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**WAOS' Next Show - Oct 27th - Nov 1st, 2008**



**THE  
PIRATES  
OF  
PENZANCE**

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# FOLLIES



**The Public Hall, Collingwood Road, Witham**  
**Monday 21st to Saturday 26th April 2008 at 7:30pm**  
**Saturday Matinee 2:30pm**

**Box Office: 01376 512902**

# Witham Amateur Operatic Society

**President:** Mr R Howe

**Hon. Life members:.**

Mrs K. M. Adams,  
Mrs P. Briggs,  
Mr N. H. O. Clough,  
Mr G. H. Coverdale,  
Mrs C. M. Draper,  
Mr J. E. Gunson,  
Mrs J. Hawkes,  
Mr R. Howe,  
Mrs H. Jones,  
Mrs A. R. Lawfield,  
Mrs J. Lyon MBE,  
Mrs P. Page,  
Mrs A. Sheppard,  
Mr T. J. Sheppard

**Committee**

Hon Chairman: Jim Wilson  
Hon Secretary: Anne Marsden  
Hon Business Manager: Trevor Drury  
Hon Treasurer: Helen Temperley  
Hon Membership Sec.:  
Anne Marsden,  
18 Saxon Drive, Witham  
Hon Production Manager: Liz Watson  
Committee Members:  
Angela Briley  
Nicholas Clough  
Graham Green (WOW Chairman)  
Cynthia Stead  
Hon Social Secretary: Kathryn Adkins

## Friends of the Society

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Mrs C. Turner  
Mr R. Wash  
Mr C Watson  
Mr J. Wilson  
Ms S. Wilson  
Dr A. M. Wood  
Mrs J. Wood

For further details about becoming a Friend of the Society, please contact our Hon. Membership Secretary, Anne Marsden (01376 519629)

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**REASONABLE RATES**



## A Message from the President – Ron Howe



Welcome to our production of *Follies*. This Stephen Sondheim musical was first performed in 1971 and went on to win seven Tony Awards the following year. The show requires a range of older and younger performers, making it an ideal choice for the amateur theatre. *Follies* was re-worked for the West End stage in 1987 incorporating five new songs including the now well-known 'Too Many Mornings' and 'Losing My Mind'. The cast of WAOS has worked tirelessly to master the daunting Sondheim score and we hope that you will thoroughly enjoy your evening with us.

## In Memoriam– Geoffrey Coverdale

12th October, 1925 - 9th March, 2008



We remember with affection the enormous contribution that Geoffrey Coverdale made to Witham Amateur Operatic Society, both as a performer and as an officer of the society. He first appeared in 1969 as Black Eagle in *Rose Marie* (a part memorable only because he managed to break a rib) and his last role was in 1998 as Pritsch in the *Merry Widow*. The operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan were always much loved by Geoff and he appeared in every one produced from 1970 -1982. Two of his favourite roles were the Duke of Plaza Toro (*The Gondoliers*) and Bunthorne (*Patience*), in which he has been captured for posterity in these photographs.

Geoff served on the Executive Committee of WAOS from 1972 until 1985, and was Chairman from 1979. Geoff was made a Life Member of WAOS in 1996 in recognition of his commitment to the group and served two terms as President, in 1969 and again from 2000-2002. Geoff had an infectious, almost evergreen, boyish enthusiasm that seemed to rub off on all those cast members in shows with him. He was fun to be in a show with, always finding humour in ordinary situations and will be missed by his many friends in musical theatre.



## Director and Choreographer Nikki Mundell-Poole



Nikki has spent the last 24 years actively involved in musical theatre and has been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work with many popular West End and touring productions including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Grease*, *Miss Saigon* and *Cats*. During the last 16 years she has been working with many Amateur Societies as a Director and/or Choreographer, which she finds highly enjoyable and very satisfying.

Nikki is delighted to be back at Witham once again and very excited to be directing *Follies* as she loves Stephen Sondheim's work.

