

Welwyn Thaliens Present:

Call Me Madam!

**Music &
Lyrics By:
Irving Berlin**



*Directed By:
Amanda Maxwell
Musical Director:
Peter Farrell*

*Book By Howard Lindsay &
Russel Crouse*

*By arrangement with
Musicscope
and Stage Musicals Ltd of
New York*

CAMPUS WEST THEATRE

21st - 24th April 2004

WELWYN THALIANS AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

PATRON

Dr D Goss

PRESIDENT

Mr W Griffin

Mr P A'Hearn
Mr G Arthur
Mr G Bird
Mr M Dunne
Mr Mark Green
Mrs M B Green
Mrs T Griffiths
Ms B Hearty
Mrs G Cullinhan
Mr M Dixon
Mr Brian King MBE
Mrs F Tills

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr J Lockwood
Mrs A Lonergan
Mr A McGovern
Mr S Mahoney
Mr B Marshall
Mr P Nolan
Mr R Nolan
Mrs C Coulfield
Mrs E M Palmer
Mr & Mrs G Kite

Mrs J Kite
Mr J Pillington
Mr D O'Reilly
Mr Tony Rawlinson
Mr M Ryan
Mrs Mildred Thompson
Ms F Mccloughlan
Mrs J F Watts
Mr K McIntosh
Mr T Taylor
Mr R F Lambert
Mr R Purdy
Mrs P M Thompson

LIFE MEMBERS

Dr Malcom Biggs
Mrs Menna Biggs
Mr Gordon Bird
Mrs Marjorie Coles

Mrs Florence Davey
Mrs Angela Dunham
Mr Peter Dunham
Mr Brian King MBE

Mr Tony Rawlinson
Mrs Mildred Thompson
Mrs Joan Watts

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Peter Dunham
Treasurer: Terry Cull

Vice Chairman: Angela Dunham
Secretary: Samantha McRae

Committee: Amanda Maxwell, Alison Mills, Kate Muir, Gillian Shaw
Tammy Wall

Membership Secretary: Jackie Radford

Call Me Madam

THE original programme for *CALL ME MADAM* contained the following information: "The play is laid in two mythical countries. One is called Lichtenburg, the other is the United States of America."

The curtain rises in Washington, D.C., where Sally Adams is being sworn in as the new Ambassador to Lichtenburg. ("Where the hell is Lichtenburg?" she inquires with her customary directness, when the swearing-in ceremony is over.) She has appointed young Kenneth Gibson, a serious student of economics and international affairs, to her embassy staff. When Kenneth tries to sound out Sally's views on Lichtenburg's economy, and discovers she is completely innocent of any information, he inquires how she came to be an Ambassador. With no less candor, Sally tells him ("I'm the Hostess with the Mostes' on the Ball"). Sally then arranges a gala farewell party for her many friends in both political parties ("Washington Square Dance").

In a public square in Lichtenburg the townspeople have been waiting for hours for their new Ambassador. But, apparently, she has lost her way *en route* to the duchy. When she finally arrives she is given a royal welcome and introduced to Lichtenburg's striking Prime Minister, Cosmo Constantine. Taken with him, Sally immediately inquires if Lichtenburg needs any money from the United States and is taken aback to learn from the Prime Minister that he considers any loan from Washington unthinkable for his government.

A few weeks later Cosmo escorts Sally to the lively Lichtenburg Fair (paid for out of Sally's personal funds). The place is alive with gaiety and activity ("The Ocarina"). Here Kenneth meets the lovely Princess Maria of Lichtenburg for the first time, and impresses her with his immense fund of information about her country. He is at once completely captivated by her beauty and charm ("It's a Lovely Day Today").

As time passes, Sally proceeds to create consternation in Lichtenburg. She is brash, unconventional, uninhibited, and her actions and speech have created shock. Cosmo, however, is more than ever delighted with her, to Sally's immense satisfaction ("The Best Thing for You Would Be Me").

But word has come back to Washington about Sally's undiplomatic behaviour, and three Congressmen are sent to investigate. They appear at a lavish Embassy Ball, where they are flabbergasted to learn that Lichtenburg is one place that refuses to consider a loan from the United States. The Congressmen also take time out to do a bit of politicking of their own by maintaining that they have found a candidate for the United States Presidential election of 1952 ("They Like Ike"). While all this is going on, Kenneth is oblivious to anything and everything except his growing love for the Princess ("You're Just in Love").

