

**Wisbech Amateur
Operatic
and Dramatic
Society**

EMPIRE THEATRE
WISBECH
9th-13th March 1999



OLIVER

From the Chairman

Having just completed a successful year with the Broadway version of 'The Pirates of Penzance' and the ever-popular 'Aladdin', we are very pleased to have your company for the smash hit show 'OLIVER'. How does the saying go? "Never work with children or animals", I'm sure tonight that we have proved to you just how wrong that is. Thanks to our very good friend and producer of 21 years Ray Jeffery (my how time flies), who has brought out all the humour and sensitivity this show offers. This year the Society is in the unique position of having three generations of one family taking leading roles - John Frisby, Alison Shippey and Laura-Jayne Shippey. We are very pleased once again to have Ivan Garford as our Musical Director.

For Spring 2000 our show will be "WAODS Magical Moments", something different from usual. Some of the best and I'm sure some of your favourite moments from our past shows. We appeal for both old and new members to join us for this show.

I would like to take this opportunity, to express the Society's sincere thanks to all patrons and friends for their continued support, to enable us to bring live theatre to Wisbech, but above all my sincere thanks and congratulations to the entire company for their commitment, dedication and sheer hard graft in the making of this superb show.

Barbara R. Mews

HONOURARY OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1998 /99

President: **Graham Ward**

Vice President: **Saskia Wykes**

Chairman:	Barbara Mews	LIFE MEMBERS	HON MEMBERS
Vice Chairman:	Valerie Standen	Donald J. Borrill	George Wells
General Secretary:	Pat Shippey	Joan Borrill	
Minute Secretary:	Jenny Sirett / Teresa Hudson	Mary Regester	
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GENERAL COMMITTEE

Margaret Hunt	Sue Ellinor	Kevin Shippey	John Richmond
Brenda Richmond	Pat Jackson	Jean Hutchinson	Ron Thurston
Michele Larkin	Sharon Ashman	Colin Male	

PANTOMIME COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Chairman & Business Manager:	Margaret Hunt	Emlyn Moment	Ann Waltham
Secretary:	Ann Shippey	Brenda Richmond	Sue Ellinor
		Sharon Ashman	Kevin Shippey
		Jonathan Salmon	

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, Choreographer & Designer)

writes.....

Little did I ever imagine when I first came to Wisbech in 1978 to direct "Oliver" that I'd be celebrating the repeat of the show, twenty one years on. Where has the time flown to! Over those years I have been wonderfully supported by a host of excellent assistants, musical directors, dance-captains, wardrobe mistresses, property managers, make-up creators and technical folks on sound and lighting, to them all I say a huge 'thank you' it has all been very greatly appreciated. Great and lasting friendships have been forged, which I am sure will continue for years yet but this is the way of the theatre especially. Returning to Wisbech is really like coming home again. My hoteliers, Brenda and John Richmond, have always opened their home to me and made me so welcome (ever since the year of the floods in 78 when I was almost washed away from my hotel in town). Apart from the successes we've had with the productions, I have hugely treasured the performances as 'King Arthur' in "Camelot", 'Dame' in "Jack and the Beanstalk" and 'Tevye' in the last "Fiddler on the Roof" - all great memories of happy times with the society. Members of the society have travelled with me to Ireland to compete in the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera where my own company "Players Anonymous" still hold the record of winning this competitive festival with 97 marks out of a possible 100, never previously or subsequently achieved, with the production of "Man Of La Mancha". Members of Wisbech Operatic have been regular members of the Rippon Operatic Summer School in Yorkshire and have been with me for many other schools in Chelmsford, Richmond etc. Who knows where the Amateur Theatre will go in the future. It's a hobby which asks a great deal of time and dedication from its members: As a past time it makes great demands on the goodwill of its associates, but of course has enormous rewards at the end of the rehearsal period once the show arrives on stage. In these days of such fast living the words 'loyalty and dedication' are so seldom experienced and when the basis of the 'non' professional theatre asks it's members to contribute so greatly with the only reward being your applause, I often wonder if I've had the best of it's years. Once again my sincerest thanks to the committee and members of the Wisbech Operatic Society for their support, faith and encouragement over all "them, there shows", long may the tradition continue to flourish and make a date for the March 2000 production of "WAODS Magical Moments", featuring artists who have appeared with the company over the past years recreating some of the successes in a feast of colour, music, movement and spectacle. It looks to be a great highlight in the society's history.

