

WISBECH AMATEUR OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY



**EMPIRE THEATRE
WISBECH**

*14th to 18th March
1995*



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This year it is our great pleasure to present "Barnum" the award winning musical based on the life of P.T. Barnum, America's greatest showman, for your entertainment. The Society realised that staging this show would be a great challenge and I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all those, both on and off the stage, who have worked so hard to bring this production to the Empire Theatre.

Ray Jeffery is again our Director/Choreographer and this is his first Amateur production of "Barnum". Ray's contribution to the high standard to which the Society continually strives is immense. He is a perfectionist and those of us who have been fortunate to work with him since "Oliver", his first production for the Society in 1978, gratefully acknowledge the valuable experience we have gained from his professional direction and expertise.

We are extremely fortunate to have such an outstanding performer as Mark Sutton to play the demanding role of "Barnum" for the Society. He has been an inspiration throughout the rehearsal period and has earned the admiration of the entire company.

I must pay tribute to our Treasurer, Jean Hutchinson, who is retiring this year. Jean has worked tirelessly for our Society and is our longest serving member. We would all, patrons and members, like to say heartfelt THANK YOU JEAN for your unstinting devotion and dedication and we are so pleased that you will continue to serve on the General Committee to give valued advice.

Finally, I sincerely hope that everyone will enjoy "Barnum" and that all those involved have a very happy week.

Saskia Wykes

HONOURARY OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1994 /95

President: **S. Ashley Whitteridge** Vice President: **Graham Ward**

Chairman:	Saskia Wykes	LIFE MEMBERS	HON MEMBERS
General Secretary:	Pat Shippey	Donald J. Borrill	George Wells
Minute Secretary:	Jenny Sirett / Teresa Hudson	Joan Borrill	
Treasurer:	Jean Hutchinson	Mary Regester	
		Ashley Whitteridge	
		Peter Houlden	
		Graham Ward	
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Valerie Standen	Margaret Hunt	Sue Ellinor	Chris Gander
Kevin Shippey	Barbara Mews	John Richmond	Grahame Lindsay
Emlyn Moment	Brenda Richmond		

PANTOMIME COMMITTEE

Committee Members

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Secretary:	Ann Shippey	Brenda Richmond	Sue Ellinor
		John Richmond	Sharon Burrell
		Stevie Forshaw	Bob Ledger

THE SOCIETY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ADMISSION AND TO MAKE ANY ALTERATION IN THE CAST OR PRODUCTION MADE NECESSARY BY ILLNESS OR OTHER UNAVOIDABLE CAUSE

RAY JEFFERY (Director and Choreographer)

Writes about "Barnum"

"Roll up, roll up!" See the Greatest Show on earth, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can assure you, you won't be disappointed".

This is how the self-proclaimed, 'Prince of Humbug' would pull in the crowds to gawp and stare at his circus. Phineas T. Barnum takes a place in history as perhaps the greatest showman ever as he awed Victorian audiences with his collection of strange and wonderful acts. The son of a store-keeper, he must have been one of the first people to recognise that any publicity is good publicity. Carefully planned campaigns ensured massive coverage of everything he did. The penny showman was known for his glib one-liners such as, 'There's a sucker born every minute' and the immortal 'You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time!' He even gave lectures on his ability to con the public; on a trip to England in 1858, he delivered a speech in St. James's Hall, Regent Street entitled 'The science of money making and the philosophy of humbug'. Barnum maintained that people wanted to have the wool pulled over their eyes and he was more than happy to do so for a price.

Since I first saw the show on Broadway in 1980 I've wanted to be associated with this brilliantly clever musical. What a great challenge it has been to our company of performers to undertake this stage show and how proud and fortunate we have been to secure permission to present one of the most colourful, fast moving, tuneful and happy stage musicals ever written. Not only during my twenty years association with the company - but also in the long history of the Wisbech Operatic Society - this must surely be one of the greatest highlights.

