



# FEATHER BOY





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FEATHER BOY IS A CHILDSPLAY TV PRODUCTION FOR CBBC



## CAST

### SHEILA HANCOCK – EDITH SORREL

TV includes: *Fortysomething; Bedtime; EastEnders*

Feature Films: *Three Men and a Little Lady; Hold Back the Night*

Stage work: *Under the Blue Sky; The Russian Bride.*

### RONALD PICKUP – ERNEST SORREL

TV includes: *In England's Green and Pleasant Land; Einstein;*

*Hornblower; Waking the Dead; Cambridge Spies*

Feature Films: *Ivanhoe; The Mission; Bring Me the Head of Mavis Davis*

Stage work: *Julius Caesar; Hobson's Choice; Romeo and Juliet; Proof*

### LINDSEY COULSON – ANNIE NOBEL

TV includes: *Dalziel and Pascoe; EastEnders; Clocking Off; Manchild*

Feature Film – A.K.A.

Stage work: *Snake; Hamlet*

### THOMAS SANGSTER – ROBERT NOBEL

BBC Film: *Station Jim*

TV Films: *Bobbie's Girl*; Bafta and Emmy award-winning *Stig of the Dump*

Feature Film: *Love Actually.*

Thomas is currently nominated for Best Supporting Actor in a musical or comedy (for *Love Actually*) in the 'Satellite Awards'.

### AARON JOHNSON – NIKER

Feature films: *Shanghai Knights; Tom & Thomas*

Stage work: *All my Sons; Charlie Lavender.*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

WRITER/ PRODUCER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

DIRECTOR

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

EDITOR

ORIGINAL MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

PETER TABERN

ELAINE SPERBER

DERMOT BOYD

JASON CARLIN

MATTHEW TABERN

DEBBIE WISEMAN

CIARAN TANHAM

## EPISODE 1 – NORBERT NO-BOTTLE

Robert Nobel, otherwise known as Norbert No-bottle, is being bullied by Jonathan Niker. The butt of Niker's jokes in class, he despairs of his newly divorced parents at home and is hopelessly in love with Kate Barber.

Robert is also haunted by dreams that seem to tell the future as well as the past, as he discovers when a storyteller called Catherine invites some of his class to Wayfield House, the local old people's home. Robert has never been there before, except in his dreams. Once there he meets Edith Sorrel, a spiky old lady who chooses him as her partner in the Elders' Project.





## EPISODE 2 – CHANCE HOUSE

Robert has been given a strange task by Edith Sorrel, the old lady he's met as part of his class Elders' Project. She tells him to find a place called Chance House, and it is only by chance that he finds it, a derelict and boarded-up house at 26 St Aubyns.

Robert finds a way into the house but discovers that, although derelict, it is not empty. Having propped a door open as a safe retreat, he hears footsteps and the slamming of the door. Someone or something is with him in Chance House.



## EPISODE 3 – STRAWBERRY JAM

Robert Nobel feels bullied by everyone – his parents, the kids at school, and especially Edith Sorrel, his partner on the Wayfield project. She's bullied him into visiting the top floor flat at Chance House, a half-derelict Victorian mansion.

He bunks off school to go there and climbs to the top of the house. As he climbs he hears the sound of wings beating and a voice calling to him, urging him on. He reaches the door on the very last flight and, as it swings open, sees a blast of light and three feathers falling from the ceiling.





## EPISODE 4 – SLEEP OVER

Robert has done as Edith Sorrel asked and visited the top floor flat at Chance House. But, before he can report back to her on what he found, Jonathan Niker challenges him to spend the night there, just the two of them.

So, while Edith's condition worsens, the two boys settle down for the night and the creaks and noises of the old house test the strongest of nerves.

## EPISODE 5 – THE COAT OF FEATHERS

When Edith is well enough to see Robert again he shows her the three feathers he found in Chance House. She asks him to make her a Coat of Feathers, like the one in the Firebird story. Despite not knowing where to begin he agrees to try, hoping the coat might save the old lady's life.

But, with the coat only half-finished, he takes it into school where Niker gets hold of it and threatens to destroy it. In an uncharacteristic rage Robert attacks him, knocks him unconscious and has to be dragged off by a horrified Miss Raynham.





## EPISODE SIX – THE FIREBIRD

Suspended from school for beating up Niker, Robert has lost the coat of feathers and maybe his chance to save Edith Sorrel's life. Fortunately Kate comes to the rescue – she brings back the coat and even helps him get more feathers. Robert still needs more feathers for the coat but he knows the only place to find enough good ones is at the old warehouse where he was locked in and abandoned by Niker and his gang.

Can Robert overcome his fear and collect enough feathers to finish the coat? And even if he does, will he be in time to save his Firebird? In a thrilling and emotional climax to the story, Robert's quest will push him to the very limits of his experience and teach him what it really means to fly.





## THE AUTHOR – NICKY SINGER

Nicky Singer has worked in publishing, the arts and television. She co-founded, and for ten years co-directed, Performing Arts Labs – a charity dedicated to training writers for stage, screen and opera.

Her own writing career began when she was 15 years old with lyrics for a cantata, *Jonah and the Whale*. Since then she has written four adult novels and two books of non-fiction.

Her first novel for children, *Feather Boy*, won the Blue Peter 'Book I Couldn't Put Down' award and the overall Blue Peter 'Book of the Year' award 2002. The book is now published in 18 countries and, as well as being adapted for TV, it will go on tour as a theatre piece in 2005.

Nicky Singer lives in Brighton with her husband and their three children.



## THE WRITER/PRODUCER - PETER TABERN

Peter Tabern runs Childsplay Productions, specialising in quality children's drama. He writes and produces most of the company's output. Recent BBC credits include *The Children of the New Forest* and *Stig of the Dump* (which won a Bafta and an International Emmy.)

He divides his time between London and Derbyshire.

## THE DIRECTOR - DERMOT BOYD

*Feather Boy* is Dermot's first work for a younger audience although he has a distinguished list of credits for adult drama including: *Playing The Field*, *Two Thousand Acres of Sky*, *Macready* and *Daughter* and most recently *The Return*, starring Julie Walters and screened earlier this year on ITV.

Dermot is married with two teenage boys and lives in London.