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Forthcoming Shows...



- April 6th - 9th Princess Ida
Trinity Operatic Society
Towers Theatre, Wolverhampton. Contact: 01902 333149
- April 12th - 16th Half A Sixpence
Tamworth Arts Club
Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Tamworth. Contact: 01827 709581
- April 19th - 23rd Oklahoma!
The Arcadians
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham. Contact: 0121 643 5858
- April 19th - 23rd Summer Holiday
West Bromwich Operatic Society
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton. Contact: 0121 550 3667
- April 24th - 30th The Mikado
Stafford & District Amateur Operatic Society
The Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford. Contact: 01785 253595
- April 25th - 29th Me and My Girl
Willenhall Operatic Society
Mill Theatre, Sedgley. Contact: 01902 373403
- April 26th - 30th Fiddler on the Roof
Lichfield Operatic Society
Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield. Contact: 01543 412121
- May 10th - 14th Little Shop of Horrors
Trinity Players
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield. Contact: 0121 353 2505
- May 18th - 21st Hot Mikado
Aldridge Musical Comedy Society
The Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock. Contact: 01543 578762
- June 14th - 18th South Pacific
Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company
Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield. Contact: 01543 412121
- June 23rd - 25th Trials & Tribulations
Walsall G & S Society
Brownhills Community School Theatre, Brownhills. Contact: 01543 371344
- July 27 - 31 South Pacific
Lookout Theatre Company
Bishton Hall, Stafford. Contact: 01889 881021
- November 7 - 12 Half A Sixpence
Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society
Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Brierley Hill. Contact: 0121 585 7380
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Our thanks to Laurie Thompson who supplied the front cover artwork for this programme



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello again and welcome. I am delighted to enjoy once again the privilege and pleasure of your company at this, the preliminary production of the Society's Golden Jubilee Year. The American musical 'HELLO DOLLY' was first presented by the Society in 1991, and with its constant and continuing audience popularity we are confident that you will enjoy considerably this new presentation with its ever-popular melodies.

As you may note from the impressive list of the Society's previous productions during the past half-century, many musicals are generally built around the life of an individual character. This year's presentation is no exception, with 'Dolly' being almost a second 'Merry Widow', albeit a somewhat scheming but very likeable character.

The extremely talented cast, along with its very able production, musical and presentation teams, will happily ensure that your evening's entertainment will be pleasurable and memorable.

May I take this opportunity to personally thank the Society's officials, production and presentation personnel, the various Society members and all those countless people who during the past five decades have so readily given their services to the Society's well-being, enhancement and excellence. My profound good wishes and earnest hopes are for the Society's continued success and happiness in the years to come.

The Society's gratitude is offered for the generous support given by the Walsall and Lichfield Civic Authorities, the Garrick Theatre officials and staff and N.O.D.A. and its representatives.

Needless to add, the Society is eternally grateful to you, our patrons and audiences, for your continued encouragement, stimulation and financial support during the past fifty years.

To all very many thanks. Have a most enjoyable evening and travel home safely.

Horace James,
President, Founder and Life Member.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Welcome to Walsall Operatic Society's interpretation of the ever-popular "Hello Dolly", in this our 50 Anniversary year.

In picking the show for our 50th year, we really wanted to put on a show that was going to be remembered for the next 50 years. and in the spectacular, colourful show that is "Dolly", I feel we have achieved just that, particularly in the excellent facilities and surroundings that is the new Lichfield Garrick.

We are delighted to welcome back to the society the same production team that brought "Annie" to the Garrick last year. In Peter Davis we have an exceptional Producer and someone who knows and loves "Dolly" as much as I do. He is ably assisted once again by Michelle Baker as Choreographer, in his her third year with us and our resident Musical Director Phil James, who again is looking forward to the challenges of the vibrant "Dolly" score.

We have assembled a strong cast, who are, as ever, supported by an excellent chorus and dance troupe that help bring this classic musical to life.

Thank you for joining us this evening and for your continued support - sit back and enjoy the show.

Andrew Bird, Chairman

OBITUARIES

It is with profound regret that the Society mourns the passing of three of its highly respected stalwart members.

Alfred John Harris. John gave many years of laudable and active service to the Society, functioning in the past as Patrons and Vice Presidents Secretary. He was also a conscientious senior member of Front of House staff where his welcoming and friendly smile greeted everyone. John was the husband of Jean, one of the Society's past lead chorus singers. John's children and grandchildren have all been most active and enthusiastic members of the Society. John was awarded Life Membership of the Society in 2002, in gratitude for his many years of ready and willing assistance.

