

**WELWYN THALIANS
PRESENT**



*By arrangement with Josef
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Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatre
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Rodgers & Hammerstein's

*Produced By: Angela Dunham
Musical Director: Peter Farrell*

OKLAHOMA!



**CAMPUS WEST THEATRE
WELWYN GARDEN CITY**

**TUES. 21ST - SAT. 25TH
NOVEMBER 2000**

PROGRAMME £1.00

WELWYN THALIANS AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

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Mr W Griffin

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Mr G Bird
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Mr Tony Rawlinson
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Mrs P M Thomas
Mrs Mildred Thompson
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Chairman: Peter Dunham
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Committee: Mark O'Sullivan, Amanda Maxwell, Alison Mills, Gillian Shaw

Membership Secretary: Mrs Menna Biggs

OKLAHOMA!

On March 31st 1943 a new musical based on Lynn Riggs play *Green Grow the Lilacs* opened at the St James Theatre, Broadway. The title had been changed to the more memorable *Oklahoma!*

Although the composer was the celebrated Richard Rogers, his partner of 25 years Lorenz Hart had been replaced by Oscar Hammerstein II whose last Broadway success had been *Music in the Air* back in 1932. The switch in partnerships, which had been forced on Rodgers due to Harts illness, was viewed by cynical Broadway pundits with trepidation. As indeed was the whole show itself ("no girls, no gags, no chance" was how showman Mike Todd described a try out performance.)

Because of the lack of enthusiasm and cast of virtual unknowns the curtain rose that first night on a theatre with many empty seats. Three hours later however the Theatre Guild together with the new partnership of Rogers and Hammerstein, Director Rouben Mamoulian and choreographer Agnes De Mill were the proud possessors of a gigantic smash hit. A minor miracle had just happened, or as Oscar Hammerstein himself put it at the time "The glow was like the light of a thousand lanterns....you could feel it. It was that bright"

The follow morning brought an array of fine reviews from the New York critics. "jubilant and enchanting" was the New York Herald's verdict. Simply "Wonderful" from the New York Times but the real acclamation came from the Daily News when it said "*The most thoroughly and attractive musical comedy since Showboat*"

Although today the show has that old fashioned charm about it which makes it such a desirable show to perform and watch, in 1943 it was breaking new ground. The traditional chorus line opening which much of the musical going public had been led to expect was replaced by the scene on stage of a solitary old woman churning butter to the solo "*Oh What A Beautiful Morning*" up until then such a thing would have been unheard of.

When the girls chorus did finally appear the brash conventional costumes had been replaced by more modest neck lines. The dance medium had also broken new grounds in particular the Ballet sequence which ends the first act and allows the audience an insight into the subconscious hopes and fears of the leading characters.

We hope that with the same high level of enthusiasm and quality that you have come to expect from the Welwyn Thaliens Productions you will enjoy tonight's performance of *Oklahoma* and keep it at the very top of its popularity.



Alison Mills - Laurey

Studied Music at Colchester Music College. A polished performer Alison has played many leads both with the Thaliens and other Societies. Her favourite roles include Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" Maria in "West Side Story" and Kate in "Kiss Me Kate". Alison also performs in the Welwyn Thaliens Old Time Music Hall

Peter Sayers - Curly

Peter caught the bug for the musical stage by helping backstage at previous productions. This his first principle role in only his second show after previously playing many parts in "Oh What a lovely War". Although a relative newcomer his relaxed approach has enabled him to slip easily into the role of Curly. Peter also sings tenor with the Police choir.

