

Thalian Theatre Company Presents

A Musical with Soul

The Wiz

THE WIZ Book by William F. Brown
Music & Lyrics by Charlie Smalls
From the story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"
by L. Frank Baum

Tues 30th May to Sat 3rd June 2023

Thalian Hall, 64-68 Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1JU

This amateur production of The Wiz is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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 Bateman.

Directors



Mandy Sayers Director

Amanda has directed many musicals for The Thalias and has also appeared twice in the original Wizard of Oz (as the Wicked Witch of the West!). She welcomes the opportunity of bringing this high energy new version to the stage.



Peter Farrell Director of Music

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.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings or streams of this production is strictly prohibited, a violation of United Kingdom Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and an actionable offense.

Message from the Chairman

I would like to welcome you to this year's show and give my thanks for supporting the Thalian Theatre Company (formally The Welwyn Thalian Society). We took the opportunity last year to have a think about our name and what it stands for and we thought that the Thalian Theatre Company sums us up best. You may also have noticed that we have a new logo which reflects our history, with our centenary approaching in 2029! (You can read a short history of the group on page 11 of this programme.)

£550 Donation to Blood Cancer UK



In March this year, we were delighted to hand over a cheque for £550 to Peter Aknai, Chairman of the Ware branch of Blood Cancer UK. The money was raised through our performance of Calendar Girls last October.

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 to 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).

Vinnie Clemmens, Chairman

PRINCIPALS



Jenny Lewin

Dorothy

Jenny joined Thaliens in 2019 after a 13 year break from musical theatre. Having played Lizzie Stride in Jack the Ripper and appearing in various turns in our Christmas shows, Dorothy is her first lead role. Wish her luck!



Adam Beckman

Lion

Adam brings a larger than life energy to the action in his 8th show with Thaliens. Adam, a voiceover artist and a robust baritone, has professional pursuits outside of the society and appeared as a guest artist in BBC drama 'Casualty' in a one off episode in June 2022.



Carl Robinson

Scarecrow

This will be Carl's 4th show with Thaliens and he has enjoyed working with everyone and is hopeful that it will come through in his performance as the Scarecrow. He has been acting since 2009 appearing in many shows with SAMTC and HMTC. Most importantly in this show, he will be appearing with his daughter Hannah.



Clive Dancey

Tin Man

In the last few years Clive directed our 'multi award winning 'Chicago' and then more recently played 'Montague Druitt' in 'Jack the Ripper' and directed 'Calendar Girls' which was performed in October. He is most looking forward to 'swinging his axe' as the TinMan and looks forward to you all joining him on the yellow brick road.

PRINCIPALS



Peter Sayers The Wiz

Peter's favourite roles to date have been the irascible Professor Higgins in 'My Fair Lady' and Tevye the penniless milkman in 'Fiddler on the Roof'. The Wiz is quite a departure from the traditional musical and Peter is very excited about the challenges it presents!



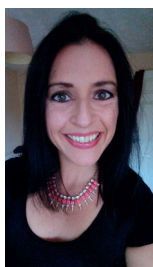
Tammy Wall Evillene & Glinda

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.



Louise Bateman Auntie Em

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



Amy Knowles Addaperle

Amy joined Thaliens in January this year. This is Amy's first show with The Thaliens and her first ever musical performance. She is looking forward to playing Addaperle. Wish her luck.

Show Characters

Dorothy	Jenny Lewin
Scarecrow	Carl Robinson
Tin Man	Clive Dancey
Lion	Adam Beckman
The Wiz	Peter Sayers
Evillene & Glinda	Tammy Wall
Aunt Em.....	Louise Bateman
Gate Keeper	Alison Downes
Addaperle.....	Amy Knowles

Pit Singers

.....	Alison Downes
.....	Louise Bateman
.....	Annette Leishman
.....	Maryann Scott

Other members of the cast

Lord High Underling	Belinda Gee
Uncle Henry, Chief Field Mouse	Ray Beckman
Winged Monkey	Darren Barsby
Crow	Courtney Cole
Crow	Hannah Robinson
.....	Jackie Radford
.....	Colleen Town
.....	Martin Lester

Past Performances

Why not visit our archives web page to see photos from our productions over the last 20 years. You can find programmes too for most of the shows.

