

THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF MUSICAL

Director Darren Barsby
Musical Director Chris Burrett

Book and Lyrics by Jake Brunger
Music and Lyrics by Pippa Cleary

9th - 13th June 2026 at 7:30pm
Tickets £20



Book at www.thaliantheatrecompany.co.uk or call 0333 666 3366

The Great British Bake Off television programme produced by Love Productions
Original Theme Music by Tom Howe

The Great British Bake Off is a registered trade mark of Love Productions Ltd.
Originally produced in London at the Noel Coward Theatre by Mark Goucher Productions
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

www.mtishows.co.uk

NODA
For every stage



PRESIDENT Brian King MBE



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair:	Mandy Sayers
Secretary:	Zara Stuart
Treasurer:	Ian McNally
Committee:	Darren Barsby, Louise Bateman, Alison Downes, Martin Lester, Maryann Scott, Colleen Town, Tammy Wall.

Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Thalian Theatre Company, I am delighted to welcome you to our spring production of the Great British Bake Off Musical. This is a stage adaptation of the beloved TV baking competition, featuring original songs, quirky characters, and a heart-warming story of amateur bakers competing for the Star Baker crown. The musical captures the charm, competition, and community spirit of the original baking show, making it a delightful experience for theatre-goers of all ages. You will definitely leave with toes tapping and, of course, wanting cake!



Mandy Sayers, Chair

Director

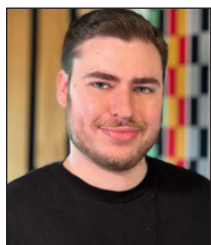


Darren Barsby

Darren has directed many shows and musicals at The Barn Theatre Club (The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Peter Pan, Honk), five star reviewed Off West End professional shows with Sense of Player Theatre Company, co-directed with Shattered Windscreen at the Minack Theatre (Don Quixote) and Theatre Week award winners with the Company of Players (Six Dead Queens and an

Inflatable Henry). With Thaliens Theatre Company, the first performance anywhere in the world outside the USA of Twelfth Night the Musical and recently a world premiere presentation of a workshop for a brand new musical about the life and times of Leonardo Da Vinci.

Musical Director



Chris Burrett

Chris has been MDing for over a decade and drumming for even longer. He also runs his own vocal and jazz groups, a theatre company, and a team of music teachers, and is currently Principal Percussionist for the BBC Concert Band. He is really looking forward to working with the Thaliens.

Choreographer



Courtney Cole

Courtney has choreographed multiple productions with the Thaliens, including numbers from Kinky Boots, The Addams Family, and several of the Christmas shows. Her choreography focuses on musicality, storytelling, and creating pieces that allow performers to feel confident and expressive on stage. Courtney particularly enjoys developing choreography that reflects character and

energy within the music, and she is excited to bring that approach to this year's production.

Principals



Gemma

MJ Scott

MJ has been performing with Thalian Theatre Company since 2018 and has enjoyed every minute. Some roles include: Pugsley (The Addams Family) and Feste (Twelfth Night The Musical). This is her biggest role to date and it's equally as exciting as it is terrifying!



Ben

Neville Stratton

This is Nev's first show with Thaliens, however he wasn't a stranger to some of the members of the society, having performed with them during his many years of being in shows across Herts, Beds and North London. He has had such fun with this show, and it's been a pleasure working with such a talented cast. It's like a "cosy little family".



Izzy

Emma Gilby

Emma is a dance teacher who loves to perform in local theatre in her spare time! Over the last few years she has performed with Ware Musical Theatre, Thalian Theatre company, The Barn Theatre and Digswell Players, as well as choreographing for St Albans MTC. She is thrilled to be taking on the character of Izzy in this show.



Francesca

Gemma Capon

Gemma is extremely excited to be playing Francesca in her debut performance at Thaliens. She has been performing in the Singspace musical theatre choir in Stevenage, which has given her the confidence to get on the stage again and do what she loves.



