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ST NEOTS VAMPS
Presents

A SELECTION OF
THE BEST LOVED
MUSICAL SHOW
SONGS

SHOWSTOPPERS

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Set by
St. Neots VAMPS

Musical Director
ALANA THACKRAY

Director
IAN WORSFOLD

Choreographers
IAN WORSFOLD

JAN WEBBER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to 'Showstoppers 2'. This is VAMPS second production of the very successful format inspired by the BBC's popular television show starring Gary Wilmot. Once again we have managed to persuade Ian Worsfold, Alana Thackray and Jan Webber to take on their familiar roles of Director, Musical Director and Choreographer, respectively. Every member of the cast has worked extremely hard in rehearsals over the past few months, and look forward to entertaining you to the best of their ability. I for one, am very proud of them all and am honoured to be part of the company. While you relax in your seats and enjoy the performance, I would ask you to take a moment to consider the commitment required from these people, ordinary people, who manage to find the time in their busy lives to spend many hours a week practising their craft, until it is polished enough to present to you, the ticket buying public. We at VAMPS, although amateurs, are dedicated to providing you with the most professionally presented theatre experience, outside of the west end, (at a fraction of the cost), that we possibly can. I hope you will agree that when you consider the production costs involved with a show of this calibre, you have indeed had value for money. For the last few years it has been noticed that every new VAMPS production gets bigger and better, and this is largely due to the support and encouragement we received from you our patrons. Indeed, I intend this trend to continue into the future, stay with us you will be amazed.

I have the greatest of pleasure in announcing that next April's presentation will be VAMPS production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!'. We are presently inviting people to audition for parts and chorus. For further information call me on 01480 403487.

In the meantime sit back, relax and let us entertain you, and remember, applause is our only reward, so don't be afraid to show your appreciation. Also it means that your hands will be nice and warm when you walk out into the cold air.

Don McKay

A Note About SNADA

VAMPS is a member of St Neots Arts Development Association (SNADA), and is represented by members of local Arts groups. It's main aim is to encourage development of the arts in St Neots, both in terms of facilities and shows.

This page is dedicated to Margaret & Don.

Ian Worsfold – Director & Choreographer

Ian has been with us for 13 years during which time he has played numerous lead roles, his favourites being Nathan Detroit in 'Guys & Dolls' and Bill Snibson in 'Me & My Girl'. This is Ian's second time as Director, his debut being the original 'Showstoppers' last year. He also belongs to Old Time Music Hall, St Neots Players and Stewartby Operatic. His other interests include skiing, playing the drums, hockey and golf. He works in the royalties department of Warner Music in London.

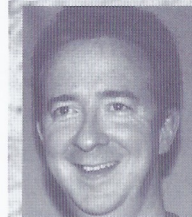
Alana Thackray – Musical Director

Alana is celebrating 22 years playing in our orchestra/band. This is her tenth show as Musical Director. She has appeared in numerous concerts and shows in Britain and abroad, playing the trumpet, violin, piano or tenor horn and continues to play for many local societies when she has the time. She is pleased to continue her association with VAMPS and would like to say "thank you" to the band members who have really helped to lift the show.

Alana is now looking forward to OLIVER! next April.

Jan Webber – Choreographer

Jan, a hairdresser and mum of three girls joined VAMPS for her first appearance on stage in the 'Wizard of Oz', and has been hooked ever since. She has played Sally Smith in 'Me and My Girl' and Eliza Doolittle in 'My Fair Lady' where her tap lessons have come in handy. Jan also sings with her church choir and singing group and enjoys working with the children's music in Sunday school.



Ian Worsfold



Alana Thackray



Jan Webber

THE
PRODUCTION
TEAM

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

All aisles must be kept clear of obstructions.

In the event of an emergency evacuation of the auditorium, please use the nearest exit or as directed by the front of house staff.

Unauthorised photography is not permitted during the performance.

A bell will be rung five minutes before the start of each act.

DIRECTORS NOTE

“How Do You Follow That?”....

