

Future FDS Productions

The society's next production in May 2004 will be the classic comedy *Arsenic & Old Lace*. A read through will be held on Monday 16th February and auditions on Thursday 19th February 2004.

Shakers, a one-act play by John Godber and Jane Thornton, will be the society's contribution to the first *Faringdon Arts Festival* (2-4 July 2004). Set in a wine bar, the cast of four play waitresses and their various clients (male and female!) - Four lively and versatile actresses are required.

A read through will be held on Monday 9th February and auditions on Thursday 12th February; rehearsals "off books" for "Shakers" commence on Monday 19th April. All read throughs and auditions will take place at the Faringdon United Church, 8p.m.

Members and newcomers are welcome to audition for either production.

Wantage Stage Musical Company
Presents

Lerner and Loewe's

My Fair Lady

At King Alfred's School, Wantage - East Site

Wednesday 14th - Saturday 17th April 2004

For tickets call: 01235 - 770641 or Sandwich Phillers, Faringdon



Wantage Stage Musical
Company



How Clarence Earned His Wings!



A Faringdon Dramatic Society Production
(FDS is affiliated to NODA)

30th, 31st January 2004



6th, 7th February 2004

LONDON STREET BARBERS



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Monday	9:00	- 1.30 p.m.
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Wednesday	9:00	- 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00	- 7:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00	- 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00	- 3.30 p.m.

MIRELLA PASTORE
Proprietor

☆ Howdy ☆

The Pantomime is a very British tradition steeped in history. Such classics as Aladdin, Babes in the Wood and Dick Whittington are part of our heritage and, for most, form childhood memories that we feel compelled to pass on to children and grandchildren.



The Cambridge English Dictionary's definition of Pantomime is "an amusing musical play based on traditional children's stories, performed especially at Christmas"; out of this strong definition Clarence was born - a musical play that draws heavily on the tradition of Pantomime, but with an historical twist!



The characters of Clarence and George have Frank Capra's 1947 film "It's a Wonderful Life" to thank for their existence. The idea of an angel having to earn his wings by "Bein' Good" seemed a good base from which to build. The rest, was inspired by a misspent youth watching the likes of Mel Brooks, Monty Python and a host of other British comedians whose unique style of humour never failed to make me laugh. Credit should also go to my children who laughed at the jokes (the best source of feedback- trust me!) and took some ideas to a level an adult couldn't ever hope to achieve!



I am a great fan of the Pantomime tradition, it is a great way to introduce children to the fun and excitement of the theatre. All the children involved in today's performance have worked extremely hard to breathe life into Clarence - each of them has been a pleasure to work with. Let's hope the cowfolk of today are the principal leads of tomorrow!

So welcome to the show - sit back, unclip your spurs, hitch up your horse and welcome to the Wild Wild West of Oxfordshire!

☆ Cast ☆



Cleve Forty - Clarence

Cleve is a seasoned performer. He loves pantomime as it allows him to show off his performing talents, including his banjo playing! He would most like to play the romantic lead opposite Gwyneth Paltrow, because he knows she loves Englishmen. Cleve also believes in angels.

Rebecca Lock - George Bailey

Clarence will be Becca's 9th consecutive panto with FDS; she looks forward to making it a decade next year! Her credits include the role of Maria in "West Side Story", and 6 shows with the Wyvern Youth Project in Swindon. Becca is currently studying dance at Swindon New College



Lauren Anderson - Mary Martin

Lauren is a talented actress equally at home in serious drama, musicals or pantomime. She appeared in FDS's award-winning production of "The Crucible", and recently "Separate Tables", and in the Wyvern Youth project productions of "Fame", "Joseph" and "Crazy for you". Also a member of the Wantage Stage Musical Company, Lauren will soon appear in "My Fair Lady" as well as understudy to Eliza.



Paul Mountford-Lister - Buck Barracuda

Paul has been with FDS for 5 years, joining to perform in "Oh What a Lovely War" - to date his favourite show. He has also appeared in the Panto "Babes in the Wood" and "Hell and High Water".

His most coveted role would be James Bond's Q - licensed to thrill!



Lesley Phillips - Bronco Barracuda

Lesley has appeared with FDS in our recent productions of "Cabaret" and "Separate Tables". She is also a member of the Wantage Stage Musical Company, appearing in many of their recent shows, including the lead in "Calamity Jane" and Bianca in "Kiss Me Kate".

Lesley would most like to play the role of Peter Pan so she can fly across the stage!



Sarah Varnom - Mrs Bailey

Sarah is no stranger to FDS Pantomime, memorably scaring the living daylights out of the 'little uns' as the wicked witch in "Babes in the Wood". Recent roles with the society include Fraulein Kost in "Cabaret".

Sarah jumped at the chance to play Mrs Bailey, she loves to play the 'Tart with a heart' - her dream roles would be in the musical "A Chorus Line" or Lady Macbeth!



