

# BACKSTAGE

Autumn 2009



*A Christmas Classic for all the Family!*  
1st-5th December 2009  
The Lights

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## Interview with the Director

# “Scrooge”

With rehearsals now well underway, “Scrooge” Director Will Johnson took some time out to chat about his experience in theatre...

### What got you interested in theatre?

My father, who was a founder member of a theatre in Birmingham just after World War II. From him I developed a love of drama and the atmosphere of the theatre.

### How did you become involved with amateur dramatics?

I continued my association with drama through my school life and then studied drama at teaching training college. I joined a drama group in Devizes where we built our own theatre. The Wharf Theatre group performed up to 10 shows a year. As well as taking part in the shows, I became the front of house manager and chairman of the administrative committee.

### What was the first show you performed in / directed?

Apart from school nativity plays, the first show was HMS Pinafore at grammar school, it was a single sex school and I can't recall if I was a sister or a cousin, but I was definitely in drag!

### What has been your favourite show?

'Night' by Harold Pinter which is a very brief play for two performers. It was Burdock Valley Player's entry for the one act play festival – the group was a regular contributor to the festival at Cricklade Theatre (now the Lights) and we were pleased to win several awards for our performance.



### NEW! THE AMOS GUIDE TO WEST END THEATRE

See page 2



### CHRISTMAS BALL

Join us for some Magic & Sparkle!  
See page 3 for more details...



### NEW AMOS SPONSOR!

Advent Print Group supports AMOS - See page 3 for details

Continued...

**How did your involvement with AMOS come about?**

I was asked to direct a production of 'Iolanthe' in 2000. As a result of Swampy and the Twyford Down protestors I decided to make the setting a peace camp and the fairies became protestors. That was followed by a performance in the chorus of 'anything goes' and the following year I directed 'The Mikado' in the style of the prohibition era.

**How did you come to take on the direction of Scrooge?**

I was approached by Kathy Rawles in the spring of 2008 to direct 'Scrooge' for Christmas 2009. An unnecessary complication arose in the spring of 2009 when we discovered that French's would not license us to use the version I had been preparing and we had to switch to the version you will see in December, which includes several new songs and extra text.

**How have you prepared to direct this show?**

I took the part of Christmas Present in a previous production and was therefore familiar with the show. I decided to go for a traditional look but with a modern staging. This has been probably one of the most taxing shows in terms of casting but the import of one or two non members and the return of a retired member has completed a strong team.

**How would you describe yourself as a Director?**

I like the production to develop by moulding the ideas of the individual performers, and thus making everyone feel they have contributed to the final result.

**What are your aspirations for this production?**

I want everyone to look back and feel that the hard work has all been worthwhile and that we have produced an enjoyable show for the audience and cast alike.

Tickets for Scrooge are on sale now - available from The Lights Box Office 01264 368368 or from Linda Bagnall 01264 351168.

**SAVE US MONEY!  
BUY YOUR TICKETS  
DIRECT FROM AMOS!**

By buying your tickets via our Theatre Officer Linda Bagnall, we save hundreds of pounds in commission paid to The Lights!

Profits from "The King and I" were given an extra boost by these extra pounds saved so please help us do the same for **"Scrooge"**

To order your tickets please call Linda on 01264 351168.

A seating plan and order form can be downloaded from our website [www.amos-info.co.uk](http://www.amos-info.co.uk)



*AMOS are pleased to announce the launch of a brand new section on our website... A guide to Musical Theatre in the West End!*

Our web team have been busy researching all the productions currently showing in London Theatres, to bring you all the information you need to choose your next trip to the West End. Members of AMOS have submitted their reviews, and you can also see pictures of our newest member Julie Lindsell with the stars on her stage-dooring' adventures!

As well as the long-running London shows, we have also included the professional touring productions that are visiting theatres near us. We hope that you will enjoy this new feature which will be updated as and when we see more shows!

If you have seen a professional show recently and would like to submit a review, please send it to Louise by email: [musicals@amos-info.co.uk](mailto:musicals@amos-info.co.uk)



## AMOS SECURES SPONSORSHIP FOR "Scrooge"

**AMOS are pleased to announce that we have secured a sponsorship deal for our production of 'Scrooge' with Advent Print Group.**

Andover based printers, Advent Print Group have agreed to print all of our promotional materials for 'Scrooge' in return for some mutual publicity with AMOS.

Advent already help a number of other local groups and charities and were pleased to be approached by AMOS in our search for a sponsorship deal as Commercial Director, Daniel De Marco explains, 'We like to invest in our local community and AMOS appealed to us as we have experience in printing materials to promote the Arts - we currently print The Anvil Show Guide and Programmes for the British Animation Awards Nominations. We are really looking forward to working with AMOS and to seeing Scrooge!'

Society Marketing & Development Officer Louise Ellison was responsible for orchestrating the deal, which has been agreed at the eleventh hour after a three month campaign trying to find a local company to sponsor the society. "Finding a sponsor has been a challenge to say the least - Many local businesses are feeling the pinch of the credit crunch and thus simply don't have spare cash for sponsorship and if they do, they are looking to help charities rather than groups like ours, but luckily for us Advent jumped at the chance! Printing posters and flyers etc is an expensive but necessary part of promoting our productions, so to have this support will really help our profit margins."

