

Reg. Charity
No. 265029



OCTOBER 2006

South Pacific

PROGRAMME £1.50

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

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Witham Amateur Operatic Society

presents

South Pacific

Music by

Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Oscar Hammerstein II
and Joshua Logan

Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning novel
"Tales of the South Pacific" by James A. Michener
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED
on behalf of R & H THEATRICALS

Director and Choreographer:
Cathy Court

Musical Director: Geoff Osborne

Witham Amateur Operatic Society

President: Mr R Howe

Committee

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,
Mrs N. Hinchcliffe,
Mr R. Howe,
Mrs H. Jones,
Mrs A. R. Lawfield,
Mrs J. Lyon MBE,
Mrs P. Page,
Mrs A. Sheppard,
Mr T. J. Sheppard

Hon Chairman: Natalie Hawkes
Hon Secretary: Anne Marsden
Hon Business Manager: Trevor Drury
Hon Treasurer: Helen Clark
Hon Membership Sec.:
Anne Marsden,
12 Saxon Drive, Witham
Production Manager: Liz Watson
Nicholas Clough
Lavinia Farmer
Carolyn Harley
Cynthia Stead
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NODA

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. It has a membership of some 2500 amateur/community theatre groups and 3000 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 village halls. Members have access to a wide range of benefits.

NODA aims

- To give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector
- To help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance
- To provide leadership and advice to enable the amateur theatre sector to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century

A Message from the President...



Welcome to Witham Operatic Society's production of *South Pacific*, one of the most popular of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals. It was first performed in London in 1951 and still holds the UK record for the most weeks at the Number 1 spot in the album charts - 115 weeks.

We are delighted that the cast for this production features not only long-standing members of the Society, but also a number of younger members who have previously performed with the youth group, WOW. With Cathy Court as our Director and Geoff Osborne as the Musical Director, the cast are in good hands and I hope this evening's performance will leave you singing the songs for days.

Thank you for your support and I hope you have an enjoyable evening.

Ron Howe

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, programme and raffle ticket selling, refreshments and the bar;
- those involved backstage or with transportation;
- 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;
- Tim Sheppard for the artwork;
- Pat Day at CYGAMS for the loan of props;
- Janet Wash as our dialect coach;
- Richard Herring for sound effects;
- Jonathan Bond for the 'Insider's Guide';
- the media;
- those who have freely donated window space for the display of our posters;
- ...and anyone else who has helped in any way.

Friends of the Society

Mr D. Adams	Mrs R. Chaplin	Mrs S. Draper	Mrs P. Slugocki
Mrs P. Adams	Mrs A. Clarke	Mr K. Ferris	Miss M. Smith
Mrs K. Adams	Mr N. Clarke	Mrs D. Gann	Mrs K. Stevenson
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Mr K. Baines	Mr N. Clough	Mr R. Howe	Mr C. Turner
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Mr S. Briggs	Mrs V. Crane	Mrs Nelmes	Mr J. Wilson
Mrs S. Carpenter	Mrs K. Dawson	Mrs A. Sheppard	Ms S. Wilson
Mr W. Chaplin	Mrs C. Draper	Mr T. J. Sheppard	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)

The Director and Choreographer – Cathy Court



Cathy trained at Arts Educational School, Tring and Laine Theatre Arts before embarking on a full time dance teaching career working with both children and professional students including Laine Theatre Arts and London College of Dance. Taking a break from the dance world, she returned to her home town of Witham and became involved with WAOS appearing in and choreographing for many shows. More recently she has been involved with WOW as

choreographer for *Annie* in 1998, director and choreographer for *Bugsy Malone* in 2002 and also for two summer concerts in 2001 and 2002. In 2003 Cathy returned to her roots as a dance teacher as well as continuing with her work in amateur theatre and performing arts. Cathy directed and choreographed *Fiddler on the Roof* for WAOS in 2005 and is delighted to return and work with them again for *South Pacific*.