## Musical Director – Jill Parkin

Jill is delighted to be working again with WAOS. Her association with the society began in 1988 when she was rehearsal pianist for *Half A Sixpence*. Since then she has been our MD for *My Fair Lady*, *Oliver!*, *The Pajama Game*, *Calamity Jane*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and in 2002, *Oklahoma!*.

Jill has also been instrumental in nurturing the young talents of our Youth Group, having been MD for *Joseph*, *West Side Story* and *The Boyfriend*. She is very much looking forward to directing WOW's *Les Misérables School Edition* later this year.

Jill has been a secondary school Head of Music for 27 years but recently changed age ranges and is now Head of Music at Elm Green Prep School. She has two sons, one of whom is a professional actor. She'd like to thank both of them and her husband, Stuart, for their love, support and encouragement.



## Synopsis

It is 1970 and on the stage of the Weismann Theatre, New York, the surviving players of the lavish pre-war Follies are gathered for a reunion before the theatre is demolished to make way for a parking lot. As Roscoe serenades those **Beautiful Girls**, the matronly starlets descend the famous Follies staircase one last time. For Sally and Phyllis, both now married to their respective stage-door Johnnies, Buddy and Ben, the theatre seems haunted by their younger selves. **Don't Look At Me**, Sally babbles to Ben as they meet for the first time in years. But they're both glad they came.

Theodore and Emily Whitman recall their sweetly naive duet, **Rain on the Roof**, Solange purrs her way through the fake Gallic sophistication of **Ah, Paree!**; and Hattie proclaims again that she's, indestructibly, a **Broadway Baby**. For Ben and Buddy, too, the memories of three decades come flooding back - all those hours after the show **Waiting for the Girls Upstairs** in their dressing rooms - but for Ben these memories awake old regrets as he looks back at a lifetime of lost opportunities (**The Road You Didn't Take**). Sally tells Ben about her life with Buddy in Arizona but **In Buddy's Eyes**, she knows, she's still his princess. Yesterday, though, tells another story: young Sally and young Ben pledging their love. And, in the haze of nostalgia, the past seems to be seeping into the present. As Stella leads the 1940 Follies girls through "the mirror number" (**Who's That Woman**), shadowy wraiths of their younger selves mimic their movements. Only Carlotta seems relaxed and philosophical about the old days and confidently declares **I'm Still Here**. Seeing Sally again, Ben realises he's spent **Too Many Mornings** dreaming of her.

Young Phyllis, Ben, Sally and Buddy taunt their disillusioned older selves with the failed promises of youth. Ben tells Sally that he no longer loves her, that for him "all of it was over years ago". For Buddy, life is all about finding **The Right Girl** and he has, sort of, a 23-year old called Margie. But Heidi Schiller reminds us in an eerie operetta waltz that all dreams are a sweet mistake and eventually we have to face reality: all we can hope for is **One More Kiss**. Phyllis, having successfully seduced Kevin, one of the waiters, is by now wondering **Could I Leave You** and live without Ben. Ben, goaded, starts to argue with Phyllis, and soon Sally and Buddy, together with their younger selves, join in. At the height of the confrontation the orchestra suddenly swells and **Loveland** calls, luring them back to a playground of overwhelming optimism, where skies are ever blue. The young sweethearts Ben and Phyllis promise each other that **You're Gonna Love Tomorrow**, and for young Sally and Buddy, nothing is so certain but that **Love Will See Us Through**. Afterwards, though, Buddy's **The-God-Why-Don't-You-Love-Me-Blues** begin to get him down, as he scuttles frantically between mistress and wife, while poor miserable Sally moans in a smouldering torch number that she's **Losing My Mind**. Phyllis raunchily sings **The Story of Lucy and Jessie** (Lucy being Phyllis and Jessie being Sally), telling us that if only juicy but drab Lucy and dressy but cold Jessie could only combine then I could tell you someone who would finally feel just fine." Lastly Ben takes the stage with **Live, Love, Laugh**, singing of how clever and adept he is at everything - but his song gradually starts to go wrong. He forgets his lines, the tune, the dance steps and finally, in his mind, all the past evening's traumatic experiences are regurgitated in one terrifying mass. Having exorcised the ghosts of their pasts the two couples depart Weismann's reunion; they'll have to find out whether anything's really changed in their lives. They've come a long way from those days waiting around for the girls upstairs, but they're still here.

