

BACKSTAGE

Winter 2010



ANDOVER MUSICAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS...

CALAMITY JANE

Wednesday 16th - Saturday 19th June 2010

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Call Linda on 01264 351168

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calamity Interview..... 1
- Coming Soon!.....2
- Naomi House.....2
- Membership Fees.....2
- AMOS Awards.....3
- Christmas Ball Photos.....3
- In Memoriam.....4
- Award Nomination.....4

Interview with the Director

"CALAMITY JANE"

Director Claire Nias talks about her love of theatre...

What got you interested in theatre?

I have always loved drama, music and dance for as long as I can remember. I started dancing at the age of three and haven't stopped yet! I was always involved with the productions at school and the youth theatre, often taking leading roles. I continued this at university where I studied Drama and CLS. Whilst at university, my part time job was as a casual technician at the Marlowe and Gulbenkian Theatres and from that came my interest in the whole production rather than just one element.

What was the first show you performed in / directed?

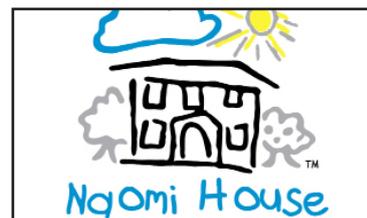
The first show that I performed in on a 'big' stage was at the age of 5. This was as a mouse in the Suzanne School of Dancing's production 'The Jacket'. My directorial 'debut' was at university when I directed the 24 hour theatre project. Given that all involved met for the first time at noon on Saturday and performed the show to a paying audience at noon on Sunday – fully lit, staged and costumed – this was a baptism of fire! Since then my directing has been to a more normal timescale!

What has been your favourite show?

This is a really difficult question with several levels of answer! As far as musicals go, I loved performing the role of Carrie Pipperidge in 'Carousel' as it combined singing, dancing and acting. However, I also had a fantastic time in my role as Nanny Ogg in the three Terry Pratchett plays produced by the Wotjacallem Players. In a directing capacity, all of the shows have had their moments of glory although the Thursday night 'members only' version of Pajama Game will forever live in my memory!

What has been your best/worst moment on stage?

One of my most embarrassing moments was in 'Wyrd Sisters' when I fell down the steps on the stage and had to deliver my line on my rear end – in front of Sir Terry Pratchett....



AMOS Raises Money for Naomi House Hospice
See page 2



The AMOS Awards
And the winners are...
See page 3

IN MEMORIAN
TONY BROAD

A sad loss for AMOS
See page 4

Continued...

My best moment on stage was probably at the Edinburgh Fringe festival, playing to a full house each day – believe me this is unusual in Edinburgh for an unknown production company!

How did you come to take on the direction of Calamity Jane?

Basically, I was bullied, leant upon and heavily hinted at until I agreed to look at the script... It was just before William was born and I had no idea whether I would end up agreeing to be in the theatre on his first birthday! I thought about it carefully, did a little bit of reading – checked what opportunities there were/could be created for chorus movement – and then agreed. And I'm really enjoying it!

How would you describe yourself as a Director?

A fliberty gibbet, a willow the wisp, a clown? Seriously, I would describe myself as: Energetic, fun, inclusive, easy-going but professional. There are times when a little firmness is called for and I feel that I strike that balance.

What are your aspirations for this production?

That it is a fun filled evening of escapism which the cast and audience enjoy in equal measure. I would love it if the show got nominated for anything, but to be honest, as long as everyone's had a good time – that's all that matters. I want all members of the cast to feel as if they are part of a team – everyone is important.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this production?

Calamity Jane will be a performance worth seeing. I have a fantastic cast to work with – all of whom are up for slightly mad things. The cast have learnt to recognize a certain 'look' when I am about to attempt an unusual or possibly life-threatening piece of direction!

Tickets for Clamity Jane are on sale now!

Available from The Lights Box Office 01264 368368
or from Linda Bagnall 01264 351168

THE CAST

Calamity Jane.....Charlotte Barham
Wild Bill Hickok.....Rob Talbot
Katie BrownLouise Ellison
Lt Danny Gilmartin.....Jason Davenhill
Francis FryerPaul Marsh
Adelaide AdamsAnn Sinclair
Henry Miller.....John Parker
Susan Miller.....Caroline Roper

AMOS RAISES OVER £350 FOR NAOMI HOUSE CHILDRENS HOSPICE

AMOS are please to announce that we have raised £376.66 for Naomi House Childrens Hospice!
We collected the donations while Carol Singing in the Chantry Centre, in the Andover High Street and at The Lights during our production of Scrooge.
We will be visiting the hospice soon to present them with a cheque, photos will be on the website.

