

CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2018

**GUYS AND
DOLLS**

**ANNA
KARENINA**

NUTS IN MAY

**HOUND
REVIEW**

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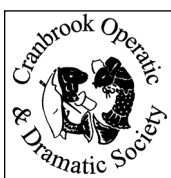
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CODS FACEBOOK GROUP

CONTACT LEE HATCHER

EMAIL: CODS.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



CODS WEBSITE

CONTACT MATT BARKER

EMAIL: BUSINESSMANAGER@CRANBROOKODS.ORG.UK

"I DREAMED LAST NIGHT, I GOT ON THE BOAT TO HEAVEN, AND BY SOME CHANCE I HAD BROUGHT MY DICE ALONG. AND THERE I STOOD AND I HOLLERED 'SOMEONE FADE ME', BUT THE PASSENGERS, THEY KNEW RIGHT FROM WRONG. FOR THE PEOPLE ALL SAID: 'SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT. PEOPLE ALL SAID SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT. AND THE DEVIL WILL DRAG YOU UNDER, BY THE SHARP LAPEL OF YOUR CHECKERED COAT... SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT. - "SIT DOWN YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT""
- NICELY NICELY JOHNSON, GUYS & DOLLS

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings from your Chairman!

With the AGM behind us and plans for the year ahead established I am looking forward to another run of great shows and wonder what challenges the year ahead will have in store.



The Real Inspector Hound was a treat; modern technology giving a technological uplift to a 1960's play that started before anyone expected with the cast beginning their performance amongst the audience in the foyer. We were proud to be able to expand our potential audience with a British Sign Language Interpreter making the first performance accessible to a broader audience; we will definitely be continuing this innovation for future CODS productions.

Amongst many other emails in the same vein you will have received an email from CODS advising you of our publicity notice and requesting your consent to CODS holding your information. We need agreement from anyone who wants to receive news and updates about CODS and so if you know of anyone who has not received their copy of CODSwallop it is highly likely they have not given us their permission to contact them. If you do know of anyone in this situation, please ask them to send an email to CODS.secretary@gmail.com.

Guys and Dolls is coming ever closer and rehearsals are in full swing, twice a week, to give you an absolute treat for the eyes and ears... grab your diary and note the dates - 25th to 27th October; or even better, go online and book your ticket now and try to nab your favourite seat at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cods>.

Later in CODSwallop you will see some details about our wonderful new website. Please have a look at cranbrookods.org.uk and let us know what you think.

As I have frequently said, we could have the best show in the world but without our prospective audience knowing about it, we will have a flop on our hands. If you visited Cranbrook Goes Nuts in May, I hope you popped in to our gazebo at which we promoted our forthcoming attractions and attracted a number of prospective new members and interested locals who frequently remarked that they were interested in doing something with CODS but had never got around to it. Do grab the bull by its horns and contact us to see how you could have great fun and support your local society.

To further our publicity efforts, CODS has established a subcommittee to refresh our publicity efforts. If any members of CODS wish to join the subcommittee – or the CODS Centenary subcommittee – please do send an email to the Honorary Secretary. Looking forward to seeing you at our next production... or earlier in some CODS related activity.

Guy

GUYS AND DOLLS

Here is the cast list for Guys and Dolls. Some new faces and some old(er) ones. If you are still interested in joining us for this exciting and fun show, please get in touch now!

