

# BACKSTAGE

Spring/Summer 2010



*Another Successful Show!*

## "CALAMITY JANE"

### The reviews are in!

So another show is over... we really had fun with this one, as I am sure you could tell if you came to see it! Calamity Jane was really well received, with The Black Hills of Dakota seeming to be a highlight with audiences young and old. Here are a couple of reviews...

AMOS excelled yet again in their recent production of Calamity Jane, directed by Claire Nias. The authentic costumes, toe-tapping music and strong cast combined to make a whip cracking show!

Charlotte Barham was well cast in her first leading role as Calamity Jane, who, in order to hold her own in a man's world, dresses, talks and rides like a man. Charlotte not only looked the part, but she really captured the plucky and pugnacious essence of the character perfectly, although occasionally her singing was drowned out by the harmonies of the rest of the cast.

Louise Ellison provided a nice counterweight to Calamity as aspirational saloon singer Katie Brown, brunette to blonde and refined to rugged. Posing as the actress Adelaide Adams, she tackled the transformation from nervous indifferent performer, amusing the audience with her very bad rendition of "Keep it Under Your Hat", to confident singer with aplomb, subsequently blossoming so that she was pursued by two suitors! One of them was Jason Davenhill, completely believable as Lt. Danny Gilmartin whom was able to display his pleasant singing voice when duetting with Louise in "Love You Dearly".

A new addition to AMOS, Rob Talbot, took on the role of Wild Bill Hickock and he obviously relished in tormenting Calamity about her wild adventures and boyish looks. Although at times we felt he was a little too aggressive towards Calamity, the audience saw a softer side to him in the second act. While Bill and Calamity's duet "I Can Do Without You" was well done, Robs

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**advent**  
colour  
sponsorship

**Advent to Sponsor 2nd AMOS Production!**

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**BREATH TAKERS** **CHARITY BALL**  
Supporting children with Rare Lung Disease

**Local Charity Ball**

Raising money for a worthy cause

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ANDOVER MUSICAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS  
The **LIKES OF US**  
Music by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber

**The Likes of Us**

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voice didn't hold so strong in his solo numbers as he was pitchy and often strained, especially when holding on to some gratuitous long notes. Praise must be given to the men's chorus and their rendition of "Adelaide" sung in a Barbershop style with some nice harmonies.

Francis Fryer, played by the talented Paul Marsh (this role was a stark contrast to his last as Scrooge!), added another comedy element to the show. Paul performed the role of both male and female artistes admirably and convincingly. The excitable and pessimistic owner of the Golden Garter, Henry Miller, was performed with amusing nervous energy by John Parker, calmed only by the effect of his niece Susan, played delightfully by Caroline Roper who really made the most of her small part.

The set was simply but effectively designed, centered round the stage of the Golden Garter, which was then transformed into Calamity's log cabin. Thankfully we were warned at the beginning of the show that the performance involved loud gunshots, which was just as well as they definitely made a few people jump out of their seats!

The highlight of the show has to be the rousingly beautiful harmonies of "The Black Hills of Dakota" sung by the whole cast carrying lanterns through the theatre amongst the audience, bringing a rapturous applause at the end. All in all, a fantastic production!

Sandie McDonald & Jon Trickett or Chilbolton Players

THIS was a musical treat, full of tap-along-melodies, in which every song was sheer pleasure to hear. The whole company number of the "Black Hills" was outstanding, performed in lamplight in the auditorium. Charlotte Barham's (Calamity) deeply heartfelt Secret Love beautifully balanced Rob Talbot's (Wild Bill) commanding Higher Than a Hawk. Congratulations to Neil Streeter for excellent musical direction.

Calamity impetuously promises to bring the gun-slinging, gold-digging, poker-playing Deadwood residents the darling of the cigarette cards, Adelaide Adams, to entertain them. As usual, she courts disaster when she brings back Adelaide's maid instead. John Parker excelled as the despairing landlord of the Golden Garter; Paul Marsh (Francis Fryer) had the audience hooting with laughter at his impersonation of an actress; Ann Sinclair gave a delightful cameo as Adelaide whilst Louise Ellison (Katie) charmed us throughout.

