

CODSWALLOP!

The Cranbrook Operatic & Dramatic Society Bi-Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2015



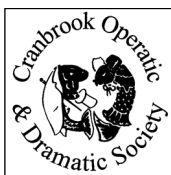
WELL DONE TO THE CAST
AND CREW OF
'THE PRODUCERS'

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**"THE MAIN REASON SANTA IS SO JOLLY IS BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHERE ALL
THE BAD GIRLS LIVE"
GEORGE CARLIN**

NOTES FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello folks,

Recent events, both abroad and at home, made me think..."life's too short to muck around"... so:

Did you see our last show, The Producers? It was bloody marvellous! You missed out if you didn't. Just look at the photos...Wow!



And with that in mind, DON'T miss out seeing the Pantomime, Sleeping Beauty or the Spring play Cards on the Table, 'cause they're going to be fab too! So many people put so much effort into all our shows... so if you're not part of them, buy tickets and support them! Thanks.

Oh... and please don't just sit there thinking; "I wish CODS did this instead of that", or "why don't we do a thing that I'd like to do" etc.. Get involved. You belong to a group that has a long history of putting on fantastic productions (each of which is the "best we've ever done" of course!) but it's also a group that is open to new ideas, allowing people to express their opinions, learn new skills and push boundaries. So if you want something come and get it.

And to those who may think this is too strong, remember "For ten years Caesar ruled with an iron hand. Then with a wooden foot, and finally with a piece of string."

Thank you Mr. Milligan and goodnight everyone.

All the best, James

jameshanaway@hotmail.com



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

CARDS ON THE TABLE – TEAM

Superintendent Battle
Mrs Ariadne Oliver
Dr. Roberts
Ann Meredith
Mrs Lorrimer
Major Despard
Rhoda Dawes
Shaitana/Stephens
Miss Burgess
Sergeant O'Connor
Doris
Mary

Charlie Barnett
Sharon Pickles
David Baker
Samantha King
Sarah Davis
Jez Druce
Rachel Croft Golding
Peter Ashby
Debbie Knight
Maurice Wilkins
Becky James
Vicky King



Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society presents:

CARDSON THE TABLE

Dramatised by Leslie Darbon from the original novel by

Agatha Christie



7th – 9th April
Queen's Hall
Theatre

Tickets from:
'UberSports'
tel: 01580 713887
cods.ticketsource.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.
Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians) Ltd and Waterloo House Tearooms

Director	Annie Chesters
Assistant Director	Matt Barker
Stage Manager	Vicky King
Properties	Lee Hatcher

We need all sorts of help back stage, especially a prompt as soon as we can. If you want to get involved contact Annie on 01580 388716 or email

annie.chesters33@gmail.com

SLEEPING BEAUTY

So with the Christmas trees going up and lights being turned on all over the place, it's only right that we should be well into the Sleeping Beauty pantomime rehearsals!



It's clear to see that if we have as many laughs off stage as we're having on stage at the moment then it'll be a riotous affair to enjoy after Christmas!

Thanks to all the cast and everyone involved in putting the show together to make it happen.

We still need more folk to help and in particular we need a prompt, Deputy Stage Manager and Backstage crew to help during the run... Get in contact if you think you can help. You know you want to... Oh yes you do!

This year's show will be raising money for two great causes Demelza Hospice care for Children (www.demelza.org.uk) and Camara (www.camara.org) so please help us raise as much cash as possible by spreading the word and coming along to see the show!

James

jameshanaway@hotmail.com

Rachel

rmcroftgolding@gmail.com

The CODS Christmas Charity Pantomime 2015

Sleeping Beauty

cods.ticketsource.co.uk
Telephone 01580 713887
from Lambert and Foster or
Cranbrook Tyre and Exhaust Centre



**28 – 31
December
2015**

**Queen's
Hall
Theatre**

An Easybees script
by Peter Nuttall

Sponsored by Peter Jones (Opticians) and Waterloo House Tearooms

NOTICES

THE PRODUCERS

I've said it before so if you've read it before please forgive me, but it remains a fact that when I ask for help with moving in, set building and the following clear out I never know just who, or how many will turn up until they actually put in an appearance, apart from my trusty colleagues from the Flishinghurst Gang who are preprogrammed! It is, however, a rule within the society that the cast should assist with these functions because these things just don't happen. We need bodies to make them happen. But of course, not everybody can. They have other committments, they may be physically unable and after all, we all have a life outside CODS.

