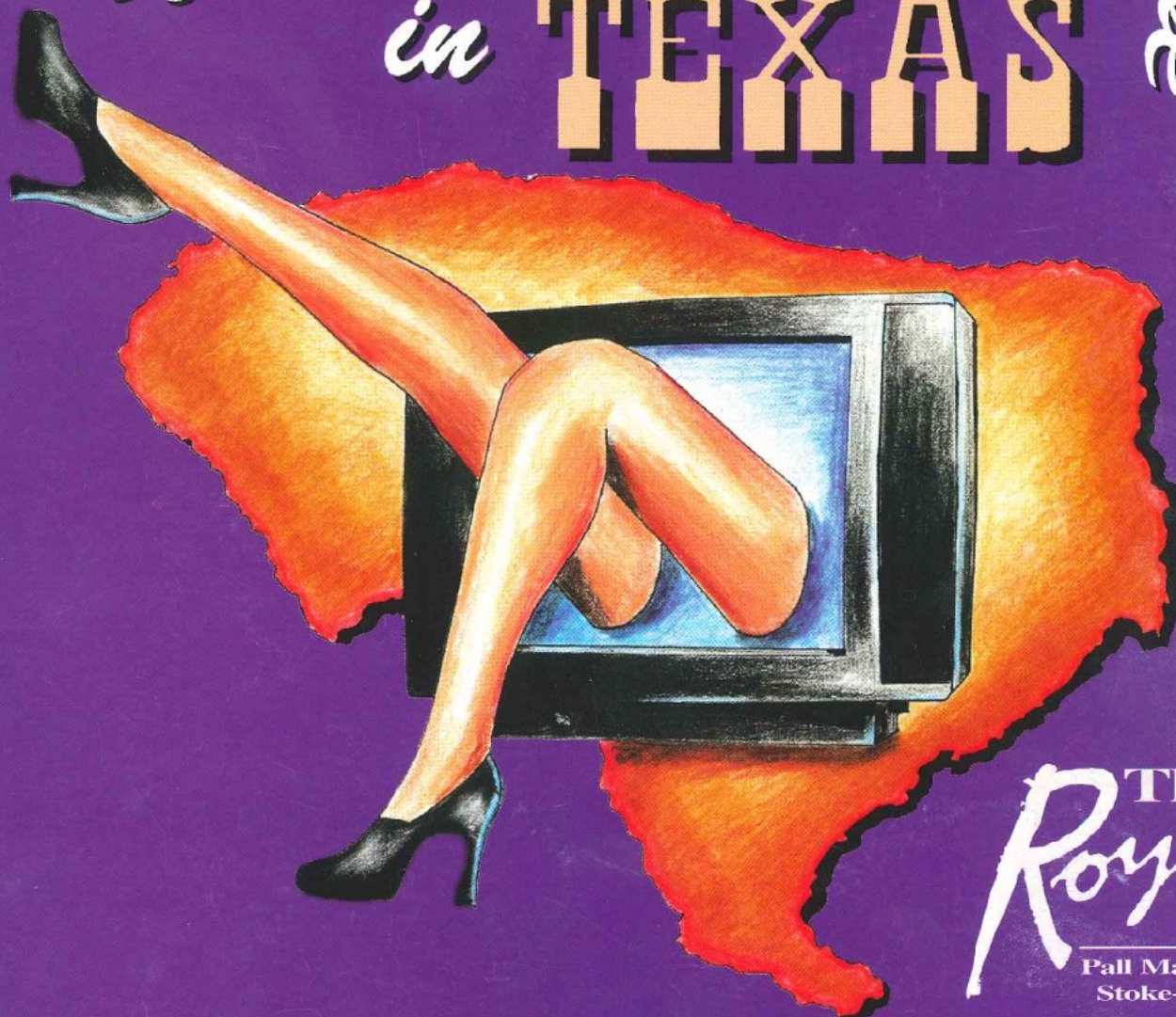


NEWCASTLE AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENT

Their rip-roaring musical

The best little whorehouse
in TEXAS



The
Royal
Pall Mall, Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent

Directed & Choreographed by JOHN CUMBERLIDGE
Musical Director Michael Lambert

Music & Lyrics by CAROL HALL

Book by LARRY L. KING & PETER MASTERSON

Based on a story by LARRY L. KING (kind permission of SAMUEL FRENCH)