Although we have the support of Advent, we would still welcome support from other local businesses either in the form of financial donation or services in kind, eg goods for our raffle etc. so if you know of any companies who may be interested, please tell them about AMOS and ask them to take a look at our website [www.amos-info.co.uk](http://www.amos-info.co.uk) for more details!



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01264 359359

## CHRISTMAS BALL!

**AMOS cordially invites you to our Christmas Ball!**

Please join us on Saturday 19th December, for an evening of Magic and Sparkle! You will be welcomed with a Champagne Reception and the magic of a close-up Magician before being seated for a 3 course Christmas Banquet! There will be entertainment throughout the meal, and after dinner we will be presenting the AMOS Awards 2009 - an opportunity to recognise members of the society for their achievements on and off the stage! A disco will follow until midnight.

This is an open invitation to members, patrons, friends & supporters and family, in fact anyone who would like to come along and support AMOS! The proceeds of the evening will go into the society development fund, to be put towards singing lessons, workshops, and other activities to help improve our performance.

Each table will seat 8-10 people and unless otherwise stated, a random seating plan will be chosen. If you would like to book a whole table for yourself and your guests, we will supply you with two free bottles of wine to get the party started!

Tickets are £25.00 available from Louise Ellison by calling 07778 963501 or email [marketing@amos-info.co.uk](mailto:marketing@amos-info.co.uk) (cheques made payable to AMOS).

ANDOVER MUSICAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY

INVITE YOU TO OUR  
*Magic & Sparkle*  
**CHRISTMAS BALL**  
SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2009

THE QUALITY HOTEL  
MICHELDEVER ROAD  
ANDOVER

CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION  
3 COURSE FESTIVE THEMED BANQUET  
THE 2009 AMOS AWARDS!  
ENTERTAINMENT & DISCO

**TICKETS £25.00**

AVAILABLE FROM:  
Louise Ellison  
c/o 58 Southend Road  
Andover - Hampshire  
SP10 2DT  
Tel. 07778963501  
(Cheques made payable to AMOS)

EVENTS START AT 7.00PM  
CARRIAGES AT MIDNIGHT

DRESS CODE:  
BLACK TIE

# BACKSTAGE

Autumn 2009

Andover Musical & Operatic Society  
is sponsored by:

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If you are looking for a company that combines pioneering commercial print technologies with the determination to be the best, then look no further than Advent.

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## Andover Musical & Operatic Society Presents... **CALAMITY JANE** 15th - 19th June 2010

### Director agreed for our 2010 production of Calamity Jane!

We are pleased to announce that Claire Nias has agreed to take on the task of directing our production of Calamity Jane next year!

With very little persuasion, Claire gave us the thumbs up to take on the show as having taken a year off from AMOS to look after new baby William and three year old daughter Millie, 'Calamity' will give her an exciting new challenge!

An experienced AMOS Director, Claire has previously worked with us on Pajama Game, Thoroughly Modern Millie and Godspell to name a few, and she told us she is really looking forward to coming back, "I know we will have such fun on this production, the society has a great sense of humour - there is never a dull moment in rehearsals, I can't wait to get into the swing of things!"

Claire will be giving an introduction to the show on Tuesday 8th December and on Thursday 10th December Neil will introduce the songs. As there are only a few main singing parts the pre-audition rehearsals will be very structured and will run to a schedule for specific roles. These will take place on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th January before the Auditions on Sunday 10th January.

The show takes to the stage at The Lights 15th-19th June 2010.

Keep up to date with all "Calamity Jane" developments on our website:  
[www.amos-info.co.uk](http://www.amos-info.co.uk)

### Beginners, Duets & Curtain Calls!

Congratulations to Eve & Stuart Robertson on the arrival of their first child, Emma Louise, born on 24/09/09 (8 days early) weighing 6lbs 9oz. Mummy, Daddy and baby are all doing well! We look forward to meeting her soon!



Emma Louise Robertson

Contact Us...

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### What's on at The Lights?

Friday 20th November 7.45pm

#### The Beatles, Blues and Blue Violin Tour

Former E.L.O. and Electric Light Orchestra Part II members and current members of The Orchestra Phil Bates and Mik Kaminski with special guest Tina McBain. They'll be performing some great blues, material from Phil's solo repertoire and of course ELO and Violinski material.

Tickets: £14, Pullmans: £15, Concessions: £13

Thursday 17th December 7.30pm

#### Oddsocks Theatre Company presents Shakespeares Romeo and Juliet

Passion, power, love, longing, murder and much much more is on the cards as two troublesome teenagers meet amidst festive celebrations as their families ancient feud escalates. One wedding, a funeral and a less than efficient postal system combine to create comic mayhem and tragic consequences in the trademark 'Oddsocks' style!

Tickets £13.50, Pullmans £14.50, Concessions £12.50,

**BOX OFFICE 01264 368368**

the **Lights**  
andover

For more information about the society please visit our website:

[www.amos-info.co.uk](http://www.amos-info.co.uk)

