

**BLITZ!**



## IT'S RUBY ANNIVERSARY TIME FOLKS!

On September 29<sup>th</sup>. 1960, a group of teachers formed Ramsgate Amateur Operatic Society with the purpose of staging Gilbert and Sullivan Operas. So by the time we stage our next G and S offering of the Gondoliers in November this year we will be 40 years young. It makes us very proud to have come so far in that time. We are pleased that several of the founding members are still with us. The Society remained faithful to G and S until 1971, apart from a staging of Merrie England in 1969, after which it extended its repertoire to a whole range of operetta and musicals as can be seen from the list of shows shown elsewhere in this programme.

We always recognise the need to reflect the wishes of our particular audience. Versatility and adaptability are important words in our marketing vocabulary. For instance we have now removed "Amateur" from our title as we believe our productions have risen well above the sense that such a word conveys to the general public (although we still have to declare most shows as an amateur production due to Rights Holders Contract Conditions). By force of circumstance we have had to break our links with the Granville Theatre but are now extremely happy to be at the Theatre Royal, here in Margate, for our twice-yearly productions as the theatre staff make us truly welcome.

**OUR PRODUCTION IN NOVEMBER  
IN THIS THEATRE IS:**

### **THE GONDOLIERS**

By W.S.Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>. until  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. November 2000

**OUR PRODUCTION IN MAY 2001**

### **ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD**

By Jacques Offenbach

a hilarious send up of the Gods  
Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>. until Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>

**WE ADVISE EVERYONE THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE THEATRE SMOKING  
IS NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE IN THE THEATRE AND YOU ARE REQUESTED TO  
SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE TELEPHONE WHILST IN THE THEATRE  
PLEASE DO NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PERFORMANCE**

Our contract with the Rightsholders, Josef Weinberger Ltd., requires us to notify you that the use of tape recorders, video recorders and any other means to record part, or all, of the production is forbidden

# RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY



Affiliated to:  
The National Operatic and Dramatic Association  
The Friends of D'Oyly Carte, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust and Thanet Arts Council



Presents

# BLITZ!

A Musical in Two Acts

Music and Lyrics by  
LIONEL BART

Book by  
LIONEL BART and JOAN MAITLAND

An Amateur Production by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd

Director  
JEAN SELFE

Musical Director  
VI GRAHAM

Choreographer  
TRUDI KINGHAM

**WARNING: THROUGHOUT THIS PERFORMANCE THERE WILL BE VERY REALISTIC SOUND EFFECTS SUCH AS SIRENS, EXPLOSIONS, GUN FIRE, AIRCRAFT NOISE, DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND FIRE. THE FIRST NOISE WILL BE OF A SIREN DURING THE OVERTURE WITH PEOPLE RUNNING TO A SHELTER. SO BE PREPARED!**

We especially place on record our thanks to! The Spitfire Memorial Museum, Manston through its Curator, Mr Robin Linihan, Shirley and Brian of the Manston Fire Museum and Margate Museum for the loan of authentic items used in this production.



## RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY Officers and Committees


President	George Martin
Chairman	Dudley Gore
Honorary Secretary	Bob Drywood
Honorary Treasurer	Bill Bennett
Committee Members	Sylvia Blogg Patti Bowling Pam Hayfield Mike Kendrick John Relfe Betty Reid Edith Smith
Social Committee	Betty Reid (Chairman) Eve Frampton Sarah Miles Don Pottle

### THEATRE ROYAL

We extend our thanks to:

Theatre Director/ Licensee	Michael Wheatley-Ward
Co-Licensee/F.O.H Manager	Veronica Cox
Co-Licensee/Consultant	Mike Vickers
Technical Director	Richard Thomas
Assistant to Tech. Director	Justin Thomas
Office Manager	Ron Sheldrake
Box Office	Yvonne Araffa
Marketing	Ampero Badiola
Maintenance	Brian Wallis

for their help and co-operation






## PRODUCTION TEAM and CREDITS



Company Stage Manager	Mike Smith
Assistant Stage Manager	June Redford
Costumes	Jean Selfe/ Company Theatre Royal/ Pam Hayfield, Patti Bowling and other members
Scenery	Marjorie Corden, Eve Hall and Jane Gore
Make Up Team	Margaret Woods and Majorie Butler
Front of House	June Redford
Properties	Edith Smith
Publicity	Jean Tilley
Prompt	Bob Drywood and David Dray (Truprint)
Programme Design	Dudley Gore
Ticket Sales	Truprint Ltd
Programme printing	Pauline Booker
Wig Styling	Sue Foskett, Trudi Kingham
Chaperones:	Mrs. K. Shand
Parent helpers:	Mrs. S. Friend
Boys (Crew):	Lyndon Wells, Robert Copeland

