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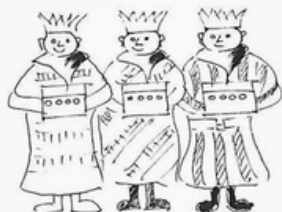
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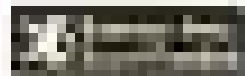
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## WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Present



AT THE  
WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

MONDAY 12th to 14th JULY 2000 & TUESDAY 15th



## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

1922 HMS Pinafore	1957 The White Horse Inn	1974 The Pajama Game	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore
1923 The Pirates of Penzance	1958 The Gipsy Princess	Yeomen of the Guard	1988 Kismet
1924 Ruddigore	1959 The Merry Widow	1975 Pink Champagne	Patience
1925 Patience	1960 Bless the Bride	Patience	Half a Sixpence
1926 Yeomen of the Guard	1961 The Boy Friend	1976 South Pacific	1989 Fiddler on the Roof
1927 Dorothy	1962 Grab Me a Gondola	Ruddigore	The Gondoliers
1928 Les Cloches de Corneville	1963 The Quaker Girl	1977 Guys & Dolls	1990 Die Fledermaus
1929 Mikado	1964 The New Moon	Utopia Ltd	The King and I
1930 The Gondoliers	Mikado (CV)	1978 The White Horse Inn	1991 Carousel
1931 Falka	1965 The Maid of the Mountains	Mikado	Patience
1932 HMS Pinafore	Pirates of Penzance (CV)	1979 Brigadoon	Annie Get Your Gun
1933 Merrie England	1966 Gipsy Love	Princess Ida	Bless the Bride
1934 Tom Jones	HMS Pinafore (CV)	1980 Orpheus in the	1993 Brigadoon
1935 The Geisha	1967 Call Me Madam	Underworld	Ruddigore
1936 Dorothy	Iolanthe (CV)	Iolanthe	1994 My Fair Lady
1937 The Maid of the Mountains	1968 The Desert Song	1981 Summer Song	South Pacific
1938 The Street Singer	Patience (CV)	The Quaker Girl	1995 Kiss Me, Kate
1939 Goodnight Vienna	1969 Rose Marie	1982 The Desert Song	Oliver!
1947 Miss Hook of Holland	Mikado	Cox & Box & The Sorcerer	1996 Anything Goes
1948 Maritza	1970 Free As Air	1983 Oklahoma!	Guys & Dolls
1949 Katinka	The Pirates of Penzance	The Pirates of Penzance	1997 Orpheus in the Underworld
1950 The Lilac Domino	1971 Oklahoma!	1984 My Fair Lady	Pirates of Penzance
1951 Rio Rita	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	Free As Air	1998 The Pajama Game
1952 Wild Violets	1972 The Merry Widow	1985 Showboat	The Merry Widow
1953 Magyar Melody	The Gondoliers	La Vie Parisienne	1999 Kismet
1954 Carissima	1973 Carousel	1986 Yeomen of the Guard	2000 The Mikado
1955 Rose Marie	Iolanthe	The Sound of Music	
1956 Tulip Time		1987 The Merry Widow	

## WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

**President:** Mr G.H. Coverdale **Hon. Life members:** Mrs K.M. Adams, Miss A. R. Brewer, Mrs P. Briggs, Mr N. H. O. Clough, Mr D. P. M. Collins, Mr G. H. Coverdale, Mrs C. M. Draper, Mrs R. Enfield, Mr J. E. Gunson, Mrs J. Hawkes, Mrs N. Hinchliffe, Mr R. Howe, Mrs H. Jones, Mrs J. Lyon MBE, Mrs P. Page, Mrs A. Sheppard, Mr T. J. Sheppard.