...was a comment made by a member of the cast of Showstoppers as the final curtain closed on last Novembers show. “Easy” someone replied “Showstoppers II”. At their next meeting the committee had given Showstoppers II the green light and I had been given the enviable task of choosing another selection of my favourite show tunes.

What made Showstoppers such a great success was the overwhelming enthusiasm and commitment of everyone involved. I am very pleased to say that this hasn't ebbed in the slightest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the production team for all their support and expertise that have turned my ideas into a grand reality. I would also like to thank Nicola and Jordi Guitart and Mandy Colthurst who were able to inspire when Jan and I were suffering from ‘choreographers blank’. To Alana a big ‘Thank you for the music’ and to Jan a big thank you for being a constant source of inspiration, support and beer.

Finally, a very big thank you to you the audience for your support, I sincerely hope that you enjoy the show.

Ian Worsfold

**G
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A message from Gary Wilmot

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL (COMPANY, BACKSTAGE,
FRONT OF HOUSE – IN FACT EVERYONE!) IN
THE ST NEOTS VAMPS 1998 PRODUCTION OF
‘SHOWSTOPPERS II’.**

HAVE FUN – ENJOY.



Bill Berridge

Bill started his entertainment ‘career’ in the 50’s, and is the longest serving member of Gilbert & Sullivan. Bill is a member of the ‘Old Time Musical Hall Society’ and regularly entertains children and ‘old folk’. He is a very enthusiastic and once dined with the late great Max Miller.

Barbara Boughey

This is Barabara’s first show with VAMPS. She was previously a member of ‘The Sherrard Players’ based in South London, with whom she previously played one of the Major General’s daughters in the Pirates of Penzance. Barbara is a Veterinary Nurse at the Cambridge Veterinary College and her hobbies include dog training and dressmaking. She is married and has a four year old son.

Katy Breed

Katy joined VAMPS for ‘Showstoppers’ last year and also appeared in ‘My Fair Lady’. She works at the ‘Cutting Company’ in St Neots where she is training to be a hair stylist. When Katy is not working or rehearsing, she likes to go to aerobics and socialise with her friends.

Shelley Browne

Shelley joined VAMPS in March and appeared in ‘My Fair Lady’. She has two children and enjoys singing, dancing and her new niece Lydia!

Shelley writes poetry in her spare time and has had some of her work published.

Stan Buddery

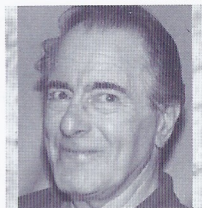
St Neots’ resident singing driving instructor Stan joined us for ‘High Society’ and has been in every show since. He has a phenomenal repertoire of show songs as anyone who has learnt to drive with him will testify! He lists his interests as singing Jolson songs, video camera’s, his family and grandchildren.

Marina Coleman-Rivers

Marina has been involved in music and drama for many years. This is her third production with VAMPS, having previously appeared in the chorus of ‘Me and My Girl’ and ‘Showstoppers’. She has also performed in plays and pantomimes with the St Neots Players and toured with TMH Productions.

A lover of all aspects of theatre arts, Marina is particularly fond of musicals – her favourite role to date was that of Crystal in ‘Little Shop of Horrors’.

Marina is married and has a five month old son, Blake.



Bill Berridge



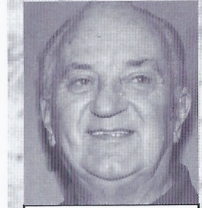
Barbara Boughey



Katy Breed



Shelley Browne

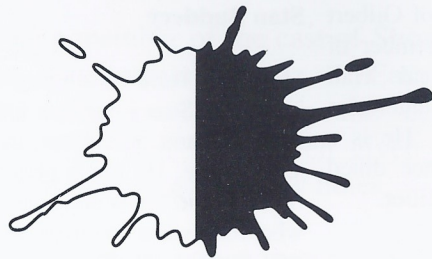


Stan Buddery



Marina Coleman-Rivers

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Nat Coles

Nat joined us for 'All Clear St Neots' and his first principal part was as Charles the butler in 'Me and My Girl'. He is also a member of the Music Hall Society. He runs his own motor services company in Somersham. In his spare time, he is learning to tap dance and is also a keen golfer.

