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SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

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THE COMPANY

Pauline

T.R.O.D.S.

THEATRE ROYAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Theatre Royal is not just one of the major jewels in East Kent's Crown it is the Koh-i-Noor Diamond, but being priceless carries heavy responsibilities. Under the aegis of the Margate Theatre Royal Trust this historic and important regional theatre has now been open longer than at any other time for over one hundred years, a fact now recognised by the Arts Funding authorities so our future is more secure.

It has not been easy without working capital, we are of course a listed building and, whilst being in extremely good shape, there is maintenance to contend with. To operate the building within Health & Safety guidelines or just basic common sense requires a core professional staff, which has to be paid. The whole enterprise is assisted by both a volunteer Board of Directors, skilfully lead by Sir Alistair Hunter, and of course our in-house team of volunteers, who give up their free time so that you may enjoy yours. Incidentally we are always looking for more volunteers and, through our new Friends Organisation (watch this space for further announcements) we hope to recruit a team of "Little Angels" to back up the financial support.

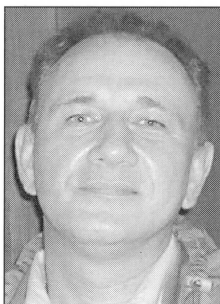
One minor problem with all this, is that being a theatre, we require productions on the stage, and facing over £2200 a week running costs (Insurance alone is £7700 per year) we cannot afford to be closed. Problems within the theatrical profession, lack of suitable productions etc., etc., means that we have to turn our minds to producing more of these productions in house. We now produce our own pantomime (Kent's most traditional and most reasonable!) this year it's 'Mother Goose' starring Barry Bethell. We have also commenced our own Youth Programme with a production of "FAME", and last summer we produced 'Bedroom Farce'. It therefore seemed natural to formally co-ordinate our activities into the Theatre Royal Operatic & Dramatic Society or T.R.O.D.S.

Our opening production 'The Diary of Anne Frank' this July won us considerable acclaim and tonight we present our first in-house musical 'Oklahoma'. We hope you will enjoy this 'modernised' version as we are not going down the usual old fashioned route of staging this with vast sets, but as the National Theatre proved with it's hit version the other year a minimalist approach can still bring back memories of this great musical.

After Christmas we are presenting 'The Hollow Crown' the anthology about the Kings and Queens of England. In March we are presenting the celebrated 'Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Murder Mystery' with all its chaotic comedy and eccentric ladies! There will be further announcements so watch this space.

MICHAEL WHEATLEY-WARD

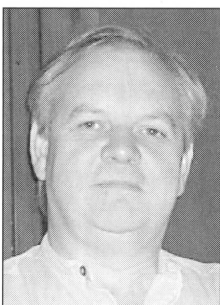
General Manager



MERVYN BROOKER

Director/Choreographer

Mervyn started his stage career more than 29 years ago appearing in many musicals including 'My Fair Lady', 'The Desert Song', 'Oklahoma', 'Carousel', and 'The King & I' to name just a few. In 1979 he played the lead role in 'Annie Get Your Gun' and this led to other leading roles and cabaret in Europe. Mervyn's T.V. work includes 'Crime Monthly', 'The Knock', 'Ellington', 'Time After Time', 'Frank Stubbs', 'Moving Story', 'Chandler & Co', 'Class Act', 'Royal Celebration', 'To Play The King' and 'Pride & Prejudice'. Locally Mervyn has directed and choreographed many shows, one of his proudest moments the successful 'Once Upon A Dream' which Mervyn wrote, directed and choreographed and appeared in. Other productions include 'Carousel', 'Cabaret', 'Anything Goes', 'Annie Get Your Gun', 'The Sound Of Music' and 'Annie'. Mervyn is very pleased to be back at The Theatre Royal Margate for T.R.O.D.S. first musical the classic Rodgers and Hammersteins *OKLAHOMA*.



JOHN MILLS

Musical Director

John Mills was born in Edingburgh and started down the musical road at the age of five with piano lessons. He took up the Clarinet at the age of twelve and it was this that brought him to Kent four years later to join the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers. He changed from the Clarinet to Flute because of mouth problems and before long was promoted to principal flute, making many appearances as a soloist in concerts and on radio and television. He was principal flute until he left the band in 1979.

