## Andover Musical & Operatic Society

# **BACKSTAGE**

Summer 2009





The Reviews are in ...

# "The King and I"

With excellent ticket sales and 3 sell-out performances "The King and I" proved to be a very popular production. The cast certainly enjoyed it, we hope you did too! Here are a couple of the reviews we have received...

"The King and I, the latest production by AMOS at The Lights, directed by Neil Streeter, had a touch of the 'curate's egg' about it.... Anna, played by Liz Hood looked the perfect English rose and even if her singing was not always accurate, her acting did not disappoint, as the strong yet sympathetic school teacher. Her rapport with the King, Jeremy Jamieson worked, his performance displayed a masterful presence and he gave a competent rendition of 'A Puzzlement' one of the most challenging musical numbers in the show.

Paul Marsh (Lun Tha) has a good voice and together with Louise Ellison (Tuptim) gave a very moving performance as the luckless lovers. The costumes were good and colourful but a little more opulence in the set would have been welcome. As always the adult chorus were in good voice and the children a delight and this must bode well for the future of the society. Both Stephen Bell (Prince Chulalongkorn) and Jack Buckley and Tom Carter (who shared the role of Louis) showed good stage presence.

Thankfully the chorus and principles were never overwhelmed by the competent musicians. But the highlight of the show was Linda Bagnall's portrayal of Lady Thiang, the loyal and dignified head wife of the King. Linda never fails to deliver an excellent all round performance and she gave a beautiful rendition of 'Something Wonderful'. It was an entertaining show which although lacked pace in the first half, redeemed itself in the second act with a superb ballet sequence by the Suzanne School of Dancing and an emotional ending."

Review by Nick Jones



AMOS & SUR

NEW IDENTITY FOR PATRONS See page 2 for more details...



**NEXT PRODUCTION**Show Synopsis & Cast List

See page 3



WHO'S GOING PRO?
Good news for AMOS member
See page 4 for more details...

## **BACKSTAGE**

#### Continued

"AMOS excelled in their recent production of "The King and I", brilliantly directed by Neil Streeter. The lavish costumes, professional choreography, music and strong cast combined to make a successful show. There was a wide range of acting talent on stage, including two teams of children who were simply a delight to watch.

Liz Hood was well cast in the role of Anna as she portrayed the traditional well-bred, well-educated English lady perfectly and while her singing did not always meet expectation, her acting was compelling.

The part of the King was taken by the talented Jeremy Jameson - a very challenging role but performed admirably. He had the variation in emotions required - angry, forceful, thoughtful, sexist but eventually showed humour and warmth in his relationship with Anna.

Tuptim was played convincingly and emotionally by Louise Ellison. Louise received a nomination for 'Best Actress in a Musical' for her first lead role in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' and showed the same quality of acting, singing and dancing in her role as Tuptim. Louise combined well with Paul Marsh who played Lun Tha in the sub plot of their secret and fated love.

Linda Bagnall was just right as Lady Thiang. Obviously an accomplished performer, she had marvellous stage presence and delivered a powerful rendition of "Something Wonderful" – the vocal highlight of the show.

There were many good performances by the other principles but particularly worth a mention are Stephen Bell who played Prince Chulalongkorn and Jack Buckley and Tom Carter who shared the role of Louis Leonowens. They all took on their parts with great conviction although I think their duet was perhaps a little ambitious.

One of the highlights of the show was the ballet, 'The Small House of Uncle Thomas' which was staged to entertain the King and the visiting English diplomat - Sir Edward Ramsey. This was narrated by Tuptim and performed faultlessly by the Suzanne School of Dancing, choreographed by Grace Hicks.

The very basic scenery was the only area that could have been improved on given the potential scope with the setting of Siam and the stage facilities available at The Lights."

Jon Trickett & Sandie McDonald (Chilbolton Players)



You may have noticed that the image of AMOS has changed over the last six months - in an attempt to raise our profile and encourage new members we have been undertaking a re-branding project to bring our identity into the 21st Century! As part of this modernisation, from 1st July 2009 onwards, our 'Patrons' will be known as 'Friends & Supporters'.



After much deliberation we chose this new title as many of our patrons have been loyal supporters of the society for quite some time and have become our friends! We also felt that 'Friends & Supporters' has a more personal, approachable ring to it.

If you are not currently a 'Patron' please talk to Denyse about the benefits of joining the 'Friends & Supporters' club... In return for a small annual donation you will receive a number of benefits including priority booking, discounted tickets and invites to fundraising and social events!

If you are already a Patron, please spread the word and help us find more supporters by encouraging your colleagues, friends, family, or neighbours etc to join!

For every new supporter who joins as a result of your recommendation - we will reward you with an entry into a Prize Draw to win a Family Ticket to 'Scrooge' - our next production at The Lights, 1st-5th December 2009!









### **PHOTOS ONLINE NOW!**

A gallery of backstage photos from "The King and I" is now available on our website - www.amos-info.co.uk

Help raise money for AMOS - Buy copies of your favourite prints!

Simply take a note of the code number of your favourite prints, download the order form, complete and send to Louise along with a cheque made payable to AMOS. We will then print your pictures and supply to you at rehearsal or by post. Easy!

