



# my fair lady

Books and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Music by Frederick Lowe

**Welwyn Thaliens Musical and Dramatic Society**



**Campus West Theatre  
Programme**



By Arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Limited of New York.  
Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "PYGMALION"  
Affiliated to NODA

# Welwyn Thaliens Musical And Dramatic Society



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## **LIFE MEMBERS**

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| Mrs Joan Watts     | Mrs Vanessa Baker |                   |

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

|                       |                                                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman:             | Vincent Clemmens                                      |
| Vice Chairman:        | Angela Dunham                                         |
| Treasurer:            | Angela Monaghan                                       |
| Secretary:            | Samantha McRae                                        |
| Committee:            | Peter Dunham, Amanda Sayers,<br>Tammy Wall, Tim Spink |
| Membership Secretary: | Gillian Shaw                                          |

# *My Fair Lady*

Prof Henry Higgins – a bachelor and recognised professor of language and phonetics is prowling the streets of London, recording local spoken dialects. He is noting down the conversations of a cockney flower girl 'Eliza Doolittle' when he is discovered by the local street goers and mistaken for a police detective (a "tec"). This encounter leads to a chance meeting with 'Col. Hugh Pickering' also a noted British linguist just back from India. Higgins boasts to Pickering that he could transform the unrefined, dirty, cockney flower girl (Eliza) into a refined Victorian lady and pass her off at any high society social function as a member of the aristocracy. Pickering proposes a wager with Higgins that he can't do it. Ignoring the emotional effect this may have on the girl and the consequence of what to do with her when they have finished, Higgins accepts. Eliza, full of pride and misunderstanding, turns up on Henry's door step and offers to pay for her tuition and unknowingly becoming their test case. Eliza hopes that once tutored she will be able to work in a shop however, all fail to foresee what is to become of her. Eliza's father (Alfred P. Doolittle) another cockney with a gift for rhetoric upon hearing of Eliza's 'turn of fortune' expresses his concern to Higgins but even with the conflicting realities of social injustice, turns a blind eye in favour of a small sum of money.

After many weeks of hard work, long hours and little sleep, to every one's joy and relief, the transformation takes place. Ascot is chosen as the venue to test Eliza where Mrs Higgins (Henry's mother) has a race course box where she invites all her aristocratic friends. Mrs Higgins is shocked when she hears her son is bringing a common flower girl to Ascot, but, after their introduction, Mrs Higgins mother takes a shine to Eliza as does Freddy Eynsford-Hill, a young gentleman who falls madly in love with Eliza. Freddy is so besotted with Eliza that he camps outside Higgins house just to be 'on the street where she lives'. Henry Higgins thus wins the wager but what now becomes of Eliza as Henry has grown accustomed to her face and can't contemplate life without her presence.

The musical "My Fair Lady" is based on the book *Pygmalion* - a classic book written by George Bernard Shaw, a writer very local to Welwyn – living in Ayot St. Laurence. Shaw's *Pygmalion* retells a myth by Ovid, in which a man creates and falls in love with a female statue. The goddess of love takes pity on the man, and brings the statue to life. "My Fair Lady" turns a drama of mythological weight into a light hearted musical comedy.

When George Bernard Shaw wrote *Pygmalion*, nearly a century ago, no one could have predicted his play would eventually be converted into one of the great musicals of our time.

"The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it. They spell it so abominably that no man can teach himself what it sounds like"

**-George Bernard Shaw (born Dublin 1856)**

"My Fair Lady" made theatre history when it opened on Broadway. Waiting for tickets to see a show was something unheard of for a musical. The original stage cast included Julie Andrews (as Eliza), Rex Harrison (as Higgins) and Stanley Holloway (as Alfred P Doolittle)