The Musical Director – Geoff Osborne



Geoff is Head of Music at the Colne Community School in Brightlingsea, having been at St Helena School in Colchester for over 25 years. He received much of his musical training at Colchester Institute where he studied piano, brass, percussion and composition. Geoff, who is married with four children, has devoted his life to music education and is a former principal of the Colchester Area Music School. Geoff has also been involved with the Essex County Advisory

Team for Music and continues to lead courses across the county. He is a musical director of the Braintree Musical Society, where he has conducted performances of *Crazy for You*, *Oliver!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie*, *42nd Street* and *Carousel*. Geoff has worked with WOW on *Oliver!*, *Crazy for You* and *Fame* and first worked with WAOS in 2004 when he was the musical director for *Sweet Charity*.

Synopsis

Act 1

THE curtain rises on an island in the Pacific during the Second World War. At the home of the wealthy, middle-aged French planter, Emile de Becque, two Eurasian children are performing an impromptu minuet and chanting a French ditty ("Dites-moi"). Emile, who had settled on this island some years before the outbreak of the war, is host at dinner to the charming American nurse, Ensign Nellie Forbush. She reveals to him some facets of her personality ("Cockeyed Optimist"). The two are strongly attracted to each other, and it does not take them long to realize that they are in love ("Some Enchanted Evening"). Before Nellie leaves, Emile asks her to consider becoming his wife.

In another part of the island a group of American sailors, Seabees and Marines are singing the praises of Bloody Mary, a Tonkinese ("Bloody Mary is the Girl I Love"). Bloody Mary excites the interest of the Americans in the mysterious nearby island of Bali Ha'i, declared off-limits to them; the Americans suspect that the French planters have secreted there all their womenfolk as protection from the Americans. All this talk reminds the Americans that they have everything on this island that they could possibly want except—dames. They lament the lack in no uncertain terms ("There is Nothing Like a Dame"). When the handsome Lieutenant Cable appears, Bloody Mary instantly sees in him a prospect as a husband for her lovely daughter, Liat. Mary now begins to stimulate also Cable's interest in Bali Ha'i ("Bali Ha'i"). While his curiosity in the place is aroused, there are for the moment more important things on Cable's mind: he is to establish a coast watch on a nearby Japanese-held island. Since Emile de Becque knows this terrain well, Cable wants to induce him to join him on this dangerous mission. The commanding officers, consequently, call on Nellie's help by asking her to find out as much as she can about Emile. Meanwhile, Nellie has come to the conclusion that marriage with Emile might very well be a mistake, considering the differences in their age and background ("I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair"). But Emile succeeds, at last, in convincing her that all her fears are groundless. There is no longer any question with Nellie that she loves Emile more than any man she has ever met ("I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy").

Having found the woman of his dreams, Emile has no intention of endangering his life by helping Cable; and no arguments can persuade him to change his mind. The mission temporarily delayed, Cable can now devote a few days for recreation. He makes for Bali Ha'i, where Mary brings him to

Liat, a sensitive Tonkinese girl of seventeen. Though she speaks only French, and Cable only English, they fall helplessly in love. Cable takes Liat in his arms and tells her of his feelings in song ("Younger than Springtime").

Back at Emile's plantation, Nellie discovers for the first time that he is the father of two Eurasian children, having formerly lived with a Polynesian girl. This news so upsets Nellie that she leaves Emile, determined never again to see him.

Act 2

Bloody Mary brings Liat from Bali Ha'i to convince Cable to marry her. She describes the happy life he would have with the girl, a life full of the most beautiful things ("Happy Talk"). Bloody Mary is even willing to turn over to Cable all the money she has saved. Cable is so deeply moved by all this that he presents Liat with a gift of a man's gold watch which he had inherited from his grandfather. Tenderly, pathetically, Cable tries to explain to Mary that he can never marry Liat. In a fit of temper, Bloody Mary smashes the watch on the ground, drags Liat away and mumbles that she will arrange to have Liat marry somebody else.

Emile now comes to Nellie to plead with her not to allow his Eurasian children to come between them. Nellie insists that it is not the children that is bother her, but their mother; the thought of Emile having loved a Polynesian is too much for her to bear. Cable, a witness to this conversation—and who instantly recognizes that he too rejected love because of racial prejudice—comments softly that hate is not born to man, as Nellie is tempted to believe, that it happens *after* birth; that a man has to be taught to hate and fear ("Carefully Taught"). He then tells Emile that should he survive this war he, too, would like to make his permanent home on this island. But the island has suddenly lost all its appeal for Emile, now that he has lost the woman he loved, and with her his paradise ("This Nearly Was Mine"). In fact, since he has no use for life any longer, he is ready to accompany Cable on their dangerous war mission.

