

THE BURTON MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
(previously Burton Operatic Society)

proudly presents

**HILARIOUS
MUSICAL
COMEDY**

THE PRODUCERS

**BOOK BY MEL BROOKS AND THOMAS MEEHAN
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY MEL BROOKS**

27TH - 31ST OCTOBER 2015

**de Ferrers Academy, Harehedge Lane,
Horninglow, DE13 0AS**

An amateur production by arrangement with Joseph Weinberger

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Welcome to the second of our exciting 2015 productions and how very different to the first!! It is also our first officially under our new name – 'Burton Musical Theatre Company'. 2015 has been full of changes and challenges.



We are fortunate in currently having a crop of Directors who are willing to take on new shows which present themselves as being available for licence. In addition we are also a Company who are prepared to try something new and we have a Musical Director and Stage Crew who are willing to do the same. This year has been a great opportunity for us all.

'The Producers' is an extremely funny show, very tongue in cheek, and occasionally slightly risqué, and rehearsals have been an absolute joy. Many members have been taken out of their comfort zone, as you will see, but, following the drama of 'Sunset Boulevard' we have all enjoyed the laughter which has been evident at many rehearsals. That is not to say that Karen and her team have not worked us hard to ensure the end product is to our usual standard. As Musical Director we have recently thrown some incredibly difficult scores at David Blackwell and as usual he has come up trumps with the quality of the orchestra. Due to the complexity of the score this is the biggest orchestra we have ever used. It has been a pleasure to have Catherine Moore as our choreographer for the first time. She has got the best out of us – no mean feat I can assure you – with patience and charm and some adaptation of her ideas to ensure we can cope. It is great to have a show where everyone's talents can be showcased. The main principals Steve and Oly have worked incredibly hard to learn their extensive parts and are very well supported by Christina, Andy, Mark and numerous others.

Derval and the Stage Crew have also been beavering away for many months building staging, mini-motorbikes, pigeons, staircases with lights and anything else our lady Director requested. For Karen, who has been in charge before, this was also a new show but she has taken it all in her stride and hopefully is as proud of the performances as we are of her for enabling Burton Musical Theatre Company to bring another 'first' to the area. My thanks also to the many people who have donated in any way to this show.

Next year we are back to more traditional, but none the less enjoyable shows, 'Wizard of Oz' followed by 'Kiss Me Kate'.

Although we publicise as much as possible we rely very much on you, our audience, spreading the word. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Angela Wynne
Chairman

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tonight will undoubtedly be a night of comedy and laughter, music and merriment, not to mention the odd tap routine! So don't be afraid to kick back, relax and enjoy this incredibly funny (if a little cheeky!) story which it has been an absolute pleasure to direct. Auditions and rehearsals began in March, far earlier than normal. For the company, but not the principals, rehearsals changed direction briefly while we rehearsed for 'Bop in the Bar' two very successful and well received musical evenings at The Brewhouse Arts Centre. However, before we knew it, we were cracking on again with show rehearsals, and it has been a privilege to watch the show unravel. The company have mastered the script, songs and routines and our musicians have tackled the epic score, which is virtually the same length as Sunset Boulevard, without including the libretto! Our stage and technical crew have woven their usual magic and so now, almost 8 months, on 'The Burton Musical Theatre Company' are very proud to present 'The Producers'



'The Producers' is the third show that I have been asked to direct ('South Pacific' and 'Cinderella' being the others) and I am an established society performer of 17 years, committee member and occasional assistant to the director and concert producer. Only missing 1 show over the 17 years is a clear testament to the members, who are not only a pretty talented bunch but also highly dedicated to the future of the society. They are a great group of people to spend time with.....and believe you me there are some weeks when it feels like we see each other more than we do our own families! However, I am very lucky to be able to share my passion for musical theatre with my husband and now my daughter, with support from my little boy too!

As I look back at the parts I have played over the years I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity to play some really iconic female roles, under the watchful eye of highly skilled directors....Nancy in 'Oliver', Florence in 'Chess', Reno Sweeney in 'Anything Goes', Lucy in 'Jekyll and Hyde', Fanny Brice in 'Funny Girl', to name a few. My all-time favourite however has to be Miss Mona from 'Best Little Whorehouse in Texas', great music, great sentiment, but if I could choose one last part..... Eva Peron from Evita (Better hurry up though!)

So what does the future hold for the now 'Burton Musical Theatre Company'? Well, we will continue to entertain our audience members with professionalism and energy while providing a well-balanced mix of shows ranging from the 'good old favourites' to those that are more modern and contemporary, including those that are newly released to amateurs. We will also continue to welcome new members who will become the future of this wonderful and well established society, while also supporting the wider community, including The Burton Vocal Festival and other theatre groups in the area. Burton is very privileged to have such a wide spread of musical and theatrical talent therefore it is important that together we nurture and support this highly entertaining and enjoyable art form.