## *A Word From our Chairman - Vincent Clemmens*

Good evening. Firstly I would like to welcome you to this years show and give my thanks for supporting The Welwyn Thaliens. As you sit here looking through the programme, take a moment to think of all the hard work that has gone into producing a show like this. The months of rehearsals, the hours spent learning lines and the work put in back stage. The week of performances seems to fly past and it all seems over in such a short time. But the sense of achievement and the great fun had by all makes it worth while. I would like to give my thanks all those involved in this show. To Mandy Sayers and Angela Dunham for their hard work in directing the show, Peter Farrell our musical director, Richard Boaste our lighting designer and all the cast members, principals and ensemble, as well as all the back stage crew beavering away unseen (hopefully). If you have ever thought about giving community theatre a try we are always pleased to see new members. If you fancy stepping up in front of the footlights or helping behind the scenes then contact our membership secretary Jill Shaw (Details on the back of this programme) . We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at the Thaliens Hall in Bridge Road East opposite B&Q. Who knows next year it could be your name in lights. Enjoy the show.

### *Our Two "Fair" Ladies*

#### **Directors**

#### **Angela Dunham & Amanda Sayers**

Angela's last singing role with the Thaliens was Madam Glavari in *The Merry Widow* after that she spent 18 years singing professionally before returning to the Thaliens in a directors role for shows like *Oliver*, *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma* and *The King and I* - just to name a few. Angela remembers playing Eliza herself, so armed with this first hand experience it is a pleasure to see Angela team up with her daughter Mandy in a co-directors role to bring you this fabulous show.

Mandy starred in many past Thalian Productions such as Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Nancy in *Oliver* but has also been a regular director with the Society for the last ten years. By her own admission Mandy prefers to take the reins for the more unusual shows and her talents in this sphere have resulted in some truly memorable productions such as *Jack the Ripper*, *Cabaret* and *The Hot Mikado*. Her most recent appearance was starring as Annie Oakley opposite husband Peter in *Annie Get Your Gun*.



#### **Musical Director - Peter Farrell**

Peter graduated from the The Royal Academy of Music in 1975 and has enjoyed a professional career in music ever since both performing and teaching from jazz to Beethoven. Peter is an extremely talented performer who became our MD in 1985 and has continued his very successful relationship with us ever since.





## **Tammy Wall - Eliza Doolittle**

**Musical Theatre:** Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz*; Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*; Gladys in *Pajama Game*; Mary Kelly in *Jack the Ripper*; Erma in *Anything Goes*; Sally in *Bowles Cabaret*; Charity in *Sweet Charity*; Lois/Bianca in *Kiss me Kate*; Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Winnie in *Annie get your Gun*; Nellie in *South Pacific*; Miss Bell in *Fame*; Sharon in *Slice of Saturday Night*; Miranda in *Forbidden Planet*; Pitti-Sing in *Hot Mikado*; Bet in *Oliver*; Calamity in *Calamity Jane*.

**Ensemble:** Broadway Pirates; Lead Vocalist in *Godspell*; *Fame*; *Guys & Dolls*; *War of the Worlds* (Minack Theatre).

**Plays (Barn Theatre) :-** Caitlin O'Hare in *Over the River and through the Woods*; Bridget in *Safari Party*; Ensemble in *Under Milkwood*

**Workshops :** Andrew Lloyd Webber's BBC's *Search for a Dorothy*.

## **Peter Sayers - Prof. Henry Higgins**

Peter has appeared with The Thaliens since 1999. His many leads include Curly in *Oklahoma*, Sky Masterson in *Guys & Dolls*, Billy in *Anything Goes* and of course the Cowardly Lion in our production of *The Wizard of Oz*. His favourite part to date was as the sinister M.C. in *Cabaret*. Whilst his most demanding was Petrucio in *Kiss me Kate*. Peter's most recent appearances were Emile de Beque in *South Pacific* and Koko in *The Hot Mikado* and sure shot Wild Bill Hickock in *Calamity Jane*.



## **Peter Dunham - Col. Hugh Pickering**

Peter's first show with the Thaliens was *Vagabond King* in 1957 where as the villain of the piece, he only lasted half way through the first act !

