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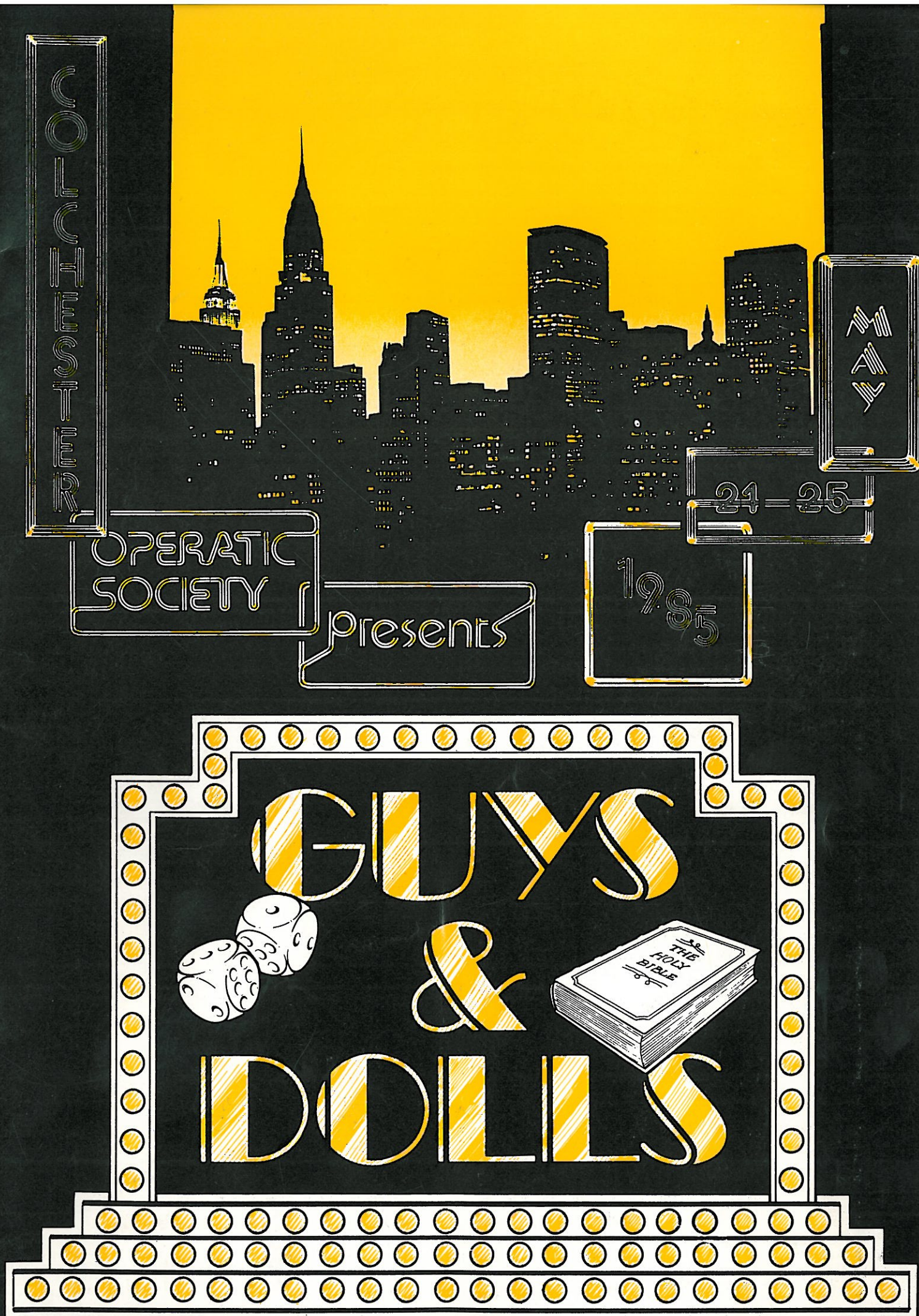
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COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

present

GUYS AND DOLLS

(by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.)

