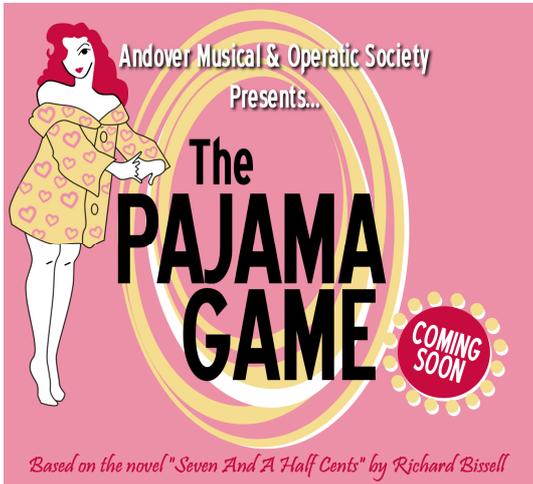


ANDOVER MUSICAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

Autumn 2008

Newsletter

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REVIEW

Thanks to everyone who took part in this production and those who came to see it. Our audiences may have

been small, but were very appreciative and between them, Claire and Neil helped us to turn out a show in record time.

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The following review appeared in the Andover Advertiser:

"The Andover Musical and Operatic Society (AMOS) has closed the curtains on its latest successful show, *The Pajama Game* at The Lights.

The show was the society's 51st. It is based on the novel *Seven and Half Cents* by Richard Bissell and deals with labour troubles in a pyjama factory where workers' demands for a seven and a half cent raise are going unheeded.

In the midst of this ordeal, love blossoms between Catherine 'Babe' Williams (Tracey Fryer) and Sid Sorokin (James Quinn) the new factory superintendent.

It was a worthy first lead performance from Tracey who performed with subtleness and forced a lump into the throat when her character breaks down at the end of a song. James Quinn managed to pick up from where he left off in the previous show, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, as the leading man, with great stage presence and vocal prowess.

A virtual show-stealing performance was given by a first-timer for the society, Jeremy Jameson, in his portrayal of Vernon Hinse, the factory time-keeper. He never failed to make the audience smile. Praise must be given to all the actors who threw themselves into their roles.

Once again AMOS has delivered music and choreography of the highest order.

The team's next performance will be in late November and December when they sing at Porton Down Church, the Chantry Centre and All Hallows Church, Whitchurch."

Go to our website www.info-amos to see photos of the cast getting in to spirit at the technical rehearsal and band call.

Thanks to all our patrons for their support

The King and I - May 2009

Our first production for next year is the much loved musical *The King and I*.

The publicised dates for this have changed a couple of times, partially due to difficulties experienced by the theatre, but we are now running on our original dates from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd May



Adult auditions will be held at St Michael's Hall from 2.00-6.00pm on Sunday 7th December and a children's workshop for aspiring princes and princesses on Sunday 14th December.

Pre-audition rehearsals will be on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th December .

An interview with our director—Neil Streeter

Most of us in AMOS are used to working with Neil as our Musical Director, although he has also doubled as percussionist at a number of performances, not to mention taking over from Ros Penny as rehearsal pianist when she is not available. However, *The King and I* gives us our first chance to work with him as our Artistic Director.

Currently preparing to conduct *The Music Man* for the Basingstoke society, Neil took a moment out to chat about his love of musical theatre.

"What got you interested in music?"

From my first visit to a pantomime at the age of eight, I've always loved the magic of the musical theatre. My parents took my brother and me to shows by the local operatic society and professional productions in Oxford. By the time I was a

teenager I was acting as a general helper to the musical director of my local operatic society. I was in my first production at 18 and conducted my first shows in my twenties while at teacher training college.

Well-written songs can often convey emotions in a way that is more accessible than words alone.

*As well as being the artistic director for *The King and I*, you will also be the musical director. Is combining the two roles a new departure?*

Not really; at my first school I became Head of Music and Performing Arts, directing and conducting over a dozen shows with the pupils, including *Oklahoma*, *Oliver!* and *My Fair Lady*. From the mid-1980s I

started directing and musically directing shows for societies in Newbury - conducting two with only three week's notice.

