



Lerner & Loewe's

My Fair

Lady

17 - 21 MARCH 2020

THE HAYMARKET, BASINGSTOKE





ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Sunday 12th July 2020
Cliddesden Millennium Village Hall

Join BAOS for our Summer Concert!

Rehearsals start 31st March ♦ Tickets on sale soon
See baos.org or email comms@baos.org for more information

My Fair Lady

Lerner and Loewe's
MY FAIR LADY

Book and Lyrics by
ALAN JAY LERNER

Music by
FREDERICK LOEWE

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play and
Gabriel Pascal's Motion Picture "PYGMALION"

Original Production Directed and Staged by Moss Hart

DIRECTOR - SUE SAMPSON
MUSICAL DIRECTOR - TREVOR DEFFERD

17 - 21 MARCH 2020
THE HAYMARKET, BASINGSTOKE

We would ask you to note that in accordance with requirements of the
Licensing Authority of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council:

The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors; all gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways, which afford a means of exit, shall be kept entirely free from obstruction; persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the gangways; and the safety curtain shall be lowered at each performance in the presence of the audience.

Smoking and the use of audio and visual photography are prohibited in the auditorium.

An amateur production presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe).
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. www.mtishows.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to BAOS's 2020 production of Lerner & Loewe's *MY FAIR LADY*.

My Fair Lady is a classic show. Many of you in the audience will have seen the film and/or other stage productions. Yet the show is loved by many not just for the outstanding music and iconic images but because it is truly timeless. Lerner and Loewe and George Bernard Shaw might not have recognised the phrases "social mobility" and "gender equality" but Eliza's ambition to improve her prospects represent the former, and she is certainly not afraid to stand up for herself and make her own decisions about her future, despite Higgins's attempts at dictatorship. We'll leave you to decide if he appreciates that in the end.

The directing team of Sue Sampson (Director), Trevor Defferd (Musical Director) and Alex Stores (Choreographer) have put a huge amount into this production. Sue and Alex kindly took on these responsibilities at short notice and all three have been flexible and adaptable as well as bringing their considerable talents together to present a superb production. We are enormously indebted to them and to those who have assisted them. Thank you so much!

Thank you too to the many other people who have, as always, worked hard in the background. Without them a show would not happen. I should particularly like to thank the committee, the entire production team and stage crew, and all involved in wardrobe, publicity and marketing.

Looking to the future, Limelight's next show is *URINETOWN*. Don't let the title put you off coming to see a fantastic show! They will again be performing in The Haymarket in October. As usual, the adult company will be performing a summer concert with a social, and rehearsals will start in the autumn for *THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS*, to be staged back here in The Haymarket next Spring.

Finally, thank YOU for your support. We wish you all a "lovely" evening!

Kathy May-Miller

Chair

DID YOU KNOW?....

- Composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II tried to convert *Pygmalion* into a musical but later told Alan Jay Lerner, who would write *My Fair Lady*, that it was impossible.
- The musical was to have been called '*Lady Liza*' until Rex Harrison, who was to play Professor Henry Higgins, objected to a title based on the name of the female lead (Eliza Doolittle).
- Some other actors considered for the role of Henry Higgins were Noel Coward, Cary Grant, Rock Hudson, Peter O'Toole, Michael Redgrave and George Sanders.
- The "marbles" Professor Henry Higgins (Sir Rex Harrison) puts in Eliza Doolittle's (Audrey Hepburn's) mouth are actually grapes.
- Hepburn prepared extensively for her role, only to learn that professional "voicer" Marni Nixon was to dub most of her songs.
- *My Fair Lady* swept the Oscars ceremony, winning eight in April 1965 – except for the Best Actress award, which went to Julie Andrews for *Mary Poppins*.
- Costume Designer Cecil Beaton reputedly created one thousand five hundred costumes for this movie.



MEET THE CAST



HANNAH JENKINS - *ELIZA DOOLITTLE*

Hannah has been performing from a young age and has enjoyed being part of both BATS and, more recently, BAOS. She has played a variety of roles from Mary Lennox in *THE SECRET GARDEN* to Liat in *SOUTH PACIFIC*, as well as Kate Mullins in one of her favourite musicals, *TITANIC*. She is excited and honoured to be taking on the iconic role of Eliza Doolittle in this fantastic musical and would describe it as a dream come true, although portraying the transformation from a “dirty” flower girl to a lady has its challenges!