### SPECIAL THANKS

Father Guss for the use of rehearsal facilities at St. Ethelbert's Church Hall, the local press and radio for the coverage and reporting of our news, those who have lent props, those whom we may have forgotten and you for supporting us tonight  
and : Reeltime Entertainments Ltd/Carlton Cinema for the hire of technical equipment and Sir Roger Manwood's School for the loan of uniforms and other equipment.



## BLITZ! ITS CREATION AND THE STORY

Lionel Bart tried to repeat the huge success that he had had with *Oliver* by writing of his experiences as a poor Jewish boy during the 1940's bombing of East London. In fact his creation was the first time that a revolve was used on a stage in the West End. The set design by Sean Kenny received rave reviews as the audiences had never experienced such a sight before. Whole sets were changed round in motion and characters moved across high placed walkways through bombed sites into the public house and the Underground Station whilst the sets were in motion. The show was not as successful as *Oliver* but it still ran for a respectable 600+ performances at the Adelphi Theatre in London's West End during the early part of the 1960's. The original programme tells me that Bob Grant of "On the buses" fame played the part of Alfred Locke and Amelia Bayton played Mrs. Blitztein.

The story is projected through the personality of a Jewish Momma, Mrs. Blitztein who runs her pickled herring stall, her family and everybody else with true matriarchal determination. Her pickled herring stall sits adjacent to Harry Locke's fruit and veg. stall in Petticoat Lane Market. The hostility between them is only surpassed by their joint hatred of Hitler. We first experience them in Bank Underground Station during an air raid. The song "Tell Him, Tell Her!" between Mrs. B. and Mr. L employs Carol, her daughter, and Georgie, Alfred's son, to throw insults at each other through these third parties. Inevitably George falls for Carol. Mrs. Blitztein's moral composure is sorely tested when her son, Harry, turns up with a "Goy" pick up who, to make matters worse, is married. Harry's ex-girlfriend, Elsie, joins forces with Mrs. B. to ward off this extra invasion. We see the assembly of the evacuees and them being sent off to the country, a very evocative scene. The first act ends with a particularly horrendous bombing raid.

Carol opens Act 2 with "Far Away" and the return of the evacuees brings a reprise of "We're going to the country". At this point we also hear the hugely funny "Mums and Dads". Georgie returns from the Front and after a few bad moments he realises that in spite of her affliction he loves Carol. A true Kosher wedding is arranged and everyone has a right knees-up. After the guests have departed, Mrs. B. is sitting contemplating when a huge explosion from an unexploded bomb buries her under a mountain of rubble. The irony of this moving scene is that it is Alfred Locke who rescues her. Her curt reply to him at being rescued is "You took long enough to get here" and his reply of "She's at it again" ends the show in a light hearted manner.

(Adapted from the original synopsis prepared by Pauline Grant for the Adelphi Theatre production).

## The Characters

Mrs. Blitztein  
Alfred Locke  
Carol Blitztein  
Harry Blitztein  
Georgie Locke  
Elsie  
Ernie Near Miss  
Joyce Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. Josephs

Sergeant Major  
Buddy Boy  
Mr. Murphy  
Mrs. Murphy  
Bird  
Mrs. Smith  
Mrs. Higgins  
Mr. and Mrs. Bailey

Peg Murphy  
Rachel Blitztein  
Cissy Blitztein  
Frances Locke  
Mr. and Mrs. Jones  
School Teacher  
Charlie  
Policeman

