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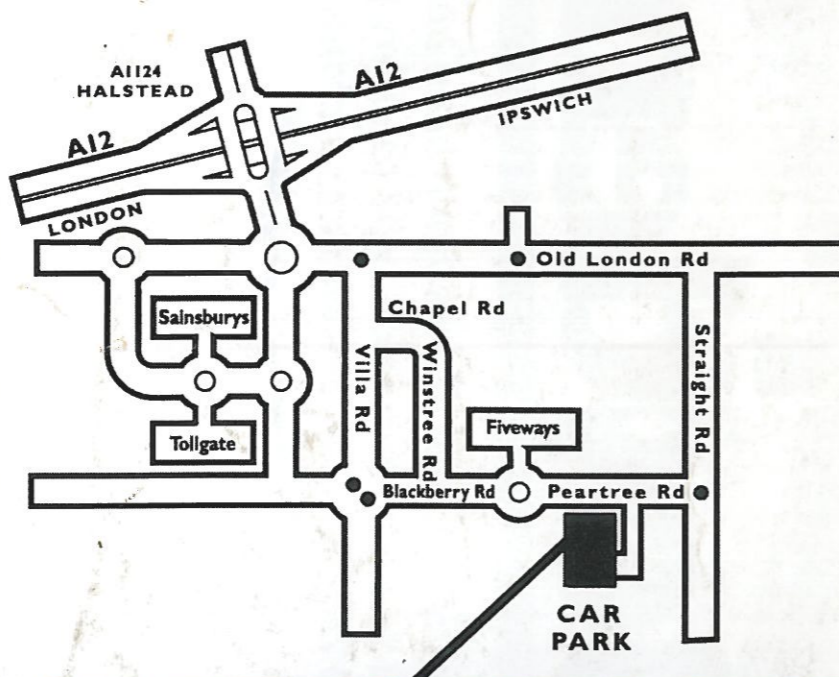
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# Colchester Operatic Society's Annual Production 1999

## "Singin' In The Rain"

Based on the MGM Film.

Screenplay and adaptation by Betty Comden and Adolf Green.

Songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed.

Programme Price: £1.00

Production Directed  
& Choreographed by  
**Scott St. Martyn**

Musical Director  
**Stephen Kenna**



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at the Mercury Theatre Colchester

These amateur performances  
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Essex Hearing Aids Ltd. is an award winner under the Arts & Business Pairing Scheme for its support of Colchester Operatic Society. The Pairing Scheme is funded by the Arts Council of England and the Department of Culture, Media & Sport.



mercury theatre  
COLCHESTER

## COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

(Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association)

PROUDLY PRESENT THEIR 1999 PRODUCTION OF

## "Singin' In The Rain"

Sponsored by Essex Hearing Aids Ltd

Programme Kindly Sponsored by:-

Umbrella Software (is a trading name of Ivell Trading Ltd.), JH Promotions,  
& Colchester Garrison Officers Club.

Based on the MGM Film. Screenplay and adaptation by Betty Comden and Adolf Green.  
Songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed.

These amateur performances given by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.,  
on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York.

## For Colchester Operatic Society

President: Mr. John Enfield

Chairman: Mr. John Warburton

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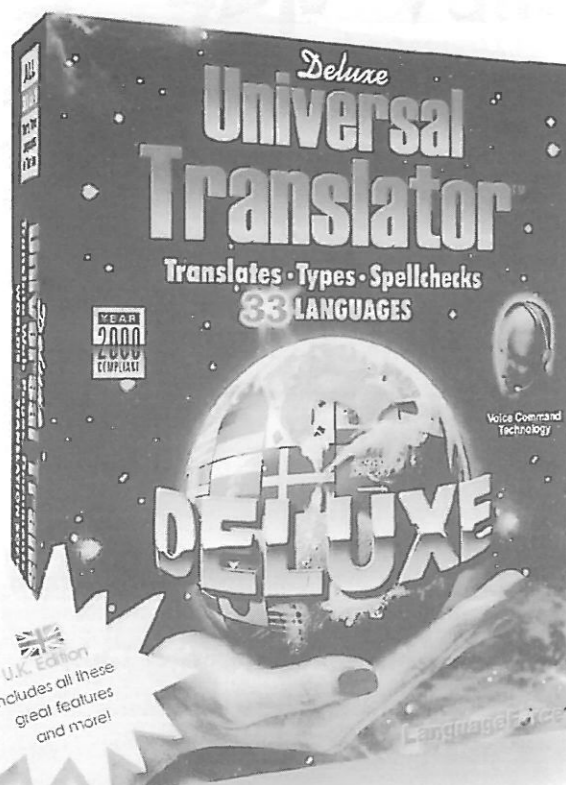
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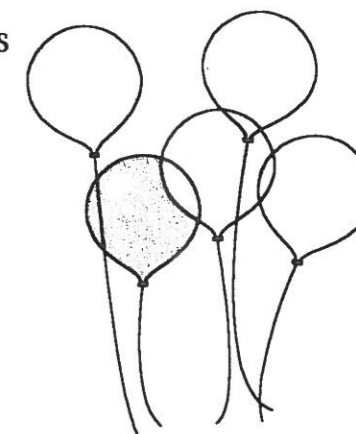
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## WELCOME