Enjoy

Ray Jeffery



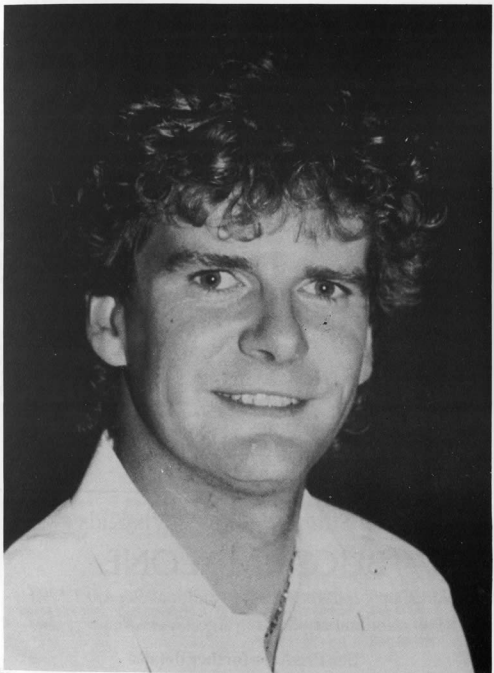
1995 Summer Show - Wis Kids

BUGSY MALONE

Workshop - 2nd April 1995 • Auditions 9th April 1995

Community Centre - Age 12 - 17 Years

See Press for further details



Mark Sutton - *Barnum*



Jackie Jackson
Chairy Barnum

Michele Larkin
Jenny Lind



JANE WERNHAM

Although now living and lecturing in Cornwall, Jane continues to travel the country as a Musical Director for workshops, summer schools and shows. She is pleased to continue her association with Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, and has enjoyed working with Ray on such a challenging and spectacular show as "Barnum".

Cy Coleman's music includes so many foot tapping, show stopping numbers that it's hard to choose a favourite!

She would like it to be noted that Ivan Garford's hard work in her absence has been much appreciated.



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The Company

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BARNUM

PHINEAS TAYLOR BARNUM (The Prince of Humbug)	Mark J. Sutton
CHAIRY BARNUM (P.T. Barnum's Wife)	Jackie Jackson
JOICE HETH (The Oldest Woman Alive)	Katrina Twitchett
TOM THUMB (Smallest Man in the World)	Philip Ashman
JULIUS GOLDSCHMIDT (Jenny Lind's Manager)	Graham Clapperton
JENNY LIND (Swedish Soprano)	Michele Larkin
BLUES SINGER	Katrina Twitchett
RING MASTER.....	Philip Hyde
CHESTER LYMAN (Joice Heth's Manager).....	John Richmond
AMOS SCUDDER (Owner of the American Museum).....	John Hammond
SHERWOOD STRATTON (Tom Thumb's Father).....	Robert Cooper
MRS. SHERWOOD STRATTON (Tom Thumb's Mother)	Teresa Hudson
WILTON (Barnum's Assistant on the Jenny Lind Tour).....	Darren Abel
EDGAR TEMPLTON (Political Party Boss)	Graham Seaton
HUMBERT MORRISSEY (Political Party Boss).....	John Holland
JAMES A. BAILEY	Ron Thurston

with

Tumblers, Jugglers, Clowns, Aerialists, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Bricklayers, Passersby,
Museum Patrons, Strongmen, Beefeaters, The 'Mob' in general,
The Bridgeport Pageant Choir and Bands of every shape, size and description.

Played by

Jill Hammond	Wendy Mitcham	Joanne Richards
Tony Clingo	Hayley Ransome	Ron Thurston
Liz Hammond	Shelia Petch	John Hammond
Louise Spotherill	Kelly Grimmett	Pat Jackson
Teresa Hudson	John Harper	Jonathan Shippey
Pom Gander	Rebecca Palmer	Val Standen
Robert Cooper	Sharon Burrell	Penny Marriott
Lewis Carroll	Sid Wells	Brenda Richmond
Graham Seaton	John Richmond	Katrina Watson
Mark Randall	Ian Chandler	Doreen Kowalewsky
David Rose	Lisa Swan	Darren Abel
Holly George	Naomi Green	Tracy Carroll
Jonathan Edwards	Graham Clapperton	Jackie Jackson
Michele Larkin	Katrina Twitchett	John Holland
Philip Ashman		

We are asked that Patrons REFRAIN FROM SMOKING in the Auditorium.
PLEASE NOTE: The use of Cameras in the theatre is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Time 1835 until 1880

THE ACTION TAKES PLACE ALL OVER AMERICA AND THE MAJOR CAPITALS OF THE WORLD

ACT ONE

Overture	The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Orchestra
"There Is A Sucker Born Every Minute"	Barnum
"The Colours Of My Life"	Chairy and Barnum
"One Brick At A Time"	Chairy and Company
"Museum Song"	Barnum with Company
"I Like Your Style"	Chairy and Barnum
"Bigger Isn't Better"	Tom Thumb with Beefeaters
The Clowns Sequence	
"Jenny Lind Obligato"	Jenny Lind
"Love Makes Such Fools Of Us All"	Jenny Lind
"Out There"	Barnum

