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Staging Musical Theatre in Witham

noda

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Salad DAYS



WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

21-26 OCTOBER

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This amateur production of SALAD DAYS is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



Message from the President

WAOS is lucky not to have to be a slave to conformity and occasionally has the option to pursue something a little different while also giving new talent the opportunity to shine. Salad Days has a new director, Emma Loring and a new Musical Director in the pit, David Mitchell, both making their directorial debuts with WAOS. The show has attracted five new members, and most cast members have more than one role to play. At its heart though Salad Days is a wacky story that captures the innocence of a bygone age. A magic piano that forces people to dance; a young couple having the time to explore their future together and a series of hilarious revue-like scenes that loosely propel the story to a happy-ever-after conclusion. **Stewart Adkins**

Synopsis of Salad Days (1954)

Salad Days, a light-hearted musical with book and lyrics by Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade, follows the whimsical and carefree journey of two young recent university graduates, Jane and Timothy, as they navigate life after college. Set in 1950s England, the musical explores themes of youthful optimism and the pressures of societal expectations.

Timothy, under pressure from his wealthy parents to find a suitable job, and Jane, eager to delay her impending marriage, decide to marry each other temporarily to avoid their respective futures. They then embark on a peculiar adventure when they encounter a mysterious tramp who asks them to take care of a magical piano that makes people dance uncontrollably when it plays.

Their lives soon become chaotic as they travel around London with the piano, causing spontaneous dancing wherever they go. This attracts the attention of the authorities, leading to humorous situations and misunderstandings. Along the way, they meet a quirky cast of characters, including a forgetful minister, a bumbling uncle, a sleazy theatre manager and even a spaceship!

Ultimately, Salad Days celebrates the joy and excitement of youth, suggesting that life's uncertainties are best met with humour, love, and a sense of adventure. As Timothy and Jane come to terms with their own futures, the show offers a light, optimistic message about embracing life and the joy in simple pleasures.

(As an aside it is worth noting that the National Service Act still required able-bodied men to be conscripted in the armed forces for 18 months until the Act's repeal in 1960. There are a few fleeting references to the war in one of the songs but it must be assumed that Timothy had completed his National Service before university because it certainly doesn't figure in his future plans. Alternatively, while set in the 1950s and undeniably influenced by the era's customs and practices, the whole show is an escapist fantasy that ignores the less pleasant and inconvenient realities of the world.)

An historical look at Salad Days!

It may be a stretch to suggest that Salad Days foreshadowed the era of the Swinging Sixties, which gained full momentum around 1963-64 but it is curious that Tim and Jane's desire to reject the social norms imposed by their parents, as well as the several scenes that poked fun at the class system, the diplomatic service and authority figures in general showed all the signs of a society poised for a transition.

The opening scene of Tim and Jane's graduation shows academia at its most introspective and perhaps was a model for England at the time. This is a world in which Proust and Mallory are essential bedtime reading and "singing at dawn on the croquet lawn" represents the height of rebellious activity. Small wonder that Tim and Jane wanted to expand their horizons.

The script and lyrics are full of clever rhymes, literary allusions and double meanings, which may not all be accessible to the modern audience but at the time would have been highly acclaimed. How many people in 2024 will know that "keep on changing your combinations" sung in Hush Hush! does not just mean keeping your valuables safely locked away but changing your underwear. Likewise, Fiona's admission that she had made the "fauxest of pas" (faux pas is French for false step or mistake) is only funny if you pick up on the French. Hopefully most people will appreciate the rhyming of Cleopatra with "so respectable a tart-ra" but the language does show its age now and then; none more so than the regular use of the word "gay". Since the 12th century gay was used commonly in speech and literature to mean happy, carefree, bright and showy. It did appear in the Oxford English dictionary for the

first time as slang for homosexual in 1951, which pre-dates Salad Days but we assume that its use here is traditional.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association - NODA

WAOS is proud to be affiliated with NODA membership no. 3108. NODA was founded in 1899 to protect and advance the interests of operatic and dramatic art, and of societies engaged therein and is the leading representative body for amateur theatre groups with over 2,000 society members staging musicals, operas, plays concerts and pantomimes.

WAOS NODA awards include Best Musical for **The Addams Family** and **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**. More recently, **Return to the Forbidden Planet** won best Technical achievement, **Cinderella** and **Betty Blue Eyes** were nominated for Best Musical, and **Sister Act** and **Made In Dagenham** won Best Musical and Production. Our 2023 Production of **Crazy for You**, won best Musical and **Young Frankenstein** was Nominated for Best Technical award.

