

# Pierrots in the modern age

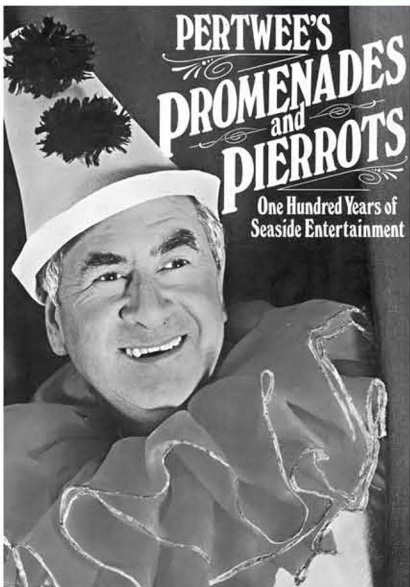


In 1964, 'The Ramblas' performed their last summer season as a pierrot concert party on Clacton Pier – this was the last of the old professional troupes to perform professionally at the seaside.



Oh, What A Lovely War!

A year before, Joan Littlewood had created Theatre Workshop's 'Oh, What A Lovely War!' (made into a film directed by Richard Attenborough in 1969), in which the cast are dressed as pierrots and deliver a poignant satire by juxtaposing the joyful pierrot ensemble with the horror and futility of War.



In 1979, Bill Pertwee (the ARP warden from 'Dad's Army') published one of the few books on pierrot troupes – 'Promenades and Pierrots', which Tony Lidington read in 1983 and decided to form his own troupe in Brighton called 'The Pierrotters' (named after the rotting "West Pier").

Inspired by the energy and directness of Punk, the 1980's saw the start of an industry we now call "street arts", with influential groups like 'Welfare State International' and 'Footsbarn'. 'The Pierrotters' emerged around the same time as groups like 'Pookiesnackenburg' and 'The Fabulous Salami Brothers' – busking on promenades & streets and providing cabaret slots in the developing new comedy circuit.

'Footsbarn Theatre'



'The Fabulous Salami Brothers'



The Pierrotters' beside The West Pier, Brighton