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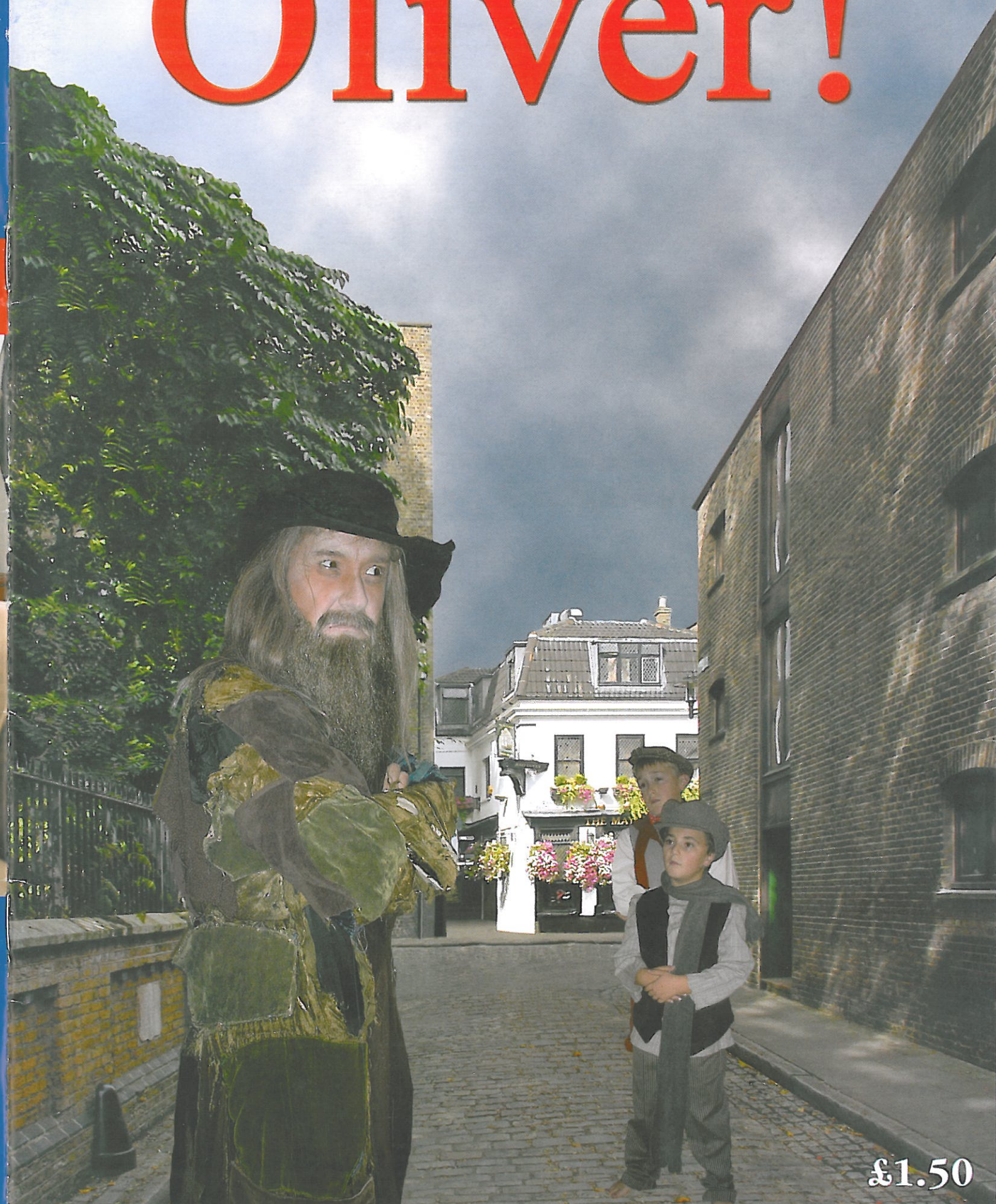
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Colchester Operatic Society

Oliver!