Hannah would like to thank her husband Hayden for putting up with her constant reciting of lines, loud renditions of the songs and general talk of all things ‘*My Fair Lady*’ for the last 6 months. She has loved working alongside the brilliantly talented cast and production team and can’t wait to be back on stage as part of this wonderful production. She hopes you sit back, relax and have a “loverly” time.



RICHARD YOUNG - *HENRY HIGGINS*

This is Richard’s first show with BAOS and what a way to start! The whole society has been incredibly welcoming, and the rehearsal period has been great fun. He has been doing shows in the area for the last twenty years with roles ranging from the classic tenor leads Nanki-Poo and Ralph Rackstraw (*THE MIKADO* and *HMS PINAFORE*) through to Simon Zealotes in *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* and Freddy Trumper in *CHESS*.

While all of those are fabulous parts, the role of Henry Higgins is a huge challenge and Richard couldn’t be happier to be playing such an iconic character. As a long-time fan of *MY FAIR LADY*, this is a wonderful chance for him to try out Rex Harrison’s slippers and see how they fit! As ever, a huge thank you to his wife Susannah and sons Marcus and Daniel for all their support through the rehearsal period.



TONY SIDDALL - *COLONEL PICKERING*

Tony is very pleased to have been offered the part of Higgins’s friend. Other recent roles have included Andre Thibault (*DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS*), John Jacob Astor (*TITANIC*), The Constable (*FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*), Mr Woods (*LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL*), The Historian (*SPAMALOT*), Harold Wilson (*MADE IN DAGENHAM*), Lank Hawkins (*CRAZY FOR YOU*), Russell Tinsworthy (*9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL*), The General (*KISS ME, KATE*), Brian (*ALL ABOARD*), The Captain (*ANYTHING GOES*), Pat Denning (*42ND STREET*), Lt Brannigan (*GUYS & DOLLS*), and Willy (*COPACABANA*).

Tony is also currently rehearsing for *THE FULL MONTY* (Sunflower Productions) and *ANYTHING GOES* for CAMUS, in which he will reprise his role as the Captain. He is looking forward to performing with BAOS for the first time. In the distant past he appeared, for many years, in productions by NatWest (now RBS) Theatre Company in London.



MARTIN SAMPSON

ALFRED P DOOLITTLE

Martin is back at BAOS having last performed here as the down-trodden Clyde in *THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK*, and is thoroughly enjoying the larger-than-life character of Doolittle.

In the intervening period, Martin has displayed his versatility for undertaking diverse roles: for CodyMTG (Aldershot) he has appeared as Tooley (*MADE IN DAGENHAM*), Callahan (*LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL*) and Juan Peron (*EVITA*); for CAMUS (Camberley) he has played Sheriff Dodds (*THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS*) and Ching Ho (*THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE*); and for FAOS (Farnham) he has performed as Sir Lancelot (*SPAMALOT*), Teyve (*FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*) and most recently as Curtis (*SISTER ACT*).

Martin is married to Sue and is an actor for Murder 57. He spends his summer evenings playing lawn green bowls for Camberley and Surrey, and last year became a National Champion.



JACK BALDWIN

FREDDY EYNSFORD-HILL

Having been at University for the past 3 years, Jack is

excited to be back performing with BAOS in *MY FAIR LADY*. Whilst at University, Jack performed in numerous shows, including *LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL* (Emmett Forrest), *SISTER ACT* (TJ), and *ANYTHING GOES*. He is also a founding member of BAOS Limelight, where he was involved in performances until 2016.

Playing Freddy Eynsford-Hill has been a fantastic experience for Jack, and he has enjoyed every minute rehearsing and performing with such a talented, supportive cast and creative team.