## The Company at Rehearsal



## The Principals



**Ben Stone (David Slater) and  
Phyllis Rogers Stone (Pauline Roast)**



**Sally Plummer (Liz Watson) and  
Buddy Plummer (Nicholas Clough)**



**Young Phyllis (Shelly Fisher) and  
Young Ben (Will Ashbey)**



**Young Sally (Holly Wendes) and  
Young Buddy (Phillip Mennell)**



**Emily and Theodore Whitman (Sandra  
Moorhouse and Richard Cowen)**

## Cast List

| Character                 | Name             |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Ben Stone.....            | David Slater     |
| Phyllis Rogers Stone..... | Pauline Roast    |
| Sally Durant Plummer..... | Liz Watson       |
| Buddy Plummer.....        | Nicholas Clough  |
| Roscoe.....               | Mick Wilson      |
| Young Ben.....            | Will Ashbey      |
| Young Buddy.....          | Phillip Mennell  |
| Young Sally.....          | Holly Wendes     |
| Young Phyllis.....        | Shelly Fisher    |
| Dmitri Weismann.....      | Tim Sheppard     |
| Emily Whitman.....        | Sandra Moorhouse |
| Theodore Whitman.....     | Richard Cowen    |
| Solange La Fitte.....     | Judy Fishwick    |
| Hattie Walker.....        | Cynthia Stead    |
| Stella Deems.....         | Anne Wilson      |
| Max Deems.....            | Danny Mullane    |
| Heidi Schiller.....       | Pat Briggs       |
| Young Heidi.....          | Lucy Taylor      |
| Carlotta Champion.....    | Janet Wash       |
| Young Stella.....         | Natalie Hawkes   |
| Vincent.....              | Ron Howe         |
| Vanessa.....              | Patsy Page       |
| Young Vincent.....        | Jake Davis       |
| Young Vanessa.....        | Sam Carlyle      |
| Kevin.....                | Dafydd Bates     |
| Willy Wheeler.....        | Richard Herring  |
| Christine Donovan.....    | Pam Adams        |
| Dee Dee West.....         | Lesley Wilson    |
| Meredith Lane.....        | Julie Slater     |
| Major Domo.....           | Trevor Drury     |
| Young Solange.....        | Helen Temperley  |

## Synopsis Of Musical Numbers

### Musical Numbers:

1. Prologue
2. Beautiful Girls - *Roscoe and Company*
3. Don't Look at Me - *Sally and Ben*
4. Waiting for the Girls Upstairs - *Buddy, Ben, Phyllis, Sally, Young Buddy, Young Ben, Young Phyllis and Young Sally*
5. Rain on the Roof - *Emily and Theodore Whitman*
6. Ah, Paris! - *Solange La Fitte*
7. Broadway Baby - *Hattie Walker*
8. The Road You Didn't Take - *Ben*
9. In Buddy's Eyes - *Sally*
10. Bolero d'Amour - danced by *Vincent and Vanessa*
11. Who's That Woman? - *Stella Deems*
12. I'm Still Here - *Carlotta Champion*
13. Too Many Mornings - *Ben and Sally*
14. The Right Girl - *Buddy*
15. One More Kiss - *Heidi Schiller and Young Heidi*
16. Could I Leave You? - *Phyllis*
17. Loveland (The Folly of Youth) - *Company*
18. You're Gonna Love Tomorrow - *Ben and Phyllis*
19. Love Will See Us Through - *Buddy and Sally*
20. The God-Why-Don't-You-Love-Me Blues (*Buddy's Folly*)
21. Losing My Mind (*Sally's Folly*)
22. The Story of Lucy and Jessie (*Phyllis' Folly*)
23. Live, Laugh, Love (*Ben's Folly*)

## Production Credits

Director and Choreographer  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Stage Crew  
Scenery  
Lighting

