

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Oklahoma!

Music by Richard Rodgers, Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs.
Original dances by Agnes de Mille. An amateur production by arrangement with R&H Theatricals Europe.



A Welwyn Thaliens Production

Registered Charity 274707. Affiliated to NODA



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Committee:

Peter Dunham, Amanda Sayers,
Tammy Wall, Tim Spink
& Avril Robinson

Membership Secretary: Gillian Shaw

Nora Jackson - We would like to dedicate this production to Nora Jackson who was a keen member and supporter of the Welwyn Thaliens who sadly passed away this year. Her credits include: Aunt Em in Wizard of Oz, Mrs Harcourt in Anything Goes and Aunt Eller in Oklahoma. She will be sadly missed.

Time: Summer 1906

Place: Indian Territory - Oklahoma

Act 1

Scene 1: The Front of the Farmhouse

Scene 2: The Smoke House

Scene 3: A Grove on the Farm

Act 2

Scene 1: The Skidmore Ranch

Scene 2: Skidmore's Kitchen Porch

Scene 3: On the Road Between the Skidmore Ranch and the Farmhouse

Scene 4: The Back of the Farmhouse

The name Oklahoma is based on the Choctaw Indian words *okla humma* which translates as "red people" ?

Principals



Maureen Davies – Aunt Eller

This is Maureen's first big role with the Thalias and what a role it is. Aunt Eller glues the whole show together making this a very tough part to play. Maureen brings a lot of character and vibrance to the show and keeps all us cowboys in check !!



Louise Bateman – Miss Laurey Williams

Louise is one of the funniest girls in the society, always keeping us laughing with a strong Irish wit. Louise has been in many productions, with Little Shop Of Horrors being her most outstanding role so far. This is Louise's first Principal role. Listen out for those lovely soft Irish tones.



Tammy Wall – Ado Annie

Tammy is one of our best leading ladies and has played many diverse roles in so many shows: Audrey in Little shop, Nancy in Oliver, Eliza in My Fair Lady, Calamity in Calamity Jane – A very talented girl next to appear in Annie.



Elle-Louise Berrie – Gertie

This is Elle's first show with the Thalias. Elle brings so much energy to the show, especially to this part with giggling Gertie. Look out for the fight scene between Jud and Curly – all Choreographed by Elle.

www.welwynthalias.com

Principals



Simon Latter – Curly McClain

Simon played this part for the Letchworth Arcadians and we were so impressed that we asked him to lead our show. Simon has a great voice and brings a lot of character to this part. Simon's charming personality is perfect for this role.



Tim Spink – Will Parker

Tim says the show is at its best when he's off stage !!lol I don't believe it. He loves playing the part of Will Parker, a dumb, fun loving cowboy completely stuck on Ado Annie. Go get her Will !!



Peter Sayers – Jud Fry

Peter has been with the Thaliens for many years and has played many lead roles. Quick witted, jovial and an eye for detail Peter is as sharp off stage as on it. Playing this role is Peter's chance to show us his darker side.



Barney Shergold – Ali Hackim

This is Barney's second show with Thaliens (last year he played Harry the Horse in Guys & Dolls) but he's been on the amateur stage for over 20 years. Ali is a part he's always wanted to play and is very happy to be performing with such a great cast.



Ray Beckman – Andrew Carnes

Ray's usual interests are sports (golf, tennis, cricket). This is his second year in "Am dram" after playing Big Jule in Guys and Dolls. A big fella with a real deep voice !!

Fund Raising Opportunity For Your Charity

IF YOU WORK FOR A FUND RAISING ORGANISATION AND WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A SPECTACULAR FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY THEN READ ON....

For Six days in May 2017 ...The Welwyn Thalias will be showing an "Evening of Entertainment" at their hall in Welwyn Garden City. This is a musical show celebrating 8 decades of the Welwyn Thalias. This event is aimed at fund raising for your charity. There are 96 tickets available each night. We provide the theatre venue in Welwyn Garden City, the show, the fish and chip dinner and 96 tickets at a very reduced price for your charity to sell at your own price. If you are interested please call Tim Spink on 01438 717569.