Babs

Kay Ward

Kay is new to the Thaliens but she has been performing in amateur musicals for quite a few years. She loves singing and dancing and enjoys being in the ensemble and taking on smaller acting roles. In real life, Kay is an accountant, proving that what you see isn't always what you get! Kay loves comedy and is excited to be playing the part of Babs.



Dezza

Harrison Huntley

A member of the Thalian Theatre Company for a couple of years now - Harrison is thrilled to be taking part in the show tonight! Previously playing roles in Twelfth Night the Musical and Kinky Boots, he is excited to take to the stage as Dezza for you all tonight! Enjoy the show!



Russell

Chris White

Chris has been performing for just over 25 years, mainly acting. As well as The Thaliens, he also belongs to The Barn Theatre & Digswell Players. Although comedy is his love, he likes to push himself out of his comfort zone. Baking and dance (Described by the director as movement), ticks both of these boxes.



Hassan

Jay Puranik

Jay graduated from Solent University's Musical Theatre BA with First Class Honours. Since then, Jay has accrued three professional theatre credits, the most recent being a touring production across England and Wales. Jay feels that Hassan, in many ways, deeply reflects his own life experiences.



Jim

Sean Bailey

An avid performer, Sean is happy to be returning to the Thaliens stage after previously appearing as Lola in 'Kinky Boots' and Mr Shakespeare in 'Nativity! The Musical'. He also recently played Angel in 'Rent' for HDOS.



Kim

Jenny Lewin

Since joining Thaliens in 2019, Jenny has taken on roles including Lauren in Kinky Boots, Morticia in The Addams Family, Jennifer in Nativity! and Dorothy in The Wiz. She can't wait to step into the famous Bake Off tent, recreate the classic skits, and of course shout "BAKE!"



Pam Lee

Mary Goodfellow

After an earlier professional career working in cabaret and theatre for schools, Mary has directed, choreographed and acted for Digswell Players for a number of years, the last production being Cluedo. She has appeared in Thalian productions such as Twelfth Night and The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night Time.



Phil Hollinghurst

Pip Gray

Pip is a proud member of Thaliens and has delighted audiences with a range of bold, charismatic, and wonderfully entertaining performances. He recently brought warmth and humour to the role of Don in Kinky Boots, proving that sequins and sincerity go hand in hand. Most recently, he appeared as Pharaoh in Ware Musical Theatre's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.



Lily

Isabella Atkinson

Ten year old Isabella has starred in many local theatre productions, including as Matilda in Matilda the Musical, Pepper in Annie, Flounder in The Little Mermaid, and Young Fiona in Shrek. A musical theatre fanatic, she's thrilled to be playing Lily with the Thaliens.



Lily

Millie Arnold

Millie has been in many shows before such as Across the Line, Troubles A Brewin' (both in the West End) with PQA, Matilda JR with the Barn Theatre and recently in Nativity! with the Thaliens. She is so excited about all the cakes and hopes there will be some butterfly cakes on set somewhere!



Dancers/Ensemble

Laura Brendish
Chloe Deamer

Erin Nash
Bex Rose

Ensemble

Aiysha Mirza
Alison Downes
Annette Leishman
Colleen Town

Louise Bateman
Mandy Sayers
Martin Lester
Vikki Shaw



Back Row:	Alison, Martin, Bex, Erin
Middle Row:	Mandy, Louise, Chloe, Laura, Vikki
Front Row:	Annette, Colleen, Aiysha

Musical Numbers, Act 1

Prologue	Choristers, Jim and Kim
The Bake Off Tent	Jim, Kim and The Bakers
The Arrival of the Judges	Pam, Phil, Jim and Kim
Obviously	Izzy and The Bakers
Somewhere in the Dough	Gemma
Slap It Like That	Phil, Pam, Company
Episode 1 Judging and Elimination / Big Hug	The Bakers
Bring on the Scone	Jim, Kim, Pam and Phil
Grow	Francesca, Izzy, Ben, Hassan
The Handshake Song	The Bakers
My Dad	Lily and Ben
All The Way	Company