Meanwhile to "Oliver" Mark II - Enjoy!

Ray Jefferey.



**Oliver
Gareth Mole**



**Oliver
Simon
Every**



**Fagin
Bob Ledger**

**Artful
Dodger
Ben
Arthur**



**Artful Dodger
Scott
Harrison**





Nancy
Michelle Larkin



Bill Sykes
Kevin Shippey



Mr Bumble - the Beadle
John Frisby



Widow Corney
Brenda Woods



Bet
Laura-Jayne Shippey



Bill Sykes' dog
Widget

Ivan Garford BMus(Hons) L.R.A.M.
(Musical Director)

Ivan Studied music at Goldsmith's College and the Royal Academy of Music in London and is now a busy teacher of the piano and double bass in the Fenland area. He is pleased to continue his association with WAODS and has enjoyed working with Ray Jeffery on 'Oliver'.

He teaches music theory to the youngsters of Fenland Music Centre and future plans include a performance of Schumarr's Piano Concerto with the Centre's Orchestra.



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The gang



Billy Spinks



Andrew
Jackson



William Treasure



Ryan Ogden



Matthew Wardell



Alex Howes



Shaun Elsey



Shayne
Letting



Mr Sowerberry
Emlyn Moment



Mrs Sowerberry
Valerie Standen



Noah Claypole
Jonathan Shippey



Charlotte
Alison Shippey



Mr Brownlow
Grahame
Lindsey



Mrs Bedwin
Pat
Jackson



Dr Grimwig
Ron
Thurston



Cynthia
Maxey



David
Brammer



Philip
Ashman



Sharon
Ashman



Karen
Ogden



Philip
Hyde



Grahame Seaton



Louise
Smart



Kevin
Dear



Carole
Dear



Teresa
Hudson



Tony
Clingo



Ann
Shippey



Amy
Roper



Philip
Griggs



Verna
Griggs



Wendy
Mitcham



Brenda
Richmond



Shelia
Petch



Claire
Shippey



Laura
Graveling



Abbie
Graveling



Lucinda
Harwin



Doreen
Kowalesky

OLIVER The Cast

AT THE WORKHOUSE: 1850

Paupers	Jonathan Shippey, Philip Hyde
Miss Agnes	Cynthia Maxey
Mr Bumble	John Frisby
Widow Corney	Brenda Woods
Oliver Twist	Gareth Mole or Simon Every
Old Sally - a workhouse pauper	Carol Dear
Workhouse Boys	Benjamin Arthur, Shaun Elsey Scott Harrison, Alex Howes Andrew Jackson, Shayne Letting Ryan Ogden, Billy Spinks Mathew Wardle

AT THE UNDERTAKERS

Mr Sowerberry	Emlyn Moment
Mrs Sowerberry	Val Standen
Joah Claypole	Jonathan Shippey
Charlotte	Alison Shippey

PADDINGTON GREEN AND THE THIEVES KITCHEN

Artful Dodger	Scott Harrison or Benjamin Arthur
Magin	Bob Ledger
Charlie Bates	William Treasure
Nancy	Michele Larkin
Det	Laura-Jayne Shippey
Bill Sykes	Kevin Shippey
Mullseye (his dog)	Widget

AT THE "THREE CRIPPLES"

Wankeeper	Philip Hyde
Handlady	Val Standen
Mr Percy Snodgrass	Ron Thurston
'Pretty' Little Sally	Cynthia Maxey

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Phillip Ashman

THE BROWNLAWS

Mr Brownlow	Graham Seaton
Mrs Bedwin	Pat Jackson
A Maid	Teresa Hudson
Doctor Grimwig	Ron Thurston