Monday 19th - Saturday 24th April 1999 - 7.30pm
Saturday 24th April Matinee (3.00pm)

Registered as a Charity No. 501464

MARYE A. HUMPHREYS

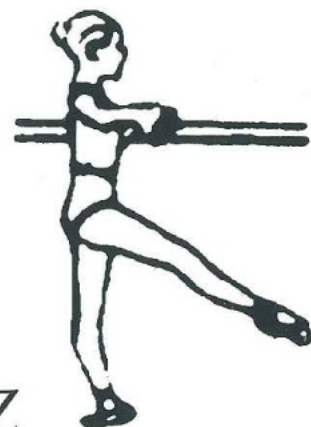
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Newcastle Amateur Operatic Society

President's & Chairman's Message

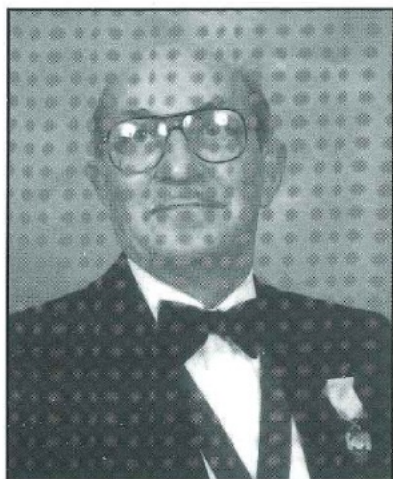
A very warm welcome to this our 1999 production The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, a rip roaring musical. The cast is the "Creme de la Creme" of local Talent, Singing, Dancing and Comedy. The professional directing and choreography of Mr John Cumberlidge brings this very lively show into something very special. Michael Lambert takes the baton as the Musical Director and Lorraine Hunter is our Assistant Musical Director and Chorus Mistress. We thank you for your continued support, without which we would be unable to continue with our endeavours to provide a programme of first rate shows.

Please enjoy your evening and have a safe journey home.

Sincerely yours

Elsie Ashley OBE.
(President)

Fred Johnson
(Chairman)



Chairman: Fred Johnson



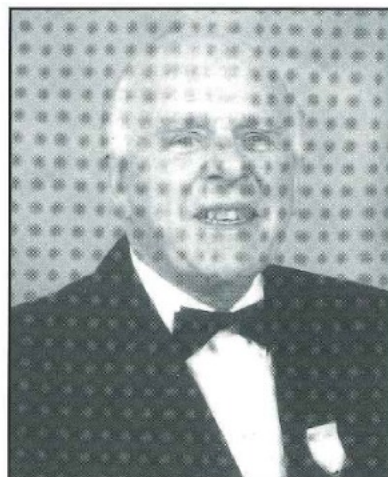
President: Elsie Ashley OBE



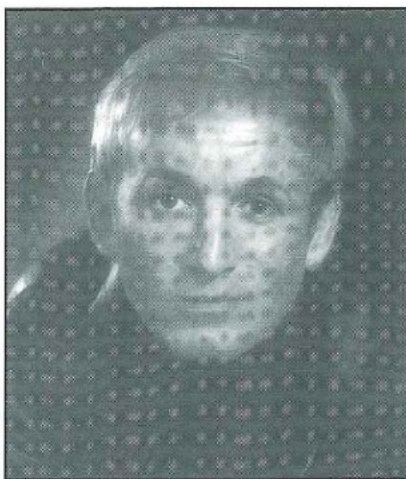
Hon Secretary: Gill Johnson



Vice Chairman: Brian Hilditch



Hon Treasurer: Dennis Oliver



John Cumberlidge

Director & Choreographer

John's professional career has spanned some eighteen years to date, of which almost seven years has been spent on the London Westend stage in cabaret or musicals, such as *Underneath the Arches* (Prince of Wales) *Wizard of Oz* (RSC at the Barbican and Stratford) *La Cage aux Folles* (London Palladium), *Talk of the Town* and *Cockney Revues*. Other theatre work includes Bobby van Hussen in *The Boy Friend*, *My Fair Lady* (Plymouth Theatre Royal) and *Abracadaver* (Windsor and Plymouth), also numerous pantomimes and revue seasons with many 'star' names. Television work has included *Love Story*, *A Night of 100 Stars*, *Halls of Fame* and *The Olivier Awards*. In recent years John has directed many musicals, including *Follies*, *Kiss me Kate*, *Guys and Dolls*,

Crazy for you, *La Cage Aux Folles*, and the award winning 'Me and My Girl' gaining him, the best director's award at 1st International Festival of Musicals in 1997.