Alison Davis

Alison has been performing on stage for five years. She was formerly with Hillingdon Musical Society and Langford St Andrews Players where she met her husband Peter. She works as a telecommunications manager for DuPont Pharmaceuticals. She finds that she has no spare time since giving birth to her first baby, Jemima in July!

Peter Davis

Peter has been treading the boards for sixteen years. He previously belonged to Hillingdon Musical Society, Silsoe Drama Club and Tophatters in Luton. He works as a manager for Alpha Centre Ltd. and his interests include motor sport and DIY.

Marian English

Marian has been with VAMPS for a year and this is her second show. She works for a local secondary school as a First Aider Admin Assistant. She has three grown up children and four grandchildren.

Marian initiated the VAMPS workshop which allows existing members to improve their technique and new members to get involved in the Society.

Glenys Francis

This is Glenys' twenty-third production with VAMPS. Her first show was 'Oklahoma' in 1986 and she has played a number of roles, including Ellie May Shipley in 'Showboat'. Her favourite role was as the wicked Empress of China in 'Aladdin' and she also enjoyed being a can-can dancer in 'Calamity Jane'. In her spare time, Glenys likes to play bowls.

Danny Fraser

This is Danny's second appearance with VAMPS having performed in Showstoppers last year. Unfortunately for VAMPS, Danny lives in Corby and is not able to participate as much as we would hope. He has performed in cabaret for Pontins and produces shows for Rockingham Forest Scout area.



Nat Coles



Alison Davis



Peter Davis



Marian English



Glenys Francis

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Mike Gee

Mike is into his third show with VAMPS, but has been involved in musical theatre, on and off, since 1960. As a past member of the Bedford Marionettes, he has performed in ten or more musicals plus pantomimes. Mike works for a packaging group in Sandy. His hobbies include collecting original show soundtracks, cartooning, painting and golf.

Joanne Goodwin

This is Joanne's first show with VAMPS having previously been a member of P.A.D.S. some years ago. Married with 2 children, Joanne's hobbies include tap dancing and meeting new people. She also helps out at her daughters' playgroup when time allows.

Lia Gray

Lia's first role with VAMPS was in 1996 as prompt for 'High Society' – which is ironic really as 'prompt' isn't a word that you would normally associate with her! Once bitten by the VAMPS bug, she went on to become a 'jitterbug' and a munchkin farmer in 'The Wizard Of Oz' – after which she needed a year off to recover!

Lia has returned this year in time for 'My Fair Lady' where the glamorous role of cockney street seller sealed her return to the 'asylum', as she puts it!

Louisa Hewitt

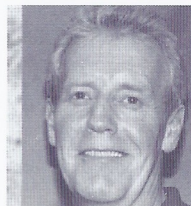
Louisa has been a member of the society for 12 years, in which time she has appeared in most of the productions. Her favourite part was the wicked witch of the west in 'The Wizard of Oz'. Married with two daughters, Louisa manages the accounts for her husbands software company. She has been on the VAMPS committee for the past three years. Her hobbies include yoga and dressmaking.

Jenny Jackson

Jenny is celebrating her 27th year with VAMPS. She has played many parts including Hodel in 'Fiddler on the Roof', Maybel in 'The Pirates of Penzance' and May in the 'Pajama Game'. Jenny is also an expert with needle and thread and has made the costumes for numerous shows, including 'Showstoppers II'. In addition to VAMPS, she belongs to Music Hall Society and St Mary's Follies. Jenny works for Social Services as a care assistant.

Ian Jackson

Ian has been with us since 1987, before which he belonged to the St Neots Players. He has held numerous lead roles including Prez in 'Pajama Game', Danny Gilmartin in 'Calamity Jane' and Parchester in 'Me and My Girl'. Ian works as a service manager for Nichols Institute Diagnostics. He likes water skiing and is a keen aviator.



Mike Gee



Joanne Goodwin



Lia Gray



Louisa Hewitt



Jenny Jackson



Ian Jackson

THE CAST



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Peppercorns Performing Arts is a member of SNADA.



