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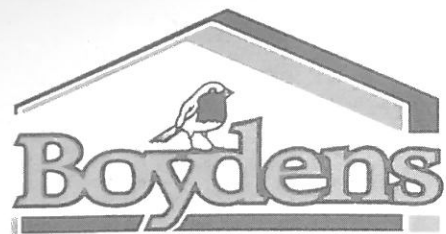
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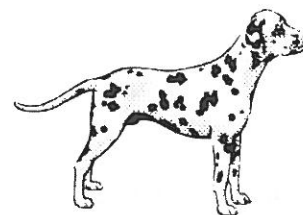
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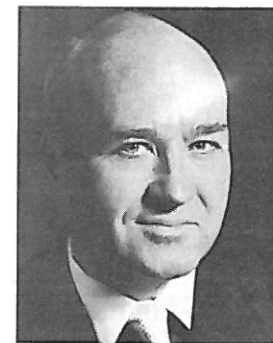
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Book by **Beverley Cross**

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Production Team

Director
Martyn Harrison



Martyn Harrison combines his career as a professional Opera singer with that of Producer/Director, Coach and Lecturer. He sings with major opera companies in the UK and in Europe and is currently working with E.N.O. rehearsing *War & Peace*. He was with the New D'Oyly Carte and in 1992/3 appeared in *Phantom of the Opera*. His professional directing for the amateur theatre in 2000/1 has included, amongst others, *Pirates of Penzance* & *Hello Dolly*, with *Music Man* & *Gondoliers* about to start.

Choreographer
Caroline Fritz



Caroline's involvement with C.O.S. began 23 years ago with *Fiddler on the Roof*. After completing a degree in Performing Arts she worked as a professional actress for 10 years in productions which included *South Pacific*, *My One and Only* at the London Palladium, *Notre Dame*, *The King and I* (which she also choreographed), *Playdays - Live on Stage*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and Pantomime here at the Mercury. She now lives locally with her husband and two children.

Musical Director
Stephen Kenna



This is Stephen's fifth show with the Society. It is 25 years since he started conducting musicals and is now associated with many groups in East Anglia. Productions to date this year for which he has been M.D. have included *The Boy Friend* and *Oklahoma*. In August he will be conducting at the Buxton Gilbert & Sullivan Festival and in September at the Waterford Festival in Southern Ireland.

Assistant Director
Audrey Harrison

Lighting Design
Jim Bowman

Wardrobe Managers
Ann Rozier & Ken Smith

Assistant Musical Director
Peter Snell

Stage Director
Mike Surgeon

Front of House Manager
Liz Thorne

Sound Design
Martyn Hunt

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Beryl Balls

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Drama Association



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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	1968 Hay Fever	1985 Guys & Dolls	1999 Singing in the Rain
1949 New Moon	La Belle Helene	Carousel	2000 Sweet Charity

THE NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMA ASSOCIATION

NODA, to which this Society is affiliated, provides a wide range of services to its members, including discounts on theatre literature and, particularly, insurance. Theatre training is provided at the annual Summer school, this year at Loughborough, and a number of Bursaries are available each year. Four editions per year are produced of a wide - ranging national magazine, and our twice yearly area publication features critiques on local productions. Enquiries please to the local Regional Representative, John Warburton, on 01206 210488

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome

Welcome to the Mercury for our 2001 production. This year we are delighted to welcome Martyn Harrison as Director and our own Caroline Fritz as choreographer. Stephen Kenna returns as Musical Director, ably assisted by Peter Snell.

It is a real pleasure to be performing at the Mercury and we are extremely grateful to Dee Evans and her staff for their help in staging this production. We also offer them our congratulations for their success shown in the growing prominence of the Mercury as a regional theatre.

Following our successful concert at the Officers Club in January we were able to give sizeable donations to Action for Kids and also to the Headgate Theatre, which hopefully will be up and running by next Spring. By popular demand our concert next January will run for three nights.

About the Show

Based on H.G. Wells' cautionary tale of 1905, with music & lyrics by David Heneker and book by Beverley Cross. First performed at the Cambridge Theatre London, in March 1963, with Tommy Steele as Kipps, Marti Webb as Ann and James Grout as Chitterlow. In the course of its transition to Broadway in April 1965, several changes were made. Many of these were later abandoned, but one which stayed was the replacement of 'I'll Build a Palace For My Girl' and its counterpoint 'I Only Want a Little House', by 'The Party's on the House'. Developed originally as a vehicle for Tommy Steele the show remains a favourite among amateur companies and audiences alike.