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1930 Yeoman of the Guard	1954 Brigadoon	1973 Robert and Elizabeth	My Fair Lady
1931 Trial By Jury & Pirates of Penzance	1955 Pink Champagne	1974 Orpheus in the Underworld	1990 The Pajama Game
Les Cloches de Comeville	1956 Vagabond King	1975 The Merry Widow	The Music Man
1932 Quaker Girl	1957 White Horse Inn	1976 My Fair Lady	Fiddler on the Roof
1933 Mikado	1958 Summer Song	1977 The Great Waltz	1992 Oklahoma
1935 Gondoliers	1959 The Merry Widow	1978 Fiddler on the Roof	1993 Kiss Me Kate
Merrie England	1960 Song of Norway	1979 The King & I	1994 Godspell
1936 Duchess of Danzig	1961 Naughty Marietta	1980 Show Boat	Orpheus in the Underworld
1937 Vagabond King	1962 The Dancing Years	1981 Hello Dolly	1995 Hello Dolly
1938 Country Girl	1963 Kismet	1982 Camelot	1996 Pirates of Penzance
1946 Beggar's Opera	1964 The Most Happy Fella	1983 Half a Sixpence	1998 Me & My Girl
1947 Tom Jones	1965 They Came to a City	1984 Brigadoon	1999 Singin' in the Rain
The Arcadians	The Student Prince	1985 Guys & Dolls	2000 Sweet Charity
1948 Waltz Dream	1966 Hay Fever	1986 Carousal	2001 Half a Sixpence
1949 New Moon	La Belle Helene	1986 Pirates of Penzance	2002 Carousal
1950 The Wind and Rain	1967 Carousal	The Sound of Music	2003 The King & I
	1968 Count of Luxembourg	1987 South Pacific	

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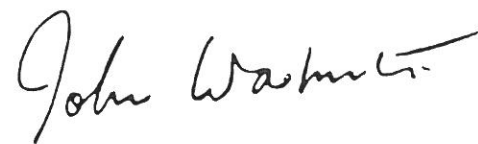


Welcome

Welcome to what looks like being a sell-out production of Oliver! This will be our second show in the new Jan/Feb slot and following the success of The King and I last year, the decision to change seems to have been right.

With a third main Society show in succession having a cast including children, together with the last four highly successful CO2 shows, our youngsters have had great opportunities to show their worth on the Mercury stage and this they have done very well. Those who direct, train, look after and generally clear up the chaos after rehearsals etc. are to be congratulated, even more so lately as the pressure grows to conform with all the regulations that govern the use of children in theatrical performance.

Our programme for 2004/5 includes concerts in May and June at the Officers Club, The Headgate Theatre and here at the Mercury. CO2 will delight us with their version of The Hot Mikado in October and January 2005 will see the main Society in the spectacular Crazy For You.



John Warburton – Chairman COS



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COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

Presents

Lionel Bart's

Oliver!

Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart

Based on the novel "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens

*This Amateur Production is presented by arrangement with Musicscope Ltd. &
Stage Musicals Ltd. of New York. Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick & Donald Albery*



Director

VAL MASSEY

Val, a Yorkshire lass, trained for the theatre and over a number of years has been fortunate to have played most leading female roles – favourites being Dolly Levi and Guenevere. For many years Val turned her talents in different directions working on West End and touring professional musicals, a favourite "Les Miserables". Val now enjoys directing amateurs and hopes you enjoy her version of "Oliver!"

Director

VAL MASSEY

Chorographical assistance from
Nikki Mundell-Poole

Lighting Design
JIM BOWMAN

Wardrobe Manager
BERYL BALLS



Musical Director

PETER SNELL

Peter, then a young 'hippy' studied music under Dr Swinburne at Colchester Institute in the 70s. He has been involved with COS and CO2 for many years and has obtained a teaching qualification thus expanding his musical career. He is delighted to once again be musical director for the Society and pleased to see so many members of CO2 in this production.

