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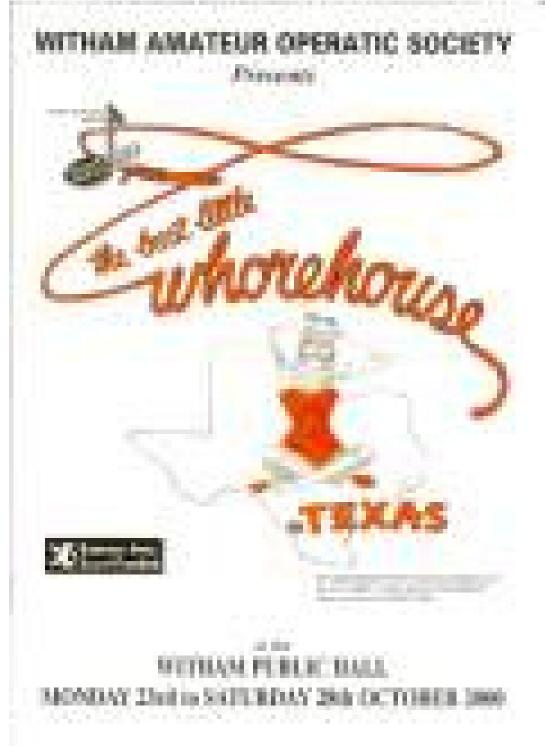
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PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