The Story

The show is set around the year 1900 and Arthur Kipps, an orphan apprenticed to the owner of 'Shalford's Emporium' in Folkestone, learns of a considerable inheritance through a customer, actor/playwright Chitterlow. Being young and impressionable, Kipps soon becomes a victim of others' ambitions for him, both social & financial. His first love, Ann, is discarded in favour of Helen Walsingham, a member of a society family. Mrs Walsingham, now less well off than hitherto, finds the now wealthy Kipps an acceptable match for her daughter, Helen, who sets out to 'improve' him. Her brother takes over the management of Kipps' financial affairs.

Mrs Botting, a leading socialite being cultivated by the Walsinghams, employs Ann as a parlour maid, whom Kipps encounters in his new social role, much to the embarrassment of both. Angry at Mrs. Botting's treatment of Ann, Kipps becomes disillusioned about 'Society', breaks his engagement to Helen and marries Ann. The fortune having disappeared with Young Walsingham, they rent a small bookshop and settle down to domesticity. Chitterlow returns, and with him more money for Kipps.

However, Kipps has learnt from his experiences!

Enjoy the show and tell your friends

John Warburton Chairman, Colchester Operatic Society



THE COMPANY

We are extremely sorry that Sally Fisher will be unable to take the part of Flo, because of injuries received in a road accident at the beginning of June and from which she is successfully recovering.

We are very grateful to Caroline Fritz for taking over the part at short notice.

HALF A

The time - Around 1900

SIXPENCE

The Place - Folkestone

Cast (In order of Appearance)

Kipps
Sid
Buggins
Pearce
Mr. Carshot
Flo
Kate
Emma
Victoria
Mr. Shalford
Mrs. Walsingham
Mrs. Botting

Kevin Richards
Gary Huggins
David Moye
Graham Bowden
David Clarke
Caroline Fritz
Ann Barrell
Holly Mackenzie
Stephanie Thorne - Smith
Brian Moore
Barbara Pears
Sue Nicholson

Ann
Helen Walsingham
Young Walsingham
Chitterlow
Laura
Edith
Mr. Jones
Photographer
Reporter
Gwendolin

Kirstie Chase
Barbara Ryan
Michael Mundell - Poole
John Enfield
Teresa White
Diane Emberton
Colin Thorne
Ken Smith
Emma Spurgeon
Sally Leung



Sue Nicholson
as
Mrs. Botting

Michael
Mundell-Poole
as
Young Walsingham

Barbara Ryan
as
Helen Walsingham

Barbara Pears
as
Mrs. Walsingham

Chorus

Lynda Beales
Diane Emberton
Alison Hynam
Claire Jones
Teresa Langridge
Sally Leung

Barbara Scully
Simone Smith
Ken Houghton
Ken Smith
Colin Thorne
John Warburton

Children

Heidi Armstrong
Sarah White
David White
Thomas White

Dancers

Tracey Budd
Valentine Cavanagh - White
Nikki Greenyer
Beverley Humphreys
Emma Spurgeon
Rachel Wadds
Teresa White
Louise Wilson

SCENES & MUSIC

Act 1

Mr. Shalford's Emporium
Shop Ballet
The Promenade (Evening)
All in the Cause of Economy
Half a Sixpence
The Emporium
The Street
The Bar of the "Hope & Anchor"
Money to Burn
The Street
The Young Workers Association Classroom
The Emporium
I Don't Believe a Word of it
The Promenade
A Proper Gentleman
She's Too Far Above Me
The Old Lighthouse
If the Rain's Got to Fall

Interval

Act 2

The Old Military Canal Regatta
The Old Military Canal
The Promenade
The One Who's run Away
Mrs. Botting's Solarium
Solarium Dance
The Basement Kitchen
Long Ago
Outside the Church
Flash Bang Wallop
The Rented House
I Know What I Am
The Building Site
The Party's on the House
Half a Sixpence (reprise)
The Street (A year later near Christmas)
Carols & All in the Cause (reprise)
The Bookshop
Finale

Kirstie Chase
as
Ann

Kevin Richards
as
Kipps



Please Note: The taking of photographs, Sound Recording or Videoing during the performance is not permitted