Pam Hayfield  
Mike Kendrick  
Nikki Kendall  
Stephen Foster  
Neil Paterson  
Justine Horne  
John Dixon  
Jackie Malkin  
Bob Drywood and  
Patti Bowling  
Peter Shaw  
Dudley Gore  
Roger Lee  
Sylvia Blogg  
David Gore  
Frances Shaw  
Doreen Mason  
Terry and  
Linda Humphrys-Parsons  
Sarah Miles  
Liza Zanre  
Donna Campbell  
Kayleigh Hayre  
Bill Bennett and Eve Frampton  
Tina Heame  
Don Pottle  
Maverick Hayre

Other parts of soldiers, passers by,  
street traders, local residents, wardens, nuns,  
Red Cross workers, firemen, Nurse,  
School Teacher, etc:

Bill Bennett  
Pauline Booker  
Betty Dale  
Bob Drywood  
Eve Frampton  
Dudley Gore  
Maverick Hayre  
Aldwyth Humphries  
Terry Humphrys-Parsons  
Roger Lee  
Jacqueline Malkin  
Sarah Miles  
Don Pottle  
Betty Reid  
Peter Shaw  
Rita Taylor

Sylvia Blogg  
Donna Campbell  
Patricia Drywood  
Brian Faulkner  
David Gore  
Kayleigh Hayre  
Bettina Hearne  
Linda Humphrys-Parsons  
Anne Jones  
Melanie Little  
Doreen Mason  
Deborah Percy  
Natalie Prior  
Frances Shaw  
Editi Smith  
Liza Zanre

## The Evacuees

Nathan Cornwell .....	Siddy
Richard Pain .....	Tommy
Phillip Brackenborough .....	Roger
Iain Boyd .....	Roger
Mark Taroni .....	Johnney
James Shand .....	Johnney
Georgina Kingham-Selfe .....	Mary
Daisy Williamson .....	Mary
Mark Tilley .....	Alfie
Ben Bowling .....	Alfie
Daniel Richardson .....	John
Joshua Cox .....	John
Louise Stokes .....	Joanie
Rhea Humphrys-Parsons .....	Joanie
Georgina Stokes .....	Esther
Jenny Lawford .....	Esther
Kelsey Labuschagne .....	Tina
Bethany Chater .....	Tina
Daniel Friend .....	Sean
James Stokes .....	Sean
Fairlie Ward .....	Pamela
Jessica-Louise Smith .....	Pamela
Laura Collins .....	Florrie
Stacey-Lee Smith .....	Florrie
Kirsty Gardner .....	Janet
Emily Henderson .....	Janet
Robert Foskett .....	Bernie
Christopher Malkin .....	Sammy
David Alexander Woodcock .....	Sammy
Georgina Rowland-Elliott .....	Maud
Stacey Tompsett .....	Maud
James Terry .....	Bertie
Matthew Buchanan .....	Bertie

## Synopsis of Scenes:

**Time:** 1940

**Place:** London World War Two

### Act I

**Prologue** Outside entrance to  
Bank Underground

**Scene 1** A platform at Bank  
Underground Station

**Scene 2** A school roof playground  
**Interlude** The Firefighters

**Scene 3** Six days later- Petticoat Lane

**Scene 4** The same-early evening

**Scene 5** A deserted alley way -that night

**Scene 6** Victoria Station-next morning

### Act II

**Scene 1** Six months later  
-Petticoat Lane Market

**Scene 2** East London Streets

**Scene 3** Outside "The Merry Spinster"

**Scene 4** An Alley, that night

**Scene 5** Whitechapel High St  
- three days later

**Scene 6** Korlinsky's Kosher Restaurant

# Musical Numbers

## Act I

Prologue .....	Instrumental
Our Hotel .....	Company
Tell Him, Tell Her .....	Locke, Blitztein, Carol and Georgie
I wanna whisper something in your ear .....	Georgie and Harry
The Day after tomorrow .....	Voice of Vera Lynn and Company
Our Hotel- Lullaby .....	Blitztein
Scene Change .....	Instrumental
We're going to the country .....	Children and Mothers
Air Raid Sequence .....	Instrumental
Another morning .....	Firemen, Locke, Nearmiss, Blitztein, Company
Who's this geezer Hitler? .....	Blitztein and Company
Be what you wanna be .....	Blitztein, Carol, Company
As long as this is England .....	Company
Opposites .....	Georgie and Carol
Magic Doorway .....	Georgie and Carol
Bake a Cake .....	Blitztein
Bake a Cake .....	Instrumental
Who's this geezer Hitler? Quick March .....	Instrumental
Leave it to the Ladies .....	Elsie and Ladies
The Day after tomorrow- Quick March .....	Soldiers and Company