This time as Colonel Pickering he does hang on to the second act (obviously getting much better with age !) although does again mysteriously disappear half way through the second act.

## **Terry Cull - Alfred P. Doolittle**

Terry has been with the society since 1996 and has played a variety of leads including Will Parker in *Oklahoma*, The Scarecrow in the *Wizard of Oz*, Herr Schultz in *Cabaret* and, his favourite character, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. More recently you may have seen Terry as the Major General in *Pirates of Penzance*, Mushnick in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Luther Bissett in *South Pacific*. Terry is also a regular in the Thaliens Old Time Music Hall Productions.



## **Andy Hill - Freddy Eynsford-Hill**

After many years away from the stage, Andy was tempted back on stage last year to play in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. From that to this show he has also managed to fit in a role as an English officer in *Translations*, the narrator for *Under Milkwood* and also played at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall (with a musical solo !) We welcome Andy to his first show with the Thaliens.



### **Gillian Shaw – Mrs Pearce**

Gill joined the Thaliens in 1987 and has appeared in nearly every show since joining. Gill has also served for many years on the Committee only recently standing down to serve as Membership Secretary. Gill's first principal role was Sue Smith in *No No Nannette* followed by Mabel, the log suffering secretary in *Pajama Game* and Annie Chapman in *Jack the Ripper* where she met an unfortunate grizzly end! Her favourite role was as Glinda in *The Wizard Of Oz*.

### **Anne Woolmington – Mrs Higgins**

Anne has performed many times with the Thaliens including the Old Time Music Hall. Anne is also been a member of the barn Theatre which she has been for over 40 years. This is her second appearance in *My Fair Lady* with the Thaliens – now being promoted from Mr Pearce to Mrs Higgins.



### **Dot Lutkin - Mrs Eynsford-Hill**

Dot joined the Thaliens in 1978. Her first performance was in *South Pacific* but her most loved show is *Oliver*. Dot has also played many a time in the travelling music hall and has also supported the society in various non stage roles - front of house, costumes and props. A fabulous all rounder we thank for her hard work and good all round talent.

### **Brian King (MBE) – Zoltan Karparthy**

In the realms of the performing arts Brian is very well known. Brian joined the Thaliens in 1967. His most enjoyed part was playing Kipps in *Half a Six pence*. Brian has also spent 30 years as a producer with the Welwyn Wailers and the Hatfield gang shows. Brian is a very well known face around Old Welwyn, mainly for his charity work with Danesbury. In 2004, Brian was awarded an MBE for Services to the Community.



### **Nick Baker & Tim Spink – Harry & Jamie**

Nick joined the Thaliens in 1981 to do *Iolanthe* after 'discovering' Gilbert & Sullivan at school. His next Thaliens show was *My Fair Lady*, also in 1981, where he met his future wife Vanessa (who is responsible for creating and sourcing the props). Both of Nick and Vanessa's children (now grown up) have performed in Thaliens productions.

Tim's first show was last year in *Calamity Jane* where he expected to be in the chorus but actually played Joe the bar man (set em up Joe !!). Tim joined initially just to support his son but liked it so much he stayed on. Tim also appeared in this years Old Time Music Hall.