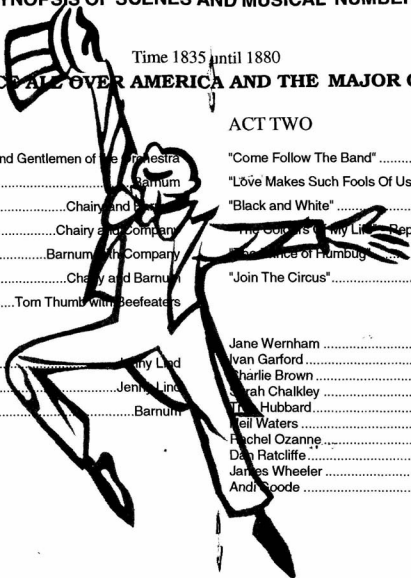
INTERVAL

ACT TWO

"Come Follow The Band"	Barnum, Ringmaster & Ensemble
"Love Makes Such Fools Of Us All" - Reprise	Jenny Lind
"Black and White"	Chairy, Barnum, Blues Singer & Singers
"The Colours Of My Life" - Reprise	Chairy and Barnum
"The Colours Of My Life"	Barnum
"Join The Circus"	Barnum, Bailey and Ensemble

BAND

Jane Wernham	Piano/Tuba
Ivan Garford	Piano
Charlie Brown	Flute /Piccolo
Sarah Chalkley	Reeds
Tom Hubbard	Reeds
Neil Waters	Trumpet
Rachel Ozanne	Trombone
Don Ratcliffe	Guitar
James Wheeler	Bass
Andrew Coode	Percussion



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PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR:

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Sue Ellinor
Pam Freeman & Helpers
Derek Mews
Andrew Maxey
Derek Mews, Charles Layton & Lester Moore,
Chris Ketteringham, Andrew Maxey, Charles Layton,
Lester Moore, Robert Bridges, John Goodley,
George McDonald, Mike Robinson, David Maris
& Helpers
Ivan Garford
George Wells
Barbara Mews
Ian Leonard & Richard of Viking Lighting
John Richmond
Margaret Hunt, Ann Waltham & Geraldine Moment
Alec Ilett, Ann Penny, Sharon Burrell
and Helpers
Norma Shippey
Brenda Richmond
Norma Shippey & Helpers
Stevie Forshaw
Ian Leonard
Annette Laming assisted by Members
and Friends of the Society
Daphne Twitchett & Shirley Walker
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The Society extends its grateful thanks to:-

The Worshipful the Mayor of Wisbech (Cllr. Mr. B Diggle) for his support and kind co-operation with the Civic Night.

The proprietors of this Theatre, Jacobs Theatre and Leisure Group Ltd., for making it available to us and in particular to their Staff for their interest, co-operation and practical help throughout the year.

Barbara Mews for valuable assistance to the Producer and her ability in coping with the arduous rehearsals.

The Queen Mary Centre and Caretaker for rehearsal facilities.

Circus Adviser - Derek Carpenter (Bo The Clown)

Mr. W. P. Wright for signwriting.

The Press for their interest and support throughout the year.

The advertisers in this programme.

The Organisers of the many parties and Groups who are attending this production.

All persons kindly loaning property to the Society.

Daphne Twitchett and Shirley Walker for all their help with the Box Office.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for their attendance at performances.

Ivan Garford (Chorus Master) for singing rehearsals

All dressing room helpers.

Walter Seath, West Walton.

Mr. Peter Houlden for his generous contribution to the floral decorations in this theatre.

Maxey and Son for loan of Vehicle.

Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society for loan of wigs.

Everyone who has helped the Society in any way and whose names were not available at the time of going to press.

ALSO FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

WAODS

**Our CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME will be
ROBINSON CRUSOE**

**Our future Musical for 1996 will be
"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"**

**Upwell Gilbert & Sullivan Society presents "HMS PINAFORE"
Welle Manor Hall 6th - 8th April, 1995 7.30pm.
Tickets Mrs. Vincent Tel. Wisbech 773087**

BARNUM

Roll up for a super circus spectacular!

Roll up, roll up! Take your seats and experience all the thrills and spills of circus Big Top when one of the latest shows hits town next week.

Barnum ranks as probably the most ambitious, spectacular, and colourful show ever undertaken by the Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

It is a huge challenge but it is nice to think that, as a society, we can go forward and meet that challenge," says Saskia Wykes, the Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's chairman.