## Act II

Entr'acte .....	Instrumental
Far Away .....	Carol
Petticoat Lane .....	Josephs, Locke, Carol, Blitztein and Company
We've been to see the country .....	Evacuees
Down the Lane .....	Elsie, Children and Company
Tell me Jack .....	Blitztein
It's raining, it's pouring .....	Evacuees
Mums and Dads .....	Evacuees
Who wants to settle down .....	Georgie and Evacuees
Is this gonna be a wedding! .....	Blitztein, Elsie, Murphy, Josephs, Locke and Company
Is this gonna be a wedding! .....	Reprise- Company
Is this gonna be a wedding! .....	Knees up- Instrumental
Far Away- Waltz .....	Carol, Georgie and Company
Duty Calls .....	Harry and Company
Who's this geezer Hitler? .....	Reprise-Evacuees and Company
Walkdowns and Bows	





# THE NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION

(PATRON: HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER)



The crown over the logo indicates that NODA has reached its centenary. It was 100 years young on 15th. February 1999. We are active members of it as we know that in times of trouble it will always be there to help us. NODA has been serving amateur theatre since 1899 and is the largest organisation of its kind in the world. Its membership ranges from revue companies, through pantomime societies to large societies who perform to professional standards in the biggest theatres in the UK. Amateur theatre is under threat as never before in this commercial world and although we do not pay ourselves we incur huge costs in mounting shows and as such we run a business which benefits the local and national economies. It does not help us or you our audience if silly restrictions are placed upon us by theatre managements. Often the only chance that the general public has of seeing a mix of musicals and plays at reasonable cost or even at all is through the efforts of amateur groups like ours. In this regard NODA offers political representation at government level, technical and legal assistance and support through its local network on all matters which affect us. If you belong to a group that is currently not in membership we recommend joining for the benefits that will accrue to you. Our Secretary is currently the elected Councillor for the Association for the SE of England.

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. V. Hawes, Mr. D. Howdle, Mrs. O. M. Tearle

## LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

Mrs. V. Armistead, Miss R. A. Armistead, Mrs. S. Blogg, Mr. J. Bracewell. Mrs. B. M. Butcher, Mr. M. Butler, FRCS and Mrs. M. Butler, Mrs. D. Butterworth, Mrs. I. Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. J. Connell, Mr. P. Dallinson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dixon, Miss E. C. Dove, Mr. B. Fagg, Mr. J. Frampton, Mrs. G. Fuller, Mr. G. Gransbury, Mrs. L. Groombridge, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hemmings, Mrs. H. Johnstone, Mrs. F. Lockwood, Mrs. P. Martin, Mr. G. Martin, Mrs. M. Milsted, Mrs. M. Patten, Miss N. Seabrook, Mr. D. Wells, Mrs. B. Perry-Wells, Mr. S. Humphries

## VICE PRESIDENTS

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If you would like to hear more about becoming a Vice President and enjoying the benefits of being one, please contact our Secretary on 01843 862522 or write to him at 10, Marlborough Close, BROADSTAIRS, Kent CT10 2HF.

## Lionel Bart 1930-1999

Born Lionel Begleiter in August 1930 in the East End of London. Started his working life as a silk screen printer. This was in the days of Skiffle Rock and Roll. He played regularly with Tommy Steele and the Cavemen. He turned his hand to songwriting with some success. Tommy Steele's "A Little White Bull" was one of them. He produced simple sing-a-long songs. He developed his songwriting for musical shows and "Lock up your Daughters" and "Fings ain't what they used to be" were some of his successes. "Living Doll" for Cliff Richard was another. He hit the big time with Anthony Newley with Oliver. It still enjoys enormous success whenever it is performed today. In the swinging London scene of the time, "Blitz!" (1962) and "Maggie May" (1964) followed. However "Twang" was a turkey and folded after critical reviews in 1965. Bart had a generous personality which made him vulnerable to sharks of the business world and he lost his fortune. His last full musical "La Strada" closed after only a short run. After degenerating into drugs in the '60's, he finally beat the problem in the '80's and was commissioned by a large Building Society to write a tune for a TV advert. This tune, "Happy Endings" won several awards and he returned to the theatrical scene with some success. He died on April 3rd, 1999. Our production is a tribute to his memory. (We are indebted to Weinbergers' longer article for our extract written here).