HMS Pinatore	1057					
LINIO LINGUOLO	1957	The White Horse Inn	1974	The Pajama Game		Trial by Jury &
The Pirates of Penzance	1958	The Gipsy Princess		Yeomen of the Guard		HMS Pinafore
Ruddigore	1959	The Merry Widow	1975	Pink Champagne	1988	Kismet
Patience	1960	Bless the Bride		Patience		Half a Sixpence
Yeomen of the Guard	1961	The Boy Friend	1976	South Pacific	1989	Fiddler on the Roof
Dorothy	1962	Grab Me a Gondola		Ruddigore		The Gondoliers
Les Cloches de Corneville	1963	The Quaker Girl	1977	Guys & Dolls	1990	Die Fledermaus
Mikado	1964	The New Moon		Utopia Ltd		The King and I
The Gondoliers		Mikado (CV)	1978	The White Horse Inn	1991	Carousel
Falka	1965	The Maid of the Mountains		Mikado		Patience
HMS Pinafore		Pirates of Penzance (CV)	1979	Brigadoon	1992	Annie Get Your Gun
Merrie England	1966	Gipsy Love		Princess Ida		Bless the Bride
Tom Jones		HMS Pinafore (CV)	1980	Orpheus in the	1993	Brigadoon
The Geisha	1967	Call Me Madam		Underworld		Ruddigore
Dorothy		Iolanthe (CV)		lolanthe	1994	My Fair Lady
The Maid of the Mountains	1968	The Desert Song	1981	Summer Song		South Pacific
The Street Singer		Patience (CV)		The Quaker Girl	1995	Kiss Me, Kate
Goodnight Vienna	1969	Rose Marie	1982	The Desert Song		Oliver
Miss Hook of Holland		Mikado		Cox & Box & The Sorcerer	1996	Anything Goes
Maritza	1970	Free As Air	1983	Oklahoma!	1000	Guys & Dolls
Katinka		The Pirates of Penzance		The Pirates of Penzance	1997	Orpheus in the Underworld
The Lilac Domino	1971	Oklahomal	1984		1001	Pirates of Penzance
Rio Rita		Trial by Jury &		Free As Air	1998	The Pajama Game
Wild Violets		HMS Pinafore	1985	Showboat	1000	The Merry Widow
Magyar Melody	1972	The Merry Widow		La Vie Parisienne	1999	Kismet
Carissima		The Gondoliers	1986	Yeomen of the Guard		The Mikado
Rose Marie	1973	Carousel			2000	THE MINDO
Tulip Time		Iolanthe	1987		CV - C	oncert Version
	Ruddigore Patience Yeomen of the Guard Dorothy Les Cloches de Corneville Mikado The Gondoliers Falka HIMS Pinafore Merrie England Tom Jones The Geisha Dorothy The Maid of the Mountains The Street Singer Goodnight Vienna Miss Hook of Holland Maritza Katinka The Lilac Domino Rio Rita Wild Violets Magyar Melody Carissima Rose Marie	Ruddigore 1959 Patience 1960 Yeomen of the Guard 1961 Dorothy 1962 Les Cloches de Corneville 1963 Mikado 1964 The Gondoliers 1965 Falka 1965 HMS Pinafore 1966 Merrie England 1966 Tom Jones 1967 The Geisha 1967 Dorothy 1968 The Street Singer 3969 Goodnight Vienna 1968 Miss Hook of Holland 1970 Katirika 1970 Katirika 1971 Rio Rita Wild Violets Magyar Melody 1972 Carissima 1973 Tulip Time 1973	Ruddigore 1959 The Merry Widow Patience 1960 Bless the Bride Yeomen of the Guard 1961 The Boy Friend Dorothy 1962 Grab Me a Gondola 1963 The Ouaker Girl Mikado 1964 The New Moon Mikado (CV) Falka 1965 The Maid of the Mountains Pirates of Penzance (CV) Merrie England 1966 Gipsy Love HMS Pinafore HMS Pinafore (CV) The Geisha 1967 Call Me Madam Dorothy The Maid of the Mountains 1968 The Desert Song The Street Singer Goodnight Vienna 1969 Rose Marie Miss Hook of Holland Mikado Misado 1970 Free As Air Katirika 1970 Free As Air The Pirates of Penzance Misado 1969 Rose Marie Mikado 1970 Free As Air The Pirates of Penzance The Lilac Domino 1971 Oklahoma! Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore Magyar Melody 1972 The Merry Widow The Gondoliers Rose Marie 1973 Carousel Iolanthe	Ruddigore 1959 The Merry Widow 1975 Patience 1960 Bless the Bride 1976 Yeomen of the Guard 1961 The Boy Friend 1976 Dorothy 1962 Grab Me a Gondola 1977 Les Cloches de Corneville 1963 The Quaker Girl 1977 Mikado 1964 The New Moon 1978 Falka 1965 The Maid of the Mountains 1978 Falka 1965 The Maid of the Mountains 1979 Merrie England 1966 Gipsy Love 1980 HMS Pinafore HMS Pinafore (CV) 1980 The Geisha 1967 Call Me Madarn 1900 Dorothy The Maid of the Mountains 1968 The Desert Song 1981 The Street Singer 1968 Rose Marie 1982 Miss Hook of Holland Mikado Mikado Maritza 1970 Rose Marie 1983 The Lilac Domino 1971 Oklahoma! 1984 Miss Hook of Holland </td <td>Ruddigore 1959 The Merry Widow 1975 Pink Champagne Patience 1960 Bless the Bride Patience Yeomen of the Guard 1961 The Boy Friend 1976 South Pacific Dorothy 1962 Grab Me a Gondola Buddigore Les Cloches de Corneville 1963 The Quaker Girl 1977 Guys & Dolls Mikado 1964 The New Moon Utopia Ltd Mikado (CV) 1978 The White Horse Inn HMS Pinafore Pirates of Penzance (CV) 1979 Brigadoon Merrie England 1966 Gipsy Love Princess Ida HMS Pinafore (CV) 1980 Orpheus in the Merrie England 1967 Call Me Madarn Underworld Dorothy Iolanthe (CV) Iolanthe The Maid of the Mountains 1968 The Desert Song 1981 Summer Song The Street Singer Patience (CV) 1982 The Desert Song Goodnight Vienna 1969 Rose Marie 1982 The Desert Song Miss Hook of Holland Mikado Cox & Box & The Sorcerer Katirika The Pirates of Penzance The Pirates of Penzance The Lilac Domino 1971 Oklahoma! <t< td=""><td> Patience</td></t<></td>	Ruddigore 1959 The Merry Widow 1975 Pink Champagne Patience 1960 Bless the Bride Patience Yeomen of the Guard 1961 The Boy Friend 1976 South Pacific Dorothy 1962 Grab Me a Gondola Buddigore Les Cloches de Corneville 1963 The Quaker Girl 1977 Guys & Dolls Mikado 1964 The New Moon Utopia Ltd Mikado (CV) 1978 The White Horse Inn HMS Pinafore Pirates of Penzance (CV) 1979 Brigadoon Merrie England 1966 Gipsy Love Princess Ida HMS Pinafore (CV) 1980 Orpheus in the Merrie England 1967 Call Me Madarn Underworld Dorothy Iolanthe (CV) Iolanthe The Maid of the Mountains 1968 The Desert Song 1981 Summer Song The Street Singer Patience (CV) 1982 The Desert Song Goodnight Vienna 1969 Rose Marie 1982 The Desert Song Miss Hook of Holland Mikado Cox & Box & The Sorcerer Katirika The Pirates of Penzance The Pirates of Penzance The Lilac Domino 1971 Oklahoma! <t< td=""><td> Patience</td></t<>	Patience