North Essex Theatre Guild - NETG

WAOS is also a long-standing member of NETG whose aim is to help amateur groups by adjudicating shows to give professional comments and feedback. WAOS have won NETG awards on many occasions, including :-

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sister Act | - Best Musical |
| Made in Dagenham | - Amy Pryce: Best Actress; Justine Ephgrave: Best Supporting actress; King Costume Award |
| Betty Blue Eyes | - Aimee Hart: Best Actress; King Costume Award |
| The Flames of Injustice | - Millenium Writers Award for Best Original Script |
| Young Frankenstein | - Corrina Groombridge: Best Supporting Actress; Dave Ross Adjudicators Award |
| Crazy For You | - Best Set Design and Construction |
| Calendar Girls | - Will Hackett: Best Young Actor |
| Ron Howe | - Jan King award for outstanding work for WAOS & WOW! |

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Director & Choreographer-Emma Loring

Emma has been a member of WAOS since 2013 but this is her first show in the role of Director & Choreographer. Emma has been involved in musical theatre since the age of 2 and has been fortunate enough to have been involved in some fantastic shows such as Jack the Ripper the Musical (Lizzie/Queen V), Sister Act (Sister Mary Patrick) and Rogers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Fairy Godmother). Her proudest moment on the Witham stage is when she played Dorcas, the mother of James Cooke in WAOS' centenary production of The Flames of Injustice. During the past 5 years Emma has been working as Director, Assistant Director or Choreographer, with other AmDrams such as Braintree Musical Society, WAOS, Boars Head Productions, Pantaloons and MADDs. Emma has a passion for musical theatre and loves sharing it with others; this show has been no exception. Emma has had the best time putting this show together with an amazing cast and crew. She hopes you enjoy the show and that you walk away with a spring in your step and the music stuck in your head.

Joint Musical Director - David Mitchell

A graduate of Durham University in Music and Music Performance, David lives in Colchester with his wife Lid and their Bedlington terrier, Benny. David has been a rehearsal accompanist for WAOS and WOW for some years as well as for other local choral group in Essex and Suffolk. Whilst a pupil at CRGS, David's first involvement with WAOS was on stage in the Peers' chorus of Iolanthe. David teaches piano at New Rickstones Academy. He is very much looking forward to making his debut as an MD in this production of Salad Days.



Joint Musical Director - Franky Garland

As a musician, Franky has been involved in many WAOS shows playing both keys and bass and has worked as a Musical Director for societies around Essex including Clacton, Brightlingsea and Braintree. Following the composition of their centenary production (The Flames of Injustice) in 2022, he has been delighted to step into the role of joint MD for WAOS and work closely with David on this show.



Assistant to the Director - Constance Lawton

After many years of being with WAOS on stage and back stage Constance is so pleased to be Assistant to the Director for this fantastic show. The cast and crew have worked so hard. She hopes you enjoy all the twists and turns this musical has and laugh as much as the cast and crew have during rehearsals. Enjoy.



Assistant Choreographer - Heather Davis

Heather has thoroughly enjoyed choreographing exciting, fast paced numbers for Salad Days with this fabulous cast. This is her fourth show for WAOS and she is very much enjoying collaborating with Emma Loring. Heather fell into choreographing aged 14 when her teacher went on maternity leave. She enjoyed it so much that she chose to teach dance, drama and performing arts in Secondary schools. She recently retired after 33 years and has now embarked upon a second career as a freelance theatre director and writer. Her ACE National Lottery funded hilarious, debut comedy play about the menopause is on 26th-29th October at Colchester Fringe.



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Cast List

Karla Marie	-	Jane
Franky Garland	-	Tim
Avalon Lawton	-	Troppo
Stewart Adkins	-	The Tramp, Uncle Clam, Nightclub Manager, Press
Holly Kerwick	-	Fiona Thompson, Artist
Fabian D'Angelo	-	Nigel Danvers, Bishop
Joe Geddis	-	P.C Boot
Sophie Edrupt	-	Rowena, Asphynxia, Tourist
Trevor Drury	-	Police Inspector, Tennis Player, Tom Smith, Press
Maeve Borges	-	Lady Raeburn (Jane's Mother), Sunbather, Press
Anita Goold	-	Mrs Rosemary Dawes (Tim's Mother), Manicurist, Nanny, Press
Richard Herring	-	Zebediah Dawes (Uncle Zed), Tim's Father, Fosdyke (attaché), Theatregoer, Press
Celia Greaves	-	Aunt Prue, Manicurist, Anthea, Press
Sharon Lindsell	-	Electrode, Assistant Beautician, Butterfly Catcher, Waitress, Press
Matthew Waldie	-	Ambrose, Gus Williams, American
Lydia Rose	-	Lady Muck, Waitress, Tourist, Lady
Helen Dunn	-	Heloise, Marguerite, Lady

Most cast members also appear in the Ensemble!