The summer of 1999 will again see John tutoring the musical performance course at the N.O.D.A. summer school at Warwick University, and he is the first director since the original London production to workshop the Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice musical "Evita"

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas - Background Story

After many years of 'service' to the local community, or to be exact, to certain sections of the community, in the little town of Gilbert, Texas, the 'Chicken Ranch', as the town's whorehouse had come to be known, is almost regarded as a local institution.

The owner, Mona Stangley, has continued to run the Chicken Ranch along the strict lines of lady-like conduct laid down by her predecessor Miss Wulla Jean. Her required high standards together with her close friendship with the local sheriff, Ed Earl Dodd, are instrumental in maintaining the position of the Chicken Ranch in the town. Things would have probably gone on like that for many more years but unfortunately the Chicken Ranch comes under the focus of Melvin P. Thorpe, the self-styled T.V. Watchdog, who has made his reputation by sniffing out scandal and corruption and who now becomes determined to run the Chicken Ranch out of business.

The town becomes divided on the issue with Sheriff taking Mona's side. However his very outspoken defence, captured on film and broadcast on T.V. News, does little to help the cause of Mona and the Chicken Ranch.

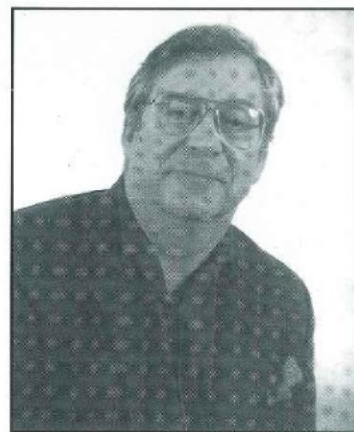
Other personalities, including local Senator Wingwoah and the Texas Aggies University football squad, become involved particularly when a night-time raid on the whorehouse by reporters and cameramen catches some prominent people literally with their pants down. This gives Melvin P. Thorpe a notable coup.

The matter now gets referred to the Governor of Texas for action but, in true political fashion, he tries to sidestep the issue.

So, is this the end of the trail for the good old Chicken Ranch?

Musical Director

After graduating from the Royal Manchester College of Music (now the RNCM) in 1968, one of his first professional gigs was at the Macclesfield festival as a jazz pianist on the bill with Acker Bilk. Now a free-lance musician, he is in great demand as an accompanist and lecturer at several colleges and universities which he combines with his theatre work.



Michael Lambert

Assistant Musical Director

Born in London's East End, graduated from Trinity College, Lorraine came to this area 15 years ago. A qualified teacher of piano and woodwind she is a part-time peripatetic teacher with Staffordshire music dept. Lorraine is a wife and mother with two grown sons.



Lorraine Hunter



The NATIONAL OPERATIC and DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION: N.O.D.A.

Celebrating 100 Years of Service to Amateur Theatre in 1999

The Association was founded in 1899 "to protect and advance the interests of Operatic and Dramatic Art, and of Societies engaged therein". Today, as NODA celebrates its Centenary, it has a Membership of some 2,450 Individual enthusiasts and 2,300 Amateur Companies throughout the United Kingdom, staging Musicals, Operas, Plays Concerts and Pantomimes, in a wide variety of performing venues ranging from the country's leading professional Theatres to tiny Village Halls.

There is a broad spectrum of ages involved nation-wide. Youth Groups staging all theatrical and dance arts from improvised drama to full-scale Musicals and even Opera. Adult Companies, who have to meet the needs of all performers, whether dramatic or musical and where enthusiasts can remain involved in a wide variety of ways on stage, backstage, front of house or in administration for as long as they wish.

Whatever the age of the participants, whatever the on-stage or offstage talent they have to offer, they are involved in Amateur Theatre for the love of it. Those appearing will have given many hours to prepare and rehearse their contribution. The Stage Crew are vital to bringing the creative process alive on stage, whilst the Committee Members and Front of House Staff all contribute so much in the challenge of staging a production. Each production created becomes a true community project.