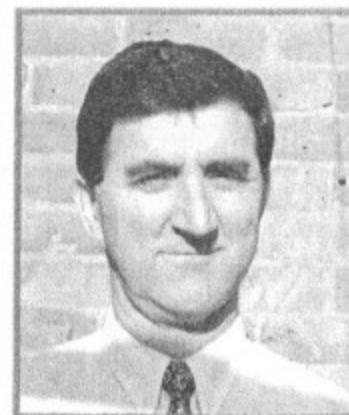


Tammy Wall - Ado Annie

Tammy joined the Thaliens from the St Albans Operatic Society where she appeared in "Charlie Girl" and played Erma in "Anything Goes" This energetic and talented young performer was the ideal choice as Nancy's sidekick Bet in "Oliver" and also appeared in our last production "Oh What a Lovely War".

Terry Cull - Will Parker

Terry Joined the Thaliens in 1996 and has appeared in all but one of our productions since. His principle roles have included the scarecrow in the "Wizard of Oz" Billy Early in "No No Nanette" and stepped in at late notice to play Fagin in "Oliver". Terry is a member of the Thaliens Music Hall group and a regular in the Scout and Guide Gang Shows



Brian King - Ali Hakim

Brian needs little introduction to regular patrons of this theatre having appeared in countless Thalian productions since he joined in 1966. He has had principle parts in "The King and I", "Guys and Dolls," "The Wizard of Oz" and many others in fact if its been written Brian's performed in it. He is also a devout Old Time Musical enthusiast and amazingly still finds time to Produce both the Welwyn Wailers and the Hatfield District Gang Show



Nora Jackson - Aunt Eller
 Nora is an experienced performer who appears regularly for both the Thaliens and The Hertfordshire Gibert and Sullivan Society. Her most recent parts have been as Margaret Lord in "*High Society*" and playing Aunt Em in "*The Wizard of Oz*". Nora also appears with the G & S Spotlight Drama Group.



Martin Desmond - Jud Fry
 Martin came to the Thaliens from the Harpenden Light Operatic Society where his roles included Action in "*West Side Story*" and Jigger in "*Carousel*." Martin's first show with the Thaliens was "*Oh What a Lovely War*"

Synopsis

The Place is Oklahoma Territory USA and the time around the turn of the Century. Curly a young cowhand is stuck on Miss Laurey the young niece of Aunt Eller who farms a spread outside Claremore. Curly visits Laurey with the intention of inviting her to the box social to be held at Ike Skidmore's ranch. Despite her feelings for Curly Laurey is not impressed with his fresh approaches and elects instead to accept the offer of their menacing farmhand Jud Fry to take her to the dance. This leads to a confrontation between the two men in the smokehouse where Fry sleeps.

In the meantime Curly's friend Will Parker returns from Kansas City and intends to ask his sweetheart Ado Annie to marry him. Annie's father has imposed a condition that he must be worth \$50 before ha can marry his daughter. Although Will won \$50 at the Rodeo's he spent all the money on presents for Annie and her father.

While Will was away Annie has been having fun of her own in particular with a travelling Pedlar named Ali Hakim. After her Pa finds out they have been flirting in a haystack and hears that Will Parker no longer has the \$50 dollars cash he forces Ali by gunpoint to agree to marry Annie.

Back at the farm Laurey is beginning to regret agreeing to go to the party with Jud and after falling asleep in the meadow she dreams that Curly is killed by Jud and realises how much she loves Curly.

At the Dance Will meets up with Ali Hakim who sees an opportunity to get out of his promise to Ado Annie by purchasing Will's presents for the \$50 dollars thereby re-instating Will as the promised suitor.

The ensuing bidding for the lunch boxes see's Will almost lose his \$50 once more and Jud and Curly enter a head to head bidding competition for Laurey's hamper.

After Jud attempts to force himself on Laurey she fires him and finally admits her love for Curly and agrees to marry him. Wedding bells also ring for Will and Annie after some discussion about her commitment to marriage.