For more information about Naomi House please visit their website www.naomihouse.org.uk

COMING SOON!

AMOS Presents...

“The Likes of Us”

written by
**Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber
& Sir Tim Rice**

AMOS are pleased to announce that we have been granted permission by the Really Useful Group to stage a production of 'The Likes of Us' in March 2011.

'The Likes of Us' was the very first collaboration between award-winning composers Sir Tim Rice and Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber, written when they were aged just 21 and 17, respectively!

The musical tells the story of the life of Dr Thomas Barnardo, a man who was evangelical, entrepreneurial and philanthropic, and whose crusade to rescue children living on the streets became world renowned.

Described as “a musical that has existed for 40 years hidden away from view” ‘The Likes of Us’ is Oliver!-esque in style and is best known for the much-quoted Tim Rice lyric: “Here I have a lovely parrot, sound in wind and limb, I can guarantee that there is nothing wrong with him”

Our Chairman Carol Robinson will be Directing the production and she is already looking forward to the challenge - “*The Likes of Us is quite an unusual show but I think it will be a great production for AMOS as there are lots of singing roles providing plenty of opportunities for our members to step into the limelight. The involvement of children will also add to the dynamics of this heartwarming show*”

The Really Useful Group will be donate a percentage of all ticket sales from 'The Likes of Us' to Barnados Childrens Charity.

DON'T FORGET!

Membership Fees are now due!

Annual membership fees for both Members and Friends of the society are now due:

For Adult Members age 18-65, the fee is £100
For under 18's and over 65's the fee is £50

To help spread the load, fees are payable in a lump sum or by monthly Standing Order.

To request a payment form or for more information, please contact Denyse Coles on 01256 893010

Visit our website for all the latest news:
www.amos-info.co.uk

THE AMOS AWARDS

While organising the AMOS Christmas Ball, it seemed fitting that as we were planning an evening of Magic & Sparkle, that we should include a small awards ceremony into the proceedings, to give recognition to those who had taken on leading roles and given over and above the usual expectation to the society.

Votes were cast by the society members themselves, and the awards, given in the form of an engraved glass plaque and certificate, were presented by our Compere - Paul Newman from Andover Sound and Comedian Lee Hume.

The Awards kicked off with *Best Actress*, award to Carol Robinson for her role as 'Eliza Doolittle' in My Fair Lady. Chris Hill won *Best Male Solo Song* for his lightning fast rendition of "The Speed Test" and Ann Sinclair won *Best Female Solo* for her amazing performance of "Only in New York", both from Thoroughly Modern Millie. Meanwhile James Quinn scooped 3 awards for *Best Actor*, *Best Male Newcomer* and *Best On-Stage Couple* with Louise Ellison for their roles as Jimmy' and 'Millie' in Thoroughly Modern Millie. As well as picking up a gong for *Best Cameo* as 'The Letch' in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Paul Marsh was also recognised as the society's favourite all-round performer winning the *Members Choice Award*.

And finally a special award *The Parker Award*, sponsored by Sue & John Parker was presented to Linda & David Bagnall for exceptional commitment to the society, in recognition of all they do for the society. They have always been among the first to step forward to help the Society in any way they can. Linda has been a member of the Committee for many years and when there are jobs to be undertaken will usually say 'I don't mind'. That phrase has seen her take on the preparation of food for Patron's night and after-show parties, organising make-up for shows – not to mention applying it to many faces! – and generally helping to organise ... well, everything! Latterly she has taken on the role of Theatre Liaison Officer which, among other things, has involved numerous trips to the box office for tickets. Sunday morning after the shows, Linda is always there to pack away costumes and clean the dressing rooms. Oh, yes, and she is always word perfect when it comes to taking on principal and supporting roles. For many years, David was a key part of the Front of House team, particularly when we were able to run our own bar. He will lend a hand whenever and wherever needed – helping backstage with props and scenery, running around to collect stuff and, of course, providing the bar for our Patron's night and after-show events.

In short, they are a couple who can be relied upon but not put upon.

Sue commented, "We made this a joint award because we know how important it is to always have the support of your better half. That doesn't mean you agree on everything but once a decision is made, their support is invaluable."

