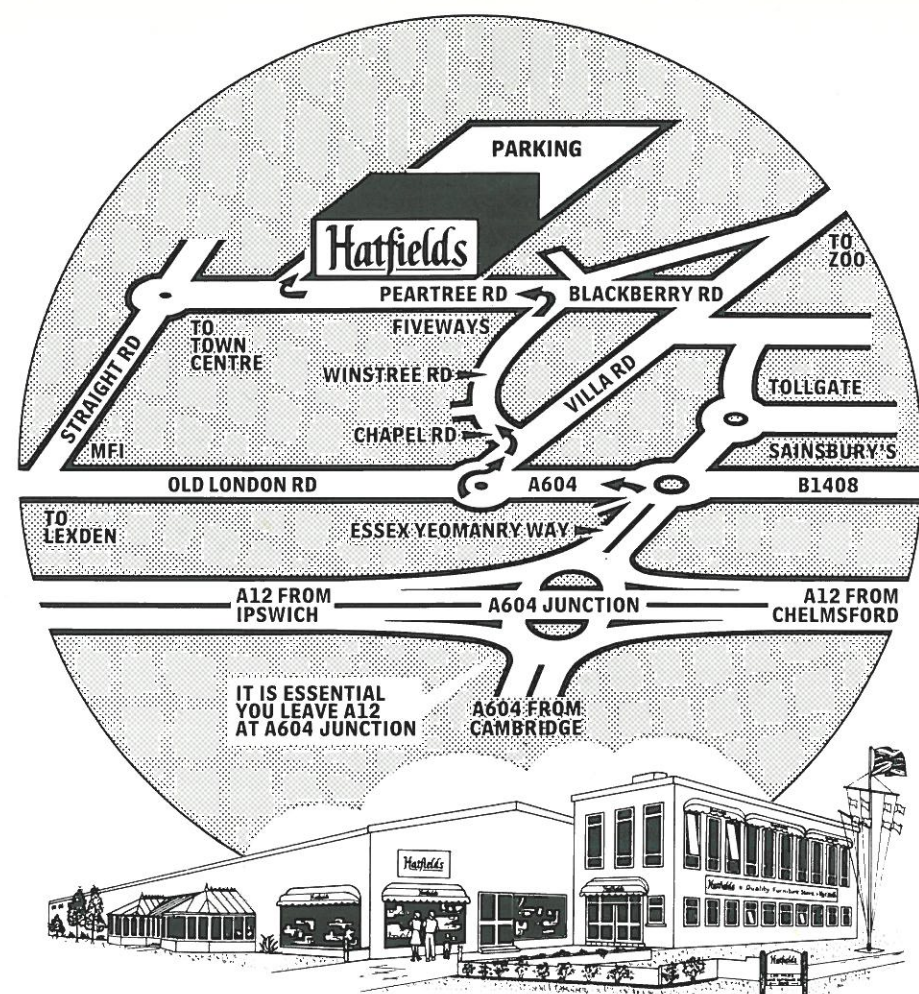


You are invited to visit one  
of the largest furnishing  
stores in the country



For those customers who are really interested in furnishing their homes in style, a visit to Hatfields is essential. When shopping for quality Furniture, Beds, Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Carpets, Curtains, Kitchens or Sofa beds make Hatfields your first choice.

- Free Car Park
- ♿ Lift & Disabled parking
- Coffee Lounge
- Careful Free Delivery
- Now Open Sundays

**Hatfields**

Peartree Road, Stanway,  
Colchester, Essex.

☎ (0206) 765444

Hatfields would like to wish  
Colchester Operatic Society  
every success with their  
production of 'Oklahoma'

