

The Welwyn Thalias (Present)



A MUSICAL
Melodrama

This amateur production of JACK THE RIPPER is
presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.

Book and Lyrics by Ron Pember and Denis de Marne
Music by Ron Pember

Tuesday 24th - Sat 28th May 2022 at Thalian Hall (Opposite B&Q)
64 Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1JU



PRESIDENT

Brian King MBE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Vincent Clemmens
Vice Chairman	Tim Spink
Treasurer:	Angela Monaghan
Secretary:	Alison Downes
Committee:	Amanda Sayers, Tammy Wall, Colleen Town, Martin Lester and Louise Batemean.

Message from the Chairman

I would like to welcome you to this year's 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. I would like to give my thanks all those involved in producing this show, to Mandy Sayers for her hard work in directing, to Peter Farrell our musical director and all the cast members principals and company as well as the backstage crew beavering away unseen (hopefully).

This show is set in the late summer of 1888 and follows the horrific story of Jack The Ripper, Britain's first serial killer. It also highlights the how hard life was for the inhabitants of the East End where some women who had fallen on hard times, often through no fault of their own, would sell themselves for 4 pence, the price of a bed in a doss house for the night.

Vinnie Clemmens, Chairman

Winners of Best Musical and Production for Chicago

The WGC-based theatre group won the Best Musical award and the coveted Best Production shield for hit musical Chicago, which was performed at Thalian Hall in January 2020. Director Clive Dancey said: "I am so proud of what the entire company achieved. This is proof that with a talented and passionate team of creative people who can 'think outside the box' you



can create theatre anywhere." Over 200 theatre companies compete for the prestigious NODA awards in the Eastern Region, which is divided into 13 districts. NODA representative Vicki Avery said: "Chicago was an exciting, energised and astute production. A musical masterpiece!"

Welwyn Hatfield Times, May 4, 2022



Mandy Sayers Director

Amanda first directed Jack the Ripper in 2002 in The Campus Theatre and has welcomed the opportunity to bring this exciting production back in a different venue. The nature of the show means that the large cast is on stage for much of the time and this has proved to be quite a challenge, but one which she has relished.



Peter Farrell Musical Director

Peter graduated from 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, winning a NODA MD of the year in 2017 for Oklahoma.

PRINCIPALS



Tammy Wall

Marie Kelly/Music Hall Soubrette

Trained through the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Key stage credits include Roxie Hart in Chicago, Young Queen Elizabeth in The Audience & Emma in Tell Me on a Sunday, for which she won the GODA award for best actress.



Jenny Lewin

Lizzie Stride/Queen Victoria

Jack the Ripper marks my 4th show with the Thaliens and my first principal role. I have really enjoyed taking on the two characters of Lizzie Stride and Queen Victoria in the music hall - not often you get two for one!



Alison Downes

Annie Chapman

Alison has performed in the chorus and in supporting and lead roles with the Thaliens for many years. She also enjoys choreography and directing. She has never 'died' live on stage before, and is looking forward to the new challenge in Jack the Ripper.



Maryann Scott

Polly Anne Nichols

Maryann hopes to bring Mary Anne 'Polly' Nichols back to life in the Thaliens version of the terrible events that struck Whitechapel in 1888-1891. This will be her 7th show with the Thaliens which she enjoys being part of alongside her job as a special needs teaching assistant.



Louise Bateman

Catherine Eddowes

Originally from Ireland, I have kept my accent and Irish wit. I love Amateur Dramatics having been involved since 2010 with The Thaliens and The Barn Theatre, in a variety of roles - comedy to straight acting and my first love, Musical Theatre.

PRINCIPALS



Gill Shaw

Martha Tabram

Possibly Jack's first victim.....

Gill's favourite roles with the Thaliens include:

Annie Chapman in Jack the Ripper; Glinda in Wizard of Oz; Mrs Pearce in My Fair Lady and memorably, Beryl in Made in Dagenham.



Clive Dancey

Montague Druit

Since joining Welwyn Thaliens in Made in Dagenham Clive has performed as the Major General in Pirates of Penzance, dressing as various random characters in our Christmas shows and directing the 2020 Award winning production of Chicago.



Adam Beckman

Chairman

Adam brings a larger than life energy to the action in his 7th show with Thaliens. Adam, a voiceover artist and a robust baritone, has professional pursuits outside of the society and will be appearing as a guest artist in BBC drama 'Casualty' in a one off episode in June 2022.