Barbara Godwin - Southern Daily Echo

## CONTINUED SPONSORSHIP FROM LOCAL PRINTER

Advent Print Group enjoyed our production of Calamity Jane so much, that they have agreed to sponsor the society again!

Sales Director Dan De Marco explained that he was pleasantly surprised by our Christmas production, "I had heard good reviews about AMOS, but to be honest, having seen other amateur productions in the past, I wasn't expecting it to be as good as it was! I have been impressed by the professionalism of AMOS, from the quality of the artwork for the promotional posters and flyers, to the standard of performance on stage, it really was a fantastic show!"

Providing discounted printing for all of our promotional materials, Advent saved the society over £1000 on our publicity budget for Scrooge and have reduced costs even more for Calamity Jane and have promised to keep prices low for The Likes of Us.

As a local company, it is important to Advent that they support local societies such as AMOS. While the last year or so has been a difficult one financially for businesses and community groups alike, Advent is going from strength to strength, and has just expanded its printing facility on the Portway industrial estate to accommodate the extra work. With business doing so well, lucky for us, they have been able to offer a very competitive sponsorship package for this production, which is much appreciated!

For all your printing requirements call Dan De Marco on 01264 359359  
[www.advent-colour.co.uk](http://www.advent-colour.co.uk)



## AMOS's Heidi Through To Next Stage of Local Carnival Musical Theatre Competition!



AMOS member Heidi Hodgkinson recently auditioned for "It's a Showstopper" - the local search for the next star of musical theatre - a competition organised by Andover Carnival, The Lights and Andover Sound!

The search is on in Andover for someone who can sing or dance, either solo, a duo or a group, to be crowned the champion, with the winner getting two money-can't-buy chances to perform at the Andover Carnival on Sunday 18th July and at the Andover Christmas Lights Switch-On in November.

Heidi wowed the judges and the public vote to get through to The Grand Final of It's A Showstopper will take place on Saturday 10th July at 7pm.

Tickets are £6 and can be booked through The Lights Box Office - telephone 01264 368368.

For more information visit the website:  
[www.andoversound.com](http://www.andoversound.com)



# BREATHTAKERS CHARITY BALL

*Supporting Children with Rare Lung Disease*

in association with

## THE MAYOR OF TEST VALLEY CHARITY APPEAL

Breathtakers would like to invite you to a fabulous fund-raising evening  
Pre-dinner Drink, Three Course Meal, Magician & Charity Auction

**SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2010**

6.45pm - Midnight (Dinner served at 7.30pm)

**ANDOVER KEYSTONE MASONIC HALL**

East Street, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1EP

**TICKETS £37.50 EACH**

Book a Table of 10 for £350

RSVP Lynne Thompson T: 07733 063 737 E: [lynne@breathtakers.co.uk](mailto:lynne@breathtakers.co.uk)

*www.breathtakers.co.uk*



Charity Registration  
Number 1125330

# Committee Focus

Ever wondered what goes on at an AMOS Committee meeting?

Wednesday 19th May, 7pm, and we meet at Paul's house. Once we all have a cup of tea in hand, we settle around the table to read through the minutes from the month before, with less than four weeks until the next production there is a lot to catch up on . . . As Chairman, Carol starts the meeting and informs us of any matters arising and of any communication the society has sent/received. We discuss the increase in cost of parking at The Lights and agree that a letter should be sent regarding this matter. Paul then gives his Treasurers report providing details of our bank balances and any payments coming and going, this obviously a very important part of the society ensuring that we have a healthy balance and cashflow to cover our costs. Member's Officer Denyse updates us on who has paid their subs and who is outstanding, and also informs us that we have had an enquiry from a potential patron wishing to join our 'Friends' scheme.

We then move on to Marketing, and Louise runs through all the activities that are going on to promote Calamity Jane, what with keeping the website up to date, printing and distributing flyers and putting the programme together, our Marketing team are extremely busy in the time leading up to a show. Not only do they have to attend radio interviews and local craft fairs etc to spread the word about our productions, but they also have to drum up sponsorship and generally promote the society to everyone they meet! On the subject of Calamity Jane, Kathy updates us everything going on behind the scenes, for example how costumes are coming together and what is happening about props and scenery, and the schedule for tech and dress rehearsals, at which point Linda joins in to let us know how ticket sales are doing.