Simon Tomlinson	Sky Masterson
Duncan Fryer	Nathan Detroit
Monika Green	Sgt Sarah Brown
Louise Franklin	Miss Adelaide
Keith Hedley	Arvide Abernathy
Sharon Pickles	General Matilda Cartwright
John Wright	Lt Brannigan
Robin Harrison	Nicely Nicely Johnson
Glyn Roberts	Benny Southstreet
Max Chesters	Rusty Charlie
Mark Jeffrey	Harry the Horse
Matt Barker	Gangster and ensemble
Mark Cheeseman	Big Jule
James Harper	Drunk & Angie the Ox
Andrew White	Gangster
Maurice Wilkins	Gangster
Angela Wright	Hot Box / Ensemble
Sarah Hutchings	Hot Box / Ensemble
Jo Reader	Hot Box / Ensemble
Charlotte Fillmore	Hot Box / Ensemble
Phoebe Harris	Hot Box / Ensemble
Kaz Kember	Mission Band / Ensemble
Shirley Staddon	Mission Band / Ensemble
Megan Hollands	Mission Band / Ensemble
Elly Hills	Agatha / Ensemble
Sam Cheeseman	Mission Band / Ensemble
Debbie Knight	Mission Band / Ensemble

GUYS AND DOLLS

If you'd like to find out more about Guys & Dolls then email - annie.hatch33@gmail.com or phone 01580 388716.

Annie x



Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society proudly presents:

GUYS AND DOLLS

A Musical Fable of Broadway, Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon
Music & Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER - Book by JO SWERLING & ABE BURROWS

25 - 27 October 2018

**Queen's Hall Theatre,
Cranbrook**

Tickets: cods.ticketsource.co.uk
The George, Fancy Pants Emporium
or tel: 01580 713887

**Sponsored by Hartley Dyke Farm Shop,
Peter Jones (Opticians) and Waterloo House Tearooms**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe).
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. www.mtishows.co.uk

ANNA KARENINA

Anna Karenina by Helen Edmundson

Spring Play 2019

Directed by Jo Reader

Some time ago I read the play of Anna Karenina and decided that I would like to direct it but my passion for it also became a fear of not being able to do it justice. The play stayed with me. I re-read it again and again. I directed the whole thing on paper, blocked every move, designed a set and then scrapped it all. I kept returning to it, re-thinking it, falling in love with it over and over again. I thought perhaps that I would know when the time was right. But then I read something that Hugh Laurie had said, 'It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready. There is only now.'

So here I am, about to direct Anna Karenina, thrilled, excited, anxious, grateful but not at all ready.

Details/Synopsis/Style

The play by Helen Edmundson is based on the novel by Leo Tolstoy. It centres around two characters; Anna, a society lady whose unfulfilled life leads to an affair, emotional turmoil and destruction and Levin, an idealistic man striving to find meaning in life. Although the story is set in 19th Century Russia, the play has a very modern style and blends realism with physical theatre, stylised movement, music and ensemble acting. I am planning to make use of any skills that the cast have such as dance, movement, singing etc. The set will be minimal and the cast will move all props/set/furniture as part of the action. I would like the cast to be involved in the creative process and to take ownership of what I hope will be a very emotional, moving and thought provoking piece.

ANNA KARENINA

Characters

There is the flexibility for some actors to play more than one character. I have given ages as a very rough guide.

Anna – Female 20's-50's – In an unhappy marriage with Karenin. Has an affair with Vronsky.

Levin – Male 20's-50's – In love with Kitty. Lives in the country.

Dolly – Female 20's - 50's – Married to Stiva – 5 children.

Stiva – Male 20's - 50's – Anna's charming, self-indulgent brother who has lots of affairs.

Kitty – Female 20's - 30's – In love with Vronsky at the start. Later loves Levin.

Vronsky – Male 20's - 40's – dashing soldier. Falls in love with Anna.

Karenin – Male 30's - 70's – Anna's dull, cold husband.

Countess Vronsky – Vronsky's mother.

Princess Betsy – Aristocratic Socialite.

Agatha – Levin's housekeeper.

Nikolai – Levin's brother.

Bailiff – Works for Levin.

Seriozha – Anna's son aged about 10. (Could be played by a child or an adult)

Petritsky – Vronsky's fellow officer.

Muffled figure – represents death.

Railway widow

Priest

Governess

Peasants

ANNA KARENINA

Note – When this play was performed professionally it had a cast of four men and four women.

And finally...