He embarked into work having decided not to carry on in music. as a career, but instead decided to teach and conduct as a dedicated amateur. Throughout the seventies John had been playing for a number of societies around Kent. One particular was Medway Opera, which he was appointed Musical Director of in 1981. Over a twenty year period he conducted virtually all the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. He has also conducted Puccini, Verdi, Nicolai, Bizet, Gounod, Gay, Mascagni, Leoncavallo, Delibes, Offenbach, Strauss, Lehar and German. John is also responsible for the new English translations of La Boheme, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci and the Pearl Fishers. He is currently Musical Director for Maidstone Operatic.

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THE STORY OF OKLAHOMA

Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

How it began

11TH MARCH 1943

World premiere at the Schubert Theatre Newhaven, Connecticut of *'Away We Go'* a musical play with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II with music by Richard Rodgers based on Green Grow The Lilacs. *'Away We Go'* plays the Colonist Theatre Boston where changes are made prior to Broadway. On March 31st, a new musical called *'Oklahoma!*' opened at the St Jame's Theatre on Broadway. It was presented by the once affluent Theatre Guild in a last desperate bid to remain in business, though, to judge from the unfavourable word of mouth the out of town try outs were generating, the Guild would appear to be in serious trouble. Though the composer was the celebrated Richard Rodgers, his lyricist, on the this occasion, was not Lorenz Hart, his partner of twenty five years (and almost as many hits) but Oscar Hammerstein II, who had not had a Broadway success since *'Music In The Air'* way back in 1932, the switch in partnership was viewed by the cynical Broadway pundits with trepidation; so was the whole nature of the show itself. "No girls' No gags' No chance", was how showman Mike Todd described it after a try out performance.

Three hours later, however, the Theatre Guild, together with the new partnership of Rodgers and Hammerstein, director Rouben Mamoulian and choreographer Angnes De Mille were the proud possessors of a gigantic smash a major miracle had just happened, or as Hammerstein himself put at the time "the glow was like the light of a thousand lanterns... you could feel it. It was that bright."

Broadway had another hit and for the next five years and nine weeks for a record total of 2,248 performances *'Oklahoma'* lit up the great white way with its refreshing innocence and its boisterous evocation of a world long past. Though American musical comedy was born in 1866 with *'The Black Crook'*, it was not until *'Oklahoma'* that the genre finally became accepted as a viable art form and began to fulfil its rich potential. The Theatre Royal Margate hope you enjoy this classic musical.

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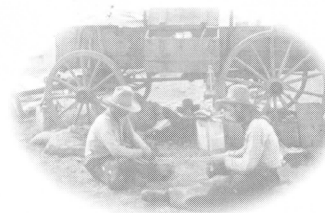
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JAMES REUTHER

Curly

James is no stranger to Musical Theatre having appeared in 'Seven Brides For Seven Brothers', 'South Pacific', 'The Boy Friend', 'Robert and Elizabeth', 'Carousel', 'My Fair Lady', 'Mikado' and 'The King And I' this will be the third time James has appeared in 'Oklahoma!' and we owe James a special thank you after stepping into the role of Curly just four weeks ago. A true professional and we think a real star. We hope this will be the first of many shows that James will appear in at The Theatre Royal.



JULIE GROVER

Laurey

Julie began her love of music and drama at school by participating in orchestras, choirs and drama groups. Her love of singing has grown whilst qualifying as a Staff Nurse. Julie joined Merlyn Productions and has appeared in many productions over the last ten years. Her characters have included Carrie in 'Carousel' and Maria in 'The Sound Of Music' with Faversham Philharmonic Society as well as competing in various talent and charity shows. At present she is auditioning in the West End under the tuition of Avril Gray. She is looking forward to playing the part of Laurey in this the first T.R.O.D.S. production and hopes it will be the start of many more to come.



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SCENES

ACT 1

- SCENE 1 The Front of Laureys Farm House
- SCENE 1a A farm Meadow (a few minutes later)
- SCENE 1b The Front of Laureys Farm House
- SCENE 1c A Farm Meadow (later that day)
- SCENE 2 The Smoke House
- SCENE 3 A Grove On Laureys Farm

INTERLUDE TO DREAM BALLET

ACT 2

- SCENE 1 Behind Skidmores Ranch House
- SCENE 1a A farm Meadow
- SCENE 2 The Kitchen Porch Of Skidmores Ranch
- SCENE 2a A Farm Meadow
- SCENE 3 The Front Of Laureys Farm House