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For Further details about becoming a Vice President, please contact our Hon. Membership Secretary.

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WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY was inaugurated in 1921, is a registered charity (number 265029), and is affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association (NODA)



A NEW CHALLENGE IN THE NEW WILLENNIUM:

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" is something of a departure from our usual repertoire.

Not only is the musical genre rather different (country/western) from G&S or Rogers & Hammerstein but the action is almost contemporary (about twenty years after Kennedy's inauguration, we learn) and the plot......! But don't worry; as Miss Mona sings in Act 1 Sc2 "there's nothing dirty going on".

THE STORY OPENS with an explanation of how the Chicken Ranch, in a town called Gilbert, got its name and the winking acknowledgement that "if you grew up anywhere in Texas, you knew from an early age they were selling something out there other than pullets". We are introduced to Miss Mona, the proprietor of the Chicken Ranch and to her "girls", who sing for the benefit of newcomers, Angel and Shy, the rules of the house. Miss Mona displays a surprisingly conservative taste ("please don't show me no tattoos, no hearts and flowers on your thigh, it's downright tacky") for someone in her position and also demonstrates a tender side as she counsels a youg girl who has run away from an abusive father ("girl, you're a woman, keep your head up high"). Just as we get comfortable with the situation at the Chicken Ranch the scene shifts to the Watchdog tv studio, the spiritual home of Melvin P Thorpe and his Dogettes. He shines his self-righteous Spotlight on Gilbert and reveals to the world what they already know ("Texas has a whorehouse in it"). And so the ball of hypocrisy starts rolling.

A neat counterpoint to the hypocrisy of Thorpe is the refreshing openness of Jewel, the maid in the Chicken Ranch. She describes to the girls her "twenty four hours of loving" on her day off with her boyfriend ("what I been watchin' you girls sell all week, well your mama's gonna give it away tonight"). But this lighter mood is punctured by Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd, who has been told of Watchdog's revelations on TV. Since the Sheriff has stuck his "neck out from hell to Georgia" protecting Miss Mona in return for campaign contributions and some payment in kind, one suspects, his concern that the "public don't understand politics, no better than pigs understand kissing", leads to an over-enthusiastic request to Melvin P. Thorpe to leave town. And so the lines in the sand are drawn and there can only be one outcome. The Sheriff's outburst is captured on camera and replayed to his fellow Texans, who wrestle with their collective conscience and lose, siding with Melvin against Miss Mona, the Sheriff and Miss Mona's girls.

One Texan, whose daydreaming has been inspired by the unorthodox behaviour of Miss Mona and who, we suspect, secretly admires her ("at least she ain't on her feet all day"), is Doatsy Mae, the waitress from the Texas Twinkle Cafe. Her beautiful song "Frederick of Hollywood", muses on what might have been and forces us all to reflect on what fun we could have had if we weren't "plain as grey, respectable". The action then cuts to a commentary on the local football team's match (the Aggie Boys), their victory and the local senator's promise that they can visit the Chicken Ranch as a reward. They sing the "Aggie Song" as they relish the prospect of their visit and draw some comparisons between their activities on and off the football field. Later that night Melvin P.Thorpe and his camera crew turn up at the Chicken Ranch to find the Aggies, the Senator, the Sherriff and the "girls" doing what comes naturally. And so Act One ends on a riotous note.

A CT TWO opens up with a continuation of the previous scene but with the Senator claiming he was doped and forced to participate in his nocturnal affairs by Communists. The Governor of Texas, sensing a photo opportunity, appears and despite his initial "Sidestep" of the questions asked him by reporters is eventually forced to admit that "someone, somewhere, will have to close her down". The Sheriff, besieged by phone calls from the good people of Gilbert, egged on by the Mayor, newspaper proprietor and local businessmen ("but nobody's buying nothing. People just standin around in clumps, wringing their hands and talkin about this damned mess") and finally ordered by the Governor, faces up to calling Mona and gives her the bad news.