Carl Robinson

Daniel Mendoza

Carl has loved the rehearsal time for this production of Jack the Ripper, playing the part of Dan has been a lot of fun. This is Carl's 4th show with the company including the recent award winning Chicago production in 2020.



Vinnie Clemmens

Dinky Nine-Eights

He is often found back stage but also treading the boards. He has appeared in numerous shows; ensemble and occasionally in a supporting role. Here he plays Dinky a gang member wandering the streets of Whitechapel causing terror among the East End prostitutes.

PRINCIPALS



Alex Ryde Bluenose Stack

Alex is delighted to be back with the Thaliens after previously playing Freddy in 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels', and Frederic in 'Pirates of Penzance'. Alex also appeared in The Barn Theatre's streamed/staged production of 'Class' last summer.



Martin Lester Slop Wallace

Putting a show like this on is great fun and I enjoy the rehearsal time just as much as the shows themselves. Thaliens comprises a lot of talented and friendly people who I am glad to be part of.



Sarah Gennoe Lady Overcoat

I work for an American law firm in London and I've been involved in amateur theatre for 14 years, as a member of the Barn Theatre and Company of Players and as a Thalian for the last 4 years.



Peter Sayers Police Sergeant Coles

Peter has played many roles for The Thaliens over the years. His favourite was as the irascible Professor Higgins in 'My Fair Lady'. He also played The Chair-man in Jack the Ripper some twenty years ago!

Performing is Fun

Don't delay – Join today. We meet on Monday and Thursday evenings at Thalian Hall directly opposite B&Q in Bridge Road East. For further details contact our wonderful membership secretary Tim Spink on Tel: 01438 717569

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Saturday Night
Sing Sing
Generally Nice
God Bless Us
Good-bye Day
What A Life
Love
Ripper's Going To Get You

Polly and the Company
The Company
Marie
The Company
Marie and the Girls
The Gang and the Girls
Marie
Annie and the Gang

ACT II

God Bless (reprise)
Charlie And Queenie
Half A Dozen Pints
There's A Boat Coming In
There. Ain't Any Work Today
Look At Them
Suspects
Policemen's Chorus
Step Across The River
Montage
Saturday Night (reprise)

The Company
Lizzie and the Chairman
Marie
The Company
Chairman and the Company
The Company
Martha and the Gang
Police Sergeant Coles and Constables
Marie and Lizzie
The Company
The Company

Musicians

Piano Peter Farrell
Drums Dan Wild
Bass Olly Dowlen

Show Characters

Marie Kelly/Music Hall Soubrette.....	Tammy Wall
Lizzie Stride/Queen Victoria.....	Jenny Lewin
Annie Chapman.....	Alison Downes
Poly Anne Nichols.....	Maryann Scott
Catherine Eddowes.....	Louise Bateman
Martha Tabram.....	Gill Shaw
Montague Druit.....	Clive Dancey
Chairman.....	Adam Beckman
Daniel Mendoza.....	Carl Robinson
Dinky Nine-Eights.....	Vincent Clemmens
Bluenose Stack.....	Alex Ryde
Slop Wallace.....	Martin Lester
Lady Overcoat.....	Sarah Gennoe
Police Sergeant Coles.....	Peter Sayers
Ensemble.....	Annette Leishman
	Bex White
	Colleen Town
	Jackie Radford
	Vicki Shaw
	Ray Beckman
	Richard Griffiths

Did you know....

Jack The Ripper was adapted for the musical stage in 1974 and features a score by leading actor Ron Pember and book and lyrics by Pember with Denis De Marne. Ron Pember was a stage and television actor who you may recognise as Baz from Only Fools and Horses.



Ron Pember, 1934 – 2022

Past Productions

2000	Oklahoma	2008	Hot Mikado
2001	The Pajama Game	2009	Calamity Jane
2001	Guys and Dolls	2010	My Fair Lady
2002	Jack the Ripper	2011	Half A Sixpence
2002	Anything Goes	2012	Fiddler on the Roof
2003	Cabaret	2013	Oliver
2003	The Wizard Of Oz	2014	Little Shop of Horrors
2004	Call Me Madam	2015	Guys and Dolls
2004	Sweet Charity	2016	Oklahoma
2005	Pirates of Penzance	2017	Sleeping Beauty
2005	Kiss Me Kate	2018	Pirates of Penzance
2006	Little Shop of Horrors	2019	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
2006	Annie Get Your Gun	2020	Chicago
2007	South Pacific		

Meet (most) of the cast.