Musical Director

PETER SNELL

Director's Assistant
SALLY HAMMOND

Stage Director
MIKE SPURGEON

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About Oliver!

The show, of course, has its origins in the Charles Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist*. Many attempts have been made to adapt 'Oliver Twist' for the stage, some more successful than others. There have been eight film versions, the first five made in the silent era. Lionel Bart was inspired by David Lean's film version and set out to write the musical, beginning with the song 'Where is Love?' This became the musical centre of the piece, and the premise of the whole show. 'Oliver!' opened for its first West End run in June 1960, and the subsequent film won 6 Oscars.

Oliver Twist is essentially a grim story, but one with hope. In adapting for the musical stage, with its running time constraint of about two hours and the need to inject some lightness into the general gloom, a straightforward story line has been retained, with some of the subsidiary characters discarded. The result, therefore, is something of a sugared up version, where starving orphans dream of food in energetic soprano, a nasty and vicious Fagin is transformed into a sort of loveable, but lonely, low comedy rogue, while his gang of child thieves become a troupe of dancing imps. However, Bart retains the vicious characteristics in love relationship between Nancy and the menacing Sykes.

Oliver! the musical is a heart warming tale and, not surprisingly, remains a favourite choice for schools and amateur groups throughout the land. But it is worth remembering that the London of the 1830s was a squalid and unhealthy environment for the majority of its inhabitants. In 1839 almost half of the funerals in London were of children under 10 years old. It was not unusual to find families of 7 or 8 living in one room. For many, the only chance of even a short survival was turning to crime and prostitution. Orphaned children would either suffer the fate of being put in the Workhouse, or come under the protection of characters such as Fagin and become dependant on crime. We have had an enormous amount of fun putting on this show, and we are sure you will enjoy the spectacle. However, perhaps we should remember its very real origins and never miss an opportunity to give an 'Oliver' a break.

The Story

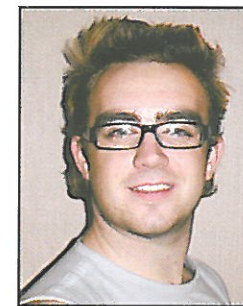
That moment, in the Workhouse, when Oliver asks for more of the infamous gruel, must be one of the best-known moments in literature. Such audacity results in Oliver being sold, by Mr. Bumble and Widow Comey, to Mr. Sowerberry the undertaker. He escapes from this miserable prospect and meets the Artful Dodger, who takes him to join Fagin and his gang of urchin pickpockets. Despite Fagin's training he fumbles his first attempt at pick pocketing and is caught. However, his victim, Mr. Brownlow, shows sympathy and takes him into his home, where he realises that the boy resembles his own daughter, who died in childbirth. Bill Sykes, the villain beloved of Nancy, is afraid that Oliver will betray them all to Brownlow. He plans to use Nancy, who had befriended Oliver in the Thieves' Kitchen, to recapture the boy, but she, in a fit of remorse, informs Mr. Brownlow of the plot. In fury, Bill Sykes kills her but is himself cornered and shot dead. For Oliver there is a happy ending as he returns to the home of Mr. Brownlow who is, indeed, his grandfather. For Fagin, despite his amusing review of the situation, the future is uncertain and lonely.

Enjoy the show and tell your friends

Introducing some of our cast

Joe Allen

Joe at 19 has been involved in musical theatre since performing at the age of 9 in Witham Operatics "Oliver!" Since moving to Colchester he has performed with CO2 including Jose Vegas in "Fame" and Nathan Detroit in "Guys & Dolls". Currently studying media at Braintree College with a view to working in television.



Graham Bowden

Graham is pleased to be playing his fourth role with the Society. In 2003 he played the king in "King & I", Billy in "Carousel" in 2002 and in his first appearance Pearce in "Half a Sixpence". He had other varying roles with York Operatic & Rowntree Youth Theatre before moving to Colchester.