Sound  
Properties Manager  
Properties Team

Wardrobe Mistress  
Costumes  
Make-up  
Wigs  
Prompt  
Box Office Manager  
Front of House Manager

Publicity Manager

Bar Manager  
Publicity Photos  
Programme  
Foyer Display

**Nikki Mundell-Poole**

**Gary Bruce**

**Ghislaine Humphrey**

Keith Radley, Pete Fishwick, Mike Howett  
Paul Lazell and DET Scaffolding  
Nigel Northfield assisted by  
Graham Green & Graeme Parrot  
Paul Galley Event Sound and Light  
Helen Temperley  
Denise Scrivener, Chris Willison,  
Janice Hawkes, Alison Howett  
Patsy Page assisted by Sarah Lyndon  
The Costume Workshop, Isle of Wight  
Alison Carlyle,  
Patsy Page  
Anne Sheppard  
Janice Hawkes  
Pam & Tom Whelan  
(Monday and Tuesday);  
Helene & Stan Jones  
(Thursday to Saturday)  
Angela Briley assisted by  
Anne Wilson and Rachel Clapp  
Ron Howe  
Patsy Page & Graham Batt  
Stewart Adkins  
Liz Watson & Angela Briley

### Orchestra

Musical Director  
Trumpet  
Reed 1  
Reed 2  
Reed 3  
Keyboards  
Percussion  
Bass  
Rehearsal Accompanists

Jill Parkin  
Phil Davies  
Gaynor Manthorpe  
Colette Salkeld  
David Hall  
Peter Dollimore, Bryan Cass  
Mike Kitts  
Michael McGibney  
Peter Dollimore, Hans Montanana  
& Gerald Hinds

## The Principals continued



**Heidi Schiller (Pat Briggs) and  
Young Heidi (Lucy Taylor)**



**Roscoe (Mick Wilson)**



**Vanessa (Patsy Page) and  
Vincent (Ron Howe)**



**Hattie Walker (Cynthia Stead),  
Solange La Fitte (Judy Fishwick)  
and Carlotta Campion (Jan Wash)**

- Please ensure your mobile phone is switched off.
- Please do not take videos, photographs or sound recordings of this production.
- Hearing Aids: Wearers of suitably equipped hearing aids should select the T position.

## Cast Photos



**Dee Dee West (Lesley Wilson),  
Christine Donovan (Pam Adams) and  
Meredith Lane (Julie Slater)**

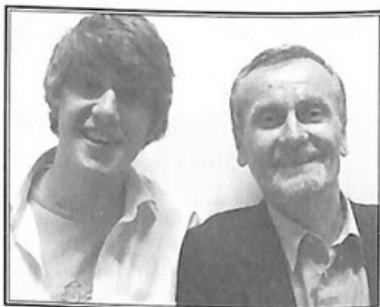
**Major Domo (Trevor Drury) and  
Willy Wheeler (Richard Herring)**



**Young Stella (Natalie Hawkes) and  
Stella Deems (Anne Wilson)**



**Kevin (Dafydd Bates) and  
Max Deems (Danny Mullane)**



**Follies Girls (Helen Temperley,  
Sam Carlyle, Lucy Taylor and  
Natalie Hawkes)**



## What is NODA?

Witham Amateur Operatic Society is proud to be affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Society.

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) was founded in 1899 "to protect and advance the interests of Operatic and Dramatic Art, and of Societies engaged therein."

It has a membership of some 2,300 amateur societies and 2,500 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to tiny village halls. Members have access to a wide range of benefits.

NODA is divided into eleven Areas, each headed by an Area Councillor who sits on the National Council (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of Regional Representatives. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies. The Association is administered from a Headquarters in Peterborough, with a knowledgeable and friendly staff able to deal with virtually any enquiry relating to amateur theatre.

There is a broad spectrum of ages involved with amateur theatre nationwide, from a burgeoning number of youth groups to adult companies which meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic or musical, and enthusiasts involved backstage, front of house or in administration.