The Sheriff, in his only song, "She's a good old girl" gives us a glimpse of his feelings for Mona but also reveals that they have always remained unsaid ("there's lots of things I could have told her I suppose"). He calls Mona on the telephone and Mona and the girls pack up to leave, sharing their fears for the future and trying to convince each other that things will be "fine and dandy, lord it's like a hard candy Christmas". The Sheriff visits Mona, uncertain of what to say. He is clearly upset but perhaps more by his failure to control events in his town than for any sentimental reasons. He does not remember the significance of an event many years before, that he and Mona both shared and Mona comes to realise, with weary resignation that, like many years before, she is on her own. In the very poignant "Bus from Amarillo" Mona reveals how she passed up a chance for spiritual freedom many years before and reflects, sadly, "how a plan just diaappears, how the days can turn to weeks and how the weeks can turn to years". In other words, for Mona, as for Doatsy Mae and many others, life has passed her by.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy folks! We welcome y'all to the Lone Star State for an evening of fun, rousing music and a love interest down at the "chicken ranch" (you'll understand that as the plot is revealed).

In spite of the rather naughty title we have made every effort to ensure that there is nothing in the week's entertainment that will cause embarrassment or offence.

As the late Kenny Everitt would say "It's all in the best possible taste."

So, thank you for coming - enjoy yourselves and please come to our next production, "The Gondoliers".





THE DIRECTOR -VAL WASSEY

Val, a Yorkshire lass, trained for the theatre and over a number of years has been fortunate to have played most female roles. Favourites include – Guinevere (Camelot), Eliza (My Fair Lady), Annie (of Gun fame) and Dolly Levi (Hello Dolly).

In recent years, Val has turned her talents in different directions, working on West End and touring professional musicals and directing amateur productions. Working on Whorehouse has been quite an experience!



THE CHOREOGRAPHER -NIKKI MUNDELL-POOLE

Having been brought up on musical theatre, Nikki has performed with many local operatic societies over the last 18 years. During the last few years she has been fortunate to work both in the West End and on tour with the Cameron Mackintosh productions of Phantom of the Opera, Miss Saigon, Les Miserables and Cats.

This is Nikki's first show with Witham Amateur Operatic Society and Whorehouse, both of which she has found enjoyable and exciting. She hopes this is the start of a long association with the Society.



THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR -JILL PARKIN

Although we have known Jill at WAOS since 1988 when she was our accompanist for Half a Sixpence, it took a while to persuade her to take on responsibility for all musical direction. Six years to be exact, when Jill was MD for My Fair Lady (1994). Then quickly followed Oliver (1995), after which she followed the eponymous hero's example and asked for more. More than she bargained for, perhaps, since Jill subsequently took the MD role for three shows by our junior section, WOW, Joseph, West Side Story and The Borfriend and even stepped in at the last minute to complete 42nd Street when, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the MD at the time had to drop out. Pajama Game (1998) and Calamiry Jane (1999) and now The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas complete an unbroken run of seven consecutive years with Witham. This is the first time that Jill and Val, both from Doncaster, have teamed up. May it not be the last!

5

CAST OF CHARACTERS

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Mona Stangley (the modom of the Chicken Ranch)	Sue Cawley
Jewel (Mona's assistant)	
Angel	. Kathryn Adkins
Shy	. Victoria Adkins

THE GIRLS AT MISS MONA'S

Linda Lou	Sandra Moorhouse
Dawn	Sue Rogers
Ginger	
Beatrice	Natalie Hawkes
Taddy Jo	
Ruby Rae	Caron Bradbury
Eloise	Anita Collings