Oklahoma Musical Film Trivia

1. Gloria Grahame who played Ado Annie was tone deaf. She sang without dubbing which required her songs to be edited together from recordings literally note by note.
2. Finding "corn as high as an elephant's eye" proved a challenge since filming was out of season. The University of Arizona Agricultural Department planted each stalk in individual pots and with rain and good luck the corn grew to a height of 16 feet.
3. The song "Kansas City" was edited for the film to be "I could swear that she was padded from her shoulders to her heel. And then she started dancing and her dancing made me feel that every single thing she had was absolutely real." – Which doesn't really make sense. In this play Will sings the original script - which is slightly more raunchy.
4. The scene in "Many a New Day", where the blonde "Goon Girl" Lizanne Truex rests her head on the shoulder of Shirley Jones, Director Fred Zinnemann was unhappy with the way the girls gathered around Ms. Jones. It took **43 takes** before Fred was happy!!

Oklahoma – Synopsis

Time: Summer 1906

Place: Indian Territory (became Oklahoma in late 1906)

In the Oklahoma territory at the turn of the twentieth century, two young cowboys vie with an evil ranch hand and a traveling peddler for the hearts of the women they love.

On a small farmstead, just outside the town of Claremore, this musical tells the romantic story of two couples. Cowboy Curly McLain who has eyes firmly set for farm girl Laurey Williams and cowboy Will Parker who is besotted by his flirtatious fiancée Ado Annie. Laurey is a young girl living on a farm with aunt Eller. There is another living on the farm, a hard working but slightly sinister hired hand Jud. Curley and Laurey both have trouble admitting their feelings for each other. Curley is fixed on taking “Miss Laurey Williams” to the Box social dance but Laurey is playing very hard to get and this gets her into serious trouble when she accepts an invitation from Jud to take her to the dance. This leads to all sorts of problems. Together, she and Curley have to do something to save their relationship and keep Jud from doing something terrible. Woven into this plot is the life of Ado Annie and her goings on with boyfriend Will Parker and smooth talking peddler Ali Hakim. Will has just returned from Kansas City having won fifty dollars cash in a competition. Ado Annie’s father has promised Will that if he can raise 50 dollars cash then he can have her. However, Will turns this into a complicated matter as he keeps inadvertently spending the money. Also Ado Annie has eyes for the smooth talking Persian peddler Ali Hakim who is always trying to take her to a hotel in Claremore where they will find “paradise”. She mistakes this to be a marriage proposal and then even more problems ensue. Does Curley get the girl of his dreams and does Ado Annie take up with Will or run away with the peddler? A fabulous musical with very well known songs like “Oh what a beautiful morning”, “Many a New Day”, “I’m Just a Girl Who Can’t Say No”, “All or Nuthin”, “Kansas City” and of course “Oklahoma”.

Show Characters

Maureen Davies
Simon Latter
Louise Bateman
Tim Spink
Tammy Wall
Barry Shergold
Peter Sayers
Ray Beckman
Elle-Louise Berrie
Brian King
Vincent Clemmens
Martin Lester
Gillian Shaw
Angela Monaghan

Aunt Eller
Curly McClain
Laurey Williams
Will Parker
Ado Annie Carnes
Ali Hackim
Jud Fry
Andrew Carnes
Gertie Cummings
Fred
Ike Skidmore
Slim
Ellen
Kate

Ensemble

Vikki Colins, Jane Thom, Lauren Ryan, Colleen Town, Jodie Mardlin, Adam Simmons, Vincent Clemmens, Tina Ravera, Chris Blyth, Peter Dunham & Avril Robinson

 **Putteridge Bury**
GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY
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By W S Gilbert & Sir Arthur Sullivan



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The Queen Mother Theatre
Walsworth Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9SP