Book by:
JO SWERLING & ABE BURROWS

Music & Lyrics by:
FRANK LOESSER

Based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon

Chairman's Message

For many years the main show of our Society has been in late November. This year the Society has decided to stage two shows of very contrasting style and audience appeal: "Guys and Dolls" and "Carousel". We warmly welcome Betty Blower to direct our first spring show, which is also her first production for us. The hard work of Betty, David Cawdell our Musical Director, and Doreen Matthews, our Choreographer, can be clearly seen.

Since 1973 we have been made to feel most welcome at the Mercury Theatre by David Forder and Chris Snow, whose involvement and expertise would be difficult to match. We are most grateful to them both, and the staff of the Theatre.

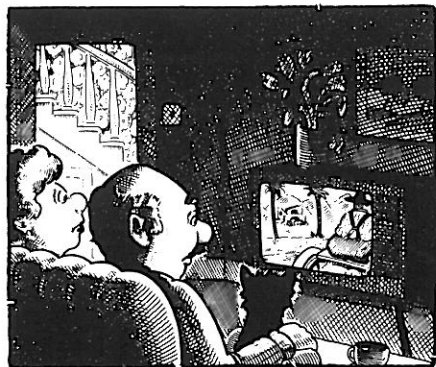
Apart from these shows, our social events are varied and include barbeques, cricket matches, and a champagne and strawberry Summer Party. Rehearsals for the C.O.2 production of "The Wiz" are in full swing. In June we begin rehearsals for our main show "Carousel", which promises to be rather special, and will celebrate our Diamond Jubilee.

Standards in the amateur theatre are generally much higher today than when I first started. There is great enthusiasm both on stage and backstage, I am sure you will agree that you have been well entertained by the "guys" and "dolls". We look forward to your continued support at our forthcoming shows.

John Enfield
Chairman

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GUYS AND DOLLS

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directed by:
BETTY BLOWER



Musical Director
& Chorus Master:
DAVID CAWDELL



Choreography by:
DOREEN MATTHEWS



Accompanist:
PETER HUMPHREY

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1925 Gondoliers
1926 Mikado
1927 Princess Ida
1929 Iolanthe
1930 Yeoman of the Guard
1931 Trial by Jury and
Pirates of Penzance
Les Cloches de Corneville
1932 Quaker Girl
1933 Mikado
1934 Gondoliers
1935 Merrie England
1936 Duchess of Danzig
1937 Vagabond King
1938 Country Girl
1946 Beggar's Opera
1947 Tom Jones
1947 The Arcadians
1948 Waltz Dream

1949 New Moon
1950 The Wind and Rain
The Desert Song
1951 The Student Prince
1952 Harmony Hill
1953 Show Boat
1954 Brigadoon
1955 Pink Champagne
1956 Vagabond King
1957 White Horse Inn
1958 Summer Song
1959 The Merry Widow
1960 Song of Norway
1961 Naughty Marietta
1962 The Dancing Years
1963 Kismet
1964 The Most Happy Fella
1965 They Came to a City
1965 The Student Prince

1966 Hay Fever
La Belle Helene
1967 Carousel
1968 Count of Luxembourg
1969 Oklahoma
1970 Kiss Me Kate
1971 Die Fledermaus
1972 Mikado
1973 Robert and Elizabeth
1974 Orpheus in the Underworld
1975 The Merry Widow
1976 My Fair Lady
1977 The Great Waltz
1978 Fiddler on the Roof
1979 The King & I
1980 Show Boat
1981 Hello Dolly
1982 Camelot
1983 Half a Sixpence
1984 Brigadoon

THE STORY

With the exception of a quick trip to Havana when Cuba was more peaceful, the action takes place on, just off, and below Broadway, N.Y., where a chap is a "guy" and his girl is a "doll", and their language is Runyonese. The main relaxation for the guys is illegally shooting the dice, known as a crap game. Lieut. Brannigan of the Police Department relentlessly pursues Nathan Detroit who runs a floating crap game — "floating" because it is held at a different place each night to dodge Brannigan. Nathan takes 10 per cent of the Stakes!

His doll is Miss Adelaide whom he has avoided marrying throughout their 14 years of courtship. She is in cabaret at the Hot-Box, and, to keep up appearances, wrote long ago to her mother saying she and Nathan have married and have a family of five. She is intent upon curing Nathan of his gaming activities, and hope springs eternal for her wedding day.