The show will also be the most extensive show ever staged by the society and, although pre-bookings are most encouraging, officials will be happy if it breaks even.

The scenic requirements make it a costly show," the chairman says. "The whole set comes en-bloc and requires a special rigger to pick up the circus equipment."

Besides the technical difficulties Barnum traces the life of a legendary American showman, also places heavy demands on the cast. All have had to learn such circus tricks as tightrope walking, juggling and stilt walking.

No role is more exacting than that of Barnum himself, and the Wisbech society are very fortunate to have been able to persuade young professional actor Mark Sutton to play the part.

He had already done the role before and we have heard superb reports



ABOVE - Pictured are some of the supporting cast, from left: (Back) Darren Abel; (Second row) Robert Cooper, Philip Ashman, Graham Clapperton, John Hollands; (Third row) Teresa Hudson, Phillip Hyde, Graham Seaton; (front) Katrina Twitchet and Ron Thurston.

of him," says Mrs Wykes. "Moreover, he is no stranger to our society, having attended some of our dramatic workshops while he was staying with his grandmother in Wisbech."

Playing his wife, Charity, is Jackie Jackson and it is a role ideally suited to her mezzo soprano voice. Barnum's other great love was the Scan-

dinavian songstress, Jenny Lind, who will be played by Michelle Larkin.

The show, which is being directed by Ray Jeffery, with Jane Wernham as musical director, is studded with a host of memorable tunes and provides ample opportunities for the chorus to show their paces.

'CAPTIVATED'

"Generally it is very different from the normal run of musicals, but I am sure the audience will be captivated by the spectacle and the music," adds Mrs Wykes.

Barnum opens at the Empire Theatre in Wisbech next Tuesday and runs until Saturday, March 18, with evening performances each day and matinees on Wednesday and Saturday.



■ STAR of the show Mark Sutton with Sharon Burrell



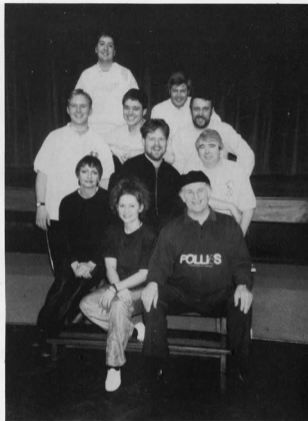
■ ABOVE: LEWIS Carroll and Jonathan Edwards (in
hind), two of the younger members of the cast.



■ CLOWNING AROUND: Two members of the Barnum cast



Dancers



Supporting Roles

Darren Abel, Robert Cooper, Philip Ashman,
Graham Clapperton, John Holland, Teresa Hudson,
Philip Hyde, Graham Seaton, Katrina Twitchett
and Ron Thurston

The greatest show on earth

Review by Wendy Coles

SPECTACULAR! Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society has reached dizzy new heights with its latest production of *Barnum*.

From start to finish the show at Wisbech's Empire Theatre is a magnificent example of all that is best in entertainment.

Director Ray Jeffery's professionalism exudes from every pore of his talented cast. And they do him proud.

Visually *Barnum* is so exciting it takes your breath away, and the vibrant colours are matched equally by the exuberant performances of the entire cast.

But if ever a star was born then Mark

Sutton is it. In the lead role he is on stage for virtually all the show, and he is superb. He is the consummate performer — an extremely talented actor and singer but with an energy and vitality which lifts him as high as the tightrope he so brilliantly walks!!

Jackie Jackson as his wife Chairy sings beautifully and manages to convey exactly the right amount of restraint which balances beautifully with the restless optimism of her much-loved husband.

Michele Larkin is a delicious Jenny Lind with a voice as sweet as any Nightingale. Katrina Twitchett shines in a cameo role as the world's oldest women and later as a blues singer revealing a delightfully rich voice and a comic talent. Good perfor-

mances too from Philip Hyde as the ringmaster and Philip Ashman as Tom Thumb.

And what support from the chorus of singers, dancers, acrobats, jugglers and clowns. If reward were for effort, theirs would be in heaven, but the appreciation of Tuesday's first-night audience must have made all the hard work worthwhile.

Jane Wernham proves once again what a mastery she has of a musical score and the songs fairly bounce along under her expert direction.

If its thrills and spills you want then roll up and enjoy, if not 'The Greatest Show on Earth' then the greatest show Wisbech has ever seen!

Performances continue tonight (Friday) and tomorrow afternoon and evening.