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

- Oh What A Beautiful Mornin'Curly
- Laureys EntranceLaurey
- The Surry With The Fringe On Top.....Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller
- Kansas CityWill, Aunt Eller and Boys
- I Can't Say NoAdo Annie
- Entrance Of EnsembleWill, Ado Annie, Ensemble
- Oh What A Beautiful Mornin' (reprise).....Ensemble
- Many A New DayLaurey and Girls
- It's a scandal! It's an OutrageAli Hakim, Boys and Girls
- People Will Say We're In LoveCurly and Laurey
- Pore Jud Is Daid.....Curly and Jud
- Lonely Room.....Jud
- Out Of My Dreams interlude to Ballet...Laury, Girls, Dream Figures

INTERVAL

ACT2

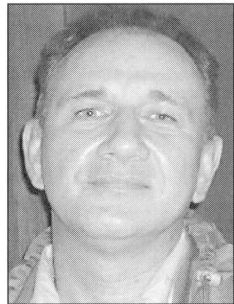
- The Farmer And The Cowman.....Carnes Aunt Eller Curly Will Ado
Annie Slim and Ensemble
- All Er NothinAdo Annie Will and Girls
- People Will Say Were In Love (reprise)Curly and Laurey
- Oklahoma.....Curly Laurey Aunt Eller Ike Fred and Ensemble
- Finale Ultimo.....Entire Company
- Oklahoma (reprise).....Entire Company



MARIA VARY

Ado Annie

Maria has a great love of Musical Theatre and has enjoyed playing the parts of Charlotte in *'Oliver'* Adelaide in *'Guys And Dolls'* Hodel in *'Fiddler On The Roof'* Maisie in *'The Boy Friend'* to name just a few. Earlier this year Maria was placed 2nd in the finals of the National Talent Show. This is Maria's first performance at The Theatre Royal and we certainly hope not the last. We feel we have a star in the making



MERVYN BROOKER

Will Parker

Mervyn had covered the full spectrum of the entertainment field appearing in Musicals, Variety Shows, Old Time Music Hall, T.V. and films. This production of Oklahoma will be Mervyns 3rd appearance in this show and he is looking forward to appearing at the Theatre Royal again.



CAST LIST

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| James Reuther..... | Curley |
| Julie Grover..... | Laurey |
| Jane Danes..... | Aunt Eller |
| Mervyn Brooker..... | Will Parker |
| Maria Vary..... | Ado Annie |
| Roy Spreckley..... | Ali Hakim |
| Lee Patrick..... | Jud Fry |
| Joanna Overton..... | Gertie Cummings |
| Al Rich..... | Andrew Carnes |
| Anthony Davies..... | Ike Skidmore |
| Frank Tucker..... | Cord Elam |
| Sophia Amato..... | Laurey Ballet & Laura |
| Kelly Ann Spraul..... | Virginia & Dancer |
| Michelle Gosden..... | Jess & Dancer |
| Charlotte Brooker..... | Pigtails & Dancer |
| Martyn Mitchell..... | Slim |
| Michael Frazer..... | Junior |
| Barry Page..... | Luke |
| Jonathan Fisher..... | Fred |
| Devin O'Grady..... | Joe |
| Mark Ezekiel..... | Jake |
| Jenny Barlow..... | Kate |
| Heidi Moran..... | Ellen |
| Sophia Tarjomani..... | Sylvie |
| Shelia Fox..... | Jane |
| Edith Smith..... | Dorathea |
| Bettina Hearne..... | Aggie |
| Tristann Mortimer..... | Clara |
| Pauline Booker..... | Doris |

Special appearance by Lizzy the horse

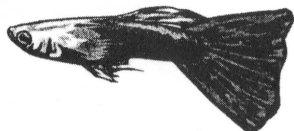
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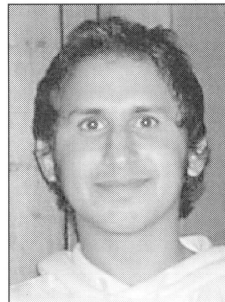
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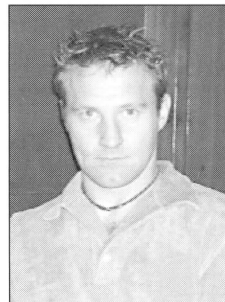
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ROY SORECKLEY

Ali Hakim

Roy has studied dance and drama and has training with Avril Gray. Previously audiences have seen Roy playing the part of Eugene in 'Grease' Amos Heart in 'Chicago' and Jigger Cragan in 'Carousel'. This is the first time Roy has appeared at The Theatre Royal Margate and is looking forward to playing the part of Ali Hakim. His bubbly personality soon made him a popular member of the company and we hope that this is the first of many appearances at the Theatre Royal.