Finally in the words of Mel Brooks.... "The house lights are dimming, the footlights are bright, the toast of society's burning tonight, we're so excited we can't sit down, because 'The Producers' has come to town!"

Karen Hambleton
Director

THE PRODUCERS

BOOK BY MEL BROOKS & THOMAS MEEHAN

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY MEL BROOKS

PRODUCTION TEAM



Director
Karen Hambleton



Production Assistant
Mike Mear



Musical Director
David Blackwell



Choreographer
Catherine Moore



Accompanist
Karen Thompson

Stage Director: **Derval Lester**

Lighting Design: **Mike Thompson**

Sound: **Andy Onion**

SYNOPSIS

ACT 1 – NEW YORK, 1959

Max Bialystock is a down and out Broadway producer whose latest work, "Funny Boy", flops on opening night. His fortunes begin to change however when, the following day, Leo Bloom, a nervous and downtrodden accountant, comes to review Max's books. Here, Leo theorises that a producer could make more money with a flop than with a hit. Max begs Leo to join him in putting on the worst show in history and eventually, Leo plucks up the courage to follow his dreams to become a Broadway producer. So Max and Leo's plan begins, aiming to raise two million dollars, close the show before it even begins and run away to Rio to live the high life.

Max and Leo find the worst play ever written in the hands of eccentric former Nazi, Franz Liebkind. His script is an account of the dance-loving, painting and decorating side of Adolf Hitler and, after Max and Leo swear to never dishonour the legacy of "Adolf Elizabeth Hitler", Franz agrees for his play to be used. The pair then go on a search for the worst director, calling on the flamboyant Roger de Bris and his team to keep 'Springtime for Hitler' as gay as possible.

On returning to the office, Max and Leo come across Swedish bombshell Ulla Inga Hansen Benson Yansen Tallen Hallen Svadon Swanson who wows them with an audition to secure a part in the play and a role as 'secretary-slash-receptionist'. With this arranged, Max sets out on a mission to raise two million dollars from his adoring team of little old ladies.

ACT II

Ulla and Leo begin to fall for one another whilst Max is also captured by Ulla's beauty. Auditions are held for the role of Hitler and, after a string of questionable actors are rejected, the role is given to Franz.

Come opening night, disaster strikes with Franz ironically breaking his leg. This results in a last minute cast change with Roger becoming the new and extremely camp Hitler. The curtain rises on the show and Max and Leo watch in delight at the unfolding theatrical disaster. Unfortunately, despite Max and Leo's best laid plans, the audience find Roger's performance satirical and highly entertaining, leading the show to receive great praise and popularity. Back at the office, Max and Leo are aware that if the show succeeds they will go to jail as they will be unable to pay back the exorbitant number of investors. Roger and Carmen arrive to congratulate the pair before Franz, enraged that Hitler has been portrayed so disrespectfully, bursts in with a gun. Police arrive and arrest Max and Franz, whilst Leo manages to hide. Leo and Ulla take the two million dollars and run away to Rio.

Reeling in jail, Max feels betrayed by Leo as he awaits his trial. However, Leo and Ulla arrive in time for the hearing and attempt to convince the judge that Max is a good man. The judge is moved to send Max, Leo and Franz to Sing Sing prison for five years.

During their jail time, Max and Leo write a new Broadway musical involving the prisoners, leading to the Governor releasing Max, Leo and Franz for bringing music to the prison. The show concludes with 'Prisoners of Love' opening on Broadway with Max and Leo as celebrated Broadway producers.

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I – NEW YORK, 1959

Scene 1: Shubert Alley

OPENING NIGHT – The Ensemble
THE KING OF BROADWAY – Max and Ensemble

Scene 2: Max's Office

WE CAN DO IT – Max and Leo

Scene 3: The Chambers Street

I WANNA BE A PRODUCER – Leo and the Offices of Whitehall & Marks – Accountants

Scene 4: Max's Office

WE CAN DO IT (Reprise) – Max and Leo

Scene 5: Max's Office, Early The Following Morning

Scene 6: Franz's Rooftop

IN OLD BAVARIA – Franz
DER GUTEN TAG HOP CLOP – Franz, Max and Leo

Scene 7: The Living Room of Renowned Theatrical Director Roger Debris

KEEP IT GAY – Roger, Carmen, Bryan, Kevin, Scott, Shirley, Max and Leo

Scene 8: Max's Office

WHEN YOU GOT IT, FLAUNT IT – Ulla

Scene 9: Little Old Lady Land

ALONG CAME BIALY – Max and Little Old Ladies
ACT I FINALE – Max, Leo, Franz, Ulla, Roger, Carmen, Roger's Team and Ensemble

ACT II – A FEW WEEKS LATER...

