pip and the convict Abel Magwitch
5. Mrs Joe Gargery
6. Miss Havisham

*(Musical Interlude - Sir Roger de Coverley - a popular dance mentioned in A Christmas Carol and The Pickwick Papers)*

#### **David Copperfield**

7. Miss Betsey Trotwood
- #### **A Christmas Carol**
8. Fezziwig’s Ball

## Synopsis and Programme Notes

**The Pickwick Papers** was Charles Dickens' first novel, written in 1836, in serial form for publication in the *Morning Chronicle*, and was "designed for the introduction of diverting characters and incidents". We here present three separate extracts from Chapters 1, 10 and 12, that collectively give a feel for the benign innocence and enthusiasm of Samuel Pickwick: first at the initial meeting of the Pickwick Club that praises Mr Pickwick for a modest paper he has presented on local trivia and then goes on to authorise a special group comprised of himself and three friends who will set out together on a series of adventures - and by the way, emphasises the banality and self-importance of such meetings everywhere! This is followed by an extract which introduces us to his beloved servant Sam, (one of the great literary partnerships, comparable with Don Quixote and Sancho Panza not to mention Frodo and Sam of the Shire), of whom Mr Pickwick said, "He is my servant, but I allow him to take a good many liberties; for, between ourselves, I flatter myself he is an original, and I am rather proud of him." Sam is a working-class hero and his use of verbal witticisms to colour his way of speaking, for example, "out with it! as the father said to his son when he swallowed a farthing!", have entered the English language as a form of speech called a *Wellerism*. The third extract traces the beginning of the classic subplot with his landlady Mrs Bardell, in which Mr Pickwick appears to be proposing matrimony (although is, in fact, only trying to inform her of his intention to engage Sam as his servant) and which gives us a delightful comic glimpse into the adventurous world of Mr Pickwick and his followers.



**Great Expectations**, first published, in serial form in 1860-1, is a story of growth and personal development. Written in the first person, it maps the history of the orphan Pip who meets the escaped convict Abel Magwitch on a dark night - a meeting that will change his destiny for ever. Our extracts highlight Dickens' extraordinary ability at portraiture, by looking at some of the most memorable and vivid characters in the story. Taken from Chapters 1, 2 and 8, we experience the terrifying first meeting with the convict Magwitch, followed by a vision of the unyielding and cruel (through Pip's eyes) character of his adult sister (who brought him up 'by hand') and finally the mysterious Miss Havisham (his supposed benefactress), to whom Pip is introduced by his pompous and self-important uncle Mr Pumblechook.



**David Copperfield** (published 1850). Dickens wrote in his preface of this book: "Of all my books, I like this the best.... I am a fond parent to every child of my fancy... But, like many fond parents, I have in my heart of hearts a favourite child. And his name is David Copperfield." It is believed to be the most closely autobiographical of his books. We have prepared a compilation from Chapters 1, 13 and 14 to paint a portrait David's magnificent, larger-than-life great aunt, Miss Betsey Trotwood. We take the story up when David has decided to run away from his wretched life of misery, after his mother's death, at the cruel hands of Mr and Miss Murdstone, his vicious step-father (called father-in-law in the story) and his sister. He takes refuge in Dover with his great aunt and her kindly, but simple, friend, Mr Dick.



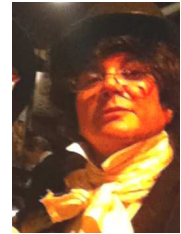
**A Christmas Carol** (a ghost story 1843). Charles Dickens wrote of this story: "I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it." We have taken an extract from Stave 2, in which the miser Scrooge has begun his journey with the Ghost of Christmas Past to look at scenes from his earlier life in the hope (we surmise) to resurrect his humanity and remind him of the joy of Christmas that he was once able to feel. Fezziwig's Ball is a delightful, colourful scene, and with all the rhythm and flavour of Dickens' classic prose, we are thrown bodily into it and relive it step by step, mouthful by mouthful and drink by drink with Scrooge, to its poignant but hopeful conclusion.





## The LewisJones Players

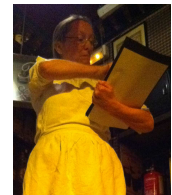
**Susannah Jones** (née Lewis), originally from London, has been resident in Madrid for 16 years. She became a member of The Madrid Players in 2004, with whom she has performed in pantomime and been director of makeup for the past 7 years, notably for their productions of *Stage Door*, *The Crucible*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Arms and The Man* and *Tales from Edgar Allen Poe*. She has directed twice for The Madrid Players: *Lark Rise* (a promenade piece adapted by Keith Dewhurst for the National Year) in 2006 and *A Tribute to For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enough* by Ntozake Shange at Sala Tis in 2008. She has also been working with didactic children's theatre company Tespis Producciones for the past 4 years and as a professional voice recording artist for various studios in Madrid. As a professional makeup artist Susannah has worked on various productions for Morboria, including *Dreams 2* at the Palacio de Deportes, Madrid 2008 and at IFEMA 2011.



**Robbie K Jones**, originally from Cleveland Ohio, has been resident in Madrid for the past 13 years, working as a professional musician, actor and voice recording artist. He is also a director of record label Mondegreen Records, and for his band Track Dogs and founder of the popular Americana Music Jam at Taberna Elisa. He has been a member of The Madrid Players for the past 8 years and has worked for theatre companies Tespis Producciones and Interacting in various didactic shows over the past 4 years. He also successfully co-produced the English Language shows *Lark Rise* and *For Colored Girls...* with his wife, Susannah Jones.



**Thisbe Burns** has been a professional actress and voice artist for over 20 years in Madrid, and an active member and sporadic president of The Madrid Players since 1990. A founding member of the independent companies ACT, White Light Theatre, and Words and Voices, she has also worked in Theatre-in-Education with The English Theatre Workshop, Lingua Arts Theatre Company and Tespis Producciones. She has directed and performed extensively to sell out audiences in the capital and other parts of Spain. She has most recently appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Crucible* and Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* monologues.



**Lois Humphrey** is South African by birth, but she has lived in Spain for 25 years. She has professional training in the performing arts and has worked in both professional and amateur companies. She has a special interest in Theatre and Drama in Education. She has worked with Tespis Producciones in the area of Theatre for Young People for about 10 years. Some of her more recent performances include *Footfalls* by Samuel Beckett in 2008, *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 2009 and *Tales of Edgar Allen Poe* in 2010 for The Madrid Players.



**James Duggan**, from Ireland, has worked as an actor for 30 years and also as director, writer and producer for The Madrid Players since 1984. He played Oscar Wilde in *El Abanico de Lady Windermere* with Amparo Rivelles at Teatro Alcazar in 1992-93 and his one man show *Oscar Wilde* from 1993-97 all over Spain. He has worked for theatre companies White Light, ACT, Transatlantic and his own company Boolaboss during this time as well as in movies, on TV and in commercials during that period. He also directed two productions of *A Christmas Carol* in 1995 and 1998 at Teatro Triángulo and at Círculo Bellas Artes. He has worked as an actor and as a director for Tespis Producciones for 25 years.



**Richard Carlow** was born and raised in New York City, USA, where he studied acting, and worked in theatre, television and film. Since moving to Madrid, Richard has been an active member of The Madrid Players; has been performing with Tespis Producciones since 2005; as well as working on various ad campaigns.