But once more my doubts were totally unfounded and we had a good number turn up to load up and move the set down from Flishinghurst and then more people turned up at the theatre to help build the set. There were slightly fewer numbers for the clear out, but even so more than enough to cope with all the jobs to be done. So, a huge, huge thanks to everybody who turned up over the two weekends to enable us to put the show on and subsequently leave the theatre in a far cleaner state than when we took it over. Thank you everybody who helped even in the tiniest way, I love you all. Maurice

YOUR COMMITTEE

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of your committee members;

President - Bill Marshall,

Chairman - James Hanaway, jameshanaway@hotmail.com

Treasurer - John Tapper

Membership Secretary - Jackie Barker, secretary@cranbrookods.org.uk

Business Manager - Matt Barker

Social Secretary - Marian Cumberland

Committee Members -

Annie Chesters, Vicky King, Maurice Wilkins, Alison Withey-Harrison, Guy Fillmore, Rachel Croft-Golding.

NOTICES

CRANBROOK IN BLOOM

Remember "Beauty And The Beast" last December? Half our net proceeds were donated to Cranbrook In Bloom, who secured a Gold Medal and Overall Winner in the Small Town Category for the South East Region of the South And South East In Bloom Awards in September! The success of this enabled Cranbrook In Bloom to be eligible for entry into Britain In Bloom, and after judges from the Royal Horticultural Society paid a visit to the town, they decided to award a Silver Gilt Award to Cranbrook In Bloom ! It's good to see that our donation has germinated a great result for the town; congratulations to Cranbrook In Bloom!

CODSWALLOP!

We aim to release the newsletter bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November, shortly after the Committee Meeting (2nd Tuesday of that month). All articles to be submitted by the Friday following the meeting, keeping them concise (under two pages) with contact for, or links to, further information if required.

We are continually looking to improve CODSWALLOP! Any thoughts on what we could do would be gratefully received. Please contact Lee on leedavehatcher@gmail.com . Thank you.

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR
'SLEEPING BEAUTY' NOW –
CODS.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK

THE PRODUCERS – NODA REVIEW

CODS

The Producers by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan

Director: Jack Davidson

Assistant Director: Laura Larkin

Musical Director: Andrew Witham

Choreographer: Rachel Croft-Golding

Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook

Saturday 31st October 2015



The story line of *The Producers* tells of nervous accountant Leo Bloom, who secretly dreams of becoming a producer, being sent by boss Mr Marks of Whitehall & Marks to audit the books of once King of Broadway. 'Funny Boy' has been a terrible flop, but Max Bialystock vows he will return. Together they scheme to get rich quick by overselling interests in another theatrical flop. They need the worst play every written, the worst director in town, to raise two million dollars from sponsors (little old ladies requiring sexual favours) hire the worst actors, open on Broadway, close as quickly as possible, take the money and run off to Rio! Complications arise when it unexpectedly turns out to be a success. The humour of the show includes wonderful accents, caricatures of queens and Nazis and very theatrical in-jokes when we meet some of the characters – Ulla Inga Hansen Benson Yansen etc.etc., Roger De Bris his 'common law assistant' Carmen Ghia, Hold Me Touch Me (one of the little old ladies) and Franz Liebkind. Franz regrettably breaks his leg on opening night and director Roger takes over the role. He is so bad the audience mistake it for satire and guess what, it's a huge success. Franz tries to shoot everyone, breaks his other leg trying to escape, Roger and Carmen hide, the police ensue, Leo runs off with Ulla and Max is sent to jail. Leo now married to Ulla returns pleading Max's case. They all get five years and together write a new musical. Pardoned by the Governor Leo and Max do become the Kings of Broadway and walk off into the sunset.