Musical Numbers, Act 2

Keep On Keeping On	Pam and Company
Last Time On Bake Off	Gemma, Bakers, Kim, Jim
The Perfect Petit Fours	Gemma and Ben
Obviously (Reprise)	Izzy
Don't Send Me Home	Company
Don't Send Me Home (Reprise)	Ben and Gemma
I'd Never Be Me Without You	Phil and Pam
The Semi-Final	Semi-finalists, Jim, Kim, Pam and Phil
Babs' Lament	Babs
Rise	Gemma
The Mel To My Sue I The Final Three	Kim, Pam, Jim, Phil
Finale	Company

Fun Facts

- The musical was created with the involvement of Love Productions, the company behind the original TV series, helping it retain the authentic Bake Off atmosphere.
- The original TV programme first aired in 2010 and became such a cultural phenomenon that it significantly increased sales of baking ingredients, baking books, and kitchen equipment across the UK.
- The show is often credited with helping revive interest in home baking and even boosting membership of the Women's Institute.
- Contestants on the TV series do not win a cash prize — traditionally, the winner receives flowers, a cake stand, and the title of Star Baker champion.
- Episodes of the TV show are filmed over two days, and contestants wear the same clothes on both days so the editing appears seamless.

Synopsis

The Great British Bake Off Musical brings the beloved television phenomenon to the stage in a joyful, warm-hearted celebration of baking, friendship, and self-discovery. Set inside the iconic Bake Off tent, the story follows a group of amateur bakers competing week by week in the nation's favourite baking competition. As the contestants whisk, knead, and prove their way through Signature, Technical, and Showstopper challenges, personalities begin to shine just as brightly as the pastries.

Each baker arrives with their own hopes, insecurities, and reasons for entering the competition. Some are chasing lifelong dreams, others are searching for confidence, connection, or a fresh start. Under the watchful eyes of the judges and the cheerful encouragement of the presenters, tensions rise alongside the dough as the bakers battle time limits, collapsing cakes, and the fear of the dreaded "soggy bottom."

Packed with catchy original songs, witty humour, and touching emotional moments, the musical captures everything audiences love about the television series: kindness, creativity, and community spirit. Alongside the comic mishaps and baking disasters are heartfelt stories about family, friendship, resilience, and believing in yourself.

With colourful choreography, larger-than-life baking challenges, and plenty of theatrical sweetness, The Great British Bake Off Musical serves up a feel-good theatrical experience for audiences of all ages. Ultimately, it is a story about ordinary people achieving extraordinary things — one bake at a time.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Welwyn Hatfield Council for supporting our application for an Annual Community Grant. This money will be help us develop our lighting and sound infrastructure, some of which will already be in use during this production! Thank you again.

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.

Musicians

Keyboard 1 / MD.....	Chris Burrett
Keyboard 2	Jemma Graham
Woodwind	Tanisha Santiago
Guitar.....	Kester Tunstall
Bass.....	Jon Kirton
Percussion.....	Sami Alsindi

Production

Director.....	Darren Barsby
Musical Director.....	Chris Burrett
Choreographer.....	Courtney Cole
Production Manager.....	Zara Stuart
Costumes.....	Amy Knowles
	Emma Gilby
	Jack Johnson
	Louise Bateman
	MJ Scott
Set Design and Build.....	Stephanie Dunn
	Darren Barsby
Set Build	Andy Barker
	Harrison Huntley
	Jack Johnson
	Martin Lester
Lighting.....	Andy Barker
With thanks to Clifton Hoyle and Nick Mogg	
Sound.....	Will Mitchell
Technical Assistant.....	Jasper Ghumania
	Elliot Cameron
Stage Managers.....	Ruth Johnson
	Vinni Clemmens
Props.....	Vanessa Baker
Programme.....	Martin Lester
Treasurer.....	Ian McNally

With special thanks to David Meek and Tom Arnold for their help in covering for some rehearsals with piano accompaniment.