Melanie Jones

Mel has been a member of VAMPS for 2 years and this is her fourth show. This is also her second year of serving on the committee as publicity officer. She takes singing lessons and tap dancing classes. She enjoys playing the piano and going to musicals and theatres. Her additional hobbies include DIY and gardening.

Lynn LaPare

Lynn has been a member of the society for the past 18 months and is already involved in VAMPS being the secretary of the committee. She is a busy mum of three and works as a senior secretary for a firm of architects. In her spare time she is a keen golfer.

Lynn is looking forward to her first solo in Showstoppers.

Don McKay

Don joined VAMPS eighteen months ago working backstage for 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Me and My Girl'. He has also been involved with various Players productions. He soon joined the committee and handled the publicity for 'Showstoppers' and 'My Fair Lady', in which he also performed. Don is the current chairman of VAMPS. Don is currently making a film with 'Channel 7' in which he plays a Detective Inspector. He lists his hobbies as fishing, painting and

studying the architecture of local hostels!

Sam McKay

This is Sam's third show with VAMPS. She attends Longsands College where she particularly enjoys drama and art. She has recently auditioned for a part in the St Neots Players forthcoming production of Cinderella. She is looking forward to singing 'Consider Yourself' in today's performance.

Peggy Maggs

Peggy has been seen on stage with VAMPS and the Music Hall Society for 20 years. Prior to this she was involved in straight acting roles for about 18 years in which time she was awarded the Best Actress award from the Royal Air Force. She says her hobbies are 'anything and everything'.

Gill Minshall

Gilly joined VAMPS in January this year. She was previously a member of a musical society in British Forces Germany where she participated in several musicals including 'South Pacific' and 'My Fair Lady'. She has worked on stage and behind the scenes. Now a single mum, she enjoys the change of scene that VAMPS membership brings.



Melanie Jones



Lynn LaPare



Don McKay



Sam McKay



Peggy Maggs



Gill Minshall

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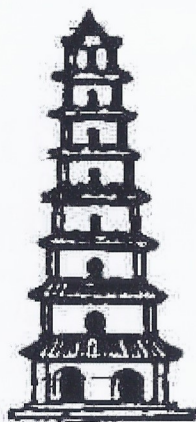
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Lisa Redman

Lisa joined VAMPS in 1994 and has been a strong member of our chorus since her first show 'Cinderella'. She sang her first solo in 'Showstoppers' last year and is looking forward to being a soloist again for this production.

She has two daughters and lists her hobbies as socialising in the local hostelry!

Christine Suggars

Christine has been involved in amateur theatre for 21 years. Her first VAMPS show was 'Roaring into the Thirties', but her first leading role was as Lady Jacqueline in 'Me and My Girl'. She has a degree in theatre and belonged to several drama clubs prior to joining VAMPS. Christine works as a press officer for the Imperial Cancer Research fund. Her interests include gardening, chocolate, learning to tap dance and line dancing.

Louisa Webber

This is Louisa's fourth production with VAMPS and her second Showstoppers. She attends Ernulf School and enjoys dancing, playing the violin and singing and playing in church. She has been dancing since the age of three with MJ School of Dance and achieved gold and silver awards in ballet, modern and duets at festival level. Louisa has recently auditioned for the National Youth Music Theatre and is eagerly awaiting a result.



Lisa Redman



Christine Suggars



Louisa Webber

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society wishes to extend grateful thanks to the following:-

Friends of the Society for conducting the raffle and everyone who donated prizes.

Elders of the United Reformed Church for the use of Pilgrim Hall for rehearsals.

The Red Cross for their attendance.

All the front of house staff, stewards and programme sellers.

All of the backstage helpers.

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Services for fire safety assistance.

The staff of the Priory Centre.

Mr & Mrs Hawkey for allowing us the facilities for set and wardrobe storage.

Our corporate friends for their advertising.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

VAMPS stands for Variety and Musical Performing Society. We were formed in 1962 as the St Neots and District Operatic Society, but changed our name in 1993 to reflect the type of shows we now perform.