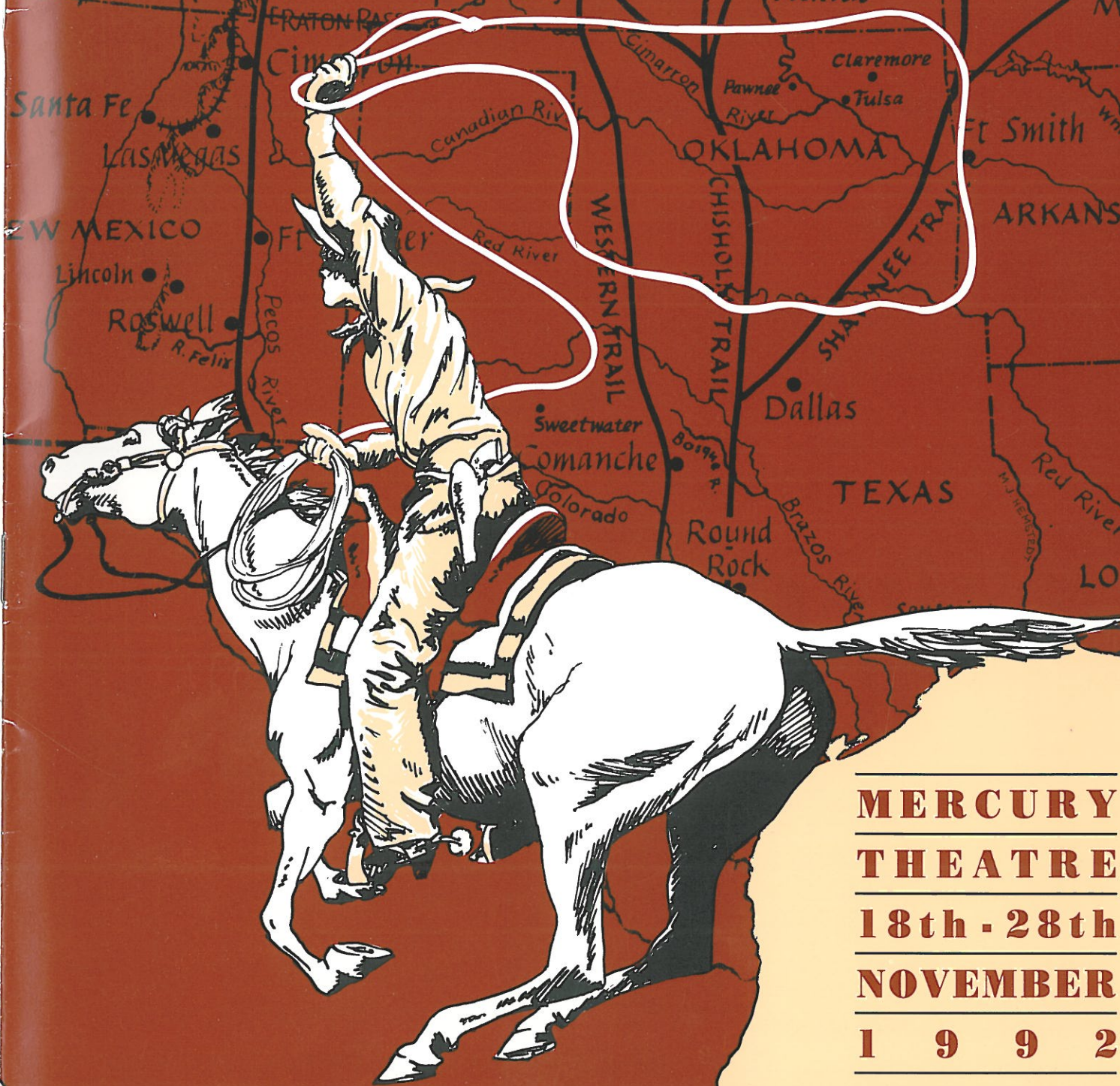


Established for over 100 years and still a family business

Produced and Printed by Image Print Ltd.

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

# OKLAHOMA



**MERCURY  
THEATRE  
18th - 28th  
NOVEMBER  
1 9 9 2**





COLCHESTER

# MERCURY THEATRE

Trustees:

The Colchester New Theatre Trust  
COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE LTD  
Directors: Chairman: Colin Brannigan  
Vice-Chairman: R.P. Spendlove, A.C.P., T.C.,  
Councillor J. Bird  
Sharon Coomber, B.A. (Hons.)  
John Dawson  
Alan Faulkner  
Janet Fulford, R.I.B.A.  
Iain Lindsay-Smith  
A.R.W. Tomkins  
Andrew Wassell  
C.W. Welch  
Michael Winter