## *The place is London, the time – 1912*

### ----- ACT I -----

|          |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scene 1  | Outside the opera house, Covent Garden              | Why can't the English (Higgins)<br>Wouldn't it be lovely (Eliza)                                                                                 |
| Scene 2  | A tenement section, Tottenham                       | With a little bit of luck (Doolittle, Harry<br>& Jamie)                                                                                          |
| Scene 3  | Higgins study, The next day                         | I'm an ordinary man (Higgins)                                                                                                                    |
| Scene 4  | A tenement section,<br>mid-day, several weeks later | Little bit of luck - Reprise (Doolittle &<br>Ensemble)                                                                                           |
| Scene 5  | Higgins study, Later that afternoon                 | Just you wait (Eliza)<br>The servant chorus (Servants)<br>The rain in Spain (Higgins, Eliza, Pickering)<br>I could have danced all night (Eliza) |
| Scene 6  | Outside Ascot, A Judy afternoon                     |                                                                                                                                                  |
| Scene 7  | Inside Ascot, Immediately following                 | Ascot gavotte (Full ensemble)<br>End of gavotte (Full ensemble)                                                                                  |
| Scene 8  | Outside Higgins House, Wimpole street               | On the street where you live (Freddy)                                                                                                            |
| Scene 9  | Higgins study, the evening six weeks later          |                                                                                                                                                  |
| Scene 10 | Transylvanian Embassy Prom.                         |                                                                                                                                                  |

### ----- ACT 2 -----

|         |                                      |                                                                                                         |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scene 1 | Transylvanian Embassy Ballroom       |                                                                                                         |
| Scene 2 | Higgins study, 3:00am in the morning | You did it (Higgins, Pickering, Mrs Pearce<br>& Servants)                                               |
| Scene 3 | Outside Higgins house                | On the street where you live Reprise (Freddy)<br>Show me (Eliza)                                        |
| Scene 4 | Flower market, Covent Garden – Early | Wouldn't it be lovely - Reprise (Eliza & men)<br>Get me to the church on time (Doolittle<br>& Ensemble) |
| Scene 5 | Upstairs hall of Higgins house       | Hymn to him (Higgins)                                                                                   |
| Scene 6 | The garden of Mrs Higgins house      | Without you (Higgins & Eliza)                                                                           |
| Scene 7 | Outside Higgins house                | I've grown accustomed to your face (Higgins)                                                            |
| Scene 8 | Higgins study                        |                                                                                                         |

## Cast of Characters

|                          |                  |                              |            |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Eliza Doolittle</i>   | Tammy Wall       | <i>Freddy Eynesford-Hill</i> | Andy Hill  |
| <i>Professor Higgins</i> | Peter Sayers     | <i>Mrs. Eynesford-Hill</i>   | Dot Lutkin |
| <i>Colonel Pickering</i> | Peter Dunham     | <i>Zoltan Karparthy</i>      | Brian King |
| <i>Alfred Doolittle</i>  | Terry Cull       | <i>Jamie</i>                 | Tim Spink  |
| <i>Mrs. Pearce</i>       | Gillian Shaw     | <i>Harry</i>                 | Nick Baker |
| <i>Mrs. Higgins</i>      | Anne Woolmington |                              |            |

### Servants

Alison Downes, Samantha McRae; Angela Monaghan; Jackie Radford; Hannah Maxwell, Emma Kemble-Fox, Speciosa Nakavuma

### Ensemble

Louise Bateman, Roisin Bateman, Keira Bateman, Stevie Gibbs; Mary Ferrie, Colleen Town, William Maxwell, Alan Gibbs, Graham Bird, Nathan Molyneux, Martin Desmond, Richard Eden

## Production Crew

|                             |                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Production Directors        | Angela Dunham & Amanda Sayers                                                    |
| Production Manager          | Vin Clemmens                                                                     |
| Musical Director            | Peter Farrell                                                                    |
| Choreographer               | Samantha McRae                                                                   |
| Dance Captain               | Mary Ferrie                                                                      |
| Stage Manager               | Vincent Clemmens                                                                 |
| Assistant Stage Manager     | Frances Green                                                                    |
| Stage Crew                  | Jon Marsh MBE, Peter Chenery, John Thorn, Rob Clemmens, Chris Love, Wendy Tormey |
| Properties Manager          | Vanessa Baker                                                                    |
| Properties Team             | Katherine Brassett                                                               |
| Sound                       | Alex Dugdale                                                                     |
| Lighting Design             | Richard Boaste                                                                   |
| Costumes                    | Theatrical Costumehouse (Westcliff) Ltd.                                         |
| Campus West Theatre manager | Mark Woolman                                                                     |
| Capus West Chief Technician | Andy Pye                                                                         |