Thanks too to Matt Arnold from Deck Chair Design who printed off the Bake Off designs on our aprons.

We are grateful to the Company of Players (COPS) for the loan of some costumes.

2026 - 2027 Season

Everybody's Talking About Jamie.

A vibrant, uplifting musical about finding your voice and embracing who you truly are. Jamie New dreams big, faces doubts and obstacles, and learns to shine with the help of unexpected allies. Full of heart, humour, and unforgettable music, it's a story of acceptance and the power of being yourself.

13th - 17th October 2026

Christmas Variety Show.

A sparkling seasonal celebration for all ages, packed with music, comedy, and festive cheer. This lively mix of performances brings warmth, nostalgia, and plenty of surprises to get everyone in the holiday spirit. A perfect way to begin the Christmas season with family and friends.

3rd - 5th December 2026

Come From Away

Come From Away is a musical based on the true story of 7,000 airline passengers stranded in Gander, Newfoundland after 9/11. It explores how the small community welcomed strangers, offering food, shelter, and kindness, forming unexpected bonds during crisis, blending humour, humanity, and emotional storytelling through ensemble performance throughout the journey.

16th - 20th February 2027

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.

Past Performances

Why not visit our archives web page to see photos from our productions over the last 20 years. Tap or scan this QR.



Past Productions

2000	Oklahoma	2014	Little Shop of Horrors
2001	The Pajama Game	2015	Guys and Dolls
2001	Guys and Dolls	2016	Oklahoma
2002	Jack the Ripper	2017	Sleeping Beauty
2002	Anything Goes	2018	Made in Dagenham
2003	Cabaret	2019	Pirates of Penzance
2003	The Wizard Of Oz	2019	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
2004	Call Me Madam	2020	Chicago
2004	Sweet Charity	2022	Jack The Ripper
2005	Pirates of Penzance	2022	Calendar Girls
2005	Kiss Me Kate	2023	The Wiz
2006	Little Shop of Horrors	2023	The Addams Family
2006	Annie Get Your Gun	2024	Twelfth Night
2007	South Pacific	2024	Six (Teen Edition)
2008	Hot Mikado	2024	Evita
2009	Calamity Jane	2025	Kinky Boots
2010	My Fair Lady	2025	Nativity!
2011	Half A Sixpence	2026	Curious Incident (Play)
2012	Fiddler on the Roof		
2013	Oliver		

Thalian Theatre Company – A Short History

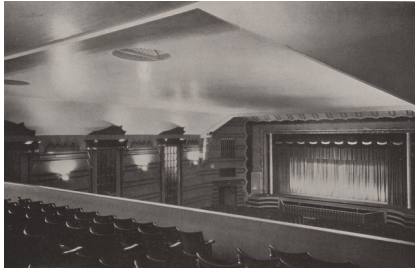
Formed in 1929 from a merger with two other amateur societies, the Barnstormers (drama) and the Operatic Society (music). The Old Welwyn Theatre in Parkway, later the Embassy Cinema, was the first venue. Most of the early shows were Gilbert and Sullivan productions. Dame Flora Robson, an early and active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



The Welwyn Theatre, 1930



**The Welwyn Theatre Opened
27th January 1928**

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 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 until making Thalian Hall their permanent home in 2020.

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

Why not become a Friend of Thaliens?

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

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT

JAMIE

13th - 17th October 2026

Book & Lyrics by TOM MACRAE

Music by DAN GILLESPIE SELLS

From an idea by JONATHAN BUTTERELL

Director: Kat Rogers

Musical Director: Chris Burrett



We hope that you enjoyed this version of our programme.

If you have the time, we would love to hear what you think of our free online version as opposed to a printed programme which usually sells for £2.

You can do this [here](#).