



ANDOVER MUSICAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

Newsletter

Autumn 2007

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Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th October

This year our autumn fundraising concert brings you a wide range of well-loved music that has been used in some of the best known TV commercials.

Originating from a throw-away idea suggested over a meal in a restaurant, this has developed into a creative and enjoyable concert programme.

Claire Nias, with input from Eve Corton, has put together a range of songs and dances to please everyone. Moody spirituals, operatic duets, songs from the musicals, catchy songs from the 50's and more recent decades, plus choral numbers, are all brought together in an entertaining evening. Test your knowledge of the adverts the music appears in and you could win a prize!

The concert runs from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th October at 7.30 in The Lights, so if you're not on stage, make sure that you're in the audience with a friend.

Tickets are £10 with £8 concessions on Thursday. Contact the box office on 01264 368368 or for block bookings ring 01264 351168.

We have the full run through on Tuesday 23rd and the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 24th, so please put these dates in your diary now.

We will be advertising the concert at the Farmers' Market, from 10.00-12.00 on Sunday 21st October, so do let Paul Marsh (07841 402529) know if you can help to give out flyers.

The autumn concert is a great opportunity for newcomers to raise their profile and for the Society to raise some cash - so come along and join in the fun.

Thanks to all our patrons for their support

Thoroughly Modern Millie - May 2008

As you may be aware, our production for next year is going to be *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

We start work on this light-hearted musical with Joseph Crawley our director on Tuesday 30th October. Neil Streeter is our musical director and Nikki Harsent-Noke will be choreographing the tap numbers. Auditions are planned for Sunday 18th November from 2.00-6.00 p.m. at St Michael's hall. (See the Summer newsletter for an outline of the plot.)

There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to get involved in helping with props and costumes etc. so help us to build on the success of *My Fair Lady* and give yourself a reason to come out on winter evenings!



An interview with our director—Joseph Crawley

Many of you will have worked on stage with Joe Crawley in recent years. And while we may not have seen much of him recently, his time has not been totally given over to Rowan, his young son.

Behind the scenes, there has been a lot of work going on, planning the direction of our next musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. I caught up with Joe recently to ask him about the theatrical side of his life.

What got you interested in music?

I always had a love of music since about the age of three. As I grew up I started to perform. I played the guitar at school and I was in a band and later I sang solo in school productions. It wasn't until I was 20 that I joined my first Society.

Which has been your favourite musical?

I love *Jesus Christ Superstar*, however, I've never performed in it.

Every director has their own way of doing things - there is no right or wrong way to direct a show - it's what suits the director and the company.

What has been your worst moment?

When West Ham lost the FA Cup to Liverpool. But of course they weren't on stage at the time!

Seriously though, perhaps not the worst but the funniest was when I was singing in a very posh restaurant one Valentine's night. It was my job to kick off the entertainment with a few words and then to sing *Love Changes Everything*. The lights went down, the diners went quiet and I delivered an

absolutely top class speech...I was centre stage and all attention was focused on me. I waited for the piano intro. and waited...and waitedand then our pianist whispered 'It's not working' (the electric piano), so I turned around and humbly switched the piano on!!!!

My most heroic moment... a very quick scene change in *Orpheus in the underworld*. I was standing in the wings waiting for the crew to finish setting and one of the cast went on too early and stood in position, but then a huge piece of scenery came flying in at a rate of knots heading straight for him. I rushed on stage and pushed him out of the way in the nick of time.

So there you go, we always keep saying to the cast do not go on stage until the scene is set, or else you may be squashed!

When did you start working with AMOS?

My first performance was in 2000 as Bill Snibson in *Me and My Girl*.

What was the first show you directed?

My first opportunity to direct was *A Magical Musical Tour* for AMOS in 2004. I'd directed parts of concerts previously, but not for this Society.

What were the highs and lows of the production for you?

The low point was changing venue half way through rehearsals when most of the show was set. The highs were the standard of the performance and having a full audience.

*How did you come to take on the direction of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*?*

The AMOS Committee approached me and I was happy to accept.

How do you start working on a show?

Before any step is taken or direction is given, a huge amount of work occurs. This is mainly planning and starts about a year before the show runs.

Every director has their own way of doing things - there is no right or wrong way to direct

a show - it's what suits the director and the company.

I need to get all of the "boundaries" into place before any thoughts of auditions and setting can happen.

By "boundaries" I mean staging, musical requirements, props, costumes and making sure that all of the production team have the right tools and information for their tasks.



For example, somebody setting specialist choreography, like tap, would need a brief on the plot of the number - how I see it fitting into the scene and what I want it to convey - and a hard copy of the music and recordings.

Yes there's a lot to do!

What are your aspirations for this production?

The main things are that the cast and company enjoy themselves through all of the rehearsals and the run of the

show, and that the audience are fully entertained.

How would you describe yourself as a director?

I'm the wrong person to ask. You'd do best to gather the views of people who have performed in my previous productions.

I would be very interested to know their thoughts however....these can be sent to (no stamp required): No. 10 Downing Street, London, A1 TMM.

Thanks Joe, we're all looking forward to an A1 TMM as well.

Christmas Quiz

Get into the festive mood by joining us on Saturday 8th December for a seasonal quiz.

Run and organised by the inimitable team of Chris, Chris and Will, the quiz will take place in St Michael's church hall from 7.30p.m. onwards.

Bring a few friends and enjoy some light-hearted fun while raising funds for the Society.

No expense has been spared on the prizes - and I mean that!



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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just to remind you that membership subscriptions for the current half year (July -December) are due.

The rate is £35 for the half year.

Please note that you will not be able to vote at the AGM in February unless you are a paid up member by 31st December of the previous year. Many thanks to all who have paid recently.

Christmas Carols

Once again, we are planning to give a concert of carols and seasonal songs this Christmas in the Chantry Centre to raise funds and encourage more people to join.

It will take place on Saturday 15th December from 10.00-12.00 noon. A maximum of 15 singers will be allowed by the Chantry Centre — so please contact Paul Marsh on 07841 402529 to make sure of your place.

Special offers for theatres and concerts

Would you like to see West End shows or attend concerts by London's premier orchestras for half price? Or perhaps see a show with a free meal before or afterwards?

Well, ShowSavers have been featuring just such offers for twelve years now - and you could join for free. They circulate special offers for theatre, concerts and entertainment events online, and by email, fax and messaging.

What's the catch? Well surprisingly there isn't one. Theatres, concert halls and other venues want to sell more tickets - and the more people who know about their special offers the more they'll sell - so they ask ShowSavers to circulate the information.

And on their web site at present there are over 100 offers - plus, they have a section devoted to London entertainment for free!

You'll also find news, information and the most comprehensive collection of theatre links available.

If you would like to check out all of their current offers online just register a Member Name and Password at their web site:

<http://www.showsavers.com>

Alternatively, if you would rather receive a weekly email Newsletter with all the latest offers just send an email with Subscribe in the subject line to:

showsavers@cobomedia.com

It's as simple as that. You need never pay the full price again.

Thanks to all our patrons for their support