I do hope I have piqued your interest. Please come to the information evening to find out more. In the meantime, please contact me if you would like to borrow a script or for more information. jreader67@hotmail.co.uk

Performance dates - 7.30pm Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th April 2019.

Rehearsals start - Thursday, 3rd January 2019 in the Performing Arts Centre.

Information Evening (with Russian refreshments) – Monday, 5th November 2018, Queen's Hall Theatre, 7.30pm.

Auditions – Thursday, 8th November 2018, Performing Arts Centre, 7.30pm.

P.S. – If it all goes wrong it's Hugh Laurie's fault!

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

The logo for 'noda' is written in a blue, cursive, handwritten-style font.

Be inspired by amateur theatre

CODS

**Tom Stoppard's
The Real Inspector Hound
Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook
Director: James Hanaway
Saturday 14th April 2018**

Using modern technology screening action between two critics from the front centre seats, was an interesting feature of this extremely complex play within a play – a who, who dunnit written in the '60's by Tom Stoppard. James bravely took on the challenge of Director and also performing the mysterious philanderer Simon Gascoyne, supported by seven fascinating characters – actors being actors, a madman on the run, two critics vying for position - with chunks of convoluting dialogue, one 'respectable' Birdboot who fancies the actresses and eats chocolates and Moon desperately wanting to be first string critic who's standing in for Higgs (who actually is the first dead body). There are more shootings, a Sherlock Holmes look-alike, a wheelchair bound, with multiple identities Major Magnus who gets up and walks, wears a moustache that he rips off announcing he's the real Inspector Hound, and a most amazing Mrs Drudge, the wonderful maid, flicking her feather duster and negotiating a wheelie trolley who pours with an amazing action, moves a chaise longue with aplomb, to cover a body which is set on stage from the onset..... I think Stoppard is messing with my head!! I'm completely confused of St. Leonards, and to make matters worse these events take place in 'Muldoon Manor' with the fog drifting in and a storm brewing and believe it, or not, my nee name was actually Muldoon!!! Before Moon's death he realises the man playing Magnus is none other than Puckeridge, critic third in the pecking order and the whole play was a scheme to kill off Higgs and Moon so he could rise to number one, but outside the play within the play he's the murderer on the run and Magnus/various identities shoots Moon! Does this all make sense?

The set was beautifully designed by Dinah Chamberlin and constructed by President Bernard Beardsmore, Jack Dale and Maurice Wilkins. With props gathered by Laura Larkin, the country house drawing room was well set with a telephone table and standard lamp down stage, behind an angled arch topped French windows opening into a garden – perfect for fog effects entries/exits, angled grand fireplace, finished with ornaments, paintings, tiered cake stand, good fire with rug in front etc. Chaise longue cleverly designed with a pelmet, card table, desk at the back and of course the moveable trolley. Indeed, the perfect setting for a murder mystery. The stage crew

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

headed this time by Jez Druce worked quietly, with lighting managed well by Elly Hill and Rachel Croft Golding with Penny Tobin at the sound desk making wonderful noises at appropriate times. The costuming worked very well, who's for tennis idea, the sleek evening dress, the country deerstalker/Holmes look, the housework Mrs Drudge look, then serving outfit - loved the placing of the maid's cap and the slightly wrinkled stockings – everyone all in keeping.

Easy to handle and read, the A5 programme was designed by Lee Hatcher, with the exceptional photographic display in the foyer always of interest, F of H welcoming and friendly, but this performance not as well supported as one might have hoped. It was good to see that on the Thursday the performance was being signed by Laura Goulden all made possible by the Co-op Community Fund and the support of local residents.