## Orchestra

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Conductor  | Peter Farrell          |
| Flute      | Clare Taylor           |
| Clarinets  | Andrew Pummell         |
|            | Pat Light              |
| Oboe       | Isobel Naylor          |
| Bassoon    | Rebecca Maclean        |
| Trumpets   | Ellie Morgan           |
|            | Tim Welch              |
| Trombone   | Ian Daniels            |
| Horn       | Simon Cove             |
| Violins    | Helen Sanders - Hewett |
|            | Angela Pulsford        |
|            | Pam Davies             |
| Viola      | Tom Ried               |
| Cello      | Rosemary Leak          |
| Bass       | Peter Neville          |
| Percussion | Chris Gray             |



***Welwyn Thaliens*** - were formed in 1929 from a merger with two other amateur societies, the Barnstormers (drama) and the Operatic Society (music). The Old Welwyn Theatre in Parkway, later the Embassy Cinema, was the first venue. Most of the early shows were Gilbert and Sullivan Productions. Dame Flora Robson, an early and active supporter, can still be remembered sweeping down the aisles. In those days ticket prices were 2/4d to 5/9d and a special London train, the 10.52 pm, was put on to take patrons back to the city. The society's first producer was A W Richardson and it wasn't long before musical shows and 'straight' plays poured out in succession while the reputation of the Thaliens grew. A large scale production of *St Joan* was reported favourably at length in the Daily Telegraph no less. Festival triumphs took the society as far as America, where the 'Lord Howard De Warden Cup' was won with *Not This Man* by Sidney Box. The Thaliens were also first at the Letchworth Festival. Before closing down for the duration in 1939 they presented the world premier of *Castles in the Air* written for the society by Sidney Box and Montgomery Tully with music by May H Brahe. This South American Romance starred Mildred Thompson in her debut as a dark haired senorita. Her great Grandchildren appear in this show today. After the war, in 1947, the Thaliens were back in business with *The Gondoliers* and continued filling the Welwyn Theatre until in 1962 when, after a successful opening performance of *Carousel*, a fire broke out and the stage was destroyed. The members pulled together and the remaining performances were completed at a local school. When the Campus West Theatre opened the Society moved in and has been performing here ever since. Tempting and nostalgic as it is to glance back over such successful years it is really the future we must face. Theatre is struggling to compete with life's modern age of TV and Film, however, the "real" experience the theatre gives is unrivalled. We have a lot of fun rehearsing for these shows and performing live is to experience real living. We hope you enjoy the show and **we thank you for your loyal support.**

### ***Recent Past Productions***

|      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 1996 | West Side Story        |
| 1997 | Godspell               |
| 1997 | Fiddler On The Roof    |
| 1998 | The Boyfriend          |
| 1998 | The Wizard Of Oz       |
| 1999 | No No Nannet           |
| 1999 | Oliver                 |
| 2000 | Oh What A Lovely War   |
| 2000 | Oklahoma               |
| 2001 | The Pajama Game        |
| 2001 | Guys And Dolls         |
| 2002 | Jack The Ripper        |
| 2002 | Anything Goes          |
| 2003 | Cabaret                |
| 2003 | The Wizard Of Oz       |
| 2004 | Call Me Madam          |
| 2004 | Sweet Charity          |
| 2005 | Pirates Of Penzance    |
| 2005 | Kiss Me Kate           |
| 2006 | Little Shop Of Horrors |
| 2006 | Annie Get Your Gun     |
| 2007 | South Pacific          |
| 2008 | The Hot Mikado         |
| 2009 | Calamity Jane          |

# Lets all go to the Music Hall



**Welwyn Thaliens will be performing a full length Musical Show at their new club premises in Bridge Road East to raise funds for the Society. Full supper included. Book early to avoid disappointment.**

**Performing is fun.** If you liked the show and fancy having a go then why not come down and see. We meet Mondays and Thursday evenings at the New Thalian Hall right opposite B & Q in Bridge Road East. For further details contact our wonderful membership secretary Gill Shaw Tel: 01707 334929.