Scene 1: Max's Office

THAT FACE – Leo, Ulla and Max

Scene 2: A Broadway Theatre

HABEN SIE GEHOERT DAS DEUTSCHE BAND? – Jason and Franz

Scene 3: Shubert Alley

OPENING NIGHT (Reprise) – The Usherettes
YOU NEVER SAY GOOD LUCK ON OPENING NIGHT – Roger, Max, Carmen, Franz and Leo

Scene 4: Shubert Theatre

SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER – Stormtrooper, Roger and Ensemble

Scene 5: Max's Office

WHERE DID WE GO RIGHT? – Max and Leo

Scene 6: A Holding Cell

BETRAYED – Max

Scene 7: A New York Courtroom

'TIL HIM – Leo and Max

Scene 8: Sing Sing

PRISONERS OF LOVE – The Convicts

Scene 9: Shubert Theatre

PRISONERS OF LOVE (Continued) – Roger, Ulla and Ensemble

Scene 10: Shubert Alley

PRISONERS OF LOVE (Reprise)/LEO AND MAX – Leo and Max

Curtain Call

GOODBYE! – The Company

THE PRODUCERS



Max Bialystock
Steven Foster



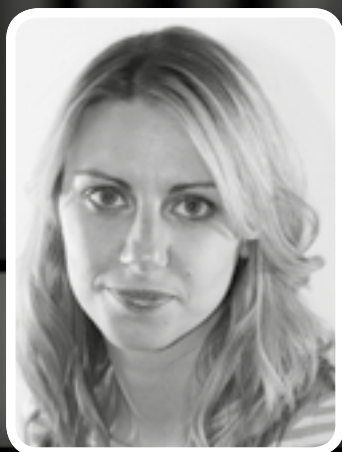
Leo Bloom
O.J. Wright



Franz Liebkind
Andrew Hambleton



Roger Debris
Mark Hargreaves



Ulla
Christina Bailey



Carmen Ghia
Grant Fern

ENSEMBLE



Alison Barrett



Lindsey Biddle



Angela Bithell



Rachel Cook



Rachel Edwards



Danielle Harris



Laura Hodder



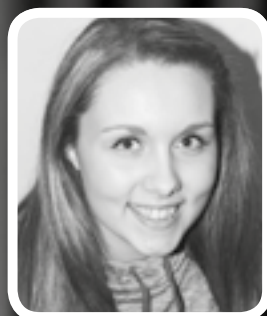
Jean Mason Edwards



Sarah Morgan



Sharon Plummer



Sian Plummer



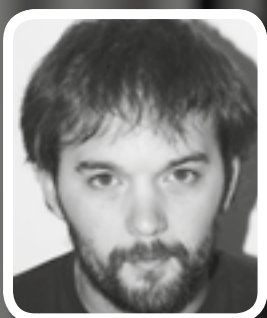
Melanie Stevenson



Samantha Walker



Angela Wynne



Tom Berriman



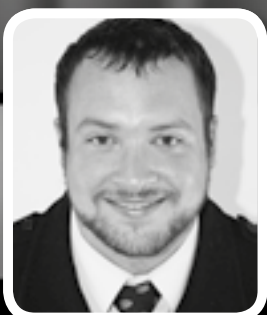
Melvyn Edwards



Andrew Last



Tony Lawton



Joe Morgan



Lee Smith



Kevin Storr



Mike Storr

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R A Baker
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Mr & Mrs S J Ward
John Welsh
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Alan & Sylvia Williams
Mrs K Williamson
Peter & Margaret Wilshaw
Barry Wynne