The state of the s	
Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd	
(Sheriff of Lanvil County, Texas, hor	ne of the Chicken Ranch) Stewart Adkin
Melvin P. Thorpe (TV Presenter	of Watchdog) Michael Dunio
The Dogettes	Richard Adkins, Angie Briley, Bill Chaplin, Trevor Drur
The Dogettes	Alf Farmer Lands Straight Brilley, Bill Chaplin, Trevor Drur
	Alf Farmer, Lavinia Farmer, Janice Hawkes, Richard Herring
Hannah Mc	Cabe, Steve Rogers, Colleen Shelley, Iain Tessier, Pam Whela
Bandleader	Tim Clark
Governor	
Doatsey Mae	Pat Brigg
Senator Wingwoah	
Scruggs	Alf Farme
Mayor Rufus Poindexter	
Edsel Mackey	Bill Chapli
Angelettes Vic	oria Adkins, Caron Bradbury, Angie Briley, Helen Clark, Anit
Collings, La	vinia Farmer, Natalie Hawkes, Sandra Moorhouse, Sue Roger
Aggies	Richard Adkins (mascot), Tim Clarke, Trevor Drur
	David Moye, Michael Mundell-Poole, Steve Rogers, Iain Tessie
Gar y riuggins,	vavid Ploye, Plichael Plundell-Poole, Steve Rogers, lain Tessie

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

Scene 1 - The Chicken Ranch in the 1930s Musical Number - 20 Fans

Scene 2 - The Chicken Ranch in the 1970s (when the action was set)

Musical Number - A Lil' Ole Bitty Pissant Country Place

Scene 3 - The Chicken Ranch

Musical Number - Girl You're a Woman

Scene 4 - Watchdog TV Studio

Musical Number - Texas Has a Whorehouse in it

Scene 5 - The Chicken Ranch

Scene 6 - The Chicken Ranch

Musical Number - Twenty four hours of lovin

Scene 7 - The Courthouse Steps in Gilbert

Scene 8 - The Texas Twinkle Cafe in Gilbert

Musical Number - Doatsy Mae

Scene 9 - Before the Football Game

Scene 10 - After the Football Game

Musical Number - The Aggie Song

Scene 11 - The Aggies meet Mona's Girls at The Chicken Ranch

Scene 12 - The Raid at The Chicken Ranch that same night

Act Two

Scene I - Aftermath of The Raid at The Chicken Ranch Musical Number - The Sidesteb

Scene 2 - The Chicken Ranch

Musical Number - No Lies

Scene 3 - Sherriff's Office

Musical Number - Good Old Girl

Scene 4 - The Chicken Ranch

Musical Number - Hard Candy Christmas

Scene 5 - The Chicken Ranch

Musical Number - The Bus from Amarillo

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director:	
Choreographer:	Nikki Mundell-Poole
Stage Manager:	
assisted by:	Jim Crimmins, David Hunt, Keith Radley, Mark Tinworth, Richard Thornelow
Lighting designed and operated by:	lan Holmes
assisted by:	Darren White and Richard Ould
Lighting Equipment by:	11:59 Productions
Sound:	Paul Galley
Properties Mistress:	
assisted by:	Jackie and Joe Baker, Angie and Matt Crimmins
Wardrobe Mistress	
assisted by:	
Costume Hire:	Haslemere Wardrobe
Make-up:	Liz Watson
assisted by:	Cynthia Draper & Marea Irving
Wigs:	Patsy Page
Prompt:	Anne Marsden
Production Secretary:	Lavinia Farmer
Box Office Manager:	Tom Whelan
Front of House Manager:	Richard Wash
assisted by:	Lydia Clough
Foyer Display:	Audrey King
Bar Manager:	Ron Howe
assisted by:	Tony Furnival
Flowers by:	Michelle
Publicity & programme photography:	Peter McKay
Programme Cover and Poster Artwork:	Tim Sheppard
Programme by:	Stewart Adkins
Dubliciny Team	Sue Rogers, Elisabeth Ladd, Natalie Hawkes, Steve Rogers, Tom Whelan, Sue Siddalls
	20 × 20 × 20 × 20 × 20 × 20 × 20 × 20 ×

ORCHESTRAL CREDITS

Musical Director Jill Parkin	Bass Guitar Alex Lucas	Percussion Mike Kitts
Violin/Viola Bryony Rees	Rhythm Guitar Tom Whiting	Rehearsal Helen Fox Accompanist
PianoPhil Toms	Pedal Steel Rupert Kingston Guitar	/

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PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE 3 GUNSHOTS DURING THE PERFORMANCE

ARE YOU INTERERESTED IN JOINING THE SOCIETY?