Holly MacKenzie Stephanie Thorne-Smith Caroline Fritz Ann Barrell
Graham Bowden Gary Huggins David Moye



THE SHOP GIRLS

&

THE SHOP BOYS



John Enfield
As
Chitterlow



THE DANCERS

Louise Wilson Rachel Wadds
Beverley Humphreys Emma Spurgeon
Nikki Greener Teresa White
Tracey Budd Valentine Cavanagh-White

STAGE MANAGEMENT

For the Mercury Theatre

Hamish Everitt

Marcus Christian
Howard Smith

For the Society

Stage Manager
Assisted by

Alan Larnar
Chris Barrell, Joe Allen
Stuart Carey
Terry Lyon, John Moye
Bob Wilkinson

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Audrey Shardlow, Maggie Walton

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Patsy Page

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The committee and members of Colchester Operatic Society would like to express their grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this production of *Half a Sixpence*, and with particular thanks to:

Dee Evans, Phillip Bray, Andy Franks and all their Staff at the Mercury Theatre.

Colchester Garrison Officers Club and Arena Sports & Leisure Club, for rehearsal facilities.

The Hervey Benham Trust for its continued support.

Roller World, Colchester for loan of skates, practise facilities and Roller/Quasar raffle prizes.

Reliable Signs Ltd for sponsoring the publicity banner.

Church of the Christian Scientist, Trinity Street, Colchester, for banner space.

Janus van Heifteren of Van Cols Photographers, Horkesley, Colchester, for the front of house production photographs.

Ann Rozier and Social Committee members for the Green Room hospitality arrangements.

Pro-Nuptia, Colchester for the supply of Shop Dummies.

Clacton and Chelmsford Operatic Societies for the loan of properties.

David London for Publicity.

John Warburton for Poster & Programme design/editing.

The Society's non-playing members, for their support in publicity, programme sales & front of house.

Finally, grateful thanks to our sponsors and advertisers for their support of this programme, and all of the individuals and local companies who have donated prizes for the raffle.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sep 25th to 29th 2001 at the Mercury. Don't miss our award winning CO2 company, in **GUYS & DOLLS**.

Jan. 10th to 12th, 2002 at the Officers Club, the popular COS/CO2 **CHARITY CONCERT**.

Jun. 12th to 22nd, 2002 at the Mercury, for Richard Rodger's Centenary, a COS production of **CAROUSEL**.

Colchester's new Amateur theatre, **The Headgate**, will stage its first production in the Spring of 2002. This will be an occasion not to be missed. All enquiries to Eddie McKay on 01206 544997.

Also look out for

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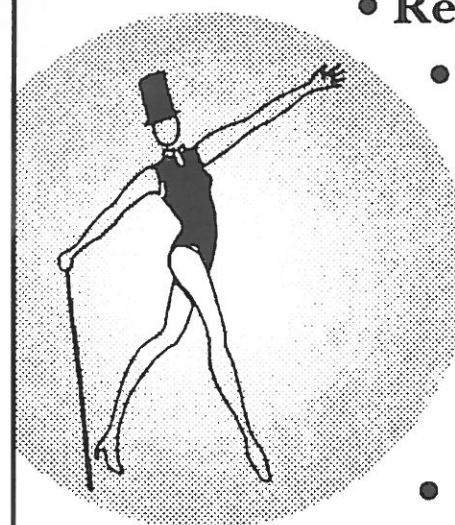
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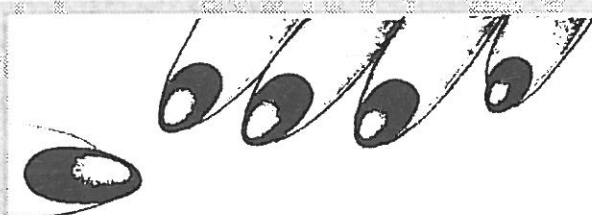
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Mrs M Spurgeon
16 Sioux Close,
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AND FINALLY

We hope you have enjoyed the show as much as we have in presenting it to you. If you are interested in joining in the fun (and hard work) of presenting live entertainment, we would be very happy to have you with us, especially if you are of the male gender! For further information please contact our Membership Secretary, Simone Smith, on 01206 323527. For information about our youth group CO2, please contact Emma Spurgeon on 01206 768524.

Have a safe journey home and don't forget to book your tickets for Guys & Dolls in September and for Carousel next June.