Well done to all the winners!

- Best ActressCarol Robinson - Eliza Doolittle - My Fair Lady
- Best Actor.....James Quinn - Jimmy Smith - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best Supporting ActressLinda Bagnall - Lady Thiang - The King and I
- Best Supporting Actor.....John Parker - Alfred Doolittle - My Fair Lady
- Best Male Newcomer.....James Quinn - Jimmy Smith - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best Female Newcomer.....Louise Ellison - Millie Dillmount - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best Male SongChris Hill - "The Speed Test" - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best Female SongAnn Sinclair - "Only in New York" - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best Duet Song.....Louise Ellison & Paul Marsh - "We Kiss in A Shadow" - The King and I
- Best CameoPaul Marsh - The Letch - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best On-Stage Couple.....Louise Ellison & James Quinn - Millie & Jimmy - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- Best Director.....Claire Nias - Thoroughly Modern Millie
- The Parker Award.....Linda & David Bagnall
- The Members Choice.....Paul Marsh
- The Committee ChoiceAnn Sinclair

CHRISTMAS BALL & AMOS AWARDS PHOTOGRAPHS

To see photographs from the Christmas Ball & Awards visit our website www.amos-info.co.uk
To purchase photographs please visit the website of photographer Andy Brooks
<http://www.andybrooks-photography.co.uk/events/amos>



BACKSTAGE

Winter 2010

Paul Marsh Nominated for Award!

Paul Marsh was recently nominated for a prestigious Curtain Call Award by the Southern Daily Echo in the category of 'Best Actor in a Musical' for his performance in the leading role of *Ebenezer Scrooge* in our production of 'Scrooge' last year!

The panel of judges agreed that "Paul was an excellent performer, with a beautiful singing voice and superb characterisation whether frightened, vulnerable or reminiscing on better times."

This is the second year running that our members have been nominated the the Curtain Call Awards - known as the 'Oscars' of amateur theatre in the South of England!



Beginners, Duets & Curtain Calls!

A warm welcome to the newest members of our society -
Rob Talbot
Scott Goodair
Jason Davenhill

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IN MEMORIAN - TONY BROAD

26th August 1939 - 14th January 2010

It is with great sadness that we celebrate the life of Tony Broad, who died after bravely fighting a very rare and debilitating illness.

For nearly 40 years Tony has been a member, committee member, Vice Chairman, Chairman and Vice President which he was very proud to be. Tony joined the society in 1963 as one of the founder members the first show was H.M.S. Pinafore and has gone on since then to do many others. He was such an enthusiastic member with his quick wit and lovely Baritone voice he was always a force to be reckoned with as many people will remember but also a very kind and caring person who would help anyone out.

In the past Tony helped with making scenery and installing it, there was one occasion he broke his breast bone while making the scenery for *Carousel* but still carried on regardless and played the part of *Jigger* with great gusto that's commitment for you, that was his second principle role his first being *Achilles* in *La Belle Helene*.

Tony left the society for a few years to move with Pauline his wife and two boys to the Isle of Wight and came back to Andover just in time for the society's 25th Anniversary they did the *Merry Widow*, Tony joined the committee and then went on to play some memorable roles such as *Charlie Davenport* in *Annie get your Gun* which was perfect for him, but the part he was most delighted with was the *Poet* in *Kismet* in 1993.

By this time Tony had been diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy of the rarest kind but he was determined not to give in to it and went on to do other challenging roles, one of the funniest being *Mendoza* in *Vive Mexico* "Remember Those Trousers" the papers said it was outrageous! and the audience loved it.

In 1998 Tony became Chairman and threw himself into it, there was some lively discussion in the meetings but always had the society's interest at heart always looking to move it forward. He carried on taking principle roles the *Butler* in *Me and My Girl* and *Ali Hakim* in *Oklahoma* which he played with his usual flamboyant style. In 2001 Tony handed over the role of Chairman and decided it was time to finish as things were difficult with his health by now. But when we decided to do *Carousel* again in 2003 Tony could not resist trying for *Jigger* again and got the part and played it brilliantly.

Tony came back as Chairman for a short spell between 2004 & 2005 but found things too much.

Tony supported the society in everything it did, not always agreeing but none the less went along with it and always came along to see the shows up until this year. Tony will be greatly missed by those who knew him and it is with great sadness that we say good by to a very wonderful friend.

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