Standing: Richard Griffiths, Vicki Shaw, Gillian Shaw, Maryann Scott, Tammy Wall, Adam Beckman, Vinnie Clemmens, Jenny Lewin and Ray Beckman.

Sitting: Colleen Town, Alison Downes, Jackie Radford, Martin Lester, Sarah Gennoe, Clive Dancey and Peter Sayers.

Production

Director and Chorographer.....	Amanda Sayers
Production Manager.....	Avril Robinson
Musical Director.....	Peter Farrell
Artistic Director.....	Nick Baker
Specialist Choreography	Tammy Wall
	Avril Robinson
Costumes.....	Tammy Wall
	Louise Bateman
Set Design and Build.....	Tim Spink
	Martin Lester
Sound & Lighting Design	Andy Barker
Props.....	Vanessa Baker
	Amanda Sayers
Advertising and Programme.....	Martin Lester
Treasurer.....	Angela Monaghan
Social Media.....	Martin Lester
	Louise Bateman
	Clive Dancey

Synopsis

The play is a musical reconstruction of incidents relating to the East End murders which took place between Friday, August 31st and Friday, November 9th, 1888. A solution of Jack the Ripper's identity is hinted at, but the play is an atmospheric commentary rather than an historical re-enactment, shifting between reality and artificiality, with characters representing "real" people as well as members of the music hall audience and players.

Raffle Prize Sponsors

Thanks to Campus West, Welwyn Garden City and Tesco Extra, Hatfield for kindly donating to our raffle.

Welwyn Thaliens – A Short History

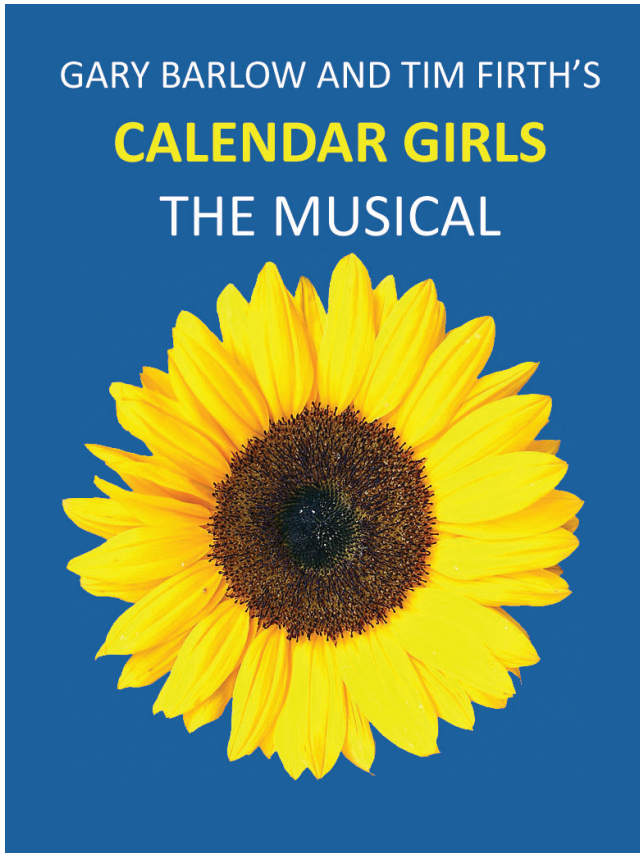
Formed in 1929 from a merger with two other amateur societies, the Barnstormers (drama) and the Operatic Society (music). The Old Welwyn Theatre in Parkway, later the Embassy Cinema, was the first venue. Most of the early shows were Gilbert and Sullivan productions. Dame Flora Robson, an early and active 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.

Why not become a friend of Thaliens?

Get an email now and then letting you know what we are doing and dates for our upcoming shows. Just go to our website and on the home page, enter your email address. (You will be able to unsubscribe at any time.)



Our next show is Calendar Girls in October.



Tues 25th - Sat 29th October 2022 at 7:30pm
(Matinee Sat. October 29th at 2:30pm)

Auditions on 26th June. Sign up to be a Friend to
receive more information nearer the time.

www.welwynthalians.com