KATHY MAY-MILLER

MRS PEARCE

Kathy has performed with several societies, but has not missed a BAOS main show since she joined in 2002 so this is her 18th BAOS show. Previous principal roles include Reno Sweeney (*ANYTHING GOES*), Golde (*FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*), Aunt Eller (*OKLAHOMA*), Widow Corney (*OLIVER!*), Jeanette Burmeister (*THE FULL MONTY*) and Felicia Gabriel (*THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK*).

Kathy is really enjoying playing Mrs Pearce. She efficiently runs the household and does Professor Higgins's bidding, sometimes against her better judgement. But she is also strong and becomes even more so after Eliza joins the household, when Mrs Pearce sometimes feels the need to stand up to Higgins on Eliza's behalf. The rest of the cast have been great fun to work with. Kathy has found it very hard to keep a straight face, especially when Eliza and Higgins are bickering. Thank goodness audiences won't have to try to do the same!



CAROLINE PRICE

MRS HIGGINS

Caroline has been a member of BAOS since 1990 and currently holds the privilege of being President. Frequently acting as Production Manager (as she has done for *MY FAIR LADY*), Caroline helps to bring the creative team's vision to life - such a contrast from her daytime job as a Macmillan Nurse. Caroline's whole family have been involved with BAOS over the years in various guises and her husband Tim is also on stage.

She has enjoyed playing many minor principal roles. Mrs Higgins is a fun part to play as she has a genuine fondness for Eliza, even speaking out against her son Henry.

Caroline would also like to say a personal thank you to Sue our Director; it has been lovely working with you again.



OWEN WHITE

HARRY

Owen is thrilled to have returned to the stage for BAOS's *MY FAIR LADY*. Owen is no stranger to BAOS, having performed in *HAIRSPRAY* and as a child in *OLIVER!* and being one of the original members of Limelight. He is excited to be performing again after a few years of being backstage. *MY FAIR LADY* is a more traditional show than Owen is used to performing in. His favourite

roles to date are Brian in *AVENUE Q* and Eugene in *GREASE*, but he has loved the experience of performing in a show unlike others he has been in. Owen has enjoyed working closely with Martin and Josh and he would also like to thank Sue, Trevor and Alex for all of the work they have put into the show.

When not performing Owen can be found at university where he is currently studying History at Oxford Brookes. Owen hopes you all have a 'lovely' time watching the first BAOS show of the decade!



JOSH VAATSTRA

JAMIE

Josh Vaatstra is thrilled to be performing in his second Haymarket production after joining BAOS for *MADE IN DAGENHAM*. He's had a blast getting his cockney on to play Jamie, and has relished the chance to work on a show of such iconic cultural status.

Josh is a graduate of the University of Southampton, and an alumnus of both SUSU Theatre Group and SUSU Showstoppers. Previous roles include Claudio in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, Lucky in *WAITING FOR GODOT*, Lt. Frank Cioffi in *CURTAINS* and The Father in *THE TRAIL TO OREGON!* for the show's European debut at The Other Palace Studio in London, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

He is an active performer, theatre-maker and arts educator, and would love to connect with other creatives!

He hopes you enjoy this production!