We are all excited about Calamity Jane, but also looking ahead to The Likes of Us... Carol is already planning the rehearsal schedule, Louise has drafted the design for the poster, and scenery and costumes are on the agenda too! With such a high-profile production we hope it will sell well, but we cannot be complacent so we have a brainstorm for ideas to promote the show and numerous to-do lists are being written.

Finally, we discuss the show after next, and again, lists are drawn up as to who is doing what and what needs to be done - next year! We agree the time, date and location of our next meeting and the evening draws to a close, it's almost 10pm.

So as you can see, being a Committee member is demanding and time-consuming, but it is also equally rewarding when you see a show come together! So much goes on behind the scenes, and so often it's the same people doing most of the work, so next time you hear a request for volunteers to help with costumes, props or marketing, please consider the team of hardworking individuals who selflessly give up their spare time to run the society, and really think about whether you too could give up a couple of hours every now and then to do your bit - after all - many hands make light work!

# BACKSTAGE

Spring/Summer 2010

## THE LIKES OF US

Music by  
**Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber**  
Lyrics by **Sir Tim Rice**

Preparations are underway  
for our next production  
"The Likes of Us"  
We are all very excited to be  
able to perform a musical  
written by **Lord Lloyd Webber**  
and **Lord Tim Rice!**

Director Carol Robinson and Musical Director Neil Streeter will be giving an introduction to the show on Tuesday 22nd June, 7.30pm at St Micheals Church Hall.

Auditions will take place on Sunday 25th July from 2pm onwards.

Information about roles open for audition and the cuts etc will be available on our website: [www.amos-info.co.uk](http://www.amos-info.co.uk)

For details on how to join the society, new members are asked to contact Denyse Coles for more details - telephone 01256 893010

"The Likes of Us" will take to the stage at The Lights, Andover, Wednesday 9th-12th March 2011



**Barnardo's**  
GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR FUTURE

## AMOS Presents Naomi House Children's Hospice with Donation.

On Friday 14th May, AMOS committee members Louise Ellison and Paul Marsh went to Naomi House to present them with a cheque for £377.

Naomi House provides care to families living in communities across the seven counties of Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex and Wiltshire, with two specialist units, 'Naomi House' for young children, and the recently opened 'Jacks Place' for young people. Each unit is purpose built and provides an appropriate environment for each age group.

Louise admitted to being apprehensive about seeing what goes on inside the hospice but said that it was a very positive and moving experience: "The atmosphere inside Naomi House, and in particular Jacks Place, was surprisingly uplifting, it is a happy and colourful place and there is a real emphasis of making the most of the time the children have left. There are pictures everywhere of smiling kids, and when you think of what they are going through you can't help but feel emotional, they are so very brave."

Deborah Speirs, a Community Fundraiser for the charity, explained that it costs around £4.5million a year to run the two units, with only 7% of its funding from the Department of Health meaning the remaining £4.2million shortfall is covered by the generous donations from people and businesses across region.

Anyone interested in helping Naomi House by either fundraising or volunteering should contact the charity on 01962 760060 or visit the website [www.naomihouse.org.uk](http://www.naomihouse.org.uk)



Louise Ellison presents the cheque to Deborah Speirs

### Contact Us...

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T: 07881 627411

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### What's on at The Lights?

Wednesday 14th April, 7.30pm

**Andover Museum Loft Singers, with Belshazzar's Feast & Craig Morgan Robson**

An evening of musical entertainment featuring new arrangements of traditional songs by conductors Paul Sartin and Sarah Morgan. You'll enjoy fabulous 3 and 4 part harmonies from the choir followed by a performance from Belshazzar's Feast, nominated for Best Duo in the 2010 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Tickets: £9, Pullmans: £10, Concessions: £7.50

Thursday 22nd April, 7.30pm

**Richard Digence**

Richard Digence was one of the great folk entertainers of the 70s and 80s. His evergreen career has been acknowledged through numerous awards within both the music and entertainment industries, from a BAFTA Nomination as a TV entertainer to a Gold Award from The British Academy of Composers and Songwriters.

Tickets: £15, Pullmans £16, Concessions £14, Spotlight Members £13

**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)