We are always looking out for new acting/singing members. If you would like to join us, please come to our first rehearsal of The Gondoliers at Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill on Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm, or contact our secretary Anne Marsden on (01376) 519629 for more details.

Please note - auditions for new members will be held at 7.30pm on 15th November at Spring Lodge.

Or are you young enough to be a WOW?

Witham Operatic Workshop (WOW) was formed in 1995 as a junior section of WAOS, with the long term aim of instructing members in all aspects of musical theatre. WOW has already staged Joseph and West Side Story. Annie, The Boy Friend and 42nd Street to great acclaim from audiences and critics alike. A production of The Wiz is planned for next year. Don't miss it!

WOW has been fortunate to gather together many talented young people, who, apart from gaining useful experience in the shows, have taken part in various master-classes and a variety of social events, meeting new friends and forging new relationships in the process. Members of WOW automatically become members of WAOS at the age of sixteen, and can join the senior group if they so desire. If you would like to join WOW (and remember you must be 11 to 18 yrs old inclusive) please contact me on (01206) 513275.

Michelas Clarge

Nicholas Clough



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THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS CAST 2000

THE SOCIETY'S GRATEFUL THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO:

... not only the individuals and organisations credited in this programme, but also to the many others who have contributed in any way to the preparation or production of our show.

In particular:

- the media; those who have freely donated window space for the display of our posters;
- our advertisers without whom the production of this programme would not have been possible;
- · the Red Cross:
- Witham Dramatic Club for the use of the raised seating;
- Colin Etheridge and Derek Elliot at the Public Hall;
- Spring Lodge for their rehearsal facilities.
- those involved with box office, stewarding, programme and raffle ticket selling, refreshments and the bar: backstage, transportation, and all those who have made, designed, or provided costumes and properties:
- · all our Vice Presidents for their financial support;
- Tim Sheppard for the programme cover and poster work.
- CYGMS, Ipswich Co-op Juniors and Clacton Operatic for Props

Finally, we thank you, our audience, for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you in the Spring for THE GONDOLIERS



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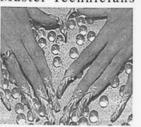
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Springers Godspell 21-25 November, 2001

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Witham Amateur Operatic Society Old Tyme Music Hall

2 December, 2001 Witham Public Hall

Tel: 01376 513275

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Officers Club, Colchester Garrison
Concert (Songs from the Shows)
Friday/Saturday 19/20 January, 2001

Witham Operatic Workshop The Wiz

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Chelmsford A.O.D.S.

Hello Dolly 25-31 March

Civic Theatre

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· Improvements to The Public Hall ·

The fitting of an induction loop system and improvements to the lighting board have been funded by Witham Amateur Operatic Society, Witham Operatic Workshop, Carlow Players and Witham Dramatic Club, with assistance from Braintree District Council, Braintree District Arts Council and Essex Hearing Aids

The Chicken Ranch Lives On

by Natalie Hawkes

Surfing randomly on the net one day I discovered that there is still a brothel named "The Chicken Ranch" - and it's a direct descendant of the one we are so diligently recreating!

The house's history goes back almost a century. The original Chicken Ranch – an illegal bordello established in La Grange, Texas – earned its name during the Great Depression by accepting chickens in lieu of cash. Regarded by the locals as a community service and renowned statewide for its quality, the brothel remained open until Houston television reporter Marvin Zindler successfully crusaded for its closure in 1973. But the Chicken Ranch's legend lives on, immortalized in our current show *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

In 1976, ex-trucker Walter Plankiston founded a new Chicken Ranch on the outskirts of Pahrump, Nevada. After two false starts – forced to relocate due to legal technicalities, then burned to the ground by arsonists – the bordello reopened permanently, and Walter decorated it with artefacts such as lamps and paintings that originally adorned its Texas counterpart. Perhaps the props team could have contacted him!

In 1982, a San Francisco financier purchased the Chicken Ranch for \$1 and quickly established a reputation for impeccable business practices and fair treatment of the ladies. The current management calls the Chicken Ranch The Best Little Whorehouse in the West'.



COME, COME, COME AND HAVE FUN WITH US AT OUR OWN, OUR VERY OWN MUSIC HALL.

Saturday 2nd December 2000 Witham Public Hall

TICKETS £10.00, CONCESSIONS £7.50 including supper (bring your own drink and glasses)

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8