How did your involvement with musical societies develop from then?

While continuing to teach, in the 1990's I started to work with societies in Basingstoke - BAOS (Basingstoke Amateur and Operatic Society) and BATS (Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society) conducting over a dozen productions for the latter including *West Side Story*, *42nd Street* and *Me and My Girl* at The Anvil, where I also conducted a joint concert between BATS and the Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra.

As a pianist and percussionist, what place does instrumental performance have in your life?

It's always interesting being on the receiving end of a baton - as it were. You learn a lot about how to get the best out of a group of musicians and how other conductors work with singers. Having worked for many years as a semi-professional drummer for numerous shows and concerts, I've had the opportunity to observe this at close quarters.

I've also worked with singers on a much more intimate scale as for ten years I helped to run Swell Party - a very successful concert group who also performed at The Anvil.

How are you looking forward to a production involving so many children?

I enjoy working with children - in recent years I've been teaching percussion in state and private schools in Berkshire and North Hampshire. Children are often capable of delivering much more artistically than we sometimes expect.

We also share a rather anarchic sense of humour, and that always helps!

*What are you looking forward to especially with *The King and I*?*

The show is so well known that I think you have to look for the hidden depths. As well as having some delightful moments, this is a story about the clash between two cultures and two very strong-willed people. Creating the feeling of an exotic land will also be a challenge when so many people have travelled to Thailand these days.



How have you prepared to direct this show?

As I play the songs through and read the script I visualise scenes in my mind's eye. I then try to link these scenes in a way that will involve the audience, because I see the director's job as managing what the audience sees and hears in order to get the right emotional reaction.

Every musical is a balance of drama, spectacle, sentiment

and humour, and I see the director's job as trying to get the balance right in order to help the audience escape to a different time and place where they can care about the characters and be entertained by the situations they get into.

Well-written songs can often convey emotions in a way that is more accessible than words alone."

Thank you Neil - we look forward to an exciting few months building up to this show.

Burns Night Quiz



Round off your New Year celebrations by joining us on Saturday 24th January for a topical quiz.

Once again Will and Chris will put our brains through a seasonal steeple-chase. The quiz will take place in St Michael's church hall from 7.30p.m. onwards.

Bring a few friends and enjoy some light-hearted fun while raising funds for the Society.





ANDOVER MUSICAL AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

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Affiliated to the National
Operatic and Dramatic Association
NODA no. 00002093



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just to remind you that membership subscriptions for 2009 will be due in January.

The rate is £50 for over 16s and under 60s. For those 16 and under and 60 and over, the rate is reduced to £25. Direct debit facilities are now available on request.

Please note that you will not be able to vote at the AGM in February unless you are a paid up member by 31st December of the previous year.

Christmas Carols and concerts

This year we have been invited to give two concerts of carols and seasonal songs in the Chantry Centre to raise funds for Naomi House and encourage more people to join. These will be on 6th and 13th December from 12.00-2.00.

We will also be singing carols at Andover Hospital and the Willows Nursing Home on 13th, carols and songs from the musicals at Porton Down Church at 7.30 on Saturday 29th November and at All Hallows Church, Whitchurch at 7.30 on Thursday 18th December. Singers are organised but please come and support these last two events.

Beginners, Duets and Curtain Calls

AMOS would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members

Stephanie Tomlinson, Alexander Sell and Owen Hopkins

Congratulations to Eve Corton and Stuart Robertson on their recent marriage. We wish them every happiness.

We send our sympathies to the friends and family of Madge Parker who died at the end of October aged 88. Madge was a member of the Society from the 1970s until 1989. She was a prudent and resourceful treasurer who enabled AMOS to put on many successful shows.

Friends say that she had a full diary into the New Year. She went into hospital for a minor operation, developed pneumonia and died suddenly.

Cards of condolence can be sent to:

Mr & Mrs C Ashworth
58 St John's Rd
Locks Heath
Southampton
SP31 6NF

Thanks to all our patrons for their support