Lydia Clough

This is Lydia's third show with the Society. Since her stage debut at school (Little Buttercup!) her appearances have been nomadic - Calcutta, Cape Town, Ireland, Malta, London and Witham. She has enjoyed playing various character roles, her favourites being Yente in *Fiddler* and Dolly Tate in *Annie Get your Gun*.



Nicholas Clough

Nicholas played his first principal role in 1964 with Westcliff Operatic Society. He subsequently performed with Grosvenor Light Opera Company (where he met his wife, Lydia), South Anglia Savoy Players and Witham Operatic Society. His favourite roles have been Sir Despard Murgatroyd (Ruddigore) and Tevye (Fiddler on The Roof).



Tony Court

It seems Tony nearly always plays the stage "nasties", having played over the years most of the Gilbert and Sullivan villains as well as appearing in several pantomimes. His two greatest challenges to date were Rocco the jailer in Beethoven's "Fidelio" and over two hours continuously on stage as Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol".



Lisa Dison

Lisa 22, began voice training four years ago with the 'Elizabeth Kent Company'. She has sung in various shows and music festivals, including solo performances at the Westcliff Theatre and Naze Marine holiday park. This is her first show for COS.



John Enfield

John has been a member of COS since 1956 - he must have joined when he was very young! He has performed in most of their productions since, playing many characters, his favourite being Alfred Doolittle in "My Fair Lady". He is delighted to be playing another character, Mr Bumble, in this production.



James King

For nearly fourteen years James has had the acting bug in his genes. He first appeared with CO2 in 1996 with "The Wiz" and featured in most of their productions since then. This is his first appearance with the main Society. In October 2004 he starts his study of stage management and lighting design.



Barbara Ryan

Since joining the society in 1974, Barbara has performed in most of the C.O.S. Productions, playing many roles. Her favourites have been Eliza in "My Fair Lady," Ann in "Half a Sixpence," Nellie in "South Pacific" and Laurie in "Oklahoma." She also performs with other small groups and teaches music in a local school.



Barbara Scully

Barbara has been involved with Amateur Theatre for many years during which time she has appeared in straight dramas, pantomime, operetta and musical drama. This is her third show (on stage) with C.O.S. although she has been behind the scenes for many of the shows. Her first love is comedy and Gilbert and Sullivan productions.



Thomas Walsh

Winner under 12 voice in Colchester Rotary Festival 2002 and 2003's Most Promising Younger Singer award. 12-year old Thomas attends Manningtree High and Tendering Music school, studying voice, trumpet and piano. Past performances include the demanding Pie Jesu Solo in "Durufle's Requiem. A keen football, rugby and cricket player.



Jacob Yaxley

Jacob is 10 years old and decided he wanted to be on stage at the age of 5. A member of the Ipswich Co-op Juniors his previous appearances include Snow White, Annie Get your Gun and Jubilee Showtime. He has also been part of Joseph on tour.



CAST

(In order of appearance)

Oliver Twist	<i>A workhouse boy</i>	Thomas Walsh } See *
Mr Bumble	<i>The Beadle</i>	Jacob Yaxley } below
Widow Corney	<i>The Workhouse Mistress</i>	John Enfield
Workhouse Servant		Barbara Scully
Mr Sowerberry	<i>The Undertaker</i>	Lisa Bibby
Mrs Sowerberry	<i>His Wife and Overseer</i>	Tony Court
Charlotte	<i>Their sluttish daughter</i>	Lydia Clough
Noah Claypole	<i>Their apprentice</i>	Justine Garnes
Artful Dodger	<i>Fagin's brightest pupil</i>	Nathan Crame
Fagin	<i>Runs a gang of pickpockets</i>	Joe Allen
Charley Bates	<i>One of Fagin's boys</i>	Graham Bowden
Nancy	<i>Graduate of Fagin, Bill's doxy</i>	Dan Howell
Bet	<i>Girl who idolises Nancy</i>	Lisa Diason
Mr Brownlow	<i>A wealthy gentleman</i>	Victoria Leung
Chairman	<i>At the Three Cripples pub</i>	Nicholas Clough
Bill Sykes	<i>A villain in his prime</i>	Brian Moore
Mrs Bedwin	<i>Mr Brownlow's housekeeper</i>	James King
Dr Grimwig	<i>Mr Brownlow's doctor</i>	Barbara Ryan
Old Sally	<i>A pauper</i>	Brian Howe
Old Lady	<i>A pauper</i>	Teresa White
Bow Street Runners		Maria Hinton
Bulls Eye	<i>Syke's dog</i>	Lee Denny & Sean Walsh
		Beulah