First timer performing, and not up a ladder James Harper tackled an entirely new venture and congratulations to him for this was difficult dialogue and to Leon Chambers as Birdboot a large character pairing with James working very well together – maintaining characters facing the main set and sitting knowing you could see yourself on screen is no mean feat. Jo Reader became the lady of the piece, suitably plum, poised, whiz at cards and elegantly dressed, Vicky King was the convincing tennis playing spurned Felicity, with Angela Woodcock as Mrs Drudge stole the comedy for me brilliantly. Geoff King multi characterised and surprised us all, Mark Cheeseman played Inspector Hound who disappeared, and James Hanaway became a beautifully spoken perfect cad Simon. A lot of very good timing with comedy laughs along the way. Intriguing, confusing and who was the young man who remained so still as the dead body, who I saw initially in the foyer in evening dress?

A late start time, an unusual interaction of characters with the audience in the foyer and no interval certainly gave a twist to this play.

Thankyou CODS – a lot of hard work, with adversity overcome in the end.

A precis of this review will appear on the NODA website very shortly .

Anne Lawson
Regional Representative
NODA SE
District 3

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374790 Fax 01733 237286 Email info@noda.org.uk Web www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets Facebook NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered CIO charity number 1171216 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address.

Patrons: The Lord Lloyd Webber and Connie Fisher

NOTICES

CODSWALLOP SCHEDULE

We release the newsletter bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. All articles need to be submitted by the Friday following the meeting, keeping them concise (under two pages). Any article received after this will go into the next issue.



RULES AND CONSTITUTION

A copy of the society's Rules and Constitution is available in a members only, password protected, area on our website,. Please contact Hatch (CODS.secretary@gmail.com) for the password and go to the following link to view these -

Registered Charity No 1105153
Affiliated to the National
Operatic & Dramatic Association
and Kent Drama Association

<https://www.cranbrookods.org.uk/members-only>

TICKETSOURCE

CODS now charge NO booking fee when you buy tickets for our shows and events online. That means the price for tickets remains the same whether you buy them online or from one of our box office partners.

THANK YOU, DENNIS!

Our former set designer/painter/builder, Dennis Russell, has decided to hang up his brushes and to donate all his design and painting equipment to the society.

We would like to thank Dennis very much for his generosity and, though there is little hope that future sets will live up to his standards, we will do our best!

Thank you, Dennis!

JENNI BRAND

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Jenni Brand. Jenni was the daughter of our former President, Jack Parsons and was a regular member of the CODS' Front of House team. For many years Jenni could be found in the foyer before each CODS performance, leaning on her stick and selling programmes and raffle tickets. She will be sorely missed.

TW LOTTO

Here's a great opportunity to support your society **and** get the chance to win £25,000! Buy a tickets for the TW Lotto for just £1 each and CODS receive 50p from every ticket sold! There are cash prizes and extra tickets to be won each week! So go on what are you waiting for? Click on the image and buy your lucky ticket today!



Happy 2018

Put your **New Year promises** into actions! Sign up to support local causes in **YOUR community**

- Support local causes that could change lives forever
- Sign-up for only £1 a week and be part of something great
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket (and a further 10p goes to other good causes in the area)
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting - visit:
www.twlotto.co.uk
Search for:
Operatic Dramatic

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older * Terms and Conditions apply- See website

CODS AT CRANBROOK GOES NUTS IN MAY

On Sunday 27th May Cranbrook closed its High Street to hold its latest 'Goes Nuts in May' street festival. There were local craft stalls, a pub in a converted horse box and many other local businesses and groups with stalls, including CODS!

We used the opportunity to promote our autumn show, *Guys & Dolls* and also the society.

Lots of people came to say hello, some even signed up to receive more



information from CODS!

We have some potential new members, and a lot of potential ticket buyers for *Guys & Dolls* as well as our other future shows.

A big thank you to Bernard Beardsmore, Jo Levett, Max, Annie, Jo Reader and all the other members who came along to support CODS. If you would like to get involved in future publicity events then please do get in touch with your humble Honorary Secretary, CODS.secretary@gmail.com.



CODS WEBSITE

You may have noticed that our website has a new look! I've worked over several months to update it, to make it easy to use, and to update other functionality. Here are a few key pages, and features.