Your Regional Representative is Ann Platten. Contact her at 01787374069 or email her at [theplattens@sagainternet.co.uk](mailto:theplattens@sagainternet.co.uk). Alternatively, check out NODA's website directly [www.NODA.org.uk](http://www.NODA.org.uk)

### 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:

- all the Friends of the Society for their financial support;
- those involved with box office, stewarding and programme distribution;
  - those involved with refreshments and the bar;
  - those involved backstage or with transportation;
- Witham Dramatic Club for the use of the raised seating;
  - John Mann and David Sawyer at the Public Hall;
  - Spring Lodge for their rehearsal facilities;
- Witham Library for permission to display photographs
  - Dale from DET Scaffolding
  - Sally Ann at Select Rosettes for the sashes
  - the media;
- those who have freely donated window space for the display of our posters;
  - ...and anyone else who has helped in any way.

## I'm Still... What!?

"I'm Still Here" is more than just a show-stopping number in Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*. It is a cultural roadmap of the American fads, media darlings, politics, and excesses of the last century. Unfortunately, as time marches on, there are less and less people who understand the references in the lyrics – so here's an explanation of some of the more obscure references.

**"Dailies"** – Daily newspapers, to replace the soles in worn out shoes.

**"W.P.A."** - Work Projects Administration (1935–43). U.S. government agency during the New Deal. The WPA undertook extensive building and improvement projects to provide work for the unemployed.

**"Windsor and Wally's affair"** – a reference to an affair between King Edward VII, reigning King of England in 1936, and Wallis Warfield Simpson, an American divorcee. He abdicated the throne in order to marry her in 1937, and was granted the title of Duke of Windsor.

**"Amos 'n Andy"** - A popular show about the comic lives of two hapless black men which began on the radio in 1929 (with white actors), was made into a TV show in 1949 (with black actors), and finally pulled off the air in 1965 due to protests about the show's stereotypical depiction of blacks.

**"Abie's Irish Rose"** - A play which opened in 1922 and ran for a then unheard of 2,532 performances.

**"Five Dionne Babies"** - The Dionne Quintuplets, a multiple birth that made headlines in 1934.

**"Major Bowes"** - Produced and hosted a popular *Amateur Hour* on radio.

**"Beebe's Bathysphere"** - William Beebe invented the Bathysphere, a reinforced steel deep water diving chamber which he took down to record depths in 1934.

**"Herbert (Hoover)"** - President of the US from 1928 to 1934. Blamed by many for the Depression. (No relation to J. Edgar Hoover).

**"J. Edgar Hoover"** - Head of the FBI from 1921 until his death in 1972. Known for fighting gangsters during Prohibition, although the reference here is probably more for his anti-Communist campaign after WWII, which led to unfortunate blacklisting, the "red scare", and, to a certain extent, the US involvement in the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. Since his death, evidence of cross dressing and possible homosexuality have made the reference all the more ironic.

**"Reno"** - Reno, Nevada. Known as a place to obtain a quick and easy divorce.

**"Pinko Commie tool"** - Reference to the "red scare" of the early 1950's. Senator Joseph McCarthy formed a "House UnAmerican Activities Committee", and accused various Government officials, entertainers, and detractors of being Communists out to destroy the US. He was discredited and censured by congress in 1954 after destroying a number of lives and careers.

**"stock"** - Summer Stock, or more generally, theatre outside of NYC.

Source: June Abernathy, [www.sondheim.com](http://www.sondheim.com)