Sally is finally recalled to Washington; but Kenneth stays behind in Lichtenburg to help build there a hydro-electric plant and to marry the Princess. Cosmo comes to Washington to get a decoration, and when Sally and he meet again they finally recognise that they, too, are in love.

CALL ME MADAM was first produced at the Imperial Theatre on October 12, 1950, with Ethel Merman as "Sally", Paul Lukas as "Cosmo" and Russell Nye as "Kenneth". It enjoyed a run of 644 performances.



★ **Alison Mills - Sally Adams** ★

★ Alison Studied Music at Colchester Music College and and her
★ high standards of singing and acting has won her many leads
★ both with the Thaliens and other Societies including Laurie in
★ *Oklahoma*. She has also played Eliza Doolittle in "*My Fair*
★ *Lady*" Maria in "*West Side Story*" Her last appearance was as
★ Fraulien Schnieder in last spring's production of "*Cabaret*"
★

★ **Peter Sayers - Cosmo Cosmopolitan** ★

★ Peter is getting used to donning strange costumes and make up,
★ his last two appearances have been as Emcee in "*Cabaret*" and
★ the Lion in "*The Wizard of Oz*" turning in excellent performances
★ of what were very different but most challenging parts. Peters
★ fine tenor voice has brought him many previous lead roles with
★ the Thaliens including Curly in "*Oklahoma*" and Sky Masterson
★ in "*Guys and Dolls*"
★



★ **Philippa White - Princess Maria** ★

★ Although only 16 years of age Philippa, a student at Stanborough
★ School, is no new comer to the stage. She has appeared in
★ "*Bugsy Malone*" and played the lead role in the Herts GS
★ production of "*Annie*." She has also played in other Thailian
★ shows including "*Oliver*" and "*The Wizard of Oz*" Philippa is
★ looking forward to her first adult lead which if her talent is
★ anything to go by will be the first of many.
★



★ **Dan Breeze - Kenneth Gibson** ★

★ This is the first time for Dan in a Thalian Show, up to now he has
★ mainly performed in drama productions for the Barn Theatre - Shat-
★ tered Windscreen and the Squeazy Theatre Company. Not that he isn't
★ musical, he made a disc with the group Delila called Shelley's Mate in
★ which he plays the guitar and sings. We wish him every good luck in
★ his this production.
★





★ **Choreographer - Samantha McRae** ★
★ Although Sam has been a regular in most of the recent Thalian ★
★ shows much of her time has been devoted to dance and many ★
★ of our best routines such as the ballet in "Oklahoma" and Luck ★
★ Be a Lady in "Guys and Dolls" are thanks to her accomplished ★
★ choreography. Her talents are many however and as well as ★
★ assisting the producer and choreographing this show she has ★
★ just successfully completed "The Wizard of Oz" her first show ★
★ as Director ★
★ *****

★ **Characters** ★
★ *****

Mrs Sally Adams
Secretary of State
Congressman Wilkins
Henry Gibson
Kenneth Gibson
Senator Brocklebank
Senator Gallagher
Cosmo Constantine
Pemberton Maxwell
Sebastian Sebastian
Princess Maria
Grand Duchess Sophie
Grand Duke Otto

Alison Mills
Jackie Radford
Maureen Davies
Walter Plinge
Dan Breeze
Mark Morton
Alan Bradbury
Peter Sayers
Brian King MBE
Alex Dugdale
Phillipa White
Maggie Reed
Peter Dunham

*Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate and residents
of Lichtenburg*

Sam McRae Nick Baker Tammy Wall
Rowan Baker Annie Rumney Sue Hawkins
Kate Muir

Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Office of the Secretary of State.

Scene 2: Sally's Living Room in Washington.

Scene 3: Public Square in Lichtenburg.

Scene 4: Reception Room in the American Embassy.

Scene 5: Public Square in Lichtenburg.

Scene 6: The Lichtenburg Fair.

Scene 7: A Corridor in the Palace.

Scene 8: Sally's Sitting Room in the Embassy.

I N T E R V A L

Scene 1: The Public Square.

Scene 2: The Embassy Garden.

Scene 3: The Public Square.

Scene 4: Sally's Sitting Room.