The Welwyn Thaliens travelling Music Hall Show is available for functions and fund raising events. A most entertaining performing spectacular of 1 to 2 hours in length which can be tailored to meet your requirements and venue. For details of rates and availability please ring Peter Dunham on 01707 333318.

The cost of performing musical shows has risen considerably in the last few years to such a degree that amateur societies such as ourselves rely heavily on income from ticket sales to remain solvent. Unfortunately in recent years there has been a steady decline at the box office which, if it continues, could jeopardise future productions.

**If you have enjoyed tonight's show then please tell your friends and encourage them to buy tickets and support us for this and future performances.** If you feel you are able to assist financially in the way of sponsorship or advertising for future shows please contact Peter Dunham on 01707 333318.

## *MFL Trivia*

[Jeremy Brett](#), who plays Freddy celebrated his 30th birthday during filming. He was very surprised to learn that all of his singing was to be dubbed by a 42-year-old American named [Bill Shirley](#), especially since his own singing voice at that time was remarkably good. (No dubbing in this show !!)

[James Cagney](#) was originally offered the role of Alfred Doolittle. When he pulled out at the last minute, it went to [Stanley Holloway](#) (I just can't image James Cagney signing I'm getting married in the morning through his teeth !!)

[Audrey Hepburn](#)'s singing voice is dubbed by [Marni Nixon](#) except for the first part of "Just You Wait, Henry Higgins" When the song heads into the soprano range Nixon takes over vocals. Hepburn sings the last 30 seconds of the song as well as the brief reprise. She also sings the sing-talking parts for "The Rain in Spain". Overall, as Hepburn reportedly said, about 90% of her singing was dubbed. That was far more than she expected.

My Fair Lady was the final film of veteran actor [Henry Daniell](#), who is unbilled as The Ambassador. He died of a heart attack on 31 October 1963, just hours after completing the dress ball sequences.

[Audrey Hepburn](#) announced the assassination of Pres. [John F. Kennedy](#) to the devastated cast and crew immediately after filming the number "Wouldn't It be Lovely?" on the Covent Garden set on 22 November 1963.

About twenty minutes before the end, Colonel Pickering offers to go off and find the missing Eliza. He exits the library set - and is never seen again!!!

[Jack Warner](#) originally didn't want [Rex Harrison](#) to reprise his stage role as Higgins for the film version, since he had seen [Cleopatra](#) (1963) and thought the actor looked too old to be believable as [Audrey Hepburn](#)'s love interest. [Peter O'Toole](#) was considered for the role but his salary demands were too high. [Cary Grant](#) was offered the role but turned it down. Harrison responded in a letter to Warner that he had only looked old as [Gaius Julius Caesar](#) because he had been playing an epileptic at the end of his life, and after sending some publicity photographs of himself - minus his toupee - he was eventually cast.

[Julie Andrews](#) was the first choice for the role of Eliza Doolittle, but Warner Brothers, which had paid \$5 million for the rights to the musical, didn't want to risk a stage actress in the central role of a \$17-million film – It went to Audrey Hepburn.

Because of the way [Rex Harrison](#) talked his way through the musical numbers, they were unable to prerecord them and have him lip-sync. A wireless microphone (one of the first ever developed) was rigged up and hidden under his tie. However, this meant that his mouth and words were completely in sync when everyone else's looked off, since they were lip-syncing (when everyone is lip-syncing, it's not that noticeable) The studio thought that this was too obvious so they altered Harrison's soundtrack, lengthening and shortening notes in various places so that his synchronicity is slightly off like all the other actors.

The original Broadway production of *My Fair Lady* opened at the [Mark Hellinger](#) Theater in New York on March 15, 1956, and ran for 2717 performances, which was, at the time, the longest run a Broadway show had ever had.