

Watford Operatic Society

WOS News



Season 2008/09, Issue 2

February 2009

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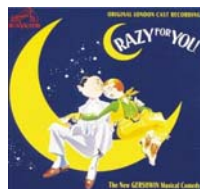
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Rachel's Ramble

Dear All,

I must start my ramble off with an apology to Hilary, our newsletter editor, who had this edition of our newsletter ready a few weeks ago, and was just waiting for my intro.

Since the last newsletter, we have auditioned, cast and started rehearsals for **Crazy For You, 20th-25th April 2009**. Thank you to everyone who came along to the auditions. Difficulties with panel availability, and the speed at which we had to get things going after confirming the production team, meant they were less organised than we would have liked, and stretched out over several sessions. However, we came out of that with a great cast, a mix of known and new faces, and everyone who completed the audition process was offered a part in the production. Rehearsals have been going well, the amount of choreography means we are frequently doubling up with Jeff Eales and Nicky working on dialogue in one room, and Matt Fowler and Peter Holt in the other setting numbers and learning music. More details about the show and cast are below.



Our next show, 'Crazy for You', the Gershwin musical, is at Watford Palace theatre:

Monday 20th April to Saturday 25th April 2008

Our fabulous cast is as follows:

BOBBY CHILD	Neil Toone	Director	Jeff Eales
POLLY BAKER	Katie Don-Hughes	MD	Peter Holt
BELA ZANGLER	Jeremy Cohen	Choreographer	Matt Fowler
IRENE ROTH	Penny Longhurst	Asst. Director	Nicky Chryssaphes
LANK HAWKINS	Marc Smith	Asst. Choreographer	Rachel Permutt
EVERETT BAKER	Paul Woodstock		
EUGENE FODOR	Tim Oakley		
PATRICIA FODOR	Debbie Taylor		
MOTHER	Annie Simons		
PERKINS	Kim Davidson		
TESS	Mel Permutt		
PATSY	Lizzie Russell		
PINK LADIES	Abbey Cox, Hayley Hooker, Tash Karp, Hannah Lambden, Kimberley Marshall, Laura McCullagh (dance captain), Tiffany Monk		
FOLLIES GIRLS	Jill Hollingsworth, Katy Meehan, Kathleen Paynter		
ENSEMBLE	Kim Davidson, Chris O'Brien, Deborah Porton		
COWBOYS	Ginge Anderson, Simon Beale, Henry Cox, Joe Giacone, Alex Handley, Chester Hayes, Rob Jarman, Lewis Jenkins, Sean Lovell		

Tickets are available from the Watford Palace Theatre box office on 01923 225 671 or online at www.watfordtheatre.co.uk. The theatre is advertising the production on our behalf, and we have had very encouraging ticket sales so far - the Saturday matinee has already sold over 350 tickets - so don't delay getting yours and bring along friends and family to enjoy the show: the music is wonderful and it is going to be a fantastic and well worth seeing production. Ian Duggan is leading our publicity effort, with the assistance of committee members and John Sellek. There is a flier enclosed with this newsletter, and more are available at rehearsals (Tues/Thurs/Sun at Fields School, Elfrida Road). Please note that evening performances from Monday to Saturday start at 7.30pm, with the Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Carol singing



One very cold evening, during the week before Christmas, several members of our society joined forces with Cassio Operatic Society, to sing carols to the shoppers in Watford High Street. We had a good turn out but Watford was a little quieter than expected. Nevertheless, our efforts were very much appreciated by passers-by and we collected a total of £96.73 for the Peace Hospice, with which we were pleased. However, we are conscious that, in previous years, we have collected larger sums than this and we are already involved in discussions with Cassio Operatic Society to fix a date and plan the venue, so that we can maximise the income from this year's event.

Sweeney Todd



Get tickets now for a one night only concert performance of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd", by Putting It Together Productions, at the Watford Colosseum, on Sunday 22nd March at 7.30 pm. The production will involve many of our members and familiar local performers. It will be a rare opportunity to hear Sondheim's masterpiece accompanied by the full orchestra for which it was written. Profits from the proceeds will go to the Peace Hospice and Missing Persons. Tickets are available on 08445 860 886 or via www.pitproductions.co.uk (credit card facility available). Tickets are £15 each, or £12 for over 65s and under 18s.

Dinner Dance



Plans are currently on hold for the Dinner Dance. However, this doesn't mean that they have been abandoned, so watch this space!

Sweet Revenge - a thriller

Belmont Theatre Company will perform their next production, 'Sweet Revenge', an energetic thriller, from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February 2009, at the Pump House Theatre. Dr Ross Marquand has everything - a high-flying career as a cardiac consultant, a wonderful home and a beautiful wife, Fay. But, despite all the trappings of this successful lifestyle, Fay is not a happy woman, particularly since she met the internationally famous conductor and womaniser Julian Kane. When Fay announces to her husband that she has fallen in love with Julian, a sinister chain of events begins ...

Tickets are available (£11 Adults/£9 Seniors and Under-16s) by phone on 0845 521 3453, or email to boxoffice@belmonttheatre.org.uk

Our Facebook group

Have you joined it yet? Just type "Watford Operatic Society" into the Search box on the top right hand corner of your Home page and then go into the group by clicking on the name. When you're into the group, click "Request to Join" under the group logo. Then wait for Rachel to approve you - and you're in!

News from our members

We were very sorry to hear of the death of a former member, Brian Swaby. It is thanks to Brian that our society has our Sydney Rd store through his connection with his old company, WeMCo. Our thoughts and best wishes go to his family.

A special birthday



Our warmest congratulations go to Doug Gilbert, Nicky Chryssaphes' father, the oldest gentlemen in the society, who celebrated his 90th birthday last month, on 9th December. Doug joined the society just before the war and on his return took up active membership again. He played his first part, Rene, in the 'Vagabond King' in 1947, followed by his all time favourite, the Cobbler in 'Chu Chin Chow' in 1950. With his wonderful baritone voice he played many more parts - notably Edvard Greig in 'Song of Norway' in 1955 - and supported the society in cameo roles and in the chorus right up to his last show, 'Bitter Sweet' in 1986. He and his wife, Beryl, still take an active interest in the society, their last outing being to see 'Intervals' in November 2008. We wish you many more healthy and happy years, Doug.

Engagement news!



We'd like to congratulate **Matthew Probert**, who popped the question to fiancée Jenny Moore just before Christmas and **Gillian Harman**, who is now engaged to David Bennett.

Baby news!



Our warmest congratulations go to **Richard and Alexandra Pugh (nee Bantin)**, who have a baby girl, Lowri Mae, and to **Michelle Egan** and her fiancé, who have a baby boy, Lukas.

If you have any news you would like us to include in the next edition of the newsletter email chairman@watford-operatic.co.uk or pop along to a rehearsal for a chat!