THE STREET

Rose Seller	Alison Shippey
Milk Maid	Amy Roper
Strawberry Vendor	Wendy Mitcham
Long Song Seller	Graham Seaton
Knife Grinder	Philip Hyde
Bow Street Runners	David Brammar, Philip Hyde
Window Cleaners	Emlyn Moment, Jonathan Shippey
Governesses	Louise Smart, Verna Griggs
Quality Gentlemen	Tony Clingo, Kevin Dear
Upstairs Maids	Karen Ogden, Cynthia Maxey
Elegant Ladies	Teresa Hudson, Sharon Ashman Val Standen, Carol Dear

Balloon Seller	Anne Shippey
Headmaster	Philip Griggs
Orange Sellers	Brenda Woods, Sheila Petch
Heather Seller	Lucinda Harwin
Puppeteer	Doreen Kowalesky
Ribbon Seller	Brenda Richmond
School girls	Claire Shippey, Laura Cook Laura Graveling, Abbie Graveling

LONDON BRIDGE

Nightwatchman	Philip Ashman, Kevin Dear
Peelers	Philip Hyde, David Brammer

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ASSISTANT TO THE PRODUCER:

Barbara Mews

WARDROBE MISTRESS:

Sue Ellinor

SET DESIGN:

Ray Jeffery

STAGE MANAGER:

Andy Maxey

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:

Derek Mews

WORKSHOP:

Derek Mews, Andy Maxey, Charles Layton,
Colin Male & Helpers.

CONTINUITY:

Barbara Mews

LIGHTING CONTROL:

Ian Leonard & Richard Sawyer of Viking Lighting

PROPERTIES MANAGER:

John Richmond

PROPERTIES:

Ann Shippey, Margaret Hunt, Ann Waltham,
Susan Graveling, Jenny Male & Helpers.

MAKE UP:

Alec Ilett & Helpers

PATRONS SECRETARY:

Norma Shippey

PARTY BOOKINGS:

Brenda Richmond

ADVANCE BOOKINGS:

Daphne Twitchett & Helpers

CALLS:

Sue Lambert

SOUND:

Ian Leonard & Richard Sawyer of Viking Lighting

FOLLOW SPOTS:

John Petch & Pat Shippey

PROGRAMMES & USHERETTES:

Annette Laming assisted by Members
and Friends of the Society

BOX OFFICE:

Daphne Twitchett & Helpers

SCENERY:

Chelmsford Young Generation &
WAODS Workshop

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Rex Howard Ltd.

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Chelmsford Operatic Society

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Bigwigs of Basingstoke

THEATRE DECOR:

John & Alec.

HOUSE SAFETY:

Neil & Helpers

PRESS LIASON OFFICER:

George Wells

CLOAKS:

David, Sam & Tony

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR:

Margaret Hunt

PROMPT:

Elizabeth Every

THE BAND

Ivan Garford	MD / Keyboards
Samantha Ashby	Flute
Anne Holder	Oboe
Liane Hunt	Clarinet
Stefen Dicks	Trumpet
Richard Hall	Trombone
James Wheeler	Bass Guitar
Chris Love	Percussion

We are asked that Patrons
REFRAIN FROM SMOKING in the Auditorium.

PLEASE NOTE:
The use of Cameras in the Theatre is
STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

This page sponsored by:-



The Society extends its grateful thanks to:-

The Worshipful the Mayor of Wisbech (Cllr. Mr. R. Symonds) 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.

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.

Dawbarns & Des & Stevie Forshaw for Advertising Banner

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

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

Len Priestley for Transport

All dressing room helpers.

Thanks to Dulcie Blunt and helpers for cast catering.

Maxey and Son for loan of Vehicle.

Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society for loan of wigs.

Emlyn Moment for Programme Photographs

Alison Murfet for the loan of Antique Perambulators.

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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING US ????

On stage or back stage,

Please contact the Hon Secretary Tel: 01945 772228