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WELWYN HATFIELD

Past and Future Productions

2000	Oklahoma	2006	Annie Get Your Gun
2001	The Pajama Game	2007	South Pacific
2001	Guys and Dolls	2008	Hot Mikado
2002	Jack the Ripper	2009	Calamity Jane
2002	Anything Goes	2010	My Fair Lady
2003	Cabaret	2011	Half A Sixpence
2003	The Wizard Of Oz	2012	Fiddler on the Roof
2004	Call Me Madam	2013	Oliver
2004	Sweet Charity	2014	Little Shop of Horrors
2005	Pirates of Penzance	2015	Guys and Dolls
2005	Kiss Me Kate	2016	Oklahoma
2006	Little Shop of Horrors	2017	White Christmas



Welwyn Thaliens – A Short History

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 premiere 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. 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 Hawthorne theatre opened the Society moved in and have been performing happily there with many a good production ever since.

Performing is Fun

Don't delay – Join today We meet on Monday and Thursday evenings at the new Thaliens Hall directly opposite B&Q in Bridge Road East. For further details contact our wonderful membership secretary Gill Shaw Tel: 01707 334929

Production

Production Director	Amanda Sayers
Production Assistant	Avril Robinson
Choreography	Amanda Sayers, Alison Downes, Tammy Wall
Fight Choreographer	Elle-Louise Berrie
Musical Director	Peter Farrell
Stage Manager	Jackie Radford
Assistant Stage Manager	Alison Downes
Stage Crew	John Thorn, Mike Smith, Simon Payne (Hawthorne)
Costumes,	Tammy Wall & Jane Thom
Prompt	Angela Dunham
Properties Manager	Vanessa Baker
Properties Team	Katherine Brassett & India Mason-Mills
Lighting Design	Cameron Biggs
Lighting Operator	Rose Oldershaw
Sound Operator	Chris Prosho
Fly's Operator	Paul Leslie
Hawthorne Theatre Manager	Mark Woolman
Hawthorne Theatre Technical Manager ..	Julian Brooks

Orchestra

Conductor	Peter Farrell
Clarinets	Chris Pettit, Sue Pettit
Flute	Matt Smith
Trombone	Ian Daniels
Horn	Simon Cove
Trumpets	Tim Welch, Ellen King
Bass	Peter Neville
Piano	Dave Meek
Percussion	Chris Gray

WELWYN BARBERS SHOP

Welwyn Barbers are proud supporters for this show

HOWARDSGATE
WELWYN GARDEN CITY
AL8 6AL

OPENING HOURS

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur 8:30 to 5:30

Fri 8:30 to 6pm

Sat 8 to 4pm

Meet the Company



Chairman - Vincent Clemmens

Vin took over as chairman in 2011 and has been keeping the peace at the monthly meeting ever since. It's a tough job. Actors can be very passionate about their shows but Vin keeps them all in line.



Amanda Sayers – Director & Choreographer

Mandy has starred in many past Thalias productions, recently as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Nancy in *Oliver* so she is very qualified to be our director for this fabulous show. Mandy keeps us on our toes whilst having the patience of a saint.



Peter Farrell - Musical Director

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.

Our Next Show
in November 2017

Inwing Berlin's
**WHITE
CHRISTMAS**
THE MUSICAL

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LET IT SNOW
LET IT SNOW

Welwyn Thaliains

Leaping lizards! One of the world's best loved
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Annie

Book by Thomas Meehan Music by Charles Strouse Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Directed by Coral Walton Musical Director - Dan Tephgrave

16th – 30th December
at 7.30pm

2.30pm matinees on 17th, 18th, 24th and 27th



BARN THEATRE

Tickets - 01707 324300

www.barntheatre.co.uk

Tickets £14 Barn Theatre Trust Reg. Charity 264143 Season 2016/17
Original production created by Martin Charnin. Originally produced by Louis Meyer, Stephen S. Schwartz, Lewis Allen, Alvin Karpman and Acropolis Inc.
The Barn Theatre is a registered charity. All proceeds from the sale of tickets go to the charity. The Barn Theatre is a registered charity. All proceeds from the sale of tickets go to the charity.