They penetrate the Japanese island, whence they relay back information which makes it possible for the American forces to destroy twenty Japanese surface crafts and pave the way for a successful invasion of fourteen Japanese-held islands. In the performance of his duties Cable is killed. But Emile survives. When he returns to his plantation he finds Nellie waiting for him—playing with and feeding his children.

Orchestra

Musical Director	Geoff Osborne
Flute	Jessie Threadgold
Clarinet	Sandy Tate
Trumpet	John Malam
Trombone	Tony Ward
Violin 1	Anton Archer
Violin 2	Helen Ryan
'Cello	Rebecca Walker
Double Bass	Lesley Harwood
Percussion	Tim Reyland
Keyboard	Phil Toms
Rehearsal Accompanist	Peter Lovell

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.

Please return all glasses
to the bar and refrain
from smoking.

Production Credits

Director and Choreographer	Cathy Court
Stage Crew	Graham Green, Ken Hawkes, David Hunt, Keith Radley Paul Lazell
Scenery	Nigel Northfield
Lighting	Paul Galley:
Sound	Event Sound and Light
Properties Manager	Jo Speed
Properties Team	Imogen Brown, Laura Darby, Kate Dawson, Nic Hammond, Janice Hawkes, Nicolette Jeans, Sue Pavelin, Katrina Rowland, Denise Scrivener, Freda Willingham, Terry Willingham, Christine Willison
Wardrobe Mistress	Pat Ladd
Costumes	Charlesworth & Hunt
Make-up	Liz Watson
Wigs	Patsy Page
Prompt	Cynthia Draper
Box Office Manager	Colin Watson
Front of House Manager	Veronica Crane
Foyer Display	Publicity Team
Bar Manager	Norman Clarke
Programme Cover & Poster Artwork	Tim Sheppard
Publicity Photos	Graham Batt
Programme by	Natalie Hawkes

The Cast

Ensign Nellie Forbush	Kathryn Adkins
Emile de Becque	Nicholas Clough
Ngana, his daughter	Sophie Boardman/Amy Day
Jerome, his son	Jack Collins/Harvey Farmer
Henry, his servant	Richard Cowen
Bloody Mary	Janet Wash
Liat, her daughter	Natalie Wilson
Luther Billis	Michael Dunion
Stewpot	William Stamp
Professor	Paul Bitcheno
Lt. Joseph Cable	William Ashbey
Capt. George Brackett	Tim Sheppard
Cmdr. William Harbison	Tom Whelan
Lt. Buzz Adams	Richard Herring
Bob McCaffrey	Trevor Drury

Seabees, Sailors, Marines & Soldiers

William Ashby, Richard Cowen, Tim Sheppard,
Adam Watson, Tom Whelan

Ensigns, Islanders & Nuns

Angela Briley, Judy Fishwick, Janet Hawkes, Marea Irving,
Helene Jones, Muriel Loveridge, Sandra Moorhouse,
Pam Whelan, Anne Wilson, Lesley Wilson

The action of the play takes place on two islands in the South Pacific
during World War II.

There is a week's lapse of time between the two Acts.

Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT I

Scene 1: The Terrace of Emile de Becque's Plantation House

Dites-Moi	Ngana and Jerome
A Cockeyed Optimist	Nellie
Twin Soliloquies	Nellie and Emile
Some Enchanted Evening	Emile

Reprise: Dites-Moi

Ngana and Jerome

Scene 2: The Company Street

Bloody Mary Sailors, Seabees and Marines

Scene 3: The Beach

There is Nothin' Like a Dame Billis, Sailors, Seabees and Marines
Bali Ha'i Bloody Mary