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association



**Colchester Operatic Society**  
*present*

## Rodgers and Hammerstein's **Oklahoma!**

Based on Lynn Riggs' "Green Grow the Lilacs"  
Original Dances by Agnes de Mille

This production given by permission of  
JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED  
on behalf of

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN THEATRE LIBRARY

**Music by**  
**Richard Rodgers**

**Book and Lyrics by**  
**Oscar Hammerstein II**

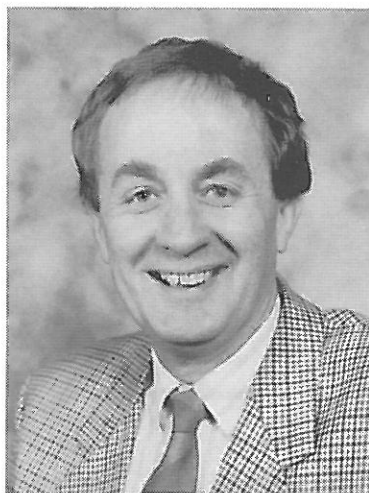
## COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY



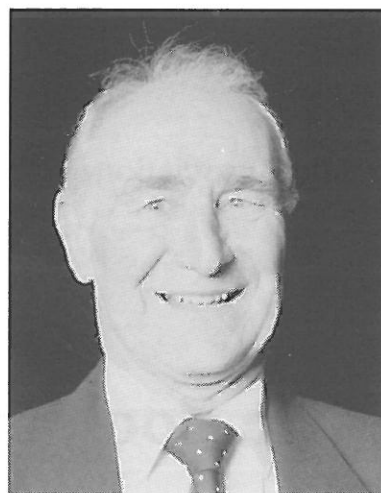
Mrs. M. YEATS  
(Secretary)

**Chairman:**  
John Enfield

**Life Members:**  
Colonel and Mrs. M. Y. Binge  
Miss P. Baker  
Mrs. M. Barwood  
Mrs. M. Berry  
Mrs. B. Bidmead  
Mr. M. W. Bond  
Mrs. P. Deeble  
Mrs. A. Dye  
Mrs. B. Gentry  
Mrs. D. Jones  
Mr. N. Joscelyne  
Miss E. Palmer



Mr. JOHN ENFIELD  
(Chairman)



Mr. K. DRAKE  
(Business Manager)



Mr. D. MASSEY  
(Acting Treasurer)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Miss. J. Batchelor  
Mr. M. Fincham  
Miss. B. Green

Mr. M. Hemstedt  
Mr. D. Massey  
Mrs S. Nicholson  
Mrs. A. Rozier

Mrs. B. Ryan  
Mr. M. Spurgeon  
Mr. C. Thorne

Minute Secretary: Mrs. S. Nicholson

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Lt. Col. R. J. Allcock  
Mr. E. M. Bradley  
Mr. N. Chaffey  
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Clemenson  
Mrs. M. Cooke  
Mrs. S. L. Crafford  
Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Crafford  
Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Davey  
Major E. J. Deeble  
Lt. Col. and Mrs. L. J. Digby  
Mr. S. E. Druce  
Major R. Dunn  
Mr. A. E. W. Dye

Mrs. B. Everett  
Mr. D. Forder  
Mr. J. D. Foxall  
Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Girling  
Mr. R. A. Harrison  
Mrs. J. Ingleton  
Mr. B. G. Johnson  
Mr. M. C. Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kellet  
Mr. W. King  
Mr. D. Mann  
Mrs. V. W. Millbank  
Mrs. C. Moonie

Mrs. B. Oxborrow  
Mr. B. Polley  
Mr I. Ponder  
Mr. H. Pope  
Mrs. J. Porter  
Mr. N. Ryan  
Mrs. H. Shippey  
Mrs K. Symes  
Mr. N. Underdown  
Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Vass  
Mr. J. Warburton  
Mrs. B. J. Ward  
Mr. M. Weiss

# A responsive and cost-effective legal service

Birkett Westhorp & Long is a leading East Anglia law firm providing a high quality service to a wide range of commercial and private clients.