Steve Sheppard - Mayor Barnes

This is Steve's first appearance with FDS but he is no stranger to the stage, having appeared in about 50 productions from panto to Shakespeare. He is particularly well known for his portrayal of various Inspectors ("Loot", "An Inspector calls", and "Cats Cradle"). Other significant roles have been in "Way Up Stream", "Private Lives", "The Happiest Days Of Your Lives" and "The Ghost Train".



Gary Bates - Jim Bean

Gary was keen to be part of Clarence - he did after all audition for every part! An experienced 'luvvie', he is Mr Reliable turning his hand to any job on and off the stage. Gary's versatility has seen him take roles as diverse as Cliff in "Cabaret" to Mrs Tichelme (the dame) in "Arthur's Adventures". He feels it's time to throw away his goody-goody image and play the baddy - just don't heckle him in the supermarket - please!



The Mayor's Posse

The Posse were put through their paces to earn their spurs and appear in the Pantomime. They've worked hard to perfect their acting, dancing and singing and if their antics in rehearsals are an indicator, you are all in for a treat!

FDS are lucky to have such a talented bunch!



Mary's Posse

We could have cast Mary's Posse a number of times over, such was the depth of talent on show! Each and every one of them impressed with their talented singing, dancing and acting.

Such talented ladies will hopefully adorn the stage of Faringdon for many years to come. Let's go girls!



☆ And not forgetting the chorus...☆



New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over fifty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for our production of "The Crucible" in 2001.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our web site www.faringdondramatic.org.uk, or by e-mail: webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

☆ Clarence ... the story ☆

Every star in the sky represents an angel who has earned his wings. One of those stars, however, is not named after Clarence - and he has tried, really, really tried. He wants to "do good" and take his place among the elite in the angel world. However, everything he has touched to date has gone wrong. He is not the most successful trainee angel.



Down on earth, Faringdon Falls is one lucky town. Set in the wild wild west of Oxfordshire it is a thriving town full of well-meaning men and women, everyone is happy, life is fun. George Bailey is the Sheriff and makes sure the townsfolk are safe; Jim Bean is his own Chamber of Commerce; Mrs Bailey runs the local hostelry and a refuge for fallen women. She is proud of her son.



Mayor Barnes is the town's figurehead. He is respected by all, and makes sure the town runs as it should. Mary Martin is the town's schoolmistress, prim, proper and custodian of the children's education. She is very fond of George, and he of her.



And finally we have the Barracuda Brothers, Buck and Bronco. They joined the wrong queue when the brains were handed out, and things haven't really improved much since! They are two cans short of a six-pack and dealing from the wrong deck. If brains were gunpowder they wouldn't have enough to blow their nose - I think you get the picture!



However, things are not as they seem. George is in for a few surprises - will he survive? Will Clarence earn his wings?



So there we have it, the scene is set ... Welcome to Faringdon Falls!

☆ The Cast ☆

Angel	John Taylor
Angel	Carolyn Taylor
Clarence the Angel	Cleve Forty
Reverend Jones	Nick Coard
George Bailey	Rebecca Lock
Jim Bean	Gary Bates
Buck Barracuda	Paul Mountford-Lister
Bronco Barracuda	Lesley Phillips
Mrs Bailey	Sarah Varnom
Mayor Barnes	Steve Sheppard
Mary Martin	Lauren Anderson
Jailer	Tim Evans
Prisoner	Gina Cole
Bartender	Rob Thorpe
Toronto	Debbie Lock
Mayor's Posse	Ben Anderson, Elliott Coard, Callum Coard, Matt Cockcroft, Jack Porter, Ross Townsend-Green
Mary's Posse	Jess Allen, Grace Anderson, Jessica Curtis, Louise Gray, Tara Whenray, Michaela Williams
Strolling Musicians	Josh Osment, Billie Williams
Man at Back	Jim Duffen
School Kids	Jamie Campbell, Sasha Dobner, Huw Lewis, Thomas Myatt, Jack Sheppard, Hazel Wells, Tamara Williams.
Indians	Sarah Foot, Kate Mitchell, Bethan Murphy-Hand, Jake Thorpe, George Townsend,
Singing Angels	Kayleigh Pill, Laura Prescott, Sophie Russell, Clare Sollis, Rosie Woods
Cowfolk	Katie Dyet, Joe Benson, Melissa Blair, Lucy Broom, Charlotte Cockcroft, Fiona Collett, Marta Dyet, James Green, Joel Green, Gail Kidd, Hannah Lardner, Charlotte Lock, Sonal Mandalia, Matthew Mountford-Lister, Grace Robinshaw, Jamie Rogers, Gail Vallis, Jennifer Whiffen, Rebekah Wisbey.

☆ Order of Scenes ☆

Act One	
Scene 1	Clarence and the angels ☆
Scene 2	The church in Faringdon Falls ☆
Scene 3	Jim Bean's office ☆
Scene 4	On the way to the dance ☆
Scene 5	The dance ☆
Scene 6	The brothers hatch their plan ☆
Scene 7	The heist ☆
Scene 8	Strolling musicians ☆
Scene 9	A meet in the street ☆
Scene 10	Clarence is a worried angel ☆
Act Two	
Scene 1	The saloon ☆
Scene 2	On the run ☆
Scene 3	The chase ☆
Scene 4	Clarence appears to George ☆
Scene 5	The boys escape from Mary ☆
Scene 6	The trial ☆
Scene 7	Clarence earns his wings

★ My thanks go to...★

A production of this size doesn't just happen overnight, it requires the support and dedication of many people. Their effort and time is given free in support of the society's aim of bringing quality theatrical entertainment to the public of Faringdon. It is impossible to thank everyone in the programme, but, from publicity to props to front of house to the backstage crew - you know who you are and what you have done - our thanks go out to all of you.