As Chairman of the Society may I welcome you to the Mercury for this production of "Singin' in the Rain", directed and choreographed by newcomer (to us), Scott St. Martyn. Steve Kenna returns as our musical director, and we are very pleased that Jim Bowman is once again lighting a show for us.

Thanks are due to every one of the sponsors of this production and in particular to Gerald Banks of Essex Hearing Aids Ltd., who is also helping, similarly, a number of other amateur societies in Essex and Suffolk this year. Essex Hearing Aids Ltd. is also an award winner under the Arts & Business Pairing Scheme, for its support, of this production. We also gratefully acknowledge the back up support being offered, for a limited period, by a prominent local Charitable Trust, who believe, as we do, that the existence of good quality amateur inputs are important elements in the programme offered to our community by the Mercury Theatre.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

"Singin' in the Rain" is one of those rare concoctions which started life as a film, and became a stage musical, rather than the other way round. For most people, the words conjure up a picture of Gene Kelly (or even Eric Morecambe!) splashing about to the title song, but of course, there is more to it than that. The film was released in 1952 and most of its music came from films of the 20's and 30's, with a story line concerning the arrival of the talkies. Many of the characters were based on real people, Roscoe Dexter being modelled on Busby Berkley, and many situations depicted the trials and tribulations of the technical people, and others, who were trying to come to terms with the complexities of something quite new.

"Singin' in the Rain" was first produced as a stage musical in 1983 at the London Palladium. This was an adaptation by Tommy Steele, who also starred and directed. Due to copyright problems a number of the films' songs were not available and had to be replaced by others. A Broadway version of the show, with a story line a little closer to that of the film, and including the songs denied to London, opened at the Gershwin Theatre, New York in 1985, and then with further adaptations went on tour. This is the version which is available to be performed by amateurs and which you see tonight. And so to:-

## THE STORY

Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the undisputed stars of Monumental Pictures, and their newest silent film, "The Royal Rascal", has just been released, to enthusiastic acclaim. Don and Lina talk to the crowd, which is when we discover that the lovely Lina doesn't sound quite how she looks, and we also hear about Dons' rise to fame, with his friend Cosmo. Whilst Don, for publicity purposes, is romantically linked with Lina, he has been attracted by Kathy Selden, a dancer/bit part player, who has upset Lina. When, in defiance of the sceptics, Warner Brothers' talkie, "The Jazz Singer", turns out to be a roaring success, production on Monumentals' next silent epic, "The Duelling Cavalier", is stopped, in order to wire the studio for sound. Production resumes but despite the best efforts of the technical people to overcome various problems, and Linas' inability to modify her voice, the result is a disaster. All is gloom until the idea develops of converting the film to a musical, using Kathy's voice to overcome the Lina Lamont problem. So dubbing is born, and the newly titled "The Dancing Cavalier" is a big success. Lina tries to hold the studio to ransom against the adverse publicity which would stem from revealing the 'swindle' of dubbing, but Don has other ideas.....!

## ABOUT THE AMATEUR THEATRE

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association, to which this Society is affiliated, is the largest national amateur theatre association in the world. Its patron is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

This year, NODA is celebrating the Centenary of its formation, in 1899, 'to protect and advance the interests of Operatic and Dramatic Art and the Societies engaged therein'. Just over a month ago, at the beginning of May, a number of our members, including some in tonight's cast, were part of the huge chorus which filled the choir seats at a packed Royal Albert Hall, and performed, with a number of international stars and the City of London Philharmonic Orchestra, in an unforgettable, enthusiastically received celebratory Concert. Our own Eastern Area will be holding its own celebration at a Theatre Weekend in Ely later this year on 10th/11th July.

