

Comet24

Choir to the national opera in six months for Clifton eight-year-old



Josh and Alex with the All Saints Church choir

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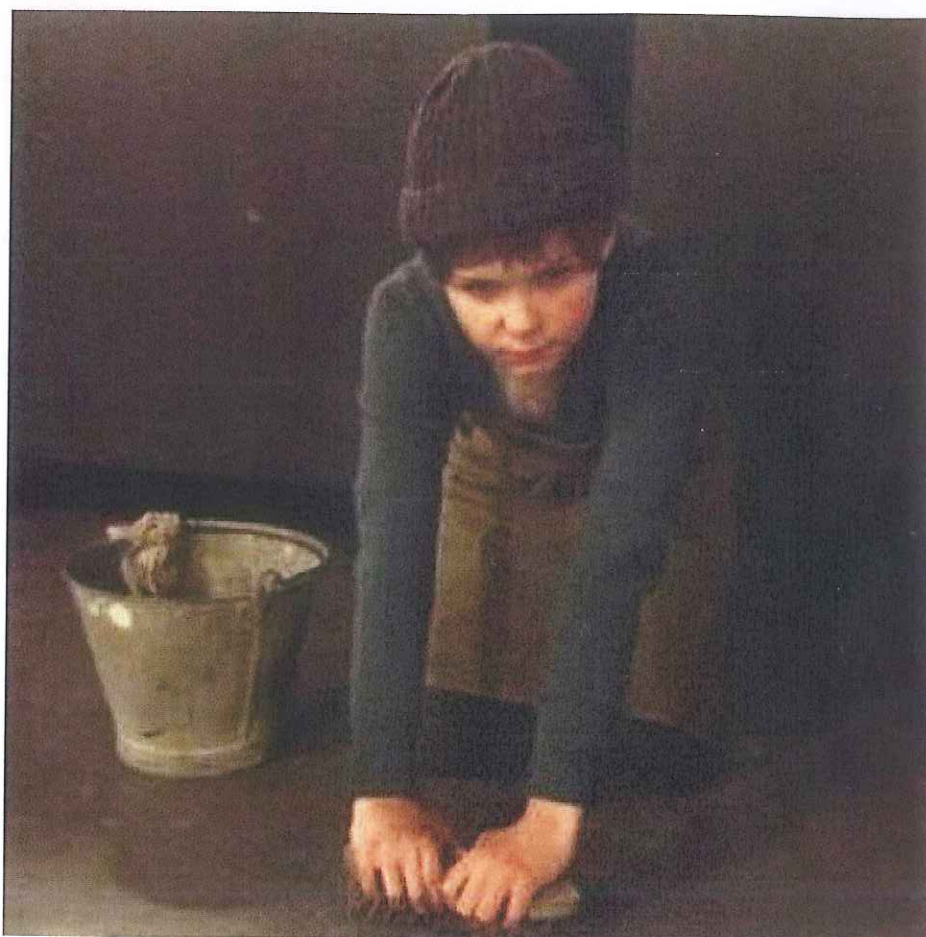
An eight-year-old has gone from the choir to the national opera in the space of six months.

Josh Shadbolt, of Broad Street in Clifton, is currently performing as one of the 'barnacle boys' in the English National Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* which finishes at the London Coliseum on February 27.

Josh and his seven-year-old brother, Alex, are both interested in getting into acting and have been attending Vision Theatre Arts School in Sandy since September 2012.

Josh's mother, Sue Shadbolt, said: "My husband, Colin, and I are so proud of Josh in that he has really blossomed greatly since attending Vision Theatre Arts and been involved in a few productions, as he has seemed like a different lad and has gained a lot of confidence. Josh is a big Harry Potter fan and would like to become famous like Daniel Radcliffe in years to come and hopefully become an actor.

"It has been noticed that he has a photographic memory, as he can remember words and scenes very quickly, so this would be an advantage if he was to become an actor.



Josh performing as a street urchin in Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes

“As you can imagine all of us, including family & friends are extremely proud of him and his achievements especially to get his first fantastic

break, with such a respected theatre company as English National Opera.

“He is thoroughly enjoying the overall experience. He is not singing opera himself, but he is playing the part of a street urchin in a few scenes.” Josh and Alex have been singing with the regular choir at the All Saints Church in Clifton and will be attending St Albans Cathedral with other UK choirs on March 29.

Mrs Shadbolt added: “All Saints Church choir is a valuable asset to the community, some of the group have been a part of the choir for as long as 40 years, which is wonderful and shows real commitment. The choir master, Susan Sims, is really keen for new blood to join.”

Peter Grimes will be televised live in 300 cinemas around the UK and in Ireland on Sunday, February 23, at 3pm.

Back in September Josh and Alex appeared in a short movie set in the 1980s called *Our Time* which is due to be released soon in theatres.