Vera M. Hancock. The wife of Albert, a past Society President, Vera was for many years an ardent patron and supporter of the Society.

Ewart C Davies. Ewart and his wife, Dorothy, were both conscientious and enthusiastic stage and chorus members of the Society. Ewart also served as an inspirational member of the Management Committee for many years. With his fine Welsh tenor voice, Ewart was a lead singer of character rôles in several productions before retiring with Dorothy to his native Wales.

Our sincerest sympathies and condolences are extended to their respective families, H.J.

This page is sponsored by Ann Flint and José Parr (The Terrible Twins)



Walsall Operatic Society welcomes the following parties to 'Hello Dolly!'

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Gorway Probus Club
Homebell House, Aldridge
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Sutton Coldfield
Shelfield Library Club
Walsall Saddlers Rotary Club
St John's Ladies Group -
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WEDNESDAY

Wednesbury Central -
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Streety Methodist Church -
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Please contact Catherine Docherty, Secretary, on 01543 252268 for further information.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS:

For advance information please complete your details below and either hand to a member of our Front of House Staff or post to the address below.

W.O.S. Next Production, 18 Manor Rise, Lichfield, WS14 9SL
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HELLO DOLLY - THE STORY

HELLO, DOLLY! is the story of Mrs. Dolly Levi's efforts to marry Horace Vandergelder, the well-known half-a-millionaire. Along the way she also succeeds in matching up the young and beautiful Widow Molloy with Vandergelder's head clerk, Cornelius Hackl; Cornelius' assistant, Barnaby Tucker, with Mrs. Molloy's assistant, Minnie Fay; and the struggling artist, Ambrose Kemper, with Mr. Vandergelder's weeping niece, Ermengarde.

Mrs. Levi tracks Vandergelder to his hay and feed store in Yonkers, then by train back to Mrs. Molloy's hat shop in New York, out into the streets of the city where they are all caught up in the great Fourteenth Street Association Parade, and finally to the most elegant and expensive restaurant in town, the Harmonia Gardens. There, Dolly is greeted by the waiters, cooks, doormen and wine stewards in one of the most famous songs in the history of American musical comedy, *Hello, Dolly!*

Does Dolly get her man??

PETER DAVIS - PRODUCER / DIRECTOR



It was at school that Peter became interested in the theatre, the world of the musical in particular. Over the years he has played many leading roles on stage, including Prof. Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, Fagin in *Oliver*, Horace Vandergelder in *Hello Dolly* and the title role of *The Music Man*. It was for this role that Peter was awarded the "Evening Mail Entertainer of the Year" Award.

He then moved the other side of the footlights to take up his career in direction. He has worked with many companies in the Midlands, directing such shows as *Oliver*, *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Me and My Girl*, *Scrooge*, *Carousel*, *The King & I*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Music Man*, and *Camelot*.

He directed *Annie* for Walsall Operatic in 2004. A year which also saw him direct his highly acclaimed production of the school's version of *Les Misérables* here at the Lichfield Garrick.

PHIL JAMES - MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Phil first trod the boards in 1987 and has performed with several local musical companies, including Walsall Operatic Society.

Since taking up the baton as Musical Director, Phil's work has included *Calamity Jane*, *Oklahoma!*, *Aladdin*, *Annie* and numerous concert productions as arranger and conductor.

Other credits include musical arrangements for the prestigious City Concert Orchestra, with performances at Symphony Hall in Birmingham and Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

Phil's wife, Kathryn, is another regular performer on the musical stage, and their two young children, Charlotte and William, are already showing great promise!



MICHELLE BAKER - CHOREOGRAPHER

Michelle's love for dancing started at the early age of 5 when she began taking dance lessons. She amazingly finds the enthusiasm and dedication for dancing, whilst maintaining a successful career in accountancy.

As a qualified teacher, she frequently teaches ballet, tap, modern jazz, gymnastics, musical theatre and theatre craft to pupils of all ages at Oaklands Academy of Dance and Drama in Hammerwich.

Michelle has been performing in dancing shows most of her life, together with performances for festivals, carnivals, pantomimes, cabarets and musicals. Over the last 12 years, she has been actively involved with the choreography for the Oaklands shows and more recently creating and producing them.

