

"Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat!"

- No, this wasn't our retiring Chairman trying to keep order at our recent AGM as yet another difficult question came from the floor but it is, of course, THE great show-stopping number from our next production, the classic musical "Guys and Dolls".

With music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Abe Burrows, "Guys and Dolls" tells the story of Sky Masterson, the "bet on anything" gambler who accepts a wager from Nathan Detroit that he cannot make the next female he meets fall in love with him. The lady in question turns out to be Miss Sarah Brown of the Save-a-Soul Mission who, eventually and inevitably, falls for him.

Apart from "Sit Down..." other numbers in the show include "Luck Be a Lady Tonight", "If I Were A Bell", "Sue Me" and "A Bushel and a Peck".

Our production team for "Guys and Dolls" is the husband and wife combination of Drew and Carrie Brooke Mellor and the main characters have been cast as follows:

Sky Masterson - Bob Wilson
Nathan Detroit - Chris Bassett
Sarah Brown - Sam Beams
Miss Adelaide - Claire Crowther
Arvide - John Speller
Harry the Horse - Robert Stevens
Benny Southstreet - Darren Bryant
General Cartwright - Deidre Walker
Nicely Nicely Johnson - Richard Allen

Drew and Carrie will be preparing a full rehearsal schedule shortly but they have asked me to point out that anyone wishing to audition as one of the "Hot Box Girls" should come along to the first rehearsal being held on Tuesday 14th September at St Peter's Hall (from 7.45)

If you would like to be part of the chorus or appear in one of the many cameo roles please come along to the second rehearsal on Thursday 16th September (this is also at St.Peter's at 7.45pm). As always, it is a potential shortage of men that could be a problem but hopefully many of you will see this and be suitably inspired to tread the Barn boards in this wonderful show.

If you'd like more information about "Guys and Dolls" please contact Drew or Carrie on 0208 660 2243. Alternatively, our Production Manager for this show is our retiring Chairman, David Clubb whose number is 01959 577754. The show is being staged at the Barn from Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th November.

I made a fleeting mention of our AGM earlier. Unfortunately, we had a fairly low turn-out at the meeting on 13th July but some significant changes have occurred in our Committee.

After three years as chairman, David Clubb has stood down and he is replaced by Simon Dawes who takes back a position he held before David. We also have a new Treasurer as John Harris has passed the safe-keeping of our finances to Janette White, although he is staying on the committee as an elected member. With Trevor Constable joining our committee the full line-up is now as follows:

Chairman - Simon Dawes (01959 564068)
Secretary - Joan Constable (01883 717970)
Treasurer - Janette White (01883 744599)
Other Members: John Harris, Trevor Constable, Sharon Dawes, Glenn Gershkoff.

Apart from David who held the Chairman's seat, as it were, for three not-always-easy years and John Harris who, as Treasurer, negotiated the attainment of charitable status for the society, we have also lost another stalwart committee member in Ernie Finch.

For all their hard work non behalf of the Society we owe a great deal of gratitude to David, John and Ernie.

One area of activity in which the society is often criticised is that of publicity. We are always on the lookout for assistance and ideas in this all-important subject and it would be encouraging for our new committee if someone reading this piece might volunteer their services to help in

some practical ways. Please get in touch with Simon or Joan if you would like to help.

As far as our 2005 productions are concerned we are still considering our options for the autumn but I can report that the April production is to be Jack The Ripper. Further information will be available on this shortly.

Finally, a plea from our Patrons secretary, Moreen Forster. We need more of you! For just £8 per year you can help the Society and receive preference as regards seat-bookings or for just £25 per year you could become a Vice-President and receive even greater preference when it comes to bookings. Moreen is also our highly-valued ticket Secretary and you can find her details on the "Guys and Dolls" handbills.

GG

Operatic Costume and Properties Store

Our old vacuum cleaner finally packed up during a recent tidying up day. If anyone has one surplus to requirements, we'd be delighted to give it a good home. Also, a pair of lightweight 4 tread steps would help the somewhat 'vertically challenged' staff to reach the hats on the top shelves, please!

Offers to Sheila or John Bennett, not that we would dream of saying that John needs them most! Ed

FOBS

We are enjoying our July break whilst work is carried out in the theatre. However, your committee is already putting together Front of House teams for the August shows. As you will see from the enclosed flyers, we have a busy Autumn Season coming up. Do let Heather on 712140 or Sheila on 715145 know if you would like to be added to our Front of House volunteer list (or, sadly, if you need to be removed from it for any reason).

By the way, those of you who receive the Barn Theatre News through channels other than membership of the FOBS would be very welcome to join us too! It costs only £10 per person for 3 years or £4 per person for 1 year. Jean Groves, our membership secretary on 712130, will be delighted to hear from you. Now that the Barn 2000 appeal has almost reached its objectives, the Directors will need our continued support in order to achieve further improvements to the theatre, such as air conditioning in the auditorium, and also to maintain our lovely building in good condition.

SB

La Boheme

Aquarian Opera are presenting Puccini's tragic opera from 15th-18th September. Tickets are available from Ibbett Mosely from 1st September 01883 712241.

Curtain Up

Now becoming Barn regulars, Phoenix Theatre Company take the 'Curtain up' on a compilation show full of songs portraying a tapestry of life as told through your favourite musicals.