However, my special thanks go to Claire Forty who, as co-director, has been an immense support and shoulder to lean on in the less favourable times - every production needs a Claire Forty.



Just before the start of this production we were searching for a new Musical Director. Up stepped Alexei Knupffer to rescue us, and deliver beyond my wildest dreams. Alexei has battled doggedly through rehearsals - how many times can you ask one man to play Jolly Holiday! - and yet still delivers a perfect musical support. Thanks should also go to the band, a great bunch who have supported the cast with their expert performances throughout.



I would like to make special mention of Jo Webster and her stage production team. Jo's talent to produce the perfect set never ceases to amaze me. I am indebted to Jo for bringing my vision of Faringdon Falls to life.



No Faringdon production is complete without the superb costumes of Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee and the costumes team. From Verona to war-torn Berlin, to the wild west town of Faringdon Falls, no request is too great a task, no costume beyond their imagination. I truly believe they could deliver any costume requested.



And last but by no means least I would like to thank the parents of the children for their support. The to-ing and fro-ing to and from rehearsals and performances is a thankless task. Their patience and support throughout has been very much appreciated.

★ Making Clarence happen ...★

Writer & Director
Co-Director
Music Director
Set Design
Set Construction

Costumes

Sound
Lighting
Prompt
Back Stage Co-Ordinator
Stage Manager
Directors' Support
Front of House Co-Ordinator
Front of House Team

Back Stage Crew
Chorus Direction
Choreography
Orchestra

Piano
Lead Guitar
Rhythm & Bass Guitar
Violin
Flute
Clarinet/Saxophone
Clarinet
Flute/Saxophone
Drums

Properties
Make Up Co-Ordinator
Publicity

Nick Coard
Claire Forty
Alexei Knupffer
Jo Webster
Katie Dyet, Tim Evans, Cleve Forty,
Andrew Logan, Paul Mountford-Lister, Carolyn
Taylor, Rob Thorpe, Carol Tappenden, Jim
Tappenden, Jo Webster, Peter Webster
Lynda Bates, Alison Coard, Joan Lee,
Jeni Summerfield, Lois Wells
Gary Bates, Dave Campbell
Ian Chandler
John Taylor
Karen Whiffen
Tim Evans
Rachel Coward
Denise Monk,
Lynda Bates, Joyce Harrison, Dave Headey,
Jill Headey, Ann Taylor, Gary Thompson, Lynda
Wisbey, Simon Wisbey

Peter Webster, Jo Webster
Michael Hurd
Claire Forty, Lesley Phillips, Tara Whenray

Alexei Knupffer
Richard Lock
Paul Wilcock
Kathryn Whiffen
Rebecca Whiffen
Debra Warner
Elli Morton
Alison Jerome
Luke Gerry

Debbie Lock, Mary Mountford-Lister
Katie Dyet
Mary Mountford-Lister

☆ Production Team ☆



Alexei Knupffer - Music Director
Alexei, now a resident of Faringdon for just over a year, studied music in Vienna and composition at the Guildhall of Music.

He has composed and recorded music in his recording studio for different commercial films and ventures.

As a teacher of music, Alexei has also been involved with many a school production.



Nick Coard - Writer and Director
Nick has been a member of the society since moving to Faringdon in 2000. He has been involved in many of FDS's recent productions, notably as Ernst Ludwig in "Cabaret". "Clarence" is his first opportunity at both writing and directing. 2004 will see Nick taking the role of Henry Higgins in the Wantage Stage Musical Company's production of "My Fair Lady". His wife vaguely remembers what he looks like!



Claire Forty - Co - Director
Claire has appeared in a number of FDS's recent shows as well as directing and acting with Stanford Drama Group.

She enjoyed appearing in "Cabaret" as she always wanted to do a musical, and will soon be performing in "My Fair Lady" in Wantage.

Claire has done lots of pantomime, including "Smuts Saga" in which she sang the "Grease" classic 'You're the one that I want' - Ooh! Ooh! Ooh!

☆ Our Special Thanks Go To...☆

... the following local businesses for donating raffle prizes:

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Perry Bishop

We would also like to thank Tetronics in Faringdon, for the use of their warehouse and courtyard during the construction of the set,

Auntie's Emporium for the loan of the musicians' wagon,

White Horse Country Wear for box office,

Faringdon United Church for rehearsal facilities,

Faringdon Community College for the venue.

ANDREW TOWNSEND ARCHITECTS

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"How Clarence Earned His Wings"

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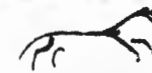
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