Nathan is at his wits end to find a place for the next game; he cannot raise the 1,000 dollars to rent a place, and Big Jule, an out-of-town gambler, is threatening him with a gun if he does not go into action. It seems providential that Sky Masterson returns from Nevada bulging with winnings at blackjack. He is going to his favourite haunt, El Cafe Cubana in Havana. Nathan traps him into a bet of 1,000 dollars that he cannot take the doll he names to Havana. At that moment the "Save a Soul Mission" led by their charming Sergeant, Sister Sarah, appear and Nathan names Sarah as the doll Sky should take.

Sky got his nickname because as a gambler the sky is his limit, and he sets out to entice Sarah to dine with him at El Cafe Cubana. Posing as a repentant sinner he visits the Mission and offers to bring a dozen sinners to a big meeting that Sarah has called for Thursday. All she has to do is dine with him in Havana. Sarah nearly falls for it, but after a tender embrace belts him one and sends him packing. Sky discovers that General Cartwright, Sarah's Senior Officer, thinks that Sarah's mission is redundant and plans to close it. To prove her wrong, Sky asks her to attend the meeting on Thursday. The General agrees and Sarah is trapped into dining with Sky in Havana. The dinner is a huge success due to an innocuously named milk drink which gets Sarah so tipsy that Sky has to carry her to the return plane for New York. And they have fallen in love!

In Sarah's absence her grandfather, Arvide, has conducted an all-night street campaign for sinners. Taking advantage of the deserted Mission Hall, Nathan has occupied it for his crap game. His scouts tip him off in time to escape Brannigan's raid, and the game is continued in the sewer below Broadway. That is where Sky catches up with the action, and forces each player to shoot dice with him for 1,000 dollars a-piece if he loses, and their attendance at the Mission on Thursday if he wins.

In the meantime Miss Adelaide had a lucky break when she over-heard Benny tell Brannigan that the guys he has caught going to the crap game are in fact going to a bachelor party, as Nathan is eloping with Adelaide to get married next day. But her hopes are dashed when she meets Nathan and the guys trailing to the Mission on Thursday evening. She cannot believe he is going to a prayer meeting and the elopement is off.

Sky produces his dozen sinners just in time to save Sarah's meeting from being a flop. General Cartwright is greatly impressed with the testimony of the sinners, especially that of Nicely-Nicely whose instruction to "sit down, you're rockin' the boat" is most telling. Sarah lies to save the sinners from Brannigan, and Nathan lies to Sarah saying Sky lost his bet with him about taking her to Havana. But, although the Mission branch is saved poor Sarah is not happy. She is yearning for Sky, but cannot bring herself to marry a gambler. It is when Miss Adelaide confides in her with a similar problem that they decide to marry their guys today and change them tomorrow! That's how regular Dolls lead their Guys to a Happy Ending.

Sarah
Debbie Gifford
Sky Masterson
Mick Hemstedt



Nathan Detroit
Colin Thorne
Miss Adelaide
Sally Cook

THE CAST

Nicely-Nicely Johnson	...	...	...	...	David King
Benny Southstreet	...	...	...	...	Mark Fincham
Rusty Charley	...	...	...	...	Alan Smith
Sarah Brown	...	...	...	...	Debbie Gifford
Arvide Abernathy	...	...	...	...	George Flint
Agatha	...	...	...	...	Angela Cross
					Rita Ord
Mission Band	...	...	...	...	Ann Rozier
					Maureen Yeats
Harry the Horse	...	...	...	...	Jim Sissens
Lieut. Brannigan	...	...	...	...	Alan Evans
Nathan Detroit	...	...	...	...	Colin Thorne
Angie the Ox	...	...	...	...	Nigel Smith
Miss Adelaide	...	...	...	...	Sally Cook
Sky Masterson	...	...	...	...	Mick Hemstedt
General Matilda B. Cartwright	...	...	...	...	Brenda Green
Big Jule	...	...	...	...	Marcus Lasance
Drunk	...	...	...	...	Jim Sissens

GUYS

Jim Bagley
Chris Barrell
David Bell
Bob Bristow
Nigel Cook
Nick Flower
Eamonn Gray
Andrew Jeffers
Mark Leggett
John Matthews
Jed Spittle
Mark Weiss