Currently, with over 2,300 affiliated Societies, plus nearly 2,500 Individual members, NODA provides a wide range of services to its members, including discounts on theatre literature and insurance.

Training is provided at the annual summer school, now at the University of Warwick, on theatre courses covering a range of both artistic and technical subjects. A number of bursaries for this event are available each year. The Association produces four editions of its wide ranging national magazine each year, and our twice yearly area magazine features critiques on local productions.

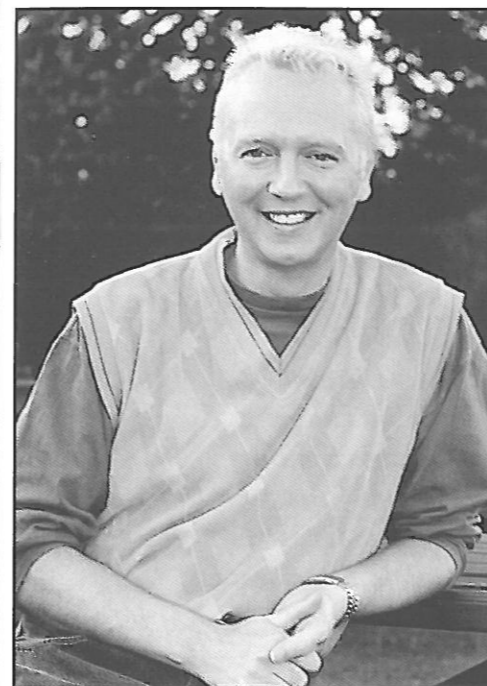
If you are interested in hearing more about the Society or NODA, I can be contacted on 01206 210488.

*Enjoy the Show and tell your friends!*

**John Warburton**

Chairman: Colchester Operatic Society

# "Singin' In The Rain"



**Scott St. Martyn**

*Director &  
Choreographer*

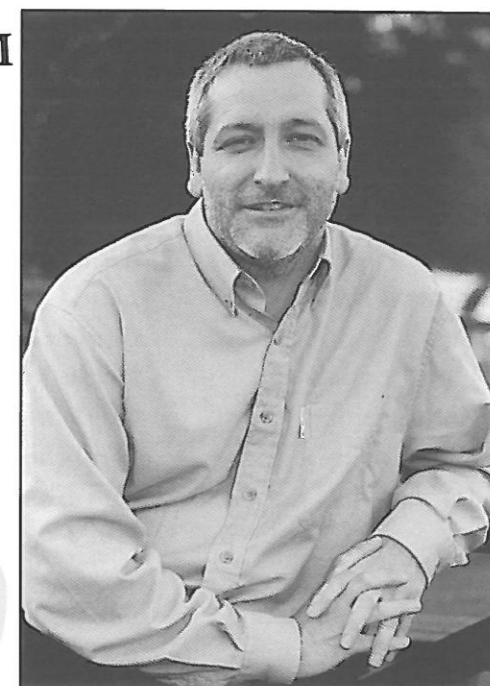
## PRODUCTION TEAM

*Director's Assistant  
Barbara Pears*

*Assistant Musical Director  
& Pianist  
Peter Snell*

*Dialogue Coach  
Phyl Deeble*

*Dance Assistants  
Kirstie Chase  
Suki Fusi*



**Stephen Kenna**

*Musical Director*

## COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1925 Gondoliers	1950 The Wind & Rain	1967 Carousel	1986 Pirates of Penzance
1926 Mikado	The Desert Song	1968 Count of Luxembourg	The Sound of Music
1927 Princess Ida	1951 The Student Prince	1969 Oklahoma	1987 South Pacific
1929 Iolanthe	1952 Harmony Hill	1970 Kiss Me Kate	Oliver
1930 Yeomen of the Guard	1953 Show Boat	1971 Die Fledermaus	1988 The Desert Song
1931 Trial by Jury and	1954 Brigadoon	1972 Mikado	Annie Get Your Gun
Pirates of Penzance	1955 Pink Champagne	1973 Robert & Elizabeth	1989 The Mikado
Les Cloches de Corneville	1956 Vagabond King	1974 Orpheus in the Underworld	My Fair Lady
1932 Quaker Girl	1957 White Horse Inn	1975 The Merry Widow	1990 The Pajama Game
1933 Mikado	1958 Summer Song	1976 My Fair Lady	The Music Man
1935 Gondoliers	1959 The Merry Widow	1977 The Great Waltz	1991 Fiddler on the Roof
1935 Merrie England	1960 Song of Norway	1978 Fiddler on the Roof	1992 Oklahoma
1936 Duchess of Danzig	1961 Naughty Marietta	1979 The King & I	1993 Kiss Me Kate
1937 Vagabond King	1962 The Dancing Years	1980 Show Boat	1994 Godspell
1938 Country Girl	1963 Kismet	1981 Hello Dolly	Orpheus in the Underworld
1946 Beggar's Opera	1964 The Most Happy Fella	1982 Camelot	1995 Hello Dolly
1947 Tom Jones	1965 They Came to a City	1983 Half a Sixpence	1996 The Pirates of Penzance
The Arcadians	The Student Prince	1984 Brigadoon	1998 Me & My Girl
1948 Waltz Dream	1966 Hay Fever	1985 Guys & Dolls	
1949 New Moon	La Belle Helene	Carousel	