Virginia Bryan

Miss Mona

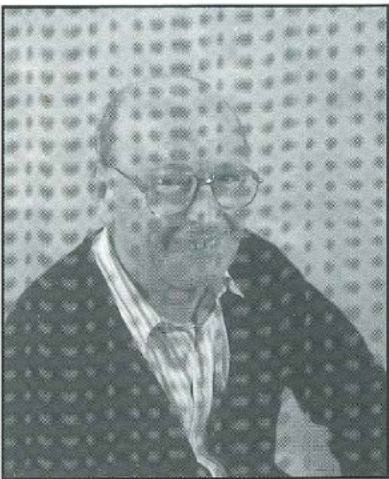
Virginia has played leading roles with most of the local societies over the last twenty years at one time or another. She is also much in demand in Concert and Cabaret. More recently she formed 'One off Productions' with her husband David to fulfil her ambition to play 'Shirley Valentine', and only six weeks ago 'Piaf' in the musical play about the legendary French singer. She is now enjoying the complete change as 'Miss Mona'.



Sue Hargreaves

Jewel

Sue started dancing at the age of 6 - Ballet, Tap & Acrobatics and appeared in dancing shows up to the age of 14. At 15 she started a career in singing, touring the country. In 1991 she appeared in her first theatre performance with Stoke-on-Trent A.O.S. in 'Hello Dolly'. She also appeared in 'The Music Man' and most recently as Katisha in the 'Hot Mikado'. This will be her first appearance with the Newcastle A.O.S.



Richard Masters

Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd

Richard first appeared with N.A.O.S. in their production of Desert Song. Subsequently went on to play parts in Brigadoon, etc. During the last 25 years he has been involved with Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre as their General Stage Manager responsible for staging some 120 productions. He also appeared on the Rep stage in 'All My Sons', 'Death of a Salesman' and 'View from the Bridge' by Arther Miller and numerous comedies and farces by Ray Cooney and Alan Ayckbourn. Most recently he has lead the team that saw the Rep build their new theatre on Leek Road.

Miss Mona's Girls

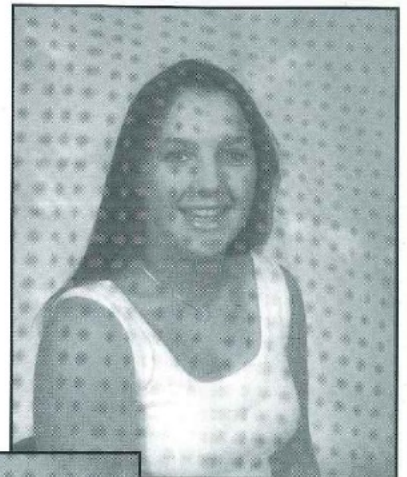
ANGEL - Michaleen Hilton



BEATRICE - Jenny Nixon



DAWN - Donna Bannister



DURLA
Julie Anthony



ELOISE
Natasha Bryan



RUBY RAE
Georgina Woods



GINGER
Linda Slinn



LINDA LOU
Fran Johnson



TADDY JO
Ann Mace



SHY
Kim Boyson

The Best Little W

The



CHORUS

Glenis Johnson, Mike Millington, Malcolm Crawford,
Marjorie Turner, Tamatha Huckfield, Kath Legge,
Nicola Barnett, Brenda Oliver

Bandleader
Miss Mona Strangely
Jewel
Shy
Linda Lou
Dawn
Ginger
Beatrice
Taddy Jo
Ruby Rae
Eloise
Durla
Doatsey Mae
Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd
Melvin P. Thorpe
Governor
Senator Wingwoah
Mayor Rufus Poindexter
C.J. Scruggs
Edsel Mackey

Brian Hilditch
Virginia Bryan
Sue Hargreaves
Kym Boyson
Fran Johnson
Donna Bannister
Linda Slinn
Jenny Nixon
Ann Mace
Georgina Woods
Natasha Bryan
Julie Anthony
Carol Andrews
Richard Masters
David Bryan
Alan Hulme
David Stephenson
Brian Hilditch
Geoff Berrow
Dennis Oliver



DOGETTES

Dereth Bailey, Carole Bissell, Amanda Bosson, Julee Mountford



DANCE
Mark

Shorehouse in TEXAS

Cast

Angelettes

Sarah Redfearn, Linda Slinn,
Alison Johnson, Jill Bowdery,
Jenny Nixon, Natasha Bryan.

Aggie Boys

Jon Bott, Gary Edge,
Kevin Baddeley, Mike Bate,
Mark Hilton, Thomas Davies,
Ryan Waters, Alister Acar

Dogettes

Dereth Bailey, Carole Bissell,
Amanda Bosson,
Julee Mountford, John Chatton,
Mike Millington, Mark Hilton,
Kevin Baddeley

Other Players

Kath Legge,
Brenda Oliver,
Nicola Barnett,
Glenis Johnson,
Ken Wilkes,
John Byatt,
Malcolm Crawford,
Stuart Owen



CHORUS

Alison Johnson, Stuart Owen, Sarah Redfearn,
Jill Bowdery, Alex Griffiths, Jonathon Bott, Alister Acar,
John Byatt, Ryan Waters

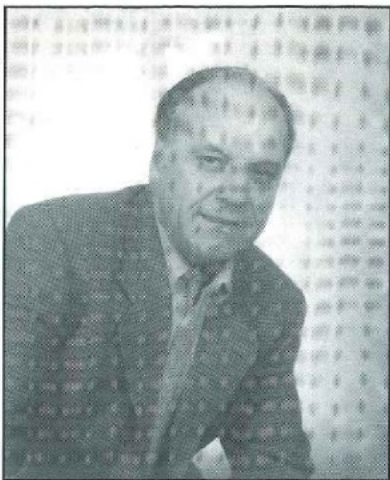


CAPTAIN
Hilton



DOGETTES

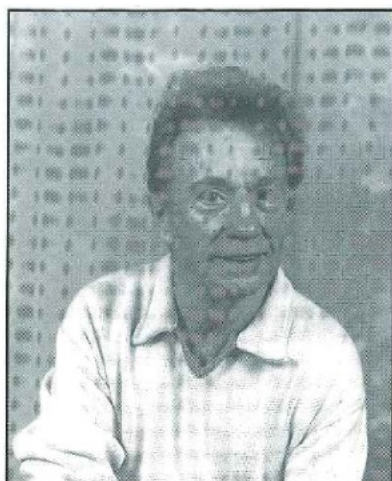
John Chatton, Mike Millington, Mark Hilton, Kevin Baddeley



David Bryan

Melvin P. Thorpe

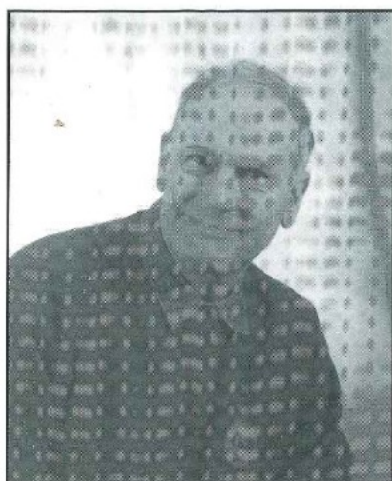
David Bryan has spent many years in local theatre in both musical and plays. He not only performs but also directs. He has produced a couple of good shows for Newcastle including 'The King and I' in 1985. His latest show at The Rep was 'Piaf' with his wife Virginia in the leading role.



Alan Hulme

Governor of Texas

Alan, a very well known and respected actor, singer and comedian, also produces and directs local societies. He has been connected with Newcastle A.O.S. over 30 years, his latest production being 'The Sound of Music' in 1998.



Brian Hilditch

Bandleader & Mayor Rufus Poindexter

Brian has been in Amateur Operatics for more years than he cares to remember. He has appeared with all the major Operatic Societies in North Staffs playing leading roles in all the popular musicals and operettas, the majority with the Newcastle Society. He says he is still amazed at the number of people who refer to him as 'The Red Shadow', a role he has played many times over the years. He also sings semi-professionally with his wife, Dereth, in concert work and cabaret.

Angelettes



Sarah Redfearn, Jenny Nixon, Natasha Bryan,
Jill Bowdery, Linda Slinn, Alison Johnson

Aggie Boys



Thomas Davies, Ryan Waters, Gary Edge,
Jon Bott, Mark Hilton, Alister Acar, Mike Bate, Kevin Baddeley

Acknowledgments

A big thank you to Alison Fisher for help at rehearsals at short notice.

The Newcastle Amateur Operatic Society gratefully acknowledges financial assistance of the Musician's Union.

Our thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the Orchestra. Our thanks to Newcastle Conservative Club for the use of the committee Rooms.

Our thanks to Marye A Humphreys School of Dance, The Orme Centre, Silverdale Social Centre, Friarswood Primary School for the use of Rehearsal Rooms. Our thanks to the advertisers in the programme for their support.

The Society wishes to thank all the friends who have so willingly given time during this production, especially Paul Whittaker and Brian Beech of The Royal. A special thank you to Mike Lloyd and his staff.

Previous Productions

1965	Carousel	1983	King's Rhapsody
1966	The Student Prince	1983	Student Prince
1967	Rose Marie	1984	The Vagabond King
1968	Calamity Jane	1985	Summer Song: The King & I
1969	Oklahoma	1986	South Pacific
1970	Desert Song	1987	Fiddler on the Roof: The Gypsy Baron
1971	The Vagabond King	1988	Camelot
1972	Brigadoon	1989	Showboat: Calamity Jane
1973	Gypsy Love: Old Tyme Music Hall	1990	Orpheus in the Underworld
1974	Carousel	1991	Carousel: The Land of Smiles
1975	Showboat: The Gypsy Baron	1992	Carmen
1976	The Great Waltz	1993	The Merry Widow: Kismet
1977	Kismet	1994	Oklahoma!
1978	Orpheus in the Underworld: The Desert Song	1995	Die Fledermaus: The Great Waltz
1979	Die Fledermaus: Rose Marie	1996	My Fair Lady
1980	The Merry Widow	1997	Annie Get Your Gun
1981	The Land of Smiles: Lilac Time	1998	The Sound of Music
1982	Brigadoon		

Members List

Honourary Members

Michael Lambert, Lorraine Hunter

Life Members

Elsie Ashley, Mary Blaise, Margaret Byatt, John Deakin, Mae Thompson, Albert Whittaker, Joan Whittaker

Vice Presidents

Roy & Maureen Davenport, John M. Deakin

Members

Alister Acar	Peter Cooke	Sue Hargreaves	Stuart Owen
Carol Andrews	John Chatton	Brian Hitchens	Michayla Pass
Mike Ankrett	Cynthia Cheatham	Anita Hobson	Bob Patterson
Julie Anthony	Peter Cooke	Bill Hopwood	Edith Price
Ann Baddeley	Mary Cooper	Mr D. Hopwood	Irene Price
John Baddeley	Kathleen Cope	Mrs J. Hopwood	Daphne Ratcliffe
Kevin Baddeley	Malcolm Crawford	Tamitha Huckfield	Sarah Redfearn
Nicola Barnett	Thomas Davies	Alan Hulme	Linda Slinn
Mike Bate	Simon Davis	Freda Hurley	John Steele
Mary Beckett	Caroline Durber	Fred Johnson	Judith Stephenson
Ron Beckett	Judith Dutton	Gill Johnson	David Stephenson
Donna Bannister	Dawn Eagles	Alison Johnson	Joan Taylor
Geoff Berrow	John Eagles	Fran Johnson	Paul Thomas
Carole Bissell	Andrew Edwards	Glenis Johnson	Jim Tildesley
Kate Blackburn	Anne Edwards	Anna Lakin	Lilly Tildesley
Amanda Bosson	Tina Evans	Kath Legge	Albert Tompkinson
Shelley Bosson	Gary Edge	Anne McCabe	Barry Tooth
Jonathon Bott	Jonathon Fernyhough	Georgine Machin	Norma Tooth
Kym Boyson	John Highfield	Mike Millington	Marjorie Turner
David Bryan	Pat Highfield	Beccie Millington	Ryan Waters
Natasha Bryan	Alex Griffiths	Richard Masters	Jean Webb
Virginia Bryan	Brian Hilditch	Julee Mountford	Sarah Webb
Jean Byatt	Dereth Hilditch	Jenny Nixon	Tony Webb
John Byatt	Joan Hilton	Pauline Oakley	Ken Wilkes
John Chatton	Mark Hilton	Brenda Oliver	Herta Williams
Cynthia Cheatham	Michaleen Hilton	Dennis Oliver	Patricia Williams
			Verity Winkle

Congratulations to Lily and Jim Tildesley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 26th February 1999 and to Anne and Andrew Edwards on the birth of a son, Jonathan Andrew, on 31st March 1999.