REHEARSAL SHOTS



HONORARY OFFICIALS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| President of the society: | Mr Richard Dean |
| Honorary Vice-Presidents: | Mr. Peter Duffield D.F.C, Mr Terry Hickman, Mr Bryan Hughes O.B.E, Mr David Platt, Mr Alan Swift, Mr John Rutland |
| Honorary Life Members: | Mrs Joy Appleby, Mr Francis Bates, Mr Vic Benson, Mrs Glenise Blant, Mr Keith Dadley, Mrs Joycelyn Hickman, Mrs Louise Evanson, Mr Alan Thompson, Mr Alan Swift, Mr Richard Dean, Mr Robert Hughes, Miss Jean Rogers, Mr John Rutland, Mrs Stella Hambleton |
| Chairman: | Angela Wynne |
| Vice-Chairman: | Iain Wishlade |
| Treasurer: | Andy Hambleton |
| Secretary: | Annette Smith |
| Committee: | Steven Foster, Karen Hambleton, Jo Cresswell, Anthony Dews, Derval Lester Oly Wright, Lee Smith, Sam Walker, Lauren Brown, |
| Patrons Secretary: | Louise Evanson |
| House Manager: | Anthony Dews |
| Assistant House Manager: | Stella Hambleton |
| Performance Secretary: | Hazel Andrews |
| Director: | Karen Hambleton |
| Production Assistant: | Mike Mear |
| Musical Director: | David Blackwell |
| Choreographer: | Catherine Moore |
| Accompanist: | Karen Thompson |
| Stage Manager: | Derval Lester |
| Sound Technician: | Andy Onion |
| Scenery Construction and stage crew: | Hazel Andrews, Bob Hughes, Derval Lester, Richard Williams, Ray Slinn, Gary Dennis, Alison Rhodes, Katie Lester |
| Scenic Painting: | Hazel Andrews, Derval Lester, Annette Smith |
| Properties and set dressing: | Virna Harlow, Jean Hayns, Louise Evanson |
| Lighting design: | Mike Thompson |
| Lighting Board: | Mike Thompson, Keith Dadley |
| Lighting Construction: | Mike Thompson, Keith Dadley, Simon Tipping, Matt Kedracki, O.J. Wright |
| Calls: | Annette Smith |
| Wardrobe Manager: | Fiona Wright |
| Wardrobe Assistants: | Jean Hayns, Louise Evanson |
| Costumes by: | X3 Costumiers – Leicester, Stageworld Theatrical Costumes – Wolverhampton Other costumes made by Fiona Wright |
| Programme Secretary: | Laura Hodder |
| Programme Photography: | Lauren Brown |
| Social Secretary: | Oly Wright |
| Front of House Display: | Mike Mear |
| Front of House Staff: | Lauren Brown, Vanda Dennis, Louise Evanson, Janet Goodhead, John Goodhead, Anita Graham Stephen Graham, Brian Hambleton, Jean Hayns, Joyce Lovely, Mick Lovely, Jean Lowe Veronica Potterton, Cynthia Rutland, John Rutland, Christine Smith, John Woodcock, Barry Wynne |

ORCHESTRA

Lynda Benson - Horn

Peter Brien - Cello

Sarah Cresswell - Violin

Jo Eyley - Bassoon/Bass Clarinet/Bass Saxophone/
Contra Eb Clarinet/Clarinet

Steve Eyley - Trombone

Richard Hair - Bass

Kevin Holgate - Trombone

Ben Jowett - Trumpet

Matt Lax - Trumpet

Ed Moore - Keyboard Percussion

Clair Mott - Flute/Tenor Saxophone/
Eb Clarinet/Clarinet

Dave Shipley - Drums

Nick Stacey - Flute/Clarinet/Bass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone

Karen Thompson - Piano

Helen Wallace - Flute/Piccolo/
Alto Saxophone/Clarinet

Laura Waters - Violin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee, on behalf of the society, wishes to express its grateful thanks to: Tradeteam, de Ferrers Academy, Dean & Smedley, Lee Burgess, the many companies who have donated raffle prizes for show week and anyone else who helped to make 'The Producers' a success - thank you.

We extend our sincere thanks to you, our audience, for your continued support of our productions. It is the Academy's policy that there is no smoking in the building or within the grounds. In the event of a fire alarm, the audience must evacuate immediately through the nearest exit and will be guided by stewards to the assembly point. You are respectfully requested not to use flash photography in the auditorium during the performance. ALL MOBILE PHONES MUST BE SWITCHED OFF. The Society cannot accept responsibility for any articles left in the cloakroom.

The Society welcomes new members. If you are interested in singing, acting, building or painting scenery, costumes or helping front of house, please telephone the secretary on 01283 540781.

DISCLAIMER: We are aware that elements of 'The Producers' contain content and lyrics of a sensitive nature. The show is, however, written as a parody and does not intend to cause any offence. The characters, script and performances do not reflect the views of the cast and company and should be taken within the context of the show.

The Society is affiliated to the Burton Arts Council and the National Operatic and Dramatic Association



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KISS ME, KATE

OCTOBER 2016

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Libretto by Alan Parker

Words and music by Paul Williams

12TH - 16TH JANUARY 2016 7.30PM

SATURDAY MATINEE 2.30PM

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SATURDAY MATINEE 2.30PM

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