* **Thomas Walsh performs on Jan. 28, 30, 31Eve., Feb. 3, 5, 7Mat.**
Jacob Yaxley performs on Jan. 29, 31Mat., Feb. 2, 4, 6, 7Eve.

Chorus

Paula Baker	Nathan Crame	Claire Jones	Barbara Pears
Sarah Beards	Lee Denny	Sally Leung	Leanne Rogers
Adrian Bolton	Diane Emberton	Ann Mills	Jenny Spurgeon
Tracy Budd	Kerry Gullen	Brian Moore	Colin Thorne
Louise Cassidy	Maria Hinton	James Mott	Sean Walsh
Valentine	Beverley	Jason Norton	Teresa White
Cavanagh-White	Humphreys		

Dancers

Dance Captain	Sarah Beards	Kerry Gullen	Victoria Leung
Valentine	Tracy Budd	Beverley	Ann Mills
Cavanagh-White	Justine Garnes	Humphreys	

Orphans

Henry Beckwith	Pheobe Day	Charlie Horton	Joseph Marsh
Anna Churchill	Ryan Frost	Rhys Humphreys	Jack Martin
Stephanie Clayton	Alexander Highfield	Kerrie-Ann Knivett	Christopher Palmer
			Miranda Stanford

Street Group

Zoe Carter	Joseph Howell	Jenna Saiz	Will Tamblyn
	Timothy Howell	Alice Tweddell	

Fagin's Gang

Laura Andrews	Annie Homer	Harry Tweddell	Thomas Whittam
Bethany Bugg	Alex Nicolau	David White	

Please note that the videoing, photographing or sound recording of any part of this performance is not permitted.

Please turn off all mobile phones and other bleep making devices.

Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT 1

Scene 1:	The Workhouse Dining Hall , early evening <i>'Food glorious Food' ~ Orphans</i> <i>'Oliver' ~ Mr Bumble, Widow Corney & Orphans</i>
Scene 2:	The Workhouse Parlour , later (then into street) <i>'I Shall Scream' ~ Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney</i> <i>'Boy for Sale' ~ Mr Bumble</i>
Scene 3:	The Undertaker's Parlour , same evening <i>'That's Your Funeral' ~ Mr & Mrs Sowerberry & Mr. Bumble</i> <i>'Where Is Love?' ~ Oliver</i>
Scene 4:	The Undertaker's Shop , next morning
Scene 5:	Paddington Green, London , morning, a week later <i>'Consider Yourself ~ Artful Dodger, Oliver & Chorus</i>
Scene 6:	The Thieves' Kitchen , later (then into street) <i>'Pick A Pocket or Two' ~ Fagin & Fagin's Gang</i> <i>'It's A Fine Life' ~ Nancy, Bet & Fagin's Gang</i> <i>'I'd Do Anything' ~ Nancy, Artful Dodger, Bet, Oliver, Fagin & Fagin's Gang</i> <i>'Be Back- Soon' ~ Fagin, Artful Dodger & Fagin's Gang</i>