Final drama's occur at Laurey and Curly's wedding when Jud turns up to get even with them both but love triumphs and in the best traditions of the theatre they ride off into the sunset and a life of bliss.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Scene 1

Oh What a Beautiful Morning	Curly
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top	Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller
Kansas City	Will, Aunt Eller, Boys & Girls
I Caint Say No	Ado Annie
Many a New Day	Laurey & Girls
Its a Scandal its an Outrage	Ali Hakim and the Boys
People Will Say We're in Love	Curly and Laurey

Scene 2

Pore Jud	Curly and Jud
Lonely Room	Jud

Scene 3

Out of My Dreams	Laurey & Girls
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ACT II

Scene 1

The Farmer and the Cowman	Carnes, Aunt Eller & Ens.
All er Nuthin'	Ado Annie and Will

Scene 2

Reprise: People Will Say We're in Love ..	Curly and Laurey
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Scene 3

Oklahoma	Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller Ike Fred and Ensemble
Oh What a Beautiful Morning.....	Laurey, Curly & Ensemble
Finale	The Whole Cast

***** * **CHARACTERS** * *****

Laurey	Alison Mills
Curly	Peter Sayers
Aunt Eller	Nora Jackson
Ado Annie	Tammy Wall
Will Parker	Terry Cull
Ali Hakim	Brian King
Jud	Martin Desmond
Carnes	Peter Dunham
Gertie	Kate Muir
Ike/Slim	Matthew Greenbank
Cord Elam	David Jackson

***** * **THE BOYS** * *****

**Mark Morton, Kyle Lytton , Joe McInerney,
Danny Oliver, Matt Greenbank, David Jackson**

***** * **THE GIRLS** * *****

**Julia Buck, Sue Buckham, Kirsty Dickenson,
Lisa Evans, Natalie Fox, Amber Jackson,
Mandy Maxwell, Jaqueline McGrath, Pam Pryke,
Jackie Radford, Gill Shaw.**

***** * **ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY** * *****

Kansas City Kate Muir
Ballet Sequence Samantha McRae



Producer - Angela Dunham

A trained singer who has sung professionally as well as performing many years for the Thaliens. In 1985 she turned her hand to direction and has continued to produce many of our outstanding hit shows over the last 15 years. Angela confesses that Oklahoma has always been one of her favourites and she hopes you enjoy this production.



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 became our MD in 1985 and he has continued his very successful relationship with us ever since.

Production Crew

Production Manager	Peter Dunham
Production Secretary	Amanda Maxwell
Costumes	Marion Greenbank
Costume Supplier	Westcliff Costumes
Scenery	Scenic Property Hire
Props	Vanessa Baker
Stage Manager	John Marsh
Ass. Stage Manager	Francis Green
Stage Crew	Vic Fresle
Stage Crew	Tony Lutkin
Lighting Design	Mike Try
Lighting Operator	John Lloyd
Sound Operator	Chris Ward
Front of House	Menna Biggs
Programme Design	Terry Cull

For Campus West Theatre

Manager	Mark Woolman
Stage Director	John Lloyd



★ **The Guys and Gals** ★

Orchestra Personnel

Leader	Ann Cook	Clarinet	Martin Cook
Violin	Jonathan Acton	Bassoon	Margaret Neil
Violin	Pam Davies	Horn	Simon Cove
Viola	Margaret Grove	Trumpet	Tim Welch
Cello	Bernice de Smet	Trumpet	Mark Taylor
Bass	Ian Davidson	Trombone	Aidan Collins
Flute	Jane Archer	Percussion	Brian Booth
Oboe	Edward Burd		