The Band

David Mitchell	-	Keyboard and Musical Director
Greg Smith	-	Bass Guitar
Paul Codling	-	Drums/Percussion

Production Credits

WAOS extends huge thanks to the following for their help and support

- Churchill Gowns <https://churchillgowns.com/> for lending the academic gowns and mortar boards
- Yaxley Homes for sponsorship
- Spring Lodge, Hatfield Peverel Village Hall and Witham Public Hall for use of their rehearsal facilities
- The Railway Tavern, Witham Public Hall, AEGON and Andrew Wood for allowing us to display banners and boards.
- Witham Tourist Information Centre & Witham Library for permission to display posters
- Chelmsford Young Gen and CAODS for the loan and purchase of props
- Platform Musicals for the loan of Minnie the Piano
- To all who donated props, we thank you very much.
- Franky Garland & David Mitchell, our Rehearsal Accompanists
- Our Front-of-House Volunteer Ushers and Refreshments staff
- Our First Aid volunteers - Essex Community First Aid Volunteers
- Our Bar Staff volunteers
- BBC Radio Essex, Breeze Essex & Chelmer Community Radio
- Braintree & Witham Times for their continued support

Ron Howe (18th October 1941 - 6th July 2024) - a man of many parts.

Salad Days is the first WAOS show for many years without the reassuring physical presence of Ron Howe. Even during *Calendar Girls*, when Ron was very ill and could not attend the show, the show went to him. It was a testament to his huge popularity that many cast members went to Ron's house in between the matinee and evening performances and sang some numbers in the back garden as Ron watched from his lounge.

Ron was active in so many things, including golf, fishing, badminton and music but in the next few paragraphs we will look at Ron solely through the prism of his involvement in WAOS. Ron's first show was *The Maid of the Mountains*, in 1965. He surprised his former teacher, who was the piano accompanist at that time and who considered Ron as one of the naughty boys, with his enthusiastic and strong tenor voice. Despite the availability of kegs of beer in the male dressing room (the Swiss Chalet, now demolished, in the former car park behind Witham Public Hall) and a blackboard to keep check of consumption and payment due at the end of the week, Ron stayed upright and a loyal member of WAOS for 59 years.

Of the 50 shows that Ron performed on the Witham stage 19 were Gilbert & Sullivan, probably Ron's favourite genre. He performed in both *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Iolanthe* at least three times each. Indeed, he requested "With cat-like tread", the famous entrance of the Pirates on-stage to be sung at his wake. I hope we did him proud. Ron tended to be in the chorus but the archive of show programmes clearly records his frequent listing as a dancer and occasionally as one of the principals. Perhaps his largest role was also his last, in 2022, when he appeared as Charles Weston, MP in WAOS' centenary show, *The Flames of Injustice - The Story of James Cooke and the Witham Fires*.

In the men's dressing room Ron was a treasure trove of funny stories from his time on stage, none more so than the occasion when he and his fellow Tower Warders from *The Yeomen of the Guard* were doing



some complicated choreographed marching right and left, forward and back. Ron thought he heard a grunt behind him and looked over his shoulder to see a fellow "warder" with one cocked leg on the stage, the other in the orchestra pit, trying to climb back on-stage having marched over the edge. Thankfully no-one was hurt other than the "warder's" pride.

When not on stage during a WAOS show week Ron could often be found running the bar in Witham Public Hall. In fact, the archive records 24 weeks behind the bar including a few when he was President and had to make a speech on the last night. We must not forget the times when Ron also ran the bar for the youth group, WOW, as well as helping with hair styling when the boys needed Ron's lifetime of barbering skills. History sadly does not record the numerous occasions on which Ron, usually with his wife Anne, would provide afternoon tea in his garden for WAOS Members and Friends; or organise drinks and nibbles to encourage members to attend the

AGM; or more leisurely drinks at the end of a Preview evening; or indeed the many years that he was involved with the WAOS Social Committee organising walks, picnics and dinners. Ron was quite literally a man of many parts and truly deserves the accolade "a stalwart of the society". Men like Ron are few and far between and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



Stewart Adkins

Salad Days is probably Stewart's 70th show with WAOS (he's forgotten but he's done most of them since 1980). But this is his first multi-role and it certainly keeps him busy. His favourite song is

Cleopatra because of the clever and slightly naughty rhyming.



Maeve Borges

Maeve has really enjoyed rehearsals leading up to this fabulous show! Her sixth show with WAOS, previously playing Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein* and Irene Roth in *Crazy for You*, nothing tops a morning at the

beauty salon in the world of *Salad Days*! She hopes you enjoy the show, which is sure to get your toes tapping and wanting to dance along with the piano.



Trevor Drury

Trevor joined WAOS back in 2000, for his first show, *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*. An interesting experience, to say the least! *Salad Days* is proving to be a very fun, if weird, show to do. I am looking forward to the

undoubted audience enjoyment that will result.



Helen Dunn

This is Helen's first show with WAOS. She has performed with various local societies in the area and most recently played Belle in *Beauty & the Beast* which was the role she has enjoyed most of those played so far.

Helen's favourite number in the show is "Out of Breath" as there is so much going on and it is completely bonkers.



Karla Marie

This is Karla's second show with WAOS and she can't believe she has been given the opportunity to play the role of Jane! Having performed all across the country with various companies and societies

this is her first performance in such a different role. She has really enjoyed the challenge and can't wait to share her love for this character with everyone who comes to watch.



Fabian D'Angelo

This is Fabian's first show with WAOS after graduating at Met Film School. He has been performing since he was nine and loves acting the most.

Fabian's favourite role was as Micky, a gangster in 'Fight like a Girl', a musical about women's boxing he did at Mountview; a very different role to Nigel Danvers.



Sophie Edrupt

This is Sophie's first show with WAOS and she is really enjoying being part of this hilarious comedy musical. Sophie previously performed with various theatre groups in Ipswich

but hasn't been part of a musical for 5 years as she's been gigging every weekend. Sophie's favourite role in the show is Asphyxia, as its a big character part that's fun and playful.



Franky Garland

This is Franky's 11th show with WAOS, but only the 3rd on the stage instead of under it! He has always enjoyed working with such fantastic people and this show has been no different.

It has been a unique challenge to MD a show whilst also participating, and Franky wants to thank every single member of the cast and production team for their support, and a special thanks to David for stepping into the role at a moment's notice. He hopes you enjoy this bonkers, heartwarming show as much as he has!



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Joe Geddis

This will be Joe's 5th show with WAOS. As PC Boot it is his job to control the chaos that ensues in the show (and in Rehearsals). PC Boot is up against a magic piano and a UFO whilst trying to master

various dance styles.

Joe never realised this at the audition. 'Bless him' He, of course, hopes you enjoy the show!



Anita Goold

Anita is the WAOS/WOW Membership Secretary having been Treasurer for 7 years. She is playing Timothy's mother, her first part as she can usually be found in the ensemble.

Salad Days is her 23rd show with WAOS. Anita's favourite

numbers are "Out of Breath" and her duet song "We don't understand our children" with Lady Raeburn. She hopes you enjoy them too.



Celia Greaves

Celia is enjoying being back on stage with WAOS for the 7th time - and Salad Days has been such a fun show to rehearse.

She's looking forward to playing crazy Aunt Prue and getting lost under a big hat!



Richard Herring

Over nearly three decades in WAOS, Richard has played a wide variety of characters, from bureaucrat to spaceman. However, this is the first time he has had the challenge of so many diverse parts in a single show, ranging in alphabetical

order from Attaché to Zed.



Holly Kerwick

This is Holly's first show with WAOS, however she has performed with several other theatre companies. Her favourite show was Six, playing Katherine Howard. She is excited to expand her performing experience and

can't wait for opening night - her 17th birthday!



Avalon Lawton

This is Avalon's second show with WAOS.

Avalon is the youngest member of the cast and finds the role of Troppo to be her favourite role she has played so far.

Avalon's favorite number in Salad Days is "Out of Breath"

because it is chaotic and fast paced.



Sharon Lindsell

Sharon has had the privilege of performing in two previous shows with WAOS - Salad Days is her third and now considers herself a regular. However, she also performs with MADDs and has just finished The

Addams Family so juggling rehearsals can be tricky.

Sharon thinks SD is an eccentric musical but very funny and enjoyable. A must see.



Lydia Rose

Lydia also makes her debut with WAOS in Salad Days.