Scene 5: Lawn of the White House

Musical Numbers

MRS. SALLY ADAMS

THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTES' ON THE BALL - *Sally*

THE WASHINGTON SQUARE DANCE - *Sally and Chorus*

LICHTENBURG - *Cosmo and Chorus*

CAN YOU USE ANY MONEY TODAY - *Sally*

MARRYING FOR LOVE - *Cosmo and Sally*

THE OCARINA - *Princess Maria and Chorus*

IT'S A LOVELY DAY TODAY - *Kenneth and Princess Maria*

THE BEST THING FOR YOU - *Sally*

CAN YOU USE ANY MONEY TODAY? - *Sally*

SOMETHING TO DANCE ABOUT - *Sally and Chorus*

ONCE UPON A TIME, TODAY - *Kenneth*

THEY LIKE IKE - *Wilkins, Brockbank and Gallagher*

YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE - *Kenneth and Sally*

MUSIC & LYRICS BY - IRVING BERLIN

Irving Berlin was born Israel Beilin on May 11, 1888, in Belarus (Russia) one of eight children. The family immigrated to New York in 1893. After his father died, Berlin, 13, took to the streets in various odd jobs, working as a husker singing for pennies, then as a singing waiter in a Chinatown Cafe. In 1907, he published his first song and by 1911, he had his first international hit, "*Alexander's Ragtime Band*." As a sergeant in the Army, in 1918, he wrote and staged "*Yip, Yip, Yaphank*," at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York. In his lifetime, wrote 17 complete scores for Broadway musicals and revues including *Call Me Madam* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Among his Hollywood movie musical classics were *Top Hat*, *This is the Army*, *Easter Parade*, *White Christmas* and *There's No Business Like Show Business*. Berlin was a businessman and philanthropist. He cofounded the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and built his own Broadway theater, The Music Box. He was an unabashed patriot. He donated millions of dollars in royalties to Army Emergency Relief, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and countless other charities. In 1945, he received the Army's Medal of Merit from President Truman, and The Congressional Gold Medal in 1955 for *God Bless America* and other patriotic songs from President Eisenhower. He received the Freedom Medal from President Ford in 1977. On September 22, 1989, Irving Berlin died in his sleep in his town house in New York City.



Producer - Amanda Maxwell

Mandy is getting used to jumping from lead roles to the directors chair this being her sixth consecutive spring production for the Thaliens. Previous recent successes have been "*Oh What a Lovely War*", "*The Pajama Game*" and of course "*Jack the Ripper*" which when the first act was entered in the Welwyn Drama Festival won great acclaim and finished a creditable fourth place. Not forgetting of course last years memorable production of "*Cabaret*"

Musical Director - Peter Farrell

Graduated from the The Royal Academy of Music in 1975 and has enjoyed a professional career in music 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.



Production Crew

Costumes	Harlequin Costumes
Props	Vanessa Baker
Stage Manager.....	Jon Marsh
Ass. Stage Manager	Frances Green
Stage Crew	John Marsh, Peter Dunham
Stage Crew	Vin Clemmens,
Stage Crew	Christian Baker
Lighting Design	Mike Try
Lighting Operator	John Lloyd
Sound Operator	Mike Try
Front of House	Christine Goodwin
Programme Design	Terry Cull

For Campus West Theatre

Manager	Mark Woolman
Stage Director	John Lloyd



Wizard of Oz



Jack The Ripper



Anything Goes



Oklahoma

Previous Thalian Shows



Cabaret

Orchestra Personnel

Keyboard

Peter Farrell

Reeds:

Charles Rowe

Clare Taylor

Martin Cook

Trumpet

Tim Welch

David McViegh

Trombone

Aidan Collins

Bass

Mark Davey

Percussion

Chris Gray

**If you have enjoyed tonight's performance then please
support other local groups soon to be appearing at
Campus West Theatre**



CONCORD

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COURIERS

**With special thanks to Concord Couriers,
Welwyn Garden City, for all their help
transporting the scenery**

**Welwyn
Thalians
Present:**

Me And My Girl

**If You Have Enjoyed This
Production Then Watch
Out For:**

**NOVEMBER
2004**

If this show has encouraged you to sing and dance then why not join us? We meet Mondays and Thursdays at Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road, WGC. Please apply for more details to the membership secretary, Jackie Radford, 71 Stockbreach Close, Hatfield. Tel: 01707 260171



The Welwyn Thalias Old Time Music Hall group is available for fund raising functions. Please contact our chairman, Mr Peter Dunham, on 01707 333318

The Society wishes to express its thanks to the Welwyn Hatfield District Council and to Campus West, for the support given to this production.

We have been helped by a
**COMMUNITY
GRANT**

from

 **WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL**