

Welwyn Thaliens Presents

CHICAGO

Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins

Script adaptation by David Thomson

--- The Show --- The Experience ---

"an absolute killer?"
Chicago Evening News

*"Roxie Hart shot her lover.
For revenge ... or justice?"*
Mary Sunshine

Wed 29th Jan - Sat 1st Feb 2020

7.45 pm / 2.30 pm Sat mat

Book your tickets from the website or call 0333 666 4466 - £15

Thalian Hall - Bridge Road East - Welwyn Garden City - AL7 1JU

www.WelwynThaliens.com

This amateur production of "CHICAGO" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LIMITED.
A Concord Theatricals Company.

EXTRA

Chicago Tribune

EXTRA

Week of 29th January

25c

CHICAGO

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VIOLENCE IN VAUDEVILLE

Two shot dead. Velma Kelly in custody

Well known cabaret performer and star of Vaudeville arrested for cold blooded murder. Kelly's sister and fiancé were found brutally murdered at Hotel Cicero. Kelly was found later at her hotel, covered in blood.



Kelly declares that she was drunk at the time and it was only when she came round and looked at the blood on her hands she knew they were dead. She is to be represented at trial by Chicago's top lawyer, Billy Flynn

Mary Sunshine

The Campaign rages on..

Another surge has been observed on the Chicago streets as the campaign for 'votes for women' continues despite the fact that the bill went through in 1918 there are still women on the streets campaigning. Local reporters have been on the scene trying to quell these rampant marchers and many petitions have been seized from these deluded women who seem to be

WASH AWAY FAT AND YEARS OF AGE

With La-Mar Reducing Soap



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Synopsis

In the late 1920's Velma Kelly was found in her hotel room with blood on her hands after her sister and fiance were found murdered in Hotel Cicero. Though she had no recollection she was sent to Cook County Jail to await trial for murder Roxie Hart while having an affair with Fred Casel shot him after he tried to walk out on her. After a confession to the police she was sent to the same jail to await trial for murder and met up with Velma Kelly who introduced her to the lawyer Billy Flynn who was to represent her in her case

Roxie convinced her mild and put upon husband, Amos, to put up the money for the lawyer and while representing Roxie, Billy built up for her, a fame and notoriety that was soon picked up by the press and moved her up from being common criminal to a celebrity and a star.



The Team



Director - Clive Dancey

This is the first time Clive has directed a show with Welwyn Thaliens having directed many children's productions. He is also an actor having played Eddie in Made in Dagenham , Otto Frank in Anne Frank and Judd Fry in Oklahoma and roles in Midsomer Murders, Whistleblowers and the Seventeenth Kind where he got to meet and work with one of his hero's from TV, Sylvester McCoy, who played The Doctor.

Clive has thoroughly enjoyed directing this show and working with so many keen and talented people and hopes that you enjoy, are challenged, and are moved by the show.



Choreographer / Roxie - Tammy Wall

Tammy has been choreographer for Welwyn Thaliens for many shows and always rises to the challenge of producing innovative and exciting routines. In Chicago she has found THE show to choreograph and has pulled out every trick in the book to be in this show from Bob Fosse Jazz routines through to comedy and circus and look out for the Busby Berkeley special.

ACT 1

Overture - Orchestra
 All That Jazz - Velma Kelly and Company
 Funny Honey - Roxie Hart, Amos Hart, Sergeant Fogarty
 Cell Block Tango - Velma and the Girls
 When You're Good to Mama - Matron "Mama" Morton
 We Want Billy / All I Care About is Love - Billy Flynn and the Girls
 A Little Bit of Good - Mary Sunshine
 We Both Reached for the Gun - Billy, Roxie, Mary Sunshine and Company
 Roxie - Roxie and Boys
 I Can't Do It Alone - Velma Kelly
 Chicago After Midnight - Orchestra
 My Own Best Friend - Roxie and Velma

ACT 2

I know a Girl - Velma
 Me and My Baby - Roxie and Company
 Mr Cellophane - Amos
 When Velma Takes the Stand - Velma Kelly
 Razzle Dazzle - Billy Flynn and the Girls
 Class - Velma and Mama
 Nowadays - Roxie
 Finale - Nowadays /R.S.V.P / Keep it Hot - Roxie , Velma and Company

The Band

Daniel Ephgrave - Musical Director/
 Piano 2
 Tom Knowles - Piano
 Nathan Harding - Reed 1
 Jenny Akroyd - Reed 2
 Dan Wild - Drums
 Richard Jackson - Violin

Cast

Velma Kelly - Sera Dinmore
Roxie Hart - Tammy Wall
Billy Flynn - Carl Robinson
Matron Mama Morton - Kat Foxworthy
Amos Hart - Chris White
Mary Sunshine - Amanda Sayers

Hunyak - Jade Marriott
Liz - Jess Kolthammer
Annie - Josie Melton
June - Nicola Anne Clift
Mona - Melanie Plowman-Cobb

Go To Hell Kitty - Victoria Polydorou
Fred Casely/Harry - Tom Beirne
Fogarty - Peter Sayers
Harrison/Aaron/Announcer - Adam Beckman
Judge/Doctor - Martin Lester
Clerk - Bex White
Juror - Louise Bateman
Reporter 1 - Alison Lilly
Reporter 2 - Susan Read
Ensemble - Alison Downes, MJ Scott, Karen Bertram