DOLLS

Debbie Andrews
Jennie Broom
Maggie Brush
Lorraine Francis
Mary Lou Harvey
Sandra Moorhouse
June Sissens
Edna Thornhill

HOT BOX GIRLS

Caroline Edwards	Mandy Shardlow
Fiona Everitt	Caroline Spittle
Angela Rankin	Jennie Spurgeon

BOBBY SOXERS

Victoria Southwood	Michelle Turner
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Westcliff-on-Sea

'GUYS AND DOLLS'

OVERTURE

Scene 1: Broadway

Runyon Land	Company
Fugue for Tinhorns	...	...	...	Nicely, Benny and Rusty
Follow the Fold	...	...	...	Sarah, Arvide and Mission Group
The Oldest Established	Nathan, Nicely, Benny and Crapshooters

Scene 2: Interior of Save a Soul Mission

I'll Know	Sarah and Sky
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Scene 3: Phone Booth

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Scene 4: Hot Box Night Club

A Bushel and A Peck	Adelaide and Hot Box Girls
Adelaide's Lament	Adelaide

Scene 5: A Street Off Broadway

Guys and Dolls	Nicely and Benny
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Scene 6: Exterior of Mission

Scene 7: A Street Off Broadway

Scene 8: Havana, Cuba

Scene 9: Outside El Cafe Cubano

If I were a Bell	Sarah
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Scene 10: Exterior of Mission

My Time of Day	Sky
I've Never Been in Love Before	Sarah and Sky

ENTRACTE

ACT II

Scene 1: Hot Box Night Club

Take Back Your Mink	...	...	...	Adelaide and Hot Box Girls
Adelaide's 2nd Lament	...	...	...	Adelaide

Scene 2: 48th Street

More I Cannot Wish You	Arvide
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--------

Scene 3: Crap Game in the Sewer

The Crapshooters Dance	...	...	...	Crapshooters
Luck Be a Lady	Sky and the Crapshooters

Scene 4: 48th Street

Sue Me	Adelaide and Nathan
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Scene 5: Interior of Save a Soul Mission

Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat	Nicely and Ensemble
Reprise. Follow the Fold	Adelaide and Sarah

Scene 6: Near Times Square

Marry the Man	Adelaide and Sarah
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Scene 7: Broadway

Reprise. Guys and Dolls	Entire Company.
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STAGE MANAGEMENT:

For the Mercury Theatre: Christopher Snow

For Colchester Operatic Society: David Sage, Trevor Cushing, Jed Spittle, Don Rose, John Andrews,
Michael England, David England, Bob Wilson, Graham Thompson

Prompter: Marion Spurgeon

Props: Sue Joyce, Beryl Balls, June Harris

Make-up Team: Ken Smith, Ann Dye, Katie Davey, Ann Platten, Lincoln Tuckwell, Carolyn Green,
John Foxall, Barbara Ryan, Deborah Lasance, Dawn King.

Wardrobe: Mary Fletcher, Margaret Pedder, Audrey Shardlow.

Programme: Katie Davey, Dawn King, Mark Weiss.



Benny
Mark Fincham
Nicely-Nicely
David King



The Hot Box Girls



The Crapshooters



Arvide
George Flint



General Cartwright with the Mission Band
Brenda Green

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society expresses grateful thanks for all who have contributed to this production, and in particular:-

The Society's Non-Playing Members for their loyal support in Publicity, Programme Sales and other essential duties.

Mick Hemstedt for programme cover.

Steve Goody for stage scenery and props.

The Arena Sports & Leisure Club for rehearsal facilities.

Staff and Management of the Mercury Theatre.

Roy Farthing for Photography.

Douglas Studios for Officers photographs.

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Our Supporters Group continues to expand. Members of the Group, in addition to receiving a bi-annual Newsletter, have the right to book up to four seats for our Productions, after the Society members, but before the tickets are offered for sale to the general public.

We hope and believe that the Supporters Group will ensure that Colchester Operatic Society continues to enjoy the much valued support, not only of the general public, but of those people who have been our mainstay for many years.