Scene 4: The Company Street

Scene 5: Inside the Island Commander's Office

Scene 6: The Company Street

Scene 7: The Beach

I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out-a My Hair Nellie

Reprise: Some Enchanted Evening Nellie and Emile

I'm in Live with a Wonderful Guy Nellie and Nurses

Scene 8: The Company Street

Scene 9: Inside the Island Commander's Office

Scene 10: On the shore of Bali H'ai

Reprise: Bali Ha'i French and Native Girls

Scene 11: Inside a Native Hut on Bali Ha'i

Younger Than Springtime Cable

Scene 12: On the shore of Bali Ha'i

Scene 13: Emile's Terrace

Reprise: I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy Nellie

This is How it Feels Nellie and Emile

ACT II

Scene 1 :The Performance of "The Thanksgiving Follies"

Dance Nellie and Nurses

Scene 2: Backstage at "The Thanksgiving Follies"

Happy Talk Bloody Mary and Liat

Scene 3: The Performance resumes

Honey Bun Nellie, Billis and Ensemble

Scene 4: Backstage at "The Thanksgiving Follies"

You've Got to be Carefully Taught Cable

This Nearly was Mine Emile

Scene 5: Take-off

Scene 6: The Radio Shack and Island Commander's Office

Scene 7: Pilot's Briefing

Scene 8: The Radio Shack and Island Commander's Office

Scene 9: The Company Street

Scene 10: The Beach

Reprise: Some Enchanted Evening Nellie

Scene 11: Operation Alligator

Scene 12: Emile's Terrace

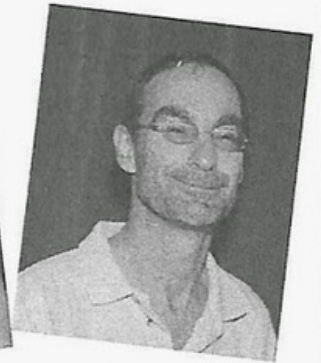
Finale Ultimo Emile, Nellie, Ngana, Jerome



Tom Whelan
Cmdr. William Harbison



Pam Whelan
Chorus



Paul Bitcheno
Professor



Natalie Wilson
Liat



Nicholas Clough
Emile de Becque



Janet Wash
Bloody Mary



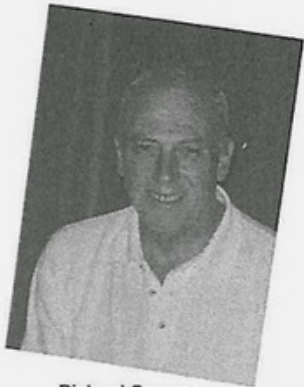
Trevor Drury
Bob McCaffrey



Helene Jones
Chorus



Richard Herring
Lt. Buzz Adams



Richard Cowen
Henry



Angela Briley
Chorus



William Stamp
Stewpot



Judy Fishwick
Chorus



Michael Dunion
Luther Billis



Muriel Loveridge
Chorus



Tim Sheppard
Capt. George Brackett



Lesley Wilson
Chorus



Adam Watson
Chorus



Janet Hawkes
Chorus



William Ashbey
Lt. Joseph Cable



Anne Wilson
Chorus



Marea Irving
Chorus



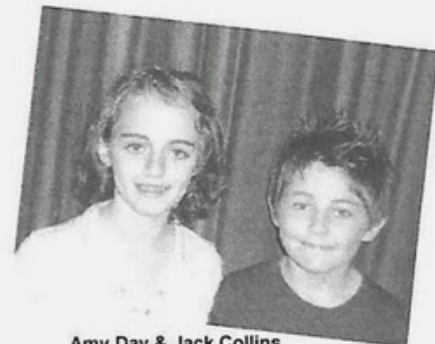
Kathryn Adkins
Nellie Forbush



Sandra Moorhouse
Chorus



Sophie Boardman & Harvey Farmer
Ngana & Jerome



Amy Day & Jack Collins
Ngana & Jerome

Indonesian Cigarettes, the Grim Reaper and the Somersaulting Rugby Commentator

An Insider's Guide to *South Pacific*

- *South Pacific* is based on two short stories by James A. Michener. They were from his book *Tales of the South Pacific* which won the **Pulitzer prize for literature** in 1948.
- The book was based on his observations as a lieutenant commander in the US Navy. He was stationed on the island of **Espiritu Santo** in the New Hebrides Islands.
- Ezio Pinza, the original Emile de Becque, **could not sight read a musical score**. He would listen to his part being played on the piano, and having heard it, he could sing it.
- The film version of the musical was released in 1958. Director, Joshua Logan, was concerned that the film's lush tropical settings would appear unnatural in Technicolor so he tried to soften the effect by filming several scenes through **coloured filters**.
- Some of the storylines were **considered shocking** at the time and Rodgers and Hammerstein were pressured to remove the relationship between Joe Cable and Liat and the song 'You've got to be carefully taught'.