**ADAM
CAWSON**



**AMY-LEE
LESLIE**



**DIANA
SANKEY**



**JENNY
MOSELEY**



**KAREN
MCCLOY**



**LISA-MARIE
HOLBROOK**



**MEGAN
WELLS**



**NATASHA
JENKINS**



**PAM
RUFFLES**



**RICHARD
COX**



**ROS
AYLMER**



**ROSIE
VINCE**



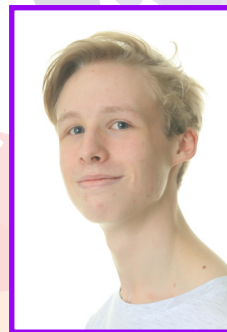
**SOPHIE
ROWAND**



**STEPHANIE
WEBB**



**TIM
PRICE**



**TOBY
AYLMER**



**TRACEY
EMERY**

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

MRS. EYNSFORD-HILL JENNY MOSELEY
ELIZA DOOLITTLE HANNAH JENKINS
FREDDY EYNSFORD-HILL JACK BALDWIN
COLONEL PICKERING TONY SIDDALL
HENRY HIGGINS RICHARD YOUNG
SELSEY MAN RICHARD COX
HOXTON WOMAN STEPHANIE WEBB
COCKNEY QUARTET JOSH VAATSTRA
OWEN WHITE
TIM PRICE
TOBY AYLNER
RICHARD COX
BARTENDER OWEN WHITE
HARRY JOSH VAATSTRA
JAMIE MARTIN SAMPSON
ALFRED P. DOOLITTLE KATHY MAY-MILLER
MRS. PEARCE STEPHANIE WEBB
MRS. HOPKINS DIANA SANKEY
MAIDS MEGAN WELLS
SERVANTS KAREN MCCLOY
ROS AYLNER
SOPHIE ROWAND
TRACEY EMERY
MRS. HIGGINS CAROLINE PRICE
MRS HIGGIN'S MAID NATASHA JENKINS
LORD BOXINGTON TIM PRICE
LADY BOXINGTON PAM RUFFLES
ENSEMBLE ADAM CAWSON
AMY-LEE LESLIE
DIANA SANKEY
JENNY MOSELEY
KAREN MCCLOY
LISA-MARIE HOLBROOK
MEGAN WELLS
NATASHA JENKINS
PAM RUFFLES
RICHARD COX
ROS AYLNER
ROSIE VINCE
SOPHIE ROWAND
STEPHANIE WEBB
TIM PRICE
TOBY AYLNER
TRACEY EMERY

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR SUE SAMPSON
MUSICAL DIRECTOR TREVOR DEFFERD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR STEPHANIE WEBB
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT OWEN WHITE
CHOREOGRAPHER ALEX STORES
DANCE CAPTAIN TRACEY EMERY
PRODUCTION MANAGER CAROLINE PRICE
STAGE MANAGER SHARON WATSON
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER JOHN EDDIE
STAGE CREW SAMUEL BAKER
SAM ALEXANDER
JOSHUA MAXWELL
ELLIE LITTLECHILD
TIM FURLONG
MATT HARRISON
STEPHANIE GREGORY
AMY JONES
RUSSELL BARRETT
FLY CREW STEVE BRANNAM
ADAM COUSINS
STUART BAKER
STUART WALKER
MATT GREEN
LIGHTING DESIGN AND HIRE MICHAELA RENNIE
LIGHTING OPERATOR DANIEL PAINE (SPINAUDIO)
SOUND DESIGN AND HIRE DANIEL PAINE, GEORGE STEED
SOUND CREW/OPERATOR SCENIC PROJECTS
SCENERY HIRE CHARLOTTE MAY-MILLER,
PROPS LAUREN WAGNER, LESLEY RUST
HEAD OF WARDROBE JUDE IFOULD
COSTUMES BATS, SUE'S COSTUMES
COSTUME PRODUCTION JUDE IFOULD
WIGS BATS- DRESSED BY STUDENTS OF
BCoT
MARKETING OFFICER REBECCA GREENHILL
PHOTOGRAPHS ADRIAN HYDE
MARKETING AND RYAN STEVENS
PROGRAMME DESIGN (STEVENS-SIGNAGE)
T-SHIRT PRINTING GARLAND EMBROIDERY
FLYER AND PROGRAMME SOLOPRESS.COM
PRINTING

BAOS would like to thank the following for their support:

Milestones Museum
Squirrels
Simon Eastwood
The Malls
Anvil Arts
Front of House volunteers
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
Basingstoke Gazette
Parish Magazines

**THERE WILL BE AN
INTERMISSION OF
20 MINUTES.**

SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture.....	ORCHESTRA
Why Can't The English?.....	HIGGINS
Wouldn't It Be Lovely.....	ELIZA & COCKNEY QUARTET
With A Little Bit Of Luck.....	DOOLITTLE, HARRY & JAMIE
I'm An Ordinary Man.....	HIGGINS
With A Little Bit Of Luck <i>REPRISE</i>	DOOLITTLE & ENSEMBLE
Just You Wait.....	ELIZA
The Servants' Chorus.....	SERVANTS
The Rain In Spain.....	ELIZA, HIGGINS & PICKERING
I Could Have Danced All Night.....	ELIZA, MRS PEARCE & MAIDS
Ascot Gavotte.....	FULL COMPANY
On The Street Where You Live.....	FREDDY