### VICE PRESIDENTS

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Derek Collins Esq.	Miss S. Hall	D Page Esq	Mrs M.J. Wood.
Mr & Mrs G.H. Coverdale	Mr & Mrs S. Hinchliffe	Mrs M. Parvin	
Mrs Veronica Crane	R Howe Esq	Miss G. Rose	

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

### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Hon Chairman:	Stewart Adkins
Hon Secretary:	Pam Whelan
Hon Business Manager:	Kathryn Adkins
Hon Treasurer:	Julia Reed
Hon Membership Sec.	Anne Marsden, 161 Honeysuckle Way, Witham
Hon Social Secretary	Elizabeth Watson
Hon Publicity Manager	Sue Rogers

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Natalie Hawkes (WOW Representative)  
Lavinia Farmer  
Elisabeth Ladd  
Sue Siddalls  
Tom Whelan (co-opted Box-Office)

# WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Presents



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD  
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Music and Lyrics by CAROL KING

at the

## WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

### MONDAY 23rd to SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER 2000

Nightly 7.30pm - Doors Open 7.00pm

Saturday Matinee 2.30pm - Doors Open 2.00pm

Visit our website for up-to-date information [www.withamoperatic.com](http://www.withamoperatic.com)

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 MILLENNIUM!

"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".

**T**HE 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 young 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 Everett 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 MASSEY

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 Boyfriend 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 Calamity 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!

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

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

## THE GIRLS AT MISS MONA'S

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

## Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd

(*Sheriff of Lanvil County, Texas, home of the Chicken Ranch*) ..... Stewart Adkins

**Melvin P. Thorpe** (*TV Presenter of Watchdog*) ..... Michael Dunion

**The Dogettes** ..... Richard Adkins, Angie Briley, Bill Chaplin, Trevor Drury,  
 Alf Farmer, Lavinia Farmer, Janice Hawkes, Richard Herring,  
 Hannah McCabe, Steve Rogers, Colleen Shelley, Iain Tessier, Pam Whelan

**Bandleader** ..... Tim Clarke

**Governor** ..... Tom Whelan

**Doatsey Mae** ..... Pat Briggs

**Senator Wingwoah** ..... Richard Cowen

**Scruggs** ..... Alf Farmer

**Mayor Rufus Poindexter** ..... Richard Cowen

**Edsel Mackey** ..... Bill Chaplin

**Angelettes** ..... Victoria Adkins, Caron Bradbury, Angie Briley, Helen Clark, Anita  
 Collings, Lavinia Farmer, Natalie Hawkes, Sandra Moorhouse, Sue Rogers

**Aggies** ..... Richard Adkins (mascot), Tim Clarke, Trevor Drury,  
 Gary Huggins, David Moye, Michael Mundell-Poole, Steve Rogers, Iain Tessier,

## 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 1** - Aftermath of The Raid at The Chicken Ranch

*Musical Number - The Sidestep*

**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:** ..... Val Massey  
**Choreographer:** ..... Nikki Mundell-Poole  
**Stage Manager:** ..... Graham Green,  
*assisted by:* ..... Jim Crimmins, David Hunt, Keith Radley,  
 Mark Tinworth, Richard Thornelow  
**Lighting designed and operated by:** ..... Ian Holmes  
*assisted by:* ..... Darren White and Richard Ould  
**Lighting Equipment by:** ..... I I:59 Productions  
**Sound:** ..... Paul Galley  
**Properties Mistress:** ..... Helen Clark  
*assisted by:* ..... Jackie and Joe Baker, Angie and Matt Crimmins  
 and Julie Davies  
**Wardrobe Mistress** ..... Jane Furnival  
*assisted by:* ..... Pat Ladd  
**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  
**Publicity Team:** ..... Sue Rogers, Elisabeth Ladd, Natalie Hawkes,  
 Steve Rogers, Tom Whelan, Sue Siddalls

# ORCHESTRAL CREDITS

**Musical Director** ..... Jill Parkin

**Violin/Viola** ..... Bryony Rees

**Piano** ..... Phil Toms

**Bass Guitar** ..... Alex Lucas

**Rhythm Guitar** ..... Tom Whiting

**Pedal Steel** ..... Rupert Kingston

**Guitar**

**Percussion** ..... Mike Kitts

**Rehearsal** ..... Helen Fox

**Accompanist**

**WOULD PATRONS KINDLY REFRAIN FROM TAKING VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS  
 OR SOUND RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION.**

**Hearing Aids** - Wearers of suitably equipped hearing aids should select the **T** position

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE 3 GUNSHOTS DURING THE PERFORMANCE**

## ARE YOU INTERESTED 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.

Nicholas Clough



## 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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