*We look forward to welcoming you to our next production, at the Mercury Theatre, 'Sweet Charity', in June 2000, and also at the CO<sup>2</sup> production of 'Rock Nativity' 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 1999 at the Colchester Institute.*

# "Singin' In The Rain"

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Dora Bailey  
Zelda Zanders  
R.F. Simpson  
Roscoe Dexter  
Cosmo Brown  
Lina Lamont  
Don Lockwood  
Kathy Selden  
Policeman  
1st, 2nd, 3rd Assistant

*Sue Nicholson*  
*Suki Fusi*  
*Clive Smith*  
*Richard Shakespeare*  
*David Moye*  
*Graine Ivell*  
*Kevin Richards*  
*Stephanie Thorne*  
*Tony Court*  
*Ken Houghton,*  
*Jane Pipe,*  
*Steve Pankhurst.*  
*Paul Hazelgrove-Spurin*  
*Adam Harridence*

Miss Dinsmore  
Male Diction Teacher  
Olga Mara  
Mary Margaret  
Young Don  
Young Cosmo  
Villain  
  
Lady in Waiting  
Wardrobe Mistress  
Hairdresser  
Sound Engineer  
J. Cumberland III  
Don's Dresser

*Barbara Ryan*  
*Ken Smith*  
*Sally Leung*  
*Kirstie Chase*  
*Richard Peggall*  
*Stuart Bradley*  
*Steve Taplin,*  
*Colin Thorne*  
*Simone Smith*  
*Claire Jones*  
*Kirstie Chase*  
*Adam Harridence*  
*Ken Smith*  
*Sally Leung*

Production Tenor  
Sid Phillips

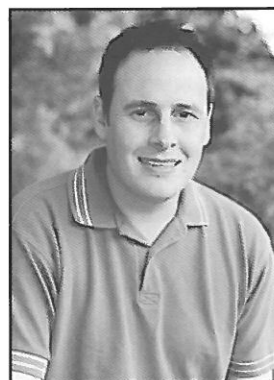
## CHORUS

*Tracey Budd, Kirstie Chase, Tony Court, Carol Fox, Nikki Greenyer, Adam Harridence, Pauline Heselden, Alison Holmes, Ken Houghton, Claire Jones, Sally Leung, Bradley Maxwell, Sheila Maxwell, Ann Mills, Viv Morris, Steve Pankhurst, Denise Peggall, Jane Pipe, Simone Smith, Emma Spurgeon, Colin Thorne.*

## DANCERS

*Tracey Budd, Kirstie Chase, Suki Fusi, Nikki Greenyer, Rachel Johnson, Viv Morris, Emma Spurgeon.*

## THE COMPANY



*Kevin Richards*  
*as*  
*Don Lockwood*



*Stephanie Thorne*  
*as*  
*Kathy Selden*

## Act One

Outside the Graumann's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Calif.  
(*Fit as a Fiddle - Don & Cosmo*)

Inside the Graumann's Chinese Theatre.

The Stage of the Theatre.

On Hollywood Boulevard.

(*You Stepped out of a Dream - Don*)

At R.F. Simpson's Mansion.

(*All I do is Dream of You - Kathy & Girls*)

The Stage at Monumental Pictures.

(*Make em Laugh - Cosmo*)

The Set of the 'Duelling Cavalier'

The Soundstage at Monumental Studios.

(*Beautiful Girl - Tenor, You are my Lucky Star - Kathy*)

The Same Soundstage now Deserted.

(*You Were Meant for Me - Don*)

The Voice Coach's Offices.