Home

This is where you 'land' when you first come to the website. It has a rolling slideshow of photos with highlights from some recent shows as well as a single 'headline', usually to sell tickets for our next show.



Productions

This is split into future and previous productions. Each previous show will have photos and excerpts from the show programme where available. There is a fairly vast archive that is still to be transferred to the new site, but if it was on the previous version of the website, then it will be on the new version, it just may take me a while to get to!

Calendar

This is an easy to navigate, grid type calendar which has upcoming CODS shows and events. Each event has lots of information against it, including ticketsource links (when available) to book tickets for individual shows.

CODS WEBSITE

Tickets

Ticketsource is now integrated into the website! You can still use the ticketsource links, or go to cranbrookods.org.uk/tickets to book your seats for show.



About

This has information about the society, hiring costumes or props, the archive of newsletters (still being updated), membership forms as well as a members only area. At the moment the members area is a password protected page with official society documents giving guidance and information to members. Please contact me for details on how to access this page.



Contact

This has all the contact information, publicly available, for the society. If you need to contact the Honorary Secretary or any other committee member, look here first.

I would like to send a big thank you to **Stephen Kent** who created our website and has maintained it for such a long time, making it the archive of CODS history that it is today (at least until I put the new version in place!) Everything that Stephen created and added to our website will be there on the new version, eventually! If there is anything that you are looking for, or is missing, or any other changes you think are needed, please get in touch with me via CODS.secretary@gmail.com.

Hatch

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President

Bernard Beardsmore

Vice Presidents

Pam Baker, Jeremy Cartwright, Dinah Chamberlin,
Peter Gray, Alan Hodge, George Hudson,
Peggy Latter, Bill Marshall, Alan Pickett, Dennis Russell,
John Tapper, Maurice Wilkins, Ian Wookey
Marian Cumberland, Rita Wilkins

Executive Committee

Chairman	Guy Fillmore
Vice Chairman	Annie Hatcher
Hon. Secretary	Lee Hatcher
Board Secretary	Jo Levett
Treasurer	Glyn Roberts
Business Manager	Matt Barker
Social Secretary	Jackie Barker
Show Selection Chairperson	Angela Woodcock
Committee Members	Jo Reader, Maurice Wilkins, Sharon Pickles, Alison Withey-Harrison

Contact details for the committee are
available via :-

Website - cranbrookods.org.uk/committee

Email - CODS.secretary@gmail.com

Telephone - 01580 388716

Officials of the Society

Hall Manager	Maurice Wilkins
Orchestral Secretary	Ruth Roberts
Librarian	Bill Marshall
Wardrobe Mistress	Rita Wilkins
Properties Master	Lee Hatcher
Front of House Manager	John Tapper
Newsletter and Programme Editor	Lee Hatcher
Hon. Auditors	Messrs McCabe, Ford and Williams

STOP PRESS!!

OUR CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME THIS YEAR WILL BE CINDERELLA!

We can confirm that the 2018 Pantomime will now be Cinderella directed by Jack Davidson who will be ably assisted by Sharon Pickles. More details regarding information nights, auditions and parts available will be released shortly via email, Facebook and CODSWALLOP. In the mean time please get in touch through the secretary - CODS.secretary@gmail.com should you wish to know more details.

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THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your CODSWALLOP Editor Lee Hatcher:
tel: 01580 388716
or email: cods.newsletter@gmail.com
If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU want to see in CODSWALLOP, let me know!



Photo CDs of "The Real Inspector Hound" are available for the low price of £5! Contact Matt Barker at m.g.barker@hotmail.com

- all proceeds to CODS.



THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND BY TOM STOPPARD



THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND BY TOM STOPPARD



THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND BY TOM STOPPARD

Big, Huge, in fact Enormous thanks to all involved in and all who came and saw The Real Inspector Hound in April. The show was a great success, well received. Wonderful to be part of an innovative production. JAMES !

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT EDITION:
FRIDAY 20TH JULY 2018**