She was delighted to be asked to choreograph this production of "Hello Dolly" and would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

This page is sponsored by the Society President - Dedicated to all who, during the past fifty years, have successfully assisted in building the society



Dolly Levi - Vicki Hardy

Vicki first performed with Walsall Operatic Society in 1998 as Kate in Kiss Me Kate. She has performed in the local area for a number of years, enjoying the challenge of performing a variety of musical styles ranging from Gilbert & Sullivan to Cole Porter, Lionel Bart to Franz Lehár.

Her favourite roles have included Yum-Yum in The Hot Mikado, Nancy in Oliver and Anna in The Merry Widow

She is pleased to be working with Walsall Operatic Society again on their 50th Anniversary production of Hello Dolly

Horace Vandergelder - Craig Smith



Craig comes from Campbelltown, The Mull of Kintyre, on the west coast of Scotland and moved to the West Midlands in 1997 to take up a teaching post in Wednesbury. He is delighted to be playing the part of Horace Vandergelder in Hello, Dolly! This is Craig's first principal part with the society, but it's not the first time he has played a bass drum! Craig has been a member of Walsall Operatic Society for two and a half years and enjoys the social side of the society as well as the performing. He has made a lot of new friends since joining and wishes everyone all the best for the show.



Irene Molloy - Lucy Jones

Lucy has been involved in theatre from an early age playing the parts of Mrs. Connor in 'Charlie Girl', Widow Corney in 'Oliver', and Grace Farrell in the WOS production of 'Annie' last year. Lucy went on to study music at the University of Liverpool where she achieved a 2:1 Honours degree. Whilst at University she was a member of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir and was the lead singer of her own 60's Soul Band.

Lucy currently works for the NHS, training nurse cadets in ICT, Literacy and Numeracy. In her spare time she teaches piano and singing to a number of pupils, and recently produced and staged her third concert with her pupils, (The Langley Youth Performers), to raise money for

Cancer Research UK.

Lucy is Assistant Musical Director for WOS and conducted her first full concert in Nov 04. She hopes you enjoy the performance.

Cornelius Hackl - Andrew Bird



This will be the 5th time that Andrew has been involved with a production of "Hello Dolly" and is looking forward to playing the part of Cornelius, having played the part of his sidekick, Barnaby, with Walsall, last time around.

Andrew has been treading the boards since the age of 7 when he first appeared as a Snow Child in "Carousel". Since then he has progressed through the chorus and dancers and has gone on to play a number of leading roles both with this company and other local societies. Some of his favourites include Mike in "A Chorus Line", Motel in "Fiddler on the Roof", Billy Crocker in "Anything Goes", Cosmo Brown in "Singin' in the Rain", Captain Tempest in "Return to the Forbidden Planet", Jesus in Godspell, Rooster in "Annie" and the "Fantastically, Outrageous" Herod in "Jesus Christ Superstar".

Andrew was recently given the opportunity to portray one of the leading roles of, "Tateh, the Immigrant" in the Amateur Premier of "Ragtime" at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, a part he found both a challenge and a pleasure.

WALSALL OPERATIC SOCIETY - 2004 to 2005

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Barnaby Tucker - Martin Milnes

Martin made his stage debut twelve years ago. Now aged eighteen, he has appeared in many major productions ranging from musicals and operettas to pantomimes and comedy shows often taking principal roles.

Martin also enjoys serious drama and recently played Siegfried Sassoon in the two-hand First World War play 'Not about Heroes'.

Martin is also an accomplished dancer and in 2002 was asked to perform at the IDTA Tap Awards in Manchester.

He has directed various plays, musicals and revues and is currently working with a junior school in Walsall on a production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.



Minnie Fay - Charlotte Mills



Fifteen year old Charlotte is currently in her fourth year at Queen Mary's High School for girls in Walsall. This is her third performance with the society having appeared as a dancer in Calamity Jane and as orphan Duffy in Annie.

Although Charlotte is a newer member to the society she is no stranger to the stage! From a young age she has been a student at Oakland's Academy of Dance and Drama, successfully competing in many festivals around the county and performing in all of the shows. She has recently started training as a student teacher and assists with younger children at the school. Charlotte is also a keen musician, having played in the National Children's Orchestra at aged ten, she has recently taken her grade 8 in singing and violin. She hopes to pursue her love of music further to be able to teach as well as performing and composing. She is excited to be playing her first principal role as Minnie Fay and would like to thank her family and friends for their continual support and encouragement.