## ....on your doorstep

For further information please contact:

Tony Frost  
Essex House  
42 Crouch Street,  
Colchester  
CO3 3HH  
Tel: (0206) 562296

**BIRKETT  
WESTHORP  
& LONG**  
SOLICITORS

• Ipswich • Halstead • Framlingham •



## THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

May I offer my congratulations to the Members of CO<sub>2</sub> for their excellent September production of 'Anything Goes' at the University of Essex Theatre.

Once again we are pleased to be performing at this splendid theatre, we are grateful to the management and staff who, in every department, have always given us their help to gain the maximum enjoyment for ourselves and to you, the audience.

I have, in the past, mentioned a number of unseen heroes working backstage. This year I would particularly like to mention Sally Hammond, Jennie Spurgeon, Phyl Deeble and Richard Hubbard, who have spent many hours rehearsing the Principals and Chorus during the absence of the Director and Musical Director. We are pleased to introduce to you Alan Humphrey as our Musical Director. This is Alan's first production for us. I'm sure you will agree he has helped to produce a first-class show, along with our Director Barry McIlroy, whom we warmly welcome back.

My thanks also to Katie Davey who is in her 30th year as Editor of our programme!

Finally, my thanks to you the audience for your continued, loyal support, especially during the recession. May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

John Enfield  
Chairman

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## THE STORY

This is a story of simple people at the turn of the century, living, loving and quarrelling against the background of a State-Oklahoma. There were two factions – the farmers and the cowboys, and they did not live in complete harmony. Curley, a cowboy, loves Laurey, the niece of Aunt Eller, who is a farmer. But Laurey cannot make up her mind—she has a bit of the coquette in her, and rather encourages the attentions of Jud, the general factotum of the farm. Jud is a loutish fellow with a very shady past and a depraved nature, which is evident from the pictures on the wall of his Smoke House. An argument between Curley and Jud as to who takes Laurey to a "box" social ends with guns, but no harm is done. It frightens Laurey into the knowledge that she loves Curley, but is in fear of Jud. Her fear is increased by her dream when the ballet dances her fate—a tragic wedding scene in which Jud overthrows Curley, the bridegroom, and carries Laurey off as his prize. She accepts Jud's escort to the box social.

The "box" is the supper hamper which each girl supplies; these are auctioned to the men who thus win the girls for supper partners. Curley only succeeds in outbidding Jud for Laurey's hamper by selling all his worldly possessions—saddle—gun—and finally his horse. The magnificence of it brings Laurey to her senses—her fear of Jud vanishes and she orders him off Aunt Eller's farm. She consents to marry Curley and their happiness seems assured. Meanwhile others are falling in and out of love.

Ado Annie who just can't say "No" to any man has become involved with a pedlar man, Ali Hakim, although she was more or less promised to Will Parker, who returns from Kansas City with loads of presents for her. Her father has a nasty habit of pointing a gun at reluctant suitors, and Ali—a real philanderer—finds himself "hooked" by that simple ruse. He manages to slide out of it by helping Will to win Ado Annie back to his side. But in doing so Ali bounces into the arms of Gertie, whose father uses the same gun-barrel tactics to better effect than Ado Annie's had done.

Aunt Eller, the moving spirit of the community, gives Laurey a lovely wedding. They are leaving for a honeymoon in the "Surrey with a Fringe on the Top" when Jud comes out of hiding. He is decrepit and desperate and goes berserk with a knife for Curly. In a grim fight Jud falls on his own knife, fatally wounded. A Federal Marshal who is present says Curley must give himself up, but Aunt Eller has other ideas. With womanly sagacity she forces old man Carnes, who is the local judge to hold an improvised Court on the spot. A verdict of "Accidental Death" is given. Curley and Laurey depart in the Surrey to the rousing cheers and strains of "Oklahoma", which has at last emerged as a State with farmers and cowboys united as "friends" at last.