Just visit www.thaliantheatrecompany.co.uk/archive/ or scan this QR code on your phone.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

The Feeling We Once Had

Tornado

He's the Wiz

Soon as I Get Home

Born on the Day Before Yesterday

Ease on Down the Road #1

Slide Some Oil to Me

Ease on Down the Road #2

Mean Ole Lion

Ease on Down the Road #3

Kalidahs Battle

Be a Lion

Emerald City Dance

Meet the Wizard

What Would I Do if I Could Feel

Aunt Em

Company

Addaperle, Munchkins

Dorothy

Scarecrow, Crows

Dorothy, Scarecrow,

Tinman, Dorothy, Scarecrow

Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman,

Lion

Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion

Friends, Kalidahs

Dorothy, Lion

Friends, Company

The Wiz

Tinman

ACT II

Don't Nobody Bring Me No Bad News

Funkey Monkey

Everybody Rejoice

Who Do You Think You Are?

Believe In Yourself

Y'all Got It?

A Rested Body

Believe In Yourself (Reprise)

Finale

Evillene

Monkeys

Friends, Winkies

Friends

The Wiz

The Wiz

Glinda

Glinda

Dorothy

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 Colleen Town on Tel: 07901 518695.

The Addams Family

A Musical Comedy

Tues 24th to Sat 28th October 2023

Tickets will go on sale soon at £18 with a 10% discount for groups of four at the Saturday matinée. Please keep an eye on our website for further details or better still, sign up to be a 'friend' and we will email you.



Musicians

Keyboards	Peter Farrell
Guitar	Kester Tunstall
Bass	TBA
Drums	Ian Hartley

Past Productions

2000	Oklahoma	2009	Calamity Jane
2001	The Pajama Game	2010	My Fair Lady
2001	Guys and Dolls	2011	Half A Sixpence
2002	Jack the Ripper	2012	Fiddler on the Roof
2002	Anything Goes	2013	Oliver
2003	Cabaret	2014	Little Shop of Horrors
2003	The Wizard Of Oz	2015	Guys and Dolls
2004	Call Me Madam	2016	Oklahoma
2004	Sweet Charity	2017	Sleeping Beauty
2005	Pirates of Penzance	2018	Made in Dagenham
2005	Kiss Me Kate	2019	Pirates of Penzance
2006	Little Shop of Horrors	2019	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
2006	Annie Get Your Gun	2020	Chicago
2007	South Pacific	2022	Jack The Ripper
2008	Hot Mikado	2022	Calendar Girls

Synopsis

This vibrant, action packed musical, based on L. Frank Baum's 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', follows Dorothy on her adventures through the Land of Oz. Featuring an array of fantastical creatures and characters, this is a fun, family friendly show, performed to a soundtrack of live rock, gospel and soul music.

Become immersed in the action as Dorothy and her companions travel down the yellow brick road, ultimately to discover that the one thing each of them was missing was with them all the time.

Production

Directors	Mandy Sayers
Musical Director	Peter Farrell
Choreography	Tammy Wall
Production Manager	Avril Robinson
.....	Nick Baker
Costumes.....	Louise Bateman
Set Design and Build.....	Tim Spink
	Martin Lester
Lighting Design.....	Andy Barker
Sound.....	Tim Spink

With thanks to Nick Mogg and Clifton Hoyle

Props.....	Vanessa Baker
	Nick Baker
Programme.....	Martin Lester
Treasurer.....	Angela Monaghan
Social Media.....	Adam Beckman
Louise Bateman	

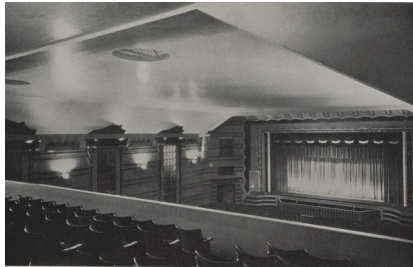
Thalian Theatre Company – A Short History

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 Thilians 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 première of Castles in the Air written for the society by



The Welwyn Theatre, 1930



The Welwyn Theatre Opened
27th January 1928

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 señorita. 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.

More recently in 2023 the society changed its name from the Welwyn Thalian Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society to the Thalian Theatre Company and moving to Thalian Hall.

Why not become a Friend of Thaliens?

Get an email now and then to let you know what we are doing and dates for our upcoming auditions and shows. Just go to our website and on the home page, enter your email address.

Thalian Theatre Company Presents

A variety show with a TWIST!

Stars in Our Eyes

It's a cabaret style seating plan with tables of four available.

Tickets Will Be Available on our website from the 25th July 2023 at just £12.



7th to 9th December at Thalian Hall (Opposite B & Q)
Shows Start at 7:30pm
64-68 Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1JU
www.thaliantheatrecompany.co.uk