- The soundtrack album has spent more weeks at number one in the album charts than any other album, clocking up **115 weeks at the top**. It spent 70 consecutive weeks at the top and was number one for the whole of 1959.



- There are a great number of **dubbed singing voices** in the film but the only one who received screen credit was Giorgio Tozzi, who dubbed for the singing voice of Emile de Becque. This was because he was a renowned bass-baritone in the Metropolitan Opera.
 - The famous Morecambe and Wise rendition of 'There is nothing like a Dame' featured on their 1973 Christmas show. They were joined by a newsreaders and commentators including Michael Aspel, Frank Bough and the apparently **somersaulting rugby commentator**, Eddie Waring.
- 
- Episode 13 of *The Simpsons* was entitled 'Some Enchanted Evening', as was an episode of *Last of the Summer Wine*.
 - 'Some Enchanted Evening' was also a live album by American heavy metal band Blue Oyster Cult in 1978. It included a new version of their classic '**(Don't fear) The Reaper**'. The grim reaper, complete with black horse and scythe, featured on the album cover.
 - **Captain Sensible** from the punk rock group The Damned, unexpectedly took 'Happy Talk' to the top of the UK charts for two weeks in 1982.
 - In the following year, **The Weather Girls** followed up their biggest hit 'It's raining men' with a version of 'I'm gonna wash that man right outa my hair'.
 - Bali Ha'i is also a brand of **kretek** – an Indonesian clove cigarette.
 - To celebrate **the centenary of Richard Rodgers birth**, Trevor Nunn directed a 2002 production at the National Theatre. It received rave reviews.



ARE YOU YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE IN WOW?

Witham Operatic Workshop (WOW) was formed in 1995 as a junior section of WAOS, with the aim of instructing members in all aspects of musical theatre. WOW has already staged *Joseph, West Side Story, Annie, The Boy Friend, 42nd Street, The Wiz, Bugsy Malone, Oliver, Crazy for You, Little Shop of Horrors* and *Fame* to great acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

WOW has been fortunate to gather together many talented young people, who, apart from gaining useful experience in shows, have taken part in various master classes and a variety of social events. Members of WOW automatically become members of WAOS at the age of 16 and can join the senior group if they so desire. If you are between the ages of 11 and 18, and would like to join WOW, please contact the Chairman, Graham Green on 01376 511574.

It's Panto Time... (Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is!)

WOW are pleased to present

A Knight to Remember

Original script by Lindsay Ward

Witham Public Hall

13th – 17th February 2007

Box Office: 01376 520807

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SOCIETY?

OUR SPRING 2007 PRODUCTION IS ***HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING***

We are always keen to encourage new members and if you would like to join us, please come to our first rehearsal of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill on Wednesday 9th November at 7.30pm, or contact our Membership Secretary, Anne Marsden, on 01376 519629 for more details.

How to Succeed... is a witty, stylish musical. The music and lyrics are by Frank Loesser, of *Guys and Dolls* fame and it is set in 1960's New York.

The show opens with J Pierrepont Finch, an ambitious window washer standing on a scaffold outside the headquarters of the World Wide Wicket Co., Inc. singing the praises of his guide book to corporate success. Through 'innocent' wiles and ploys, plus falling in love on the way, Finch ends up as Chairman of the Board. If you've ever worked in an office, the situations which arise will raise a wry smile and you are bound to recognise one of those office 'types'! The lyrics are funny and clever and typical of 1960's America. Upon opening in New York, a reviewer declared "The show stings mischievously and laughs uproariously. Big business is not likely to be the same again.

Frank Loesser has written lyrics with an edge and tunes with a grin...

Come and join the fun!

Previous Productions of the Society

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