AMOS are pleased to announce that our next show will be:

# Scrooge

Tuesday 1st - Saturday 5th December 2009
The Lights - Andover
Directed by Will Johnson



Leslie Bricusse's festive extravaganza Scrooge is a heart-warming family show based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". This much loved musical tells the story of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, who is forced to face his unpleasant past, present and future via three ghosts; as a result he undergoes a major transformation and his Christmas spirit is restored.

The show has a lively musical score featuring well-known songs such as 'Father Christmas', 'Happiness', 'The Beautiful Day' and the Oscar/Golden Globe nominated hit 'Thank You Very Much'. For good old fashioned Dickensian entertainment for all the family – come and see Ebenezer, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future and our talented ensemble as we present - Scrooge!

Following the auditions that took place on Sunday 12th July, the cast is currently as follows:

To how mig the auditions that took place on Sunday 12th July, the east	
Scrooge	Paul Marsh
Jacob Marley	Tbc
Ghost of Christmas Past	Ann Sinclair
Ghost of Christmas Present	Tbc
Ghost of Christmas Future	Tbc
Bob Cratchit	James Quinn
Ethel Cratchit	Chris Roche
Tiny Tim	Finlay Gallimore /
	Connor McKegney
Tom Jenkines	Chris Hill
Mr Fezziwig	
Mrs Fezziwig	
Isabel	$\mathcal{E}$
Young Ebenezer	Paul Medley
Harry	Adam Medley
Helen	Julie Lindsell
Mary	Linda Bagnall

## **PROPS & COSTUMES!**

As ever, we are on a tight budget for this production, so any props, furniture, costumes etc that you can lend or donate to the society would be gratefully received.

#### For Props/Furniture -

Please see the website for a list of the items required or contact our 'Set Coordinator' Ann Sinclair to discuss in more detail.

Telephone 07834 487285

For Costumes, Hats and Wigs etc Please contact our Wardrobe Mistress
Kathy Rawles to discuss in more detail.
Telephone 07840 903212

## **WEBSITE UPDATE!**

In order to keep up with new technology, our website has been updated. Although the layout is much simpler than the previous design, it is now easier for our committee to edit, thus we hope to keep it more up to date than ever before! New features include a 'blog' style news page, extensive photo galleries and contact forms so you can get in touch.

We also have the ability to notify you everytime the website is updated, so if you will never miss the latest news release!

visit our new improved website now...

www.amos-info.co.uk





## BACKSTAGE

Summer 2009

#### **NEW AMOS LOGO CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE!**

Be part of the Team! Buy a stylish item of AMOS Clothing!

Please ask Louise to see the catalogue during rehearsal or download a copy along with an order form from our website: www.amos-info.co.uk/merchandise



#### Beginners, Duets & Curtain Calls!

AMOS welcomes the following new members of the society:

Ann Crew Iulie Lindsell Adam Medley Paul Medley

Chris Rule

Congratulations to Claire, Ed and Millie on the arrival of William George Nias, born at home on 27th June 2009, weighing a healthy 7lbs 10oz.



## Contact Us...

Marketing: Louise Ellison

E: marketing@amos-info.co.uk T: 07778 963501

Membership: Denyse Coles

E: membership@amos-info.co.uk

T:01256 893010

## **2009 AGM SUMMARY**

Following the 2009 AGM on Thursday 26th March, here is a summary of the key items discussed and decisions made...

FUTURE SHOWS - The Committee announce that our next production will be Calamity Jane! The theatre has been booked for 1st-5th June 2010. We are currently looking for a Director

SUBSCRIPTIONS - In order to cover the increasing costs of administrating the society it was agreed that as of 1st January 2010, membership subscriptions will rise to £100 per annum (£50 for senior citizens, under 16's and students). This may be paid in monthly installments by standing order - please speak to either Paul Marsh or Denyse Coles for more information.

HONORARY MEMBER 2009 - The Committe has chosen Silvia Wicks as our Honorary Member for 2009 in recognition for all her hard work supporting and promoting of AMOS over the years.

## **AMOS ACTOR GETS AGENT!**

We are very proud to announce that AMOS member lez lameson has secured representation by talent agency dQ Management and is now actively seeking professional work!

As well as starring in our last two productions;

as Hinse in 'The Pajama Game', and King in 'The King and I', during the last year lez has had parts in a several short films, two feature films and also worked as a commercial voice-over artist.

Jez has a Degree in Drama, English and Education from Cambridge University and is an experienced Actor having worked with touring theatre companies and appearing at The Edinburgh Festival.

We wish lez all the very best in finding his big break!

## What's on at The Lights?

Saturday 26th September, 7.30pm

The ELO Experience.
The closest tribute to the Electric Light Orchestra, recreating the hit sounds from Jeff Lynne and ELO. Classics such as Mr Blue Sky, Shine a Little Love, Telephone Line, Sweet Talking Woman, Turn to Stone, The Diary of Horace Wimp and Wild West Hero will make this a night not to be missed for any fan.

Tickets: £13, Pullmans: £14, Concessions: £12, Spotlight Members: £12

Tuesday 29th September, 7.30pm **The Barber of Savile Row.** 

Seville becomes Savile Row in this crazy, riotous and fast-paced makeover of Rossini's most popular work. Lifted from its usual 17th century Spanish setting, the action is set in 1950s London, the era of Brylcreem, Teddy Boys and rock and roll! .

Tickets: £12.50, Pullmans: £13.50, Concessions: £11.50, Spotlight Members: £11.50

**BOX OFFICE 01264 368368** 