Ambrose Kemper - Chad Horton

Chad has just recently celebrated his 17 birthday and currently attends Stourbridge College studying Performance Arts, Theatre and Drama Studies and Psychology.

This is Chad's first production with Walsall Operatic Society, however he is not new to the theatre also being a member of WBOS and WBOS Youth Theatre. He has performed in numerous shows and has taken many leading roles including Arab in 'West Side Story', and Gerald Bolingbroke in 'Me and My Girl'. Last year he understudied the lead role in the fantastic and memorable show, 'Les Misérables'. Other credits include appearing at the 'Palladium' and 'Her Majesty's Theatre' in variety shows performed every year.

Chad would like to thank his family and friends for all their support over the years and the production team for welcoming him to Walsall Operatic.



Ermengarde - Jess Humphries



Jess is 15 years old and a student at Queen Mary's High School in Walsall, where she is a member of the Gospel Choir and has been learning to play the clarinet.

Jess has already appeared in several Walsall Operatic Society shows, making her debut in 'The Music Man' at the age of 7 as one of the chorus children. She later appeared as a workhouse child

in 'Oliver'.

Having joined the society as a member when she reached 14 she has taken part in last September's 'Songs from the Shows' concert and is excited and happy to have her first small role in a show !!

Ernestina & Rudolph (Helena Rock & Geoff Bird)



This page is sponsored by Grace McClymont

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi	..... Vicki Hardy
Ernestina	..... Helena Rock
Ambrose Kemper	..... Chad Horton
Horace Vandergelder	..... Craig Smith
Ermengarde	..... Jess Humphreys
Cornelius Hackl	..... Andrew Bird
Barnaby Tucker	..... Martin Milnes
Minnie Fay	..... Charlotte Mills
Irene Molloy	..... Lucy Jones
Mrs. Rose	..... Trish Humphreys
Rudolph Reisenweber Geoff Bird
Stanley Robin Crump
Judge Chris Ingley
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Dawn Roy
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Ann Toulouse
Peter Toulouse

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Stefanie Austin
Phillipa Mills
Connor Bacon

DANCERS

Elizabeth Finney
Lynsey Handley
Liz Houghton
Zoe Bunn
Jessica Boland



Chorus

Children



SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

Overture

Scene 1: Street Scene - New York City in the 1890's

Opening Act 1 - Chorus & Dolly
'I Put My Hand In' - Dolly

Scene 2: Horace Vandergelder's Feed Store

'It Takes A Woman' - Horace, Cornelius, Barnaby & Chorus
'It Takes A Woman' (Reprise) - Dolly & Horace
'Put On Your Sunday Clothes' - Dolly, Cornelius, Barnaby, Ambrose & Chorus

Scene 3: New York Street and Interior / Exterior of Mr's Molloy's Hat Shop

'Ribbons Down My Back' - Mrs. Molly
'Motherhood March' - Dolly, Mrs. Molloy, & Minnie
'Dancing' - Dolly, Mrs. Molloy, Cornelius & Barnaby
'Before The Parade Passes By' - Dolly & Chorus

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

ACT TWO

Entr'acte

Scene 1: Outside the Hoffman House Hotel

'Elegance' - Mrs. Molloy, Minnie, Cornelius & Barnaby

Scene 2: Harmonia Gardens Restaurant

'Hello Dolly' - Dolly & Mens Chorus

Scene 3: The Courtroom

'It Only Takes A Moment' - Cornelius
'It Only Takes A Moment' Part II - Mrs. Molloy, Cornelius & Chorus
'So Long, Dearie' - Dolly & Horace

Scene 4: Vandergelder's Feed Store

'Finale' - Dolly, Horace, Cornelius & Chorus

Please note: Strobe Lighting will be used in this performance

ORCHESTRA

Phil James - Musical Director
Mike Reed - Flue, Clarinet, Saxophone
Rebecca Matthews - Clarinet, Saxophone
Graham Matthews - Clarinet, Saxophone
Paul Nightingale - Clarinet, Saxophone
Paul Wakelin - Trumpet

Drums - Nick Poyner
Trumpet - Phil Bailey
Trombone - Richard Batten
Trombone - Bill Richardson
Keyboard - Ben Kennedy
Double Bass - Jenny Couch

1996: My Fair Lady

1998: Kiss Me Kate

1997: The Music Man

1999: Singin' In The Rain

2000: Oliver!