# Oklahoma!

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director's Assistant

SALLY HAMMOND

Chorus Master and Accompanist

RICHARD HUBBARD

Rehearsal Pianist

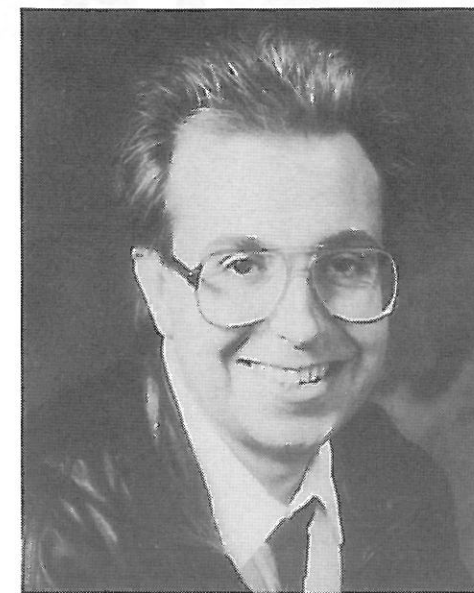
PETER HUMPHREY

Dialogue Coach

PHYL DEEBLE

Dance Captain

JENNY SPURGEON



BARRY McILROY  
Director & Choreographer



ALAN HUMPHREY  
Musical Director



RICHARD HUBBARD



SALLY HAMMOND



PHYL DEEBLE



JENNY SPURGEON

## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1925 Gondoliers	1948 Waltz Dream	1965 They Came to a City	1981 Hello Dolly
1926 Mikado	1949 New Moon	1965 The Student Prince	1982 Camelot
1927 Princess Ida	1950 The Wind and Rain	1966 Hay Fever	1983 Half a Sixpence
1929 Iolanthe	1950 The Desert Song	1966 La Belle Helene	1984 Brigadoon
1930 Yeomen of the Guard	1951 The Student Prince	1967 Carousel	1985 Guys & Dolls
1931 Trial by Jury and	1952 Harmony Hill	1968 Count of Luxembourg	1985 Carousel
Pirates of Penzance	1953 Show Boat	1969 Oklahoma	1986 Pirates of Penzance
Les Cloches de Corneville	1954 Brigadoon	1970 Kiss Me Kate	1986 The Sound of Music
1932 Quaker Girl	1955 Pink Champagne	1971 Die Fledermaus	1987 South Pacific
1933 Mikado	1956 Vagabond King	1972 Mikado	1987 Oliver
1934 Gondoliers	1957 White Horse Inn	1973 Robert and Elizabeth	1988 The Desert Song
1935 Merrie England	1958 Summer Song	1974 Orpheus in the Underworld	1988 Annie Get Your Gun
1936 Duchess of Danzig	1959 The Merry Widow	1975 The Merry Widow	1989 The Mikado
1937 Vagabond King	1960 Song of Norway	1976 My Fair Lady	1989 My Fair Lady
1938 Country Girl	1961 Naughty Marietta	1977 The Great Waltz	1990 The Pajama Game
1946 Beggar's Opera	1962 The Dancing Years	1978 Fiddler on the Roof	1990 The Music Man
1947 Tom Jones	1963 Kismet	1979 The King & I	1991 Fiddler on the Roof
1947 The Arcadians	1964 The Most Happy Fella	1980 Show Boat	

# Oklahoma!

## CAST

Aunt Eller .....	Gill Plumtree
Curley.....	John Davies
Laurey.....	Barbara Ryan
Ike Skidmore .....	Colin Thorne
Will Parker.....	Mick Hemstedt
Jud Fry.....	David King
Ado Annie Carnes.....	Dani Fincham
Ali Hakim.....	Vic Edwards
Gertie Cummings .....	Alison Williams
Andrew Carnes .....	John Warburton
Cord Elam .....	Jim Hughes
Slim .....	David Moye
In the Ballet	
Curley .....	David Moye
Laurey.....	Stephanie Thorne
Jud .....	Nigel Smith
Aggie Pigtales .....	Kate Bagley

## FARMERS AND COWBOYS

Kate Bagley	Brenda Green	Clare Joseph	Mandy Rosoman
Sharon Clarke	Cathy Grimmer	Leanne Knott	Sue Scott
Samantha Coburn	Sarah Higbee	Sandra Moorhouse	Emma Spurgeon
Lin Curtis	Eleanor Howes	Denise Peggall	Stephanie Thorne
Jim Bagley	Wally Edwards	David Moye	
Lee Carter	Ken Houghton	Ian Pope	
David Clarke	Philip Jackson	Clive Smith	
Malcolm Crawford	Brian Keeble	Nigel Smith	

## FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

**7th June 1993**  
**ANNIE**



24th Nov – 4th Dec  
**KISS ME KATE**  
1993

## BOTH AT THE MERCURY THEATRE

*Please note: Taking of Photographs during the performance is not permitted  
Guns will be fired during the performance*

**Time:**

Just after the turn of the century

**Place:**

Indian Territory (New Oklahoma)

## A C T O N E

Scene I	The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse
Scene II	The Smoke House
Scene III	A Grove on Laurey's Farm

## A C T T W O

Scene I	The Skidmore Ranch
Scene II	Skidmore's Kitchen Porch
Scene III	The Back of Laurey's Farmhouse

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

For the Mercury Theatre:

Stage Manager – Linda Edwards

For The Colchester Operatic Society:

Jim Bowman (Lighting), Martyn Hunt (Sound), Tim Highman  
Alan Lerner, John Andrews, Chris Barrell, Andrew Jeffers,  
William Long, Jim Lynes, Terry Lyon, Terry Marsh, Michael  
Mundell-Poole, Dave Rosoman, David Sage, Paul Shaw,  
Philip Spurgeon, Dave Winter  
F/S Mark Fincham, F/S David Lerner

On the Book:

Mike Spurgeon

Prompts:

Marion Spurgeon, Jayne McKercher-Kay

Make Up Team:

Jayne Batchelor, Ann Dye, Pam Gibson, Margaret Norfolk,

Props:

Val Massey, Beryl Balls, Frank Burgess, Nicola Mundell-Poole  
Bernard Polley, Shirley Tindal

Wardrobe:

Gill Edwards, Joan Burgess, Carol Rosoman,

Costume:

Theatrical Costume House, Westcliff

Wigs:

Jim Welling

Scenery:

Stage Productions

Programme Editor:

Katie Davey

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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

Mick Hemstedt for programme cover.

The Arena Sports and Leisure Club, also Colchester Institute for rehearsal facilities.

Chris Snow

Staff and Management of the Mercury Theatre.

Paul Trowbridge for Front of House and Programme Photographs.

Also Peter Nason and Noel Chaffey

Cavalry Club for loan of saddle



## CALLING ALL ADVERTISERS!!!

Don't miss a superb opportunity to reach more than 6000 potential customers in less than a fortnight at modest cost!

How? By advertising your products or businesses in this programme.  
At the same time, you will be giving your invaluable support to another local enterprise – the amateur musical theatre in Colchester.

For further details, contact our treasurer:

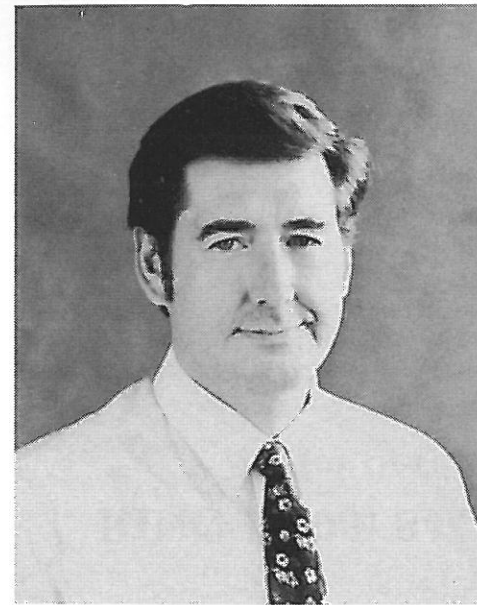
Derek Massey, 11 Victoria Road, Colchester CO3 3NT  
who will be pleased to discuss your requirements with you.

### image print iwaɹɔ6 biɹuɹ

UNIT C3/6 COWDRAY CENTRE  
COLCHESTER ESSEX CO1 1BN  
TELEPHONE 0206 570402/3  
FACSIMILE 0206 540926

INCORPORATING THE  
PRINTING DIVISION OF ACORN PRESS

Leave the cowboys at the Theatre,  
ride your trusty steed to the Cowdray Centre Ranch,  
where you'll find a friendly hitching post outside Image Print,  
inside you'll find a packed posse  
of professional printers.