Interval

ACT II

Scene 1:	The Three Cripples, a Clerkenwell Public House - that evening <i>'Oom-Pah-Pah' ~ Nancy & Chorus</i> <i>'My Name' ~ Bill Sykes</i> <i>'As Long As He Needs Me' ~ Nancy</i>
Scene 2:	The Brownlows' home , two weeks later (then into street) <i>'Where Is Love?'(reprise) ~ Mrs. Bedwin</i> <i>'Who Will Buy?' ~ Oliver, Street Criers & Chorus</i>
Scene 3:	The Thieves' Kitchen , later <i>'Reviewing The Situation' ~ Fagin</i>
Scene 4:	The Workhouse , a few days later (then into street) <i>'Oliver'(reprise) ~ Mr. Bumble & Widow Corney</i>
Scene 5:	The Brownlows' home , a few days later (then into street) <i>'As Long As He Needs Me' ~ Nancy</i>
Scene 6:	London Bridge at night <i>'Reviewing The Situation' (reprise) ~ Fagin</i>
Finale:	London Bridge <i>'Consider Yourself (reprise) ~ Company</i> <i>'Food Glorious Food' (reprise) ~ Company</i> <i>'I'd Do Anything' (reprise) ~ Oliver & Company</i>

Curtain

The Company



The Children



BEHIND THE SCENES

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Marcus Christian, Hamish Everitt & Howard Smith

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		Programme:	David London

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Dee Evans, Nick Frampton, Carol Wiseman and all their staff at the Mercury Theatre.
Colchester Garrison Officers Club/Arena Sports and Leisure Club for their rehearsal facilities.
Barbara Scully and Social Committee members for Green Room Hospitality.
David London for Programme and poster design and anything else that no one else would tackle!
The Society's non-playing members, for their support in programme sales and front of house.
Our Advertisers, for their support of this programme.
Mr C. Simpson, for the loan of Beulah, Syke's dog.

Dates for your Diary

Our 2004 Concert "Musical Memories" in aid of the Children's Hospice will be held in three venues:			
Colchester Officers Club	Friday & Saturday	28 th & 29 th May	with Wine & Buffet
Headgate Theatre, Colchester	Friday & Saturday	25 th & 26 th June	for the cosiness
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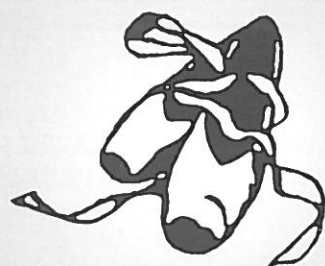
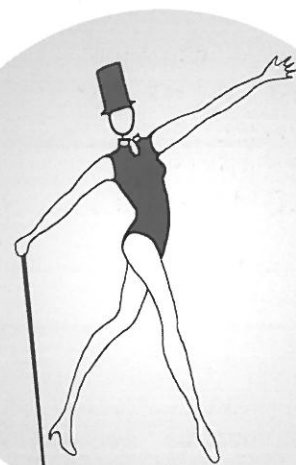
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production of
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Workhouse Gruel

Just in case you want to give members of your family the opportunity to 'ask for more', you might like to experiment with the following recipe for Gruel. This, it has to be said, is a sort of composite, gleaned from various web site sources, of a staple part of the workhouse diet in 19th Century Britain.

Ingredients per person

2 oz of Oatmeal
1 teaspoon of treacle (maybe)
Pinch of Salt
Pinch of Allspice (maybe)
1 pint water (very occasionally part water, part milk)

Bring water to boil, add the other ingredients, reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally to prevent lumpiness. It is important for the gruel to be thin. It was usual in some workhouses for the 'big pot' containing the gruel to be left to simmer through the night.

Children were given about one pint of gruel per day, usually at breakfast, with some bread.

Bon Appetit

And Finally

We hope you have enjoyed watching the show as much as we have in presenting it to you.

Are you interested in becoming involved in the fascinating business of putting on a production such as you have seen this evening? Have you an interest in singing, acting, costume, make-up, stage properties, organising?

The Society produces a major show every year in the Mercury at about this time and a concert in the late Spring. The youth section CO2 produces its major show, also at the Mercury, in the Autumn. New members are always welcome, particularly of the male gender, and a good opportunity to start will be when the concert rehearsals start on Monday 16th February at the Headgate Theatre.

For more detail about us and enquiries about membership:-

visit our web site at www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk.
or call our membership Secretary, Colin Thorne, on 01206 262664
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