### Orchestra

Musical Director

Violet Graham

Keyboards

Violet Graham

Bass Guitar

Mary Patten

Trumpet

Harry Cook

Trombone

Keith Davies

Percussion

Owen James

Rehearsal Pianist

Bob Spore

Mary Patten



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE




We hope you enjoy our production of Blitz! and that you will capture some of the war-time atmosphere and spirit of London's East End. This show is quite a departure from our usual offerings but most of our members were quite keen to tackle something different and I am pleased to say that it has attracted some new younger members and we hope that they will stay with us.

I must express our thanks to Jean Selfe, our director and to her assistant/choreographer, Trudi Kingham for their hard work, not only in putting the show together but in producing so many costumes and in gathering together many of the props. We are also grateful to our musical director Vi Graham and to Mary Patten our rehearsal pianist who together are playing the keyboards. I thank members of the society for making and painting the scenery or for the many other responsibilities that they have taken on both beforehand and during this week. To the committees (management and social) grateful thanks for ensuring that the production took place at all.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the audience for your continuing loyalty and support which we value so much.

Dudley Gore  
Chairman



## WE NEED YOU





To stage an amateur show in a professional manner takes a lot of hard work, effort and commitment from our members, both on stage and off, but what a thoroughly rewarding and absorbing hobby it is.

As you can probably tell, the cast and members are like one large family and the fun doesn't stop on stage. Throughout the year we organise many social events for our members, their families and friends and our friends of the Society.

Does this sound like the kind of hobby that you might enjoy? If so, we would love to hear from you. We not only require performing members as there are plenty of places and jobs behind the scenes too, for example: make-up, stage crew, lighting, prompt, dressers, properties, scenery painters and so on, the list is endless.

So please telephone our Secretary Bob Drywood 01843 862522 to learn more about joining us and having fun. We can assure you that once you're hooked like us, you won't give up amateur theatre and take up something easier like "hang gliding"

"Remember , experience, isn't always necessary, enthusiasm and commitment is"



## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1961 The Mikado	1974 Desert Song The Pirates of Penzance	1987 Calamity Jane HMS Pinafore
1962 The Gondoliers	1975 Die Fledermaus Iolanthe	1988 Chu Chin Chow The Mikado
1963 The Pirates of Penzance	1976 My Fair Lady Yeomen of the Guard	1989 The Pajama Game The Sorcerer and Trial by Jury
1964 Iolanthe	1977 Song of Norway HMS Pinafore	1990 Oh! What a lovely war Half a Sixpence
1965 HMS Pinafore Trial by Jury	1978 Bless the Bride The Sorcerer and Trial by Jury	1991 The Gondoliers Brigadoon
1966 Ruddigore	1979 Orpheus in the Underworld The Mikado	1992 HMS Pinafore Oklahoma!
1967 Yeomen of the Guard	1980 No, No, Nanette The Gondoliers	1993 The Pirates of Penzance A Century of Song
1968 Princess Ida	1981 White Horse Inn Cowardy Custard	1994 Showboat The Mikado
1969 Merrie England	1982 The Mountebanks Ruddigore	1995 Kiss Me Kate The Merry Widow
1970 The Mikado	1983 Oklahoma! The Pirates of Penzance	1996 Ruddigore My Fair Lady
1971 The Gondoliers	1984 Guys and Dolls Sound of his Music	1997 White Horse Inn Anything Goes
1972 La Vie Parisienne	1985 Fiddler on the Roof Vienna, City of Song	1998 Iolanthe Gipsy Baron
1973 The Merry Widow Patience	1986 Carousel Yeomen of the Guard	1999 Annie get your Gun HMS Pinafore/Trial by Jury