2001: Oklahoma!

2002: At The Hop! (1950's and 60's Cabaret) at the Bescot Stadium

2003: Calamity Jane, at Sutton Town Hall

2004: Annie, at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre



2005: Hello, Dolly! - Our Golden Jubilee Production

Interesting facts about Hello, Dolly! - Stage & Film

Hello, Dolly! had an unusually lengthy history. Its first version in 1835, was a London play *A Day Well Spent* by John Oxenford. Seven years later *Einen Jux will er sich machen* (*He Intends To Have a Fling*), a Viennese variation by Johann Nestroy, was produced. In 1938 Thornton Wilder turned the Nestroy play into *The Merchant of Yonkers* and 17 years after that he rewrote it as *The Matchmaker*. Both Wilder plays had Broadway runs. Another forerunner of *Hello, Dolly!* was the 1891 musical, *A Trip to Chinatown*.

Hello, Dolly! Opened on Broadway in 1964 and immediately took the Theatre world by storm, winning 10 Tony awards - a record which still stands - and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for "Best Musical". It ran continuously for just under seven years - 2,844 performances.

During 1995's pre-Broadway tour of *Hello, Dolly!*, Carol Channing received Broadway's highest honor: a Lifetime Achievement Tony Award, only the second time in Broadway's history that this award has been given to anyone.

This section has been kindly sponsored by:

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The PR Committee

Walsall Operatic Society

50 Golden Years

Founded in 1955 by Arthur Foxall and Harold Law, both local businessmen the **Walsall & District Amateur Operatic Society** stated in its rule book that its objects were:

"... to raise money for charitable purposes and in so doing to provide members with the opportunity to study and to take part in performances of operatic, choral and similar works. Also to foster and encourage amateur talent in such arts."

Since those days long ago, the Society has gone from strength to strength, performing over 60 different shows, as well as numerous concerts, recording a CD and supporting local and national charity events. Although in the 1978/80 season the name of the Society was changed to the present **Walsall Operatic Society**, the aims of entertainment and encouragement of musical development remain the same.

In the newspaper review of the first show in 1956 concern was expressed that there was no dedicated theatre in Walsall to accommodate such organisations and their performances. Sadly, those wishes continue to be unrewarded. So this year the show once again finds a home in Lichfield.

Instead of our usual list of shows, this pull-out supplement records, in words and pictures, *50 Golden Years* of Walsall Operatic Society. See how many familiar faces you can spot!



1956 - The Gypsy Princess.

The Gypsy Princess was the first production of the Walsall and District Amateur Operatic Society. Performed at W R Wheway School, Walsall. The show ran for 4 performances.



1957 - Pink Champagne.

1958: Maid Of The Mountains

1959: The Quaker Girl

1959: The Gypsy Baron

1977: Summer Song

1979: Annie Get Your Gun

1978: The Gypsy Baron

1960: Waltz Time



1960: The Mikado (concert version)

1961: Iolanthe (concert version)

1962: The Gondoliers (concert)

1961: Night In Venice

1962: The Desert Song

1964: The Mikado

1963: Land Of Smiles

1964: Iolanthe

1965: The Yeomen of the Guard

1964: White Horse Inn



1965: Mantza

1966: The Arcadians

1967: The Gondoliers

1967: Goodnight Vienna

1968: The Count of Luxembourg

1969: The Vagabond King

1968: The Pirates of Penzance
& Trial By Jury

1970 : Gypsy Love

1970: Ruddigore



1971: The Merry Widow

1972: Orpheus in the Underworld

1973: Carousel

1974: The New Moon

1975: Oklahoma!



1976: La Vie Parisienne

1980: The Bird Seller, 25th Anniversary Production
and a new name: WALSALL OPERATIC SOCIETY



1981: The Desert Song

1983: La Belle Héliène

1982: Waltzes From Vienna

1984: Naughty Marietta

1985 : White Horse Inn
our first production at Lichfield Civic Hall



1986: Show Boat

1987: Kiss Me Kate

1987: The Merry Widow

1988: Oklahoma!

1989: Finian's Rainbow

1991: Hello, Dolly!

1990: The Pajama Game

1992: Fiddler On The Roof

1993: Guys and Dolls

1994: Pirates of Penzance
(Broadway Version)



1995: Carousel



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