Each spring we stage a main production of a popular musical and in the autumn we produce a show based on a theme. These productions are shown at the Priory Centre and attract audiences of up to 250 people every night.

We are an enthusiastic amateur theatrical company with over 60 members and patrons. Members range in age from 13 to 77 years old and most of them live in and around St Neots but some travel from as far away as Huntingdon and Bedford.

We rehearse at the Pilgrim Hall (behind the United Reformed Church) in St Neots on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us please contact one of our committee members detailed below.

Chairman – Don McKay
01480 403487

Patrons Officer – Peggy Maggs
01480 381557

Membership Secretary – Christine Suggars
01480 217110

Past Productions

1962-72 Various Gilbert & Sullivan Productions
1973 Iolanthe
Fiddler on the Roof
1974 Ruddigore
1975 La Belle Helene
1976 The Pirates of Penzance
1977 The Merry Widow
1978 The Mikado
1979 HMS Pinafore
1980 South Pacific
1981 Bless the Bride
1982 Kiss Me Kate
1983 My Fair Lady
1984 Annie Get Your Gun
1985 Oliver
1986 Oklahoma
1987 Showboat
1988 The Pirates of Penzance
Till the Boys Come Home
1989 Half a Sixpence
Roaring into the 30s
1990 The Pajama Game
The 50s and 60s
1991 Guys and Dolls
Scrooge on Broadway
1992 The Boyfriend
30 Years On
1993 Anything Goes
Aladdin
1994 Calamity Jane
Cinderella
1995 Charlie Girl
All Clear St Neots
1996 High Society
The Wizard of Oz
1997 Me and My Girl
Showstoppers
1998 My Fair Lady

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Patrons of the Society

Why not become a patron? You will get one free ticket a year to either our spring or autumn show (the choice is yours), plus priority booking. In addition, you will be notified of other VAMPS activities such as coffee evenings and concerts. Patrons may attend the Society's Annual General Meeting and are kept informed of our activities via our newsletter.

There is a minimum annual subscription of £10 to cover costs. If you would like to become a patron please contact Peggy Maggs, 13 The Green, Brampton, Cambs. PE18 8RD or Tel: 01480 381557.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President

Jack Allen

Vice-Presidents

Bill Berridge, Derek Young

Chairman

Don McKay

Vice-Chairman & Treasurer

Louisa Hewitt

Secretary

Lynn LaPare

Other Committee Members : Katy Breed, Allan Hunt, Martin Inward, Marilyn Jackson, Ian Jackson, Melanie Jones, Peggy Maggs, Brian Moroney, Christine Suggars, Pam Swann.

Honorary Members Alana Thackray, Ian Worsfold.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Direction
Musical Direction
Choreography
Production Co-ordinator
Stage Manager
Lighting
Wardrobe
Properties
Front of House
Promotions
Publicity
Programme
Box Office

Ian Worsfold
Alana Thackray
Ian Worsfold/Jan Webber
Allan Hunt
Brian Moroney
Martin Inward
Jenny Jackson
Marilyn Jackson
Bill & Alice Freeman, Friends of the Society
Allan Hunt, Don McKay, Phil Cox
Melanie Jones, Katy Breed
Louisa Hewitt
Peggy Maggs, St Neots Priory Centre

BAND

Electric Piano & Keyboard
Bass Guitar
Guitar
Keyboard
Drums/Percussion

Alana Thackray
Andrew Stewart
Tony Rawson
Scott Saunders
Paul O'Neill

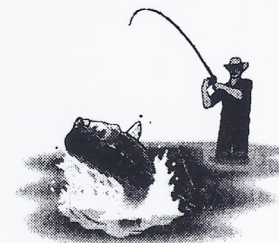
DIARY DATES...

Our next production will be Lionel Barts' 'Oliver'. This well loved musical contains many favourite songs such as 'Food Glorious Food', 'Where Is Love?', 'You've Got To Pick A Pocket Or Two' and 'Who Will Buy?'.

The show will run from Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th April 1999 at St Neots Priory Centre.

Advance tickets can be ordered from Peggy Maggs on 01480 381557.

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