She has been performing since she was six and recently has mostly been found in pantomimes across Essex with her favorite role being The Evil Queen in Snow White.

Lydia most enjoys the musical number "Cleopatra" as she likes being a waitress!

Matthew Waldie

Unsure if he should describe the show as just a romp, a frolic, or something more, Matthew has certainly enjoyed being part of this take on 50s Britain. Along with other cast members, he has had a great time creating the characters inhabiting this strange world and hopes everyone might find something of their own salad days in the course of the show.





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Act 1

- Scene 1: The University
 The Things That Are Done By A DonCompany
 We Said We Wouldn't Look Back.....Jane & Timothy
- Scene 2: The Breakfast Room
 Find Yourself Something To DoMother, Father, Aunt Prue & Timothy
- Scene 3: The Park
 I Sit In The SunJane
 Oh Look At Me, I'm DancingJane & Timothy
- Scene 4: Beauty Parlour
- Scene 5: The Park
 Oh Look At Me, I'm Dancing.....Company
- Scene 6: The Foreign Office
 Hush-Hush.....Uncle Clam, Fosdyke & Timothy
- Scene 7: The Inspector's Office
- Scene 8: The Park
 Out Of Breath.....Timothy, Troppo & Company

Act 2

- Scene 1: The Night Club
 CleopatraManager
 Sand In My Eyes.....Asphinxia
- Scene 2: Night Frontcloth
 It's Easy To SingJane, Timothy & Nigel
- Scene 3: The Park Café Terrace
 It's Easy To Sing (Reprise)Jane, Nigel & Fiona
 We're Looking For A Piano.....Company
- Scene 4: Frontcloth
- Scene 5: The Dress Shop
- Scene 6: Frontcloth
 The Time Of My Life.....Jane
- Scene 7: The Park
- Scene 8: Frontcloth
- Scene 9: The Flying Saucer
 The Saucer SongJane, Timothy & Uncle Zed
- Scene 10: Frontcloth
 We don't Understand Our Children.....Timothy's Mother & Lady Raeburn
- Scene 11: The Park
 Oh Look At Me, I'm Dancing (Reprise)Company
 We Said We Wouldn't Look Back(Reprise)Jane & Timothy

Production Team

Director & Choreographer	-	Emma Loring
Assistant to the Director	-	Constance Lawton
Musical Directors (Joint)	-	David Mitchell (also conductor from the pit) and Franky Garland
Assistant Choreographer	-	Heather Davis (sole credit for Look At Me, Out Of Breath, The Bishop's Dance)
Dance Captain	-	Karla Marie
Production Manager	-	Michael Mundell-Poole
Set WAOS:	-	Joe Geddis, Lee Taylor, Carlie Mallett
Stage Manager	-	Ben Sawyer
Backstage Crew	-	Keith Radley, Jeremy Lee, Graeme Aldred, Dean Hurst, Tom Lacey, Olly Smith
Sound	-	Event Sound & Light - Brett Harris
Lighting	-	Jeremy Naunton
Props Team	-	Annette Maguire, Rachel Ings, Kay Hunt, Elizabeth Chapman, Lottie Roberts, Jack Maguire
Flying Saucer Design and Fabrication	-	Gary Rolph
Wardrobe Team	-	Shelley Fenn, Anne Howe, Debbie Stirling, Sue Rogers, Alice Mason, Gemma Gray, Jane Raeburn's costumes by KM Creatives
Wigs	-	Patsy Page
Make Up	-	Liz Watson, Shelley Fenn, Alice Mason
Prompt	-	Janet Hawkes
Publicity	-	Emma Loring, Stewart Adkins and team
Photography	-	Emma Loring & Cast
Programme	-	Stewart Adkins and Michael Mundell-Poole
Front of House	-	Kathy Sherlock
Bar Manager	-	Kath Adkins
Box Office Manager	-	Donna Goddard assisted by Sarah Grant



Committee

President	Stewart Adkins	Membership Secretary	Anita Goold
Chairman	Trevor Drury	Publicity Secretary	Emma Loring
Secretary	Matthew Waldie	Stage Manager	Ben Sawyer
Treasurer	Mike Silvester	Executive Committee	Tracey Hackett
Business Manager	Trevor Dury		Richard McNeill
Production Manager	Michael Mundell-Poole	WOW Representative	Anita Goold

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 Janice Hawkes
 Helene Jones
 Patsy Page
 Anne Sheppard
 Cynthia Stead

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 Cynthia Draper
 Paul Goold
 Marea Irving
 Steve Rogers
 Anne Sheppard
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