FRONT OF HOUSE: Much bustle in the foyer, an excellent photographic display from **Guy Fillmore** set up by **Annie Chesters** and **Alison Withey-Harrison**. Good to see the successful results of the KDA for 'Wind in The Willows'.

PROGRAMME: A comprehensive A5 with a pigeon theme running through the pages put together by **Lee Hatcher**. Good sized print, particularly for the Scenes and Numbers of the two acts.

MUSICAL DIRECTION: A good sounding 12 piece orchestra placed out of view back stage with **Andrew Witham** as MD. Strong, good quality singing throughout from both principals and ensemble, with dance routines set by **Rachel** including some tapping – from both dancers and zimmer frame operators! I'm sure **Ruth Roberts** enjoyed her time as rehearsal pianist.

THE PRODUCERS – NODA REVIEW

SCENERY: Set designers **Dennis Russell** and **Maurice Wilkins** together with the large team built the opening theatre frontage, Producer's office that Ulla redecorated and smartened up, Roger's East Side pink townhouse interior, plus corner downstage a set prison cell with bunk, and the fabulous pigeon coop below the brick wall of Franz's abode, together with an imposing staircase. A little bit too much light on stage for some scene changes without a cloth, but otherwise the stage and prop movement was managed well by the stage crew.

COSTUMES: Yes, very 50's, American and theatrical. The smart red usherettes for opening, simplicity of black and shades for the accountants office, amazing look for Roger – this is the first time I've seen **Keith Hedley** in a frock, blond wig and high heels! Perfect. Ulla always looked delightful and the Nazis uniforms were super, as was Franz's lederhosen, and the models in 'Springtime for Hitler' with the beer steins, frankfurter, swastikas etc. Well done indeed to the ladies of the wardrobe **Sharon Pickles** and **Rita Wilkins**.

SOUND/LIGHTING: With a large number of radio mikes, lighting and sound cues to manage and **Penny Tobin** did a grand job with a nail biting situation when James's mike decided to pack up soon overcome. Script and lyrics came across loud and clear and the placing of the orchestra worked well.

PRODUCTION: This was a big production, a challenge and was led superbly by **James Hanaway** as Max – very moving rendition of 'Betrayed' most ably supported by talented newcomer to CODS **Will Stewart** as Leo Bloom. Huge amounts of script, powerful and emotional lyrics and fast movement, together with humour was knitted together with the enthusiasm of young Director **Jack Davidson** assisted by **Laura Larkin**. **Jack** himself appeared in Roger's Team wearing some wonderful costumes including an Indian chief's feathers plus an enormous codpiece! Rehearsals must have been tremendous fun and this showed in the performance – snappy, crisp and funny. A very good comedy role of booted (jack or plaster) - Franz was well portrayed by **Jez Druce** particularly 'In Old Bavaria' with his dancing pigeons a coo! Cranbrookian student **Ruby Russell** gave us a splendid character in Ulla, with a convincing Swedish accent. Experienced **Keith Hedley** camped up Roger De Bois assisted by **Geoff King** as Carmen, whilst **Wendy Thomas** enjoyed her romp as 'Hold Me Touch Me'. Other cameo roles and ensemble work were well constructed and supportive in 'Opening Night' 'Springtime' and 'Goodbye and other numbers'.

So pleased I was able to attend this first class performance. Thank you to the huge team who worked tirelessly on this production. A précis will appear on the NODA website shortly.

Anne Lawson
Regional Representative
NODA South East
District 3

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THE BACK PAGE

Any questions about what you have read? Please contact your Codswallop Editor Lee Hatcher: tel: 07539 460571

or email: leedavehatcher@gmail.com

If you have any news, views, or ideas as to what YOU want to see in Codswallop, let me know!



THE PRODUCERS PHOTO CDS

You can order a DVD of photographs of our 'The Producers' production taken by Guy Fillmore for just £7.00 (£7.50 if postage required) by contacting Guy at guyfillmore@hotmail.com - all proceeds to CODS.



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FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY 2016**