*Curley*  
**JOHN DAVIES**



*Laurey*  
**BARBARA RYAN**



*Aunt Eller*  
**GILL PLUMTREE**



*Will Parker & Ado Annie*  
**MICK HEMSTEDT  
& DANI FINCHAM**



WHERE ELSE CAN YOU FIND

DAME WENDY HILLER?

HANNAH GORDON?

PRUNELLA SCALES?

MICHAEL CRAWFORD?

and times of opening  
free catalogue  
of  
for details

RING (0206) 844008 Dept OS

CANTS ROSE CATALOGUE

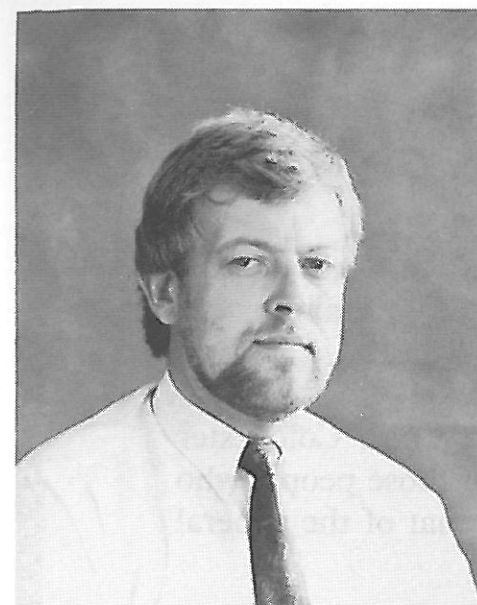
ANSWER

# R.D. Wheeler Cycles

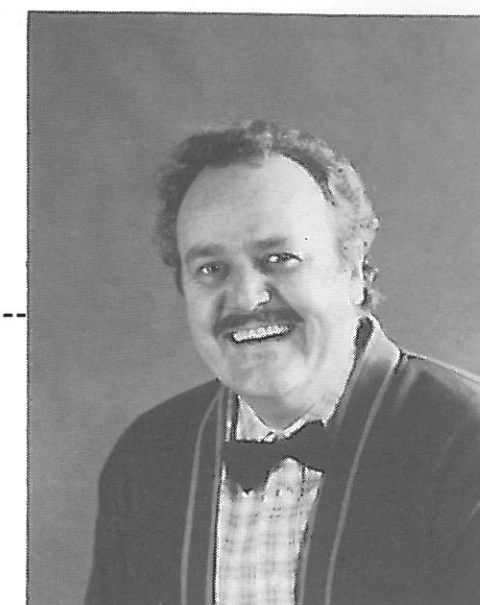


CYCLES – SPARES – ACCESSORIES  
ALL REPAIR WORK CARRIED OUT  
TELEPHONE: COLCHESTER 573404  
32 MILITARY ROAD, COLCHESTER

CYCLES FOR  
ALL THE FAMILY



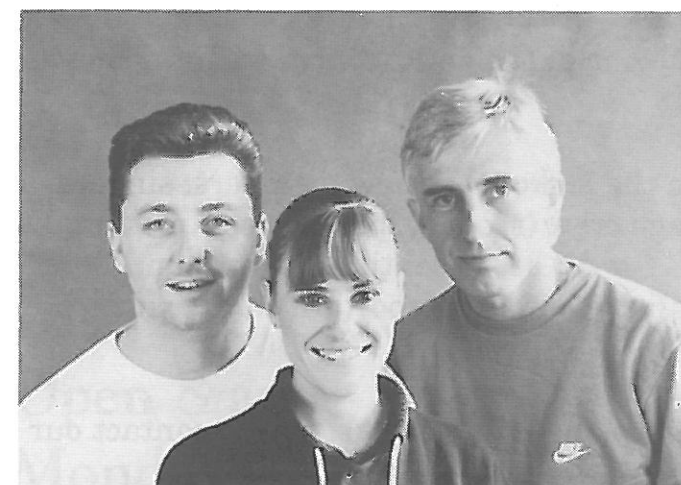
Jud Fry  
DAVID KING



Ali Hakim  
VIC EDWARDS



Cord Elam – JIM HUGHES  
Ike Skidmore – COLIN THORNE  
Andrew Carnes – JOHN WARBURTON



In The Ballet

Curley  
DAVID MOYE

Laurey  
STEPHANIE THORNE

Jud  
NIGEL SMITH

We invite you to join the

### SUPPORTERS GROUP

which continues to expand. Members of the Group 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 believe that our Supporters Group is ensuring that Colchester Operatic Society will enjoy the continued support of those people who have been our mainstay for many years, as well as that of the general public.