Doatsey Mae

Originally from Yorkshire Carol moved to Nantwich 9 years ago. Her past work includes playing a major role in a play for Channel 4 and other television appearances. Sang professionally for 15 years in clubs and cabaret. Has been involved in amateur productions from the age of 16. Her recent leading role was Dolly Levi in "Hello Dolly". This is Carol's first show with Newcastle.



Carol Andrews

Senator Wingwoah

Apart from a few juvenile leads in the "Land of Smiles" and "The Merry Widow", David has spent most of the last 25 years propping up the tenor chorus!



David Stephenson

Scruggs and Edsel

C.J. Scruggs

Geoff Berrow is making his second appearance with Newcastle A.O.S. A former member of Newcastle Male Voice Choir he has also appeared in 'Annie' with Potteries Theatre Co., and in 'South Pacific' with Porthill Players.

Edsel MacKey

This is Dennis Oliver's eleventh show with Newcastle A.O.S. Usually content to be a happy 'spear carrier' at the back of the chorus, he is finding the part of Edsel a far greater challenge than his last role as the Admiral in 'The Sound of Music', when he was on stage for all of 1 minute and 48 seconds.



Geoff Berrow and Dennis Oliver

Production Appointments

Director & Choreographer	John Cumberlidge
Musical Director	Michael Lambert
Assistant Musical Director	Lorraine Hunter
Stage Manager	Andrew Edwards
Property Master	Phil Callan
Ticket Secretary	Gill Johnson
Assisted by	Jean Webb
House Manager	Jean Webb
Assisted by	Roy Davenport
Wardrobe Mistress	Georgine Machin
Make-up coordinated by	Gill Johnson
Programme Editor	Fred Johnson
Programme Distribution	Jean Webb
Honorary Auditor	Steve Jones
Bankers	Lloyds (Newcastle)
Photographs	Tony Sherwin

Management Committee

President	Elsie Ashley OBE
Chairman	Fred Johnson
Secretary	Gill Johnson
Treasurer	Dennis Oliver
Vice Chairman	Brian Hilditch
Assistant Secretary	Julee Mountford
Registrar	Stuart Owen
Librarian	Brian Hilditch
Social Secretaries	Jill Bowdery and Geoff Berrow
Publicity & PRO	Amanda Bosson
Wardrobe Mistress	Georgine Machin
Welfare Officer	Stuart Owen
Committee Members	Lorraine Hunter and Roy Davenport

Cast Selection Committee

Fred Johnson	Chris Keen	Lorraine Hunter	Brian Hilditch
John Cumberlidge	Georgine Machin	Gill Johnson	

Wardrobe Assistant and Dressers

Georgine Machin	Ann Copeland	Mae Thompson	Margaret Byatt	Cara Lea
Daphne Ratcliffe	Dawn Eagles	Alison Ratcliffe	Joan Whittaker	Shelley Bosson
Anne Baddeley	Sylvia Wright	Christine Pass	Margaret Swift	
Lynn Clarke	Helen Legan	Lilly Tlidesley	Pat Woods	

Make-up

Joyce Willis	Lillian Ratcliffe	Mary Blaise	Mary Cooper
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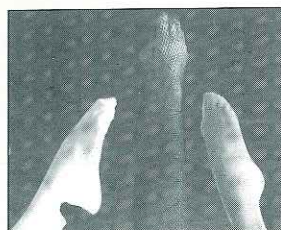
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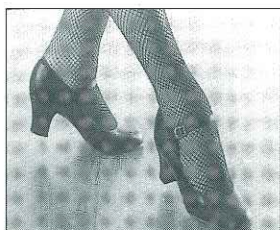
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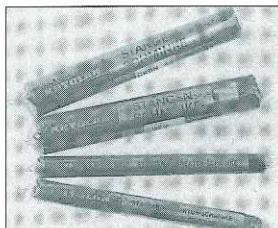
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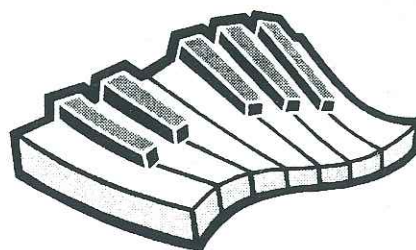
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URSULA HAGELI AND RICHARD SLAUGHTER WITH

*English Youth
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Phil Cool



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