



# All The World's A Stage: 70 Years Treading The Boards

*Peggie Bensaid, Mollie Bensaid, Your Memoir*

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## All The World's A Stage - 70 Years Treading The Boards

### A joyful memoir of life in the theatre

LAUREL and Hardy, Tommy Cooper, Shirley Bassey, Tommy Trinder - the Bensaid Twins worked with them all.

And now the sisters from the South-East of England recount a lifetime in showbusiness - a career that started when they were children in the 1920s with a performance in the bay window of a family friend's home. Mollie and Peggie caught the bug, and soon they were singing at family get-togethers - with mum on the mandolin and dad on the piano.

As teenagers the girls joined Beam's Breezy Babes, a juvenile dance troupe, and in 1938 they became Ovaltinies, touring all round Britain.

Later, managed by Joan Collins' dad, Joseph, Mollie and Peggie were recognised as Britain's leading twin act. Their 10-minute dance and acrobatics showcase was a hit in variety theatres and Butlins summer camps across the country.

During the Second World War, the twins were snapped up by ENSA (the Entertainments National Service Association) and later the American Red Cross, where they were joined by a young talent by the name of Bruce Forsyth.

Mollie and Peggie estimate they performed 1,200 times during the war. They toured the UK, receiving a ten shilling note from miners in Swansea, and after the war ended visited Germany.

After the war, performances at the Palladium followed with Tessie O'Shea and Tommy Trinder followed, and in 1954 they formed The Three Buffoons, Britain's only girl clowns, working with Laurel and Hardy, Shirley Bassey and Tommy Cooper.

Later they became ballroom dancers, both winning the Supreme Award and today the sisters live happily together in their home full of theatrical memorabilia and memories in Kent.

The Bensaid twins' charming memoir takes you on a joyful journey encapsulating 70 years on the stage.

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