(*Moses Supposes - Don & Cosmo*)

The Soundstage set of 'Duelling Cavalier' at Monumental Studios.

Outside a Movie Theatre for the Preview of 'Duelling Cavalier'.

Inside the Theatre.

Outside the Theatre following the Preview.

At Don's House.

(*Good Morning - Kathy, Don & Cosmo*)

The Street outside Kathy's House.

(*Singin' in the Rain - Don*)

## INTERVAL

## Act Two

R.F. Simpson's Office.

The Recording Studio.

(*Would You - Kathy*)

Somewhere on the Lot.

(*What's Wrong With Me - Lina*)

R.F. Simpson's Office again.

(*Broadway Melody - Don, Cosmo & Company*)

Outside Graumann's Chinese Theatre.

Inside the Theatre.

Backstage & On Stage of the Graumann's Chinese Theatre.

Please Note: The taking of Photographs, Sound Recording & Videoing during the performance is not permitted.

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

### For the Mercury Theatre:

Dee Evans  
John Buckle  
Ben Turner  
Neville Milson  
and with grateful thanks to Philip Bray and all the Box Office Staff.

### For Colchester Operatic Society:

<b>Stage Director:</b>	Mike Spurgeon
<b>Stage Managers:</b>	Alan Lerner & Chris Barrell
<b>Assisted By:</b>	Terry Lion John Moye Bob Wilkinson Jim Lynas Wally Edwards Nigel Smith Jim Maxwell Jim Bowman Glenn Cousins Martyn Hunt Philip Spurgeon Beryl Balls & Team Maggie Walton & Team David Clements & Helen Williams Courtesy of The Isle of Wight Costume Company Courtesy of Dennis Williams Scenic & Property Hire Ken Smith & Team Courtesy of Patsy Page Mike Kwasniak Photography of Ipswich Bob Page Ron Finbow Richard Shakespeare
<b>Stage Lighting Design:</b>	
<b>Assisted By:</b>	
<b>Sound Design:</b>	
<b>Assisted By:</b>	
<b>Props:</b>	
<b>Wardrobe:</b>	
<b>Prompt:</b>	
<b>Costumes:</b>	
<b>Scenery:</b>	
<b>Make Up:</b>	
<b>Wigs:</b>	
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<b>Fight Co-ordinator:</b>	
<b>Camera Man:</b>	
<b>Programme Design &amp; Editor:</b>	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members and committee of Colchester Operatic Society would like to express their grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this production of 'Singin' in the Rain', and with particular thanks to:-

The Society's non-playing members for their loyal support in publicity, programme sales and in other areas which have helped to make this production a great success.

All our front of house staff and social committee for their help.

Our loyal supporters group (contactable via Mrs. M. Spurgeon, 16 Sioux Close, Colchester).

Mr Gerald Banks of Essex Hearing Aids Ltd. for his generous sponsorship.

The Arena Sports & Leisure Club and the Colchester Garrison Officers Club.

The Staff and Management of the Mercury Theatre.

Janus van Helfteren of Van Cols Photographers, Horkesley, for the front of house photographs.  
Ipswich Operatic Society.

The Museums and Galleries of Ipswich Borough Council for the film location.

All of the sponsors and advertisers who have supported this programme.

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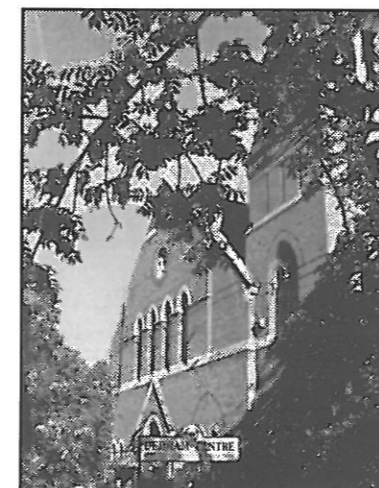
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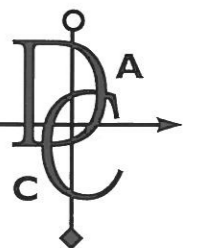
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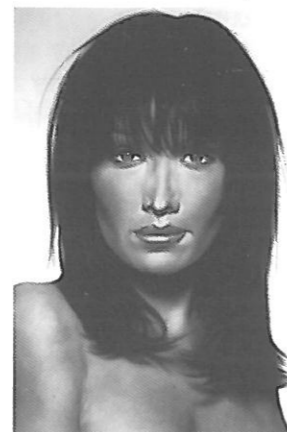
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