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ABOUT 'GUYS AND DOLLS'.

The show "Guys and Dolls", often quoted as "a musical fable of Broadway", is based on characters created by an American journalist and author, Damon Runyon.

Born in 1880, Runyon started his journalistic career at the age of 17 with the Pueblo Evening Post but soon progressed to bigger and better papers, culminating with the New York American. Within a year he was making enough from his bizarre baseball reporting to marry a would-be socialite. The marriage was not a success — Runyon's obsession with his writing was total, and acquired him the reputation of being a dedicated, dispassionate observer who kept his emotions to himself and went around looking for stories he could tell.

He mixed freely with the small time hoods and hoodlums — Sky Masterson is based on the life of a one-time Sheriff from Dodge City who found gambling to be too much of a temptation. Nathan Detroit and Lieutenant Brannigan are also loosely based on outstanding figures of the time. Runyon himself gambled a fortune on horses, but rarely won.

Runyon has a distinctive literary style. His characters aren't scared, they're nervous — people aren't murdered, they're eliminated, and so on. He was a perfectionist where his writing was concerned, and would write and rewrite each story until he had achieved the desired effect.

It took the talent of composer and lyricist Frank Loesser to successfully turn those stories into a musical however. Loesser also started his working life as a newspaper reporter, but before turning his attention to Runyon's work he had already established his reputation in the musical theatre with the show "Where's Charley" and songs such as "Slow Boat to China" and the Oscar winning "Baby, it's Cold Outside".

"Guys and Dolls" was an enormous success on Broadway, and in 1955 it was made into a film starring Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra, Jean Simmons, Vivian Blaine and Stubby Kaye. More recently it has been performed at the National Theatre and was so well received that, despite having had two lengthy runs since 1982, it is due to re-open in June of this year.

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY



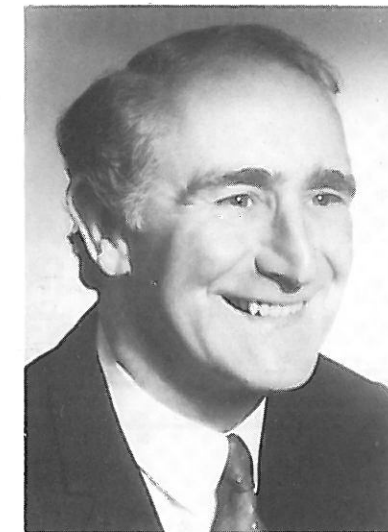
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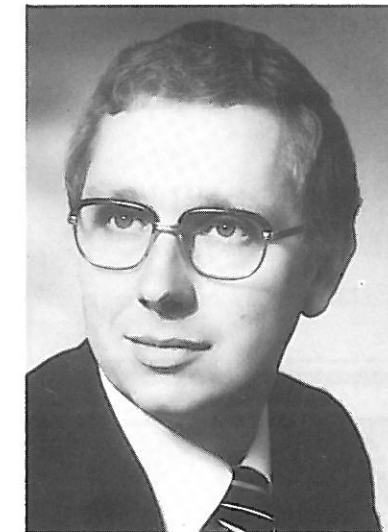
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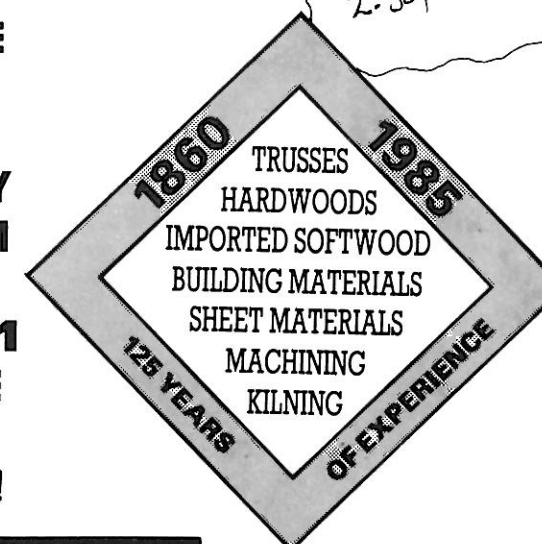


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will be talking about Natures World.