ACT II

You Did It.....	HIGGINS, PICKERING & ENSEMBLE
Just You Wait <i>REPRISE</i>	ELIZA
On The Street Where You Live <i>REPRISE</i>	FREDDY
Show Me.....	ELIZA
Wouldn't It Be Lovely <i>REPRISE</i>	ELIZA & ENSEMBLE
Get Me To The Church on Time.....	DOOLITTLE & ENSEMBLE
A Hymn To Him.....	HIGGINS
Without You.....	ELIZA & HIGGINS
I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face.....	HIGGINS

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director - TREVOR DEFFERD

Leader.....	VICKY STAPLETON	Clarinet.....	ANNA O'BRIEN
Violin.....	HELEN PAGE	Bassoon.....	ERICA TUGWELL
Viola.....	ROWENA OVEREND	Trumpet.....	JAMES LOWE
Cello.....	VICKY BENJAMIN	Horn.....	TIM POCOCK
Bass.....	JONATHAN WILLIAMS	Trombone.....	NICK KERSHAW
Flute/Piccolo.....	CATHY LANEY	Keyboard.....	CAMERON BAKER
Oboe/Cor Anglais..	JASMINE HUXTABLE-WRIGHT	Percussion.....	COLIN GRAY

CREATIVE TEAM



SUE SAMPSON - *DIRECTOR*

Sue is delighted to be given the opportunity, at long last, to direct *MY FAIR LADY*. The show was the very first show that Sue was involved in many, many years ago!! For that show she was choreographer and principal dancer. Sue also taught "Pygmalion" as it was a set text for GCSE and A Level when she was Head of Drama at Gordons School.

Sue has directed for many Societies including several productions which have won NODA awards, most recently for *CAMUS COPACABANA* (2017) and *BAOS THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK* (2017). Sue's production of *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM* won the Councillor's NODA Award for the South East of England. Sue was recently asked to be the after-Dinner Speaker at the NODA Presidential Banquet. Sue has also been asked to be a NODA Representative and ran the Drama Workshop at the NODA South East Regional Conference. She also runs "Acting Skills" courses.



TREVOR DEFFERD - *MUSICAL DIRECTOR*

Trevor is an Honours graduate in Music from Southampton University. Following 16 years teaching music in secondary schools in Hampshire and Berkshire, he took a Postgraduate Musical Director's course at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in 1996. He now works as a freelance musician, dividing his time between teaching piano and theatre work as a Musical Director and keyboard player.

Trevor has been involved in more than 150 musicals, *MY FAIR LADY* being his 79th as Musical Director and the 12th at the Haymarket. He previously worked with BAOS as MD for *WEST SIDE STORY* (2016) and *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* (2018).

Trevor has sung, played solo piano and conducted in the Royal Albert Hall and is Musical Director for Aimi Macdonald, having performed in cabaret at such diverse venues as Crazy Coqs, The Pheasantry and Wilton's Music Hall.

In his spare time Trevor enjoys playing snooker and is an avid follower of Southampton Football Club.



ALEX STORES - *CHOREOGRAPHER*

Alex was thrilled to be asked to choreograph *MY FAIR LADY*. It's only the second adult show she has choreographed, the first being *THE PRODUCERS*, also for BAOS.

She has really enjoyed the upbeat nature of the dance numbers and being able to involve everyone in the group numbers.

Alex can normally be found performing on stage but has had a lot of fun being on the production team for a change. She has helped backstage in the past when unable to perform so thinks maybe she will have a go at learning an instrument for next year to see if the orchestra will let her join them, triangle perhaps?!



Book by JULIAN FELLOWES
Music by GEORGE STILES
Lyrics by ANTHONY DREWE

Based on the book by KENNETH GRAHAME

Original Production Produced by JAMIE HENDRY



2021

THE HAYMARKET, BASINGSTOKE



URINETOWN

THE MUSICAL

Music by Mark Hollmann
Lyrics by Mark Hollmann Greg Kotis
Book by Greg Kotis

Pre Audition workshops are on 5th, 7th,
& 21st March, auditions on April 26th!