If you would like to join please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

**MRS. M. SPURGEON**  
**16 SIOUX CLOSE, HIGHWOODS, COLCHESTER CO4 4RP**

for further details.

## “Another Opening, Another Show”

Would you like to become involved in creating musical shows?  
Are you bored watching TV; bored of being entertained?

Then why not become one of the entertainers with Colchester Operatic Society.

We are always on the lookout for new members: singers, actors, dancers,  
backstage crew (scenery, props., costumes, make up).

All are essential to our team;  
all are equally important to our success.

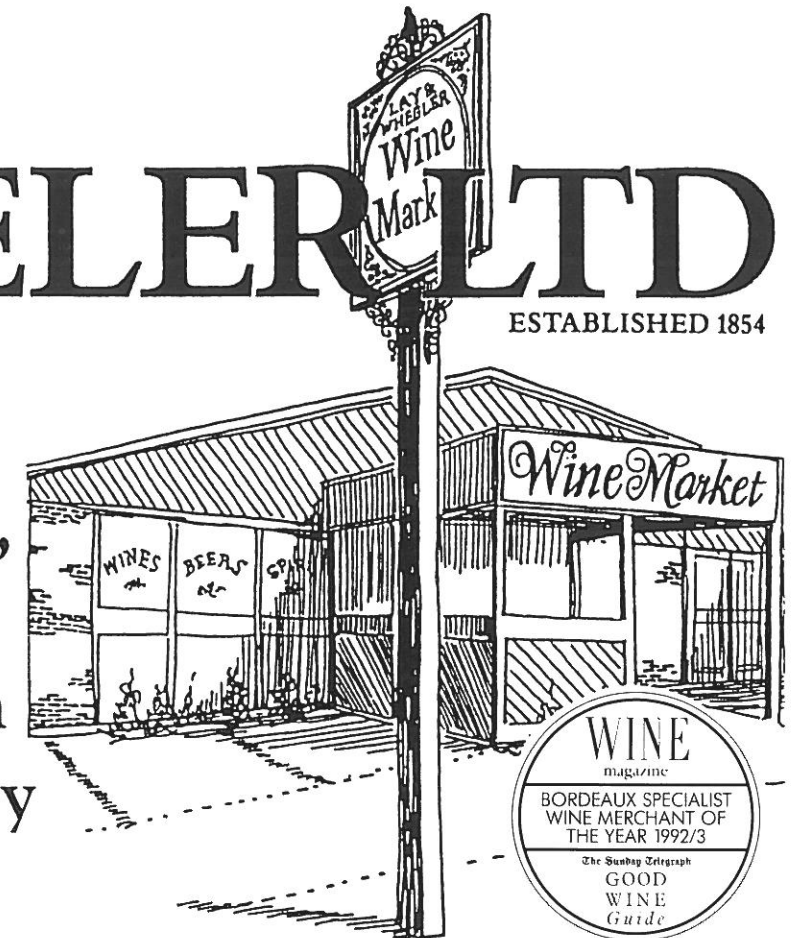
If you are interested in joining us, please contact our secretary:

Mrs Maureen Yeats, 14 Sanders Drive, Colchester CO3 3SE  
for more details.

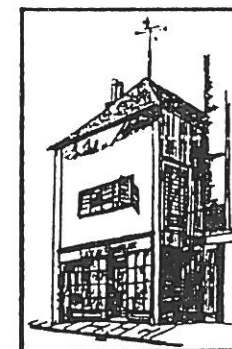
# LAY & WHEELER LTD

ESTABLISHED 1854

The Wine Market,  
Gosbecks Road,  
Open 8 am – 8 pm  
Monday – Saturday



## Telephone Colchester 764446



Also at 6 Culver Street West,  
Open 8 am – 8pm  
Monday – Saturday