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

Hatfield & Welwyn
 **Scout & Guide** 
GANG SHOW

2001
Campus West Theatre
 20th to 23rd February 2001

**THE HERTFORDSHIRE
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN
SOCIETY**
 present

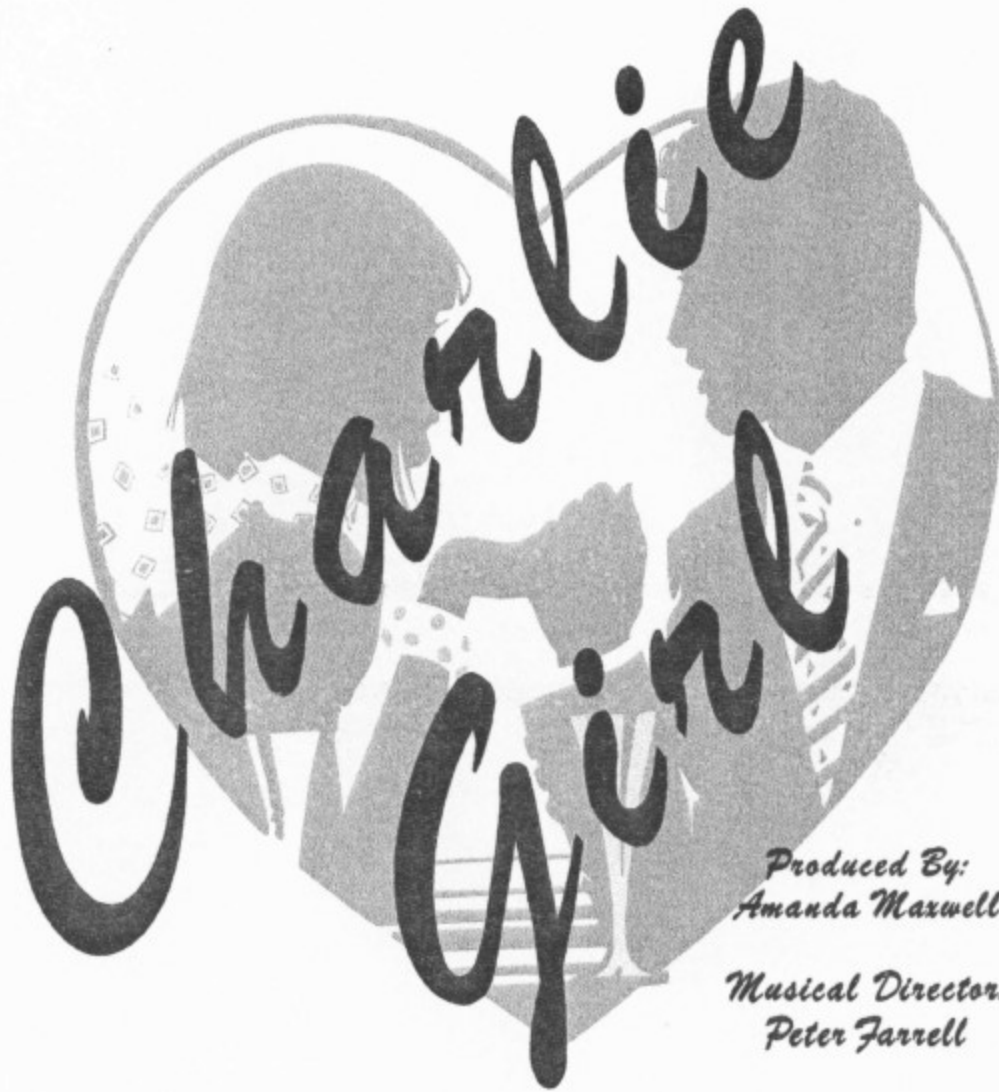
ME AND MY GIRL

Book and Lyrics by Arthur Rose
 and Douglas Furber
 Music by Noel Gay

**4th - 7th April 2001
 Campus West Theatre**

Producer Musical Director
JULIE FIELD ANDREW LOCKETT

**Welwyn Thalias
Next Production:**



*Produced By:
Amanda Maxwell*

*Musical Director:
Peter Farrell*

**Campus West Theatre
April 2001**

If this show has encouraged you to sing and dance then why not join us? We meet Mondays and Thursday at Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road, WGG. Please apply for more details to the membership secretary, Mrs Menna Biggs, 6 Stanborough Green, WGC. AL8 6XG.
Tel: 01707 883433



The Welwyn Thaliens 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