Crew

Production Managers - Amanda Sayers and Rachael Betts
Stage Manager - Vinnie Clemmens
Lighting - Clifton Hoyle
Costumes - Yvonne Bartlett, Tammy Wall and Louise Bateman
Props - Nick Baker and Vanessa Baker
Set construction - Tim Spink and Martin Lester
Rehearsal pianist - Laura McHugh
Stage design and concept by Clive Dancey
Social Media Marketing - Tamsin Goodwin-Connelly
Rehearsal tracks hired from Right on Cue Services
Thanks to Haberdashers School and The Barn Theatre for the loan
of various props

The Principles



Sera Dinmore - Velma Kelly

Sera originally hails from upstate New York, USA and has recently retired from a 25 year professional career in Classical Ballet and Musical Theatre. She has been featured in such works as Swan Lake, La Bayadere and Giselle, Cabaret, Pippin, West Side Story, A Chorus Line and Tommy. Most recently Sera was Sister Sarah In "Guys & dolls", Madame DeFarge in "A Tale of Two Cities", Shelby in "Steel Magnolias" and Georgia in "Curtains". Sera is privileged to be making her debut as Velma Kelly with the Welwyn Thaliens.



Tammy Wall - Roxie Hart/Choreographer

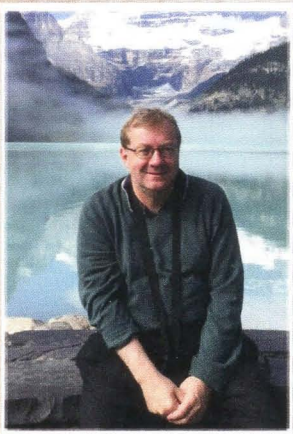
Accredited by The Royal Academy of Music, LAMDA and The Royal Academy of Dance, Tammy sings professionally with a vintage vocal harmony trio called 'The Rebelles' and also coaches children in Musical Theatre for various stage schools.

Theatre Credits include: Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors, Sharon in Slice of Saturday Claire in Made in Dagenham, Charity in Sweet Charity, Eliza in My Fair Lady, Nancy in Oliver, Miss Bell in Fame, Emma in Tell Me on a Sunday, and most recently in the critically acclaimed one woman show 'Good Girl' by Naomi Sheldon.



Carl Robinson - Billy Flynn

This is Carl's second show with Thaliens having appeared in Guys and Dolls a few years ago. He has thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone in the cast and production team, remembering that we should be having "fun" the rehearsals have been just that. Carl mostly works with Harpenden Musical Theatre Company and St. Albans Musical Theatre Company having appeared in South Pacific (Billis), Oliver (Fagin), Crazy for You (Zangler), West side story (Gladhand) and many more over the past 12 years. He hopes you enjoy his take on Billy Flynn, playing the part of an arrogant man is not easy!



Chris White - Amos Hart

Chris is an active member of the Barn Theatre, when not on stage, he can usually be found standing in the middle of a muddy field with a woolly hat and a camera.

The Principles (cont.)



Katherine Foxworthy - Matron Mama Morton

Katherine Foxworthy is delighted to be playing Matron Mama Morton, in her 4th production with the society. Katherine has been performing from the age of 8 and now runs a performing arts school as well as a community theatre & production company called "KatsAct". Katherine worked professionally in tv, film and theatre before finding a passion in working in schools with children with disabilities.



Amanda Sayers - Mary Sunshine.

Amanda's usual role is of Director producing musicals, but she loves returning to the stage when she can. She was in 'Steel Magnolias', in which she gave a moving portrayal as the mother of a dying girl and in 'Brassed Off', as the feisty wife of a striking miner. She also achieved notable success as the wicked witch Carabosse in 'Sleeping Beauty', frightening many children in the process! Recently she had a demanding role in 'The Diary of Anne Frank' playing Mrs Van Daan, a member of a Jewish family in hiding from the Nazis during the Second World War.

THE CELL BLOCK GIRLS



Jade Marriott, Jess Kolthammer, Josie Melton, Nicola Anne Clift, Melanie Plowman-Cobb



THE BOYS

Pete Sayers - Fogarty
Adam Beckman - Conductor
Tom Beirne - Fred Casely

A note from the director

' the celebrity criminal '

'CHICAGO' The musical is based on a 1926 play of the same name by Maurine Dallas Watkins who was a journalist at this time and wrote about her experiences with criminals and crimes she actually reported on.

The show, penned by Kander and Ebb, took a satirical look at the play and turned it into the musical, CHICAGO.

Underneath all the well known showtunes and dances and all-round showbiz the story went on to tell the stories of Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart and to celebrate their ascendance to the titles of ' celebrity criminals '.

CHICAGO

From the moment I was approached to direct this show I wanted to look it from a 'real' point of view. I wanted to look at the reasons why these women did what they did.

Were they pushed too far or are they justified in what they did ?

There is a danger of this show becoming all about the dance or the big 'numbers' we all know like 'cell block tango' but I wanted to get back to basics .. to what Kander and Ebb were saying when they wrote this show. They took a satirical look at the world of the 'celebrity criminal' but threw in moments that challenge the whole concept. There are moments of glamour , thriller and comedy but most of all I believe there is an undertone in this show emphasizing the way ' murder ' has become 'glamourized' by the press.

In 2020 we devour programmes about prison life , we love the fiction of 'Orange is the new Black' but we also love the factual stories like 'Making a Murderer' and we indulge in these fascinating stories that are told behind the steel prison gates.

Our production

I have been so privileged to work with so many talented performers from throughout the Hertfordshire area. Their skills in dance, singing and performance are second to none and the ability to convey the story through all these mediums has moved this show on in leaps and bounds.

Thank you all for the experience, the support, the energy, the commitment and the pure guts to perform this show.

I hope you all enjoy the show as much as i have enjoyed working with you all and putting it together.