## Previous Productions of the Society

|      |                           |      |                              |      |  |
|------|---------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|--|
| 1922 | HMS Pinafore              | 1968 | The Desert Song              | 1988 | Kismet   |
| 1923 | The Pirates of Penzance   | 1969 | Rose Marie                   | 1989 | Half a Sixpence                                |
| 1924 | Ruddigore                 | 1970 | Mikado                       | 1989 | Fiddler on the Roof                            |
| 1925 | Patience                  | 1970 | Free As Air                  | 1990 | The Gondoliers                                 |
| 1926 | Yeomen of the Guard       | 1971 | The Pirates of Penzance      | 1990 | Die Fledermaus                                 |
| 1927 | Dorothy                   | 1971 | Oklahomal                    | 1991 | The King and I                                 |
| 1928 | Les Cloches de Corneville | 1971 | Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore | 1991 | Carousel                                       |
| 1929 | Mikado                    | 1972 | The Merry Widow              | 1992 | Patience                                       |
| 1930 | The Gondoliers            | 1972 | The Gondoliers               | 1992 | Annie Get Your Gun                             |
| 1931 | Falka                     | 1973 | Carousel                     | 1993 | Bless the Bride                                |
| 1932 | HMS Pinafore              | 1973 | Iolanthe                     | 1993 | Brigadoon                                      |
| 1933 | Merrie England            | 1974 | The Pajama Game              | 1994 | Ruddigore                                      |
| 1934 | Tom Jones                 | 1974 | Yeomen of the Guard          | 1994 | My Fair Lady                                   |
| 1935 | The Geisha                | 1975 | Pink Champagne               | 1995 | South Pacific                                  |
| 1936 | Dorothy                   | 1975 | Patience                     | 1995 | Kiss Me, Kate                                  |
| 1937 | The Maid of the Mountains | 1976 | South Pacific                | 1996 | Oliver!  |
| 1938 | The Street Singer         | 1976 | Ruddigore                    | 1996 | Anything Goes                                  |
| 1939 | Goodnight Vienna          | 1977 | Guys & Dolls                 | 1996 | Guys & Dolls                                   |
| 1947 | Miss Hook of Holland      | 1977 | Utopia Ltd                   | 1997 | Orpheus in the Underworld                      |
| 1948 | Maritza                   | 1978 | The White Horse Inn          | 1997 | The Pirates of Penzance                        |
| 1949 | Katinka                   | 1978 | Mikado                       | 1998 | The Pajama Game                                |
| 1950 | The Lilac Domino          | 1979 | Brigadoon                    | 1999 | The Merry Widow                                |
| 1951 | Rio Rita                  | 1979 | Princess Ida                 | 1999 | Kismet   |
| 1952 | Wild Violets              | 1980 | Orpheus in the Underworld    | 1999 | Calamity Jane                                  |
| 1953 | Magyar Melody             | 1980 | Iolanthe                     | 2000 | Mikado   |
| 1954 | Carissima                 | 1981 | Summer Song                  | 2000 | The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas            |
| 1955 | Rose Marie                | 1981 | The Quaker Girl              | 2001 | The Gondoliers                                 |
| 1956 | Tulip Time                | 1982 | The Desert Song              | 2001 | Can-Can  |
| 1957 | The White Horse Inn       | 1982 | Cox & Box & The Sorcerer     | 2002 | Die Fledermaus                                 |
| 1958 | The Gipsy Princess        | 1983 | Oklahomal                    | 2002 | Oklahoma!                                      |
| 1959 | The Merry Widow           | 1983 | The Pirates of Penzance      | 2003 | A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum |
| 1960 | Bless the Bride           | 1984 | My Fair Lady                 | 2003 | Show Boat                                      |
| 1961 | The Boy Friend            | 1984 | Free As Air                  | 2004 | Me and My Girl                                 |
| 1962 | Grab Me a Gondola         | 1985 | Showboat                     | 2004 | Sweet Charity                                  |
| 1963 | The Quaker Girl           | 1985 | La Vie Parisienne            | 2005 | Fiddler on the Roof                            |
| 1964 | The New Moon Mikado (CV)  | 1985 | Yeomen of the Guard          | 2005 | Iolanthe                                       |
| 1965 | The Maid of the Mountains | 1986 | The Sound of Music           | 2006 | Carousel                                       |
| 1966 | Gipsy Love                | 1987 | The Merry Widow              | 2006 | South Pacific                                  |
| 1967 | HMS Pinafore (CV)         | 1987 | Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore | 2007 | How to Succeed in Business                     |
|      | Call Me Madam             |      |                              |      | My Fair Lady                                   |
|      | Iolanthe (CV)             |      |                              |      |  |