LEE PATRICK

Jud Fry

Lee has been singing for as long as he can remember and since first stepping on the stage here at The Theatre Royal six years ago, he has appeared in cabaret and theatres all over the country. Lee has won many fans with his great charm and singing style and although singing may be his first love Lee has captivated audiences with his acting skills in dark roles, playing bad guys like Bill Sykes and Daniel Quilp two of Charles Dickens nastier characters. Lee is looking forward to getting into the role of Jud Fry and would like to wish all the cast luck, he would also like to thank you for your support of this beautiful theatre and hopes you enjoy this show and many more.

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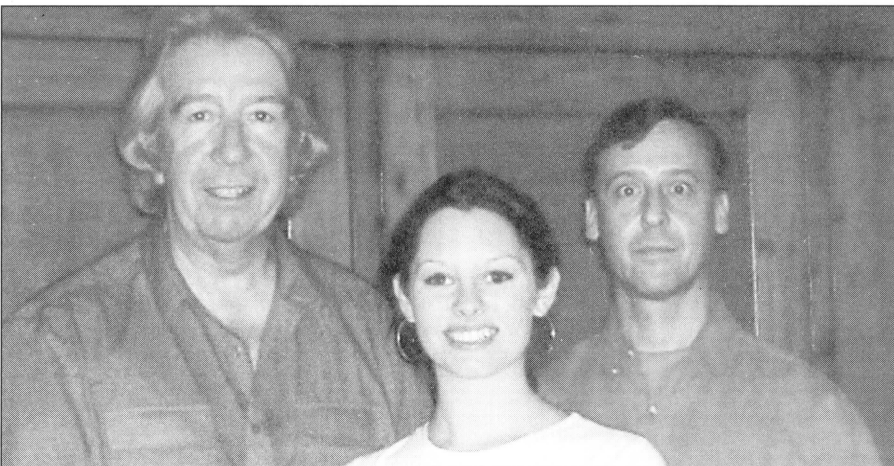
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JANE DANES
Aunt Eller

Jane who despite turning down a scholarship at RADA at the age of 16 has nevertheless continued to maintain a keen interest in amateur drama, appearing at the old Marlow Theatre and the Gulbenkian in Canterbury and playing Juliet and Lady Macbeth in 1986 she founded The Viking Theatre Company and has acted and directed nearly 40 productions, which have included visits to the Granville Theatre, Ramsgate and the Theatre Royal, Margate. Most recently Jane has appeared for T.R.O.D.S. as Edith Frank in 'The Diary Of Anne Frank.' Musically Jane has played Madam Thenadier, Eva Peron, Eliza Doolittle and many, many more. We look forward to seeing Jane many times in the future.



Al Rich **Joanna Overton** **Anthony Davies**
Andrew Carnes Gertie Cummings Ike Skidmore



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Laurey Ballet

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- John Myhill 2nd Violin
- Lynn Myhill Viola
- Claire Banks Cello
- John Summerfield Bass
- Mark Esmonde Flute
- John Bessell Oboe
- Paul Shand Clarinet
- Suzanna Brown Clarinet
- Ian Williams Horn
- Keith Davies Trumpet
- Roy Drinkwater Trombone
- Bob Spooore Perc.
- Edward Greenhalgh Keyboards



GOOD LUCK!



*Our sincere thanks to everyone involved,
from Michael Wheatly-Ward and Ronie Cox*

*Good luck Mervyn, love Lyn & Charlotte
Good luck Charlotte, love Mum & Dad*

To Shelia, Good luck darling, Love Doug

To Sophia Tarjomani, good luck from Regency School Of English

Julie - Good luck sweetheart... not that you need it, love Colin

Anthony, nice to see you back, lots of love A.A & E.

Good luck Jenny, love from her husband Pat



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Front Of House MaintenanceBrian Wallis
Director/ChoreographerMervyn Brooker
Musical DirectorJohn Mills
Programme Design.....Lyn Brooker
Programme Printers.....Truprint
Rehearsal Pianist.....Edward Greenhalgh
Costumes.....Perceptions
PropsColin Sharp
PhotographsLee Patrick

THANK YOU

To mention everyone who is involved in a full scale musical would be impossible, there are countless people more off stage than on it. The only thing that is certain is that without these dedicated people who give so much, this production would not be possible. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those people.

With a special thank you to Avril Grey