Register for audition packs
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baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk



Kinky Boots

THE HUGE-HEARTED HIT MUSICAL

Music and Lyrics by CYNDI LAUPER
Book by HARVEY FIERSTEIN

Based on the Miramax motion picture of the
same name, written by Geoff Deane and Tim Firth

2022

THE HAYMARKET, BASINGSTOKE

Anvil Arts at
The Haymarket

BATS
Basingstoke Amateur
Theatrical Society

CHICAGO

12 - 16 MAY 2020

THE HAYMARKET, BASINGSTOKE

Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins
Script adaptation by David Thompson

This amateur production of **CHICAGO** is presented
by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD,
a Concord Theatricals Company



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SILCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

Ticket booking online at

www.silchesterplayers.org

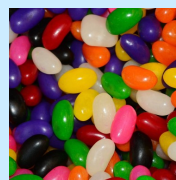
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Sweetie Treaty Days

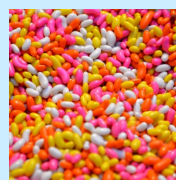
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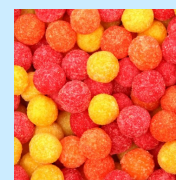
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baby showers, birthday
parties, christenings, fetes
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you may have.



Registered Charity no. 1103166

Entertainment was very limited in Basingstoke in 1922 when BAOS was born as the Thornycroft Amateur Operatic Society, to become pioneers in the world of amateur show business. In those days, the former Corn Exchange, dubbed the Grand Cinema, had only seen modest concert parties in between the films but never a light opera, with colourful costumes, a full orchestra and cleverly painted scenery to carry people away to Venice, the Tower of London, or to Titipu in Japan.

It was all made possible as a result of a light-hearted conversation at May's Bounty Cricket Ground following a hockey match. Someone mentioned Gilbert and Sullivan to fire the imagination; word was then conveyed to employees at Thornycrofts. With the management realising what potential they had in the firm, the operatic society started. Thornycrofts had a fine military band with R. M. Calloway as conductor, there was the work's canteen with a splendid stage, and a goodly sized auditorium.

Among the personnel were a number of good singers and actors and it was three of these – Fred Cook, Ralph Burnaby and Ray Franklin – who conversed at May's Bounty who were in the production which followed – the launching of HMS Pinafore on February 24th, 1922. The Society was also launched, with more productions drawing many patrons to the canteen until 1931 when Ruddigore was staged.

PRESIDENT CAROLINE PRICE

COMMITTEE

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Secretary	RACHEL KINGSTON DE CAIRES
Committee	HANNAH JENKINS, JOSH VAATSTRA, MEGAN WELLS, ROS AYLNER, REBECCA GREENHILL, RYAN STEVENS, SAM ALEXANDER

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MRS E SPICER, MRS J TITCHINER, MRS S WILLIAMS, MR J YOUNG



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National Operatic and Dramatic Association



Headquarters: 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, PE2 7UH

Telephone: 01733 374790 Email: info@noda.org.uk Website: www.noda.org.uk

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of approximately 2000 amateur theatre groups and approximately 800 individual members staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Covering a broad spectrum of age ranges NODA member societies meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic, dance or musical, and those involved backstage, front of house or in society administration.

NODA aims:

- To give a shared voice to amateur theatre
- To help societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.
- To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century
- To achieve these aims NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the national council (ruling body of the Association), and supported by a network of regional representatives and officials. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association; the amateur theatre groups themselves and their members.
- To provide support and assistance to these volunteers the Association is administered from its office in Peterborough by a knowledgeable and friendly staff who can deal with any enquiry about amateur theatre.

Membership of NODA provides theatre groups and individuals with a wide range of benefits including access to NODA's advice service at national and regional level, as well as representation to government, access to funding agencies, direct access to rights holders and the media as well access to regional and national conferences, workshops and seminars to help share information on best practice.

NODA holds an annual residential Summer School (with bursaries available) offering training from professional tutors in a wide range of both performance and technical courses.

NODA also holds an annual national and regional programme and poster competition to encourage high standards in design.

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