

Winchester Musicals and Opera Society

Irving Berlin's

White
Christmas

15th-18th November

2017

Theatre Royal Winchester

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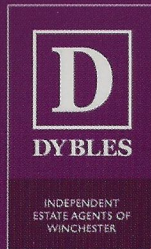
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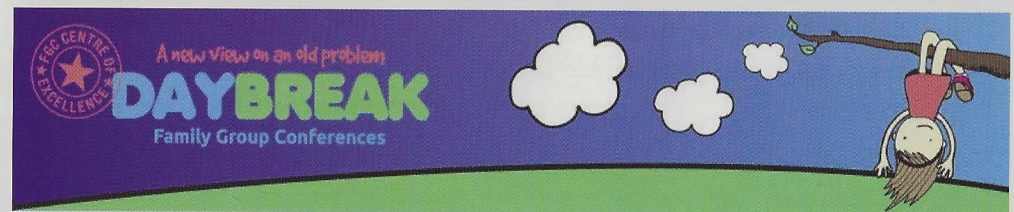
Irving Berlin's

White Christmas



Based upon the Paramount Pictures Film. Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, Book by David Ives and Paul Blake, original stage production directed by Walter Bobbie. Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin.

Written for the screen by Norman Krasna, Norman Panama and Melvin Frank



Daybreak Family Group Conferences is a locally based registered charity, in Colden Common, that works with some of the most vulnerable children and adults in our society, and with their extended families. We provide family group conferences, often for children who are on the brink of care by their local authority. Family group conferences are a meeting of the extended family and friendship network with representatives from agencies that can offer help. Extended family can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, good family friends and neighbours who have been involved with the child as he or she has been growing up.

Our meetings aim to generate a plan whereby a child can, with the help of the extended family be diverted from entering into the care system. To this end we aim to ensure that the voice of the child is always heard in our meetings and Daybreak is leading the way in pioneering this work.



noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

A Message from our President Iain Steel

Welcome to White Christmas.

Go on, admit it, how many of you include this absolute festive favourite on your 'must see list' during the yuletide celebrations? After all, what more can you ask for – love, life & snow whilst singing along to some of Irving Berlin's best songs as you wrap presents for the family or prepare the Christmas feast?

This gorgeous stage musical first premiered in the year 2000, a surprisingly long 46 years after the Paramount Film was first aired.

Winchester Musicals and Opera Society is delighted once again to perform at the Theatre Royal Winchester. Both our Director, Max Bullough and Musical Director, Katie Hickson will be well known to many of you, as they regularly hold principal roles on this very stage and we particularly welcome Elle Wolf to her first choreography role with the Society. Our talented White Christmas cast includes Lindsay Smith (Betty Haynes) who started as a child actor with WMOS. We are delighted to welcome Dybles Independent Estate Agents as sponsors of 'White Christmas'.

Our next production in May 2018 will be Gilbert & Sullivan's Utopia Limited and we are especially excited to have been asked to perform it at the 25th International G&S Festival in Harrogate in August 2018.

But enough of the future let me leave you to enjoy this performance as you immerse yourself completely in 1950s festive fun, remembering to toast your family with 'may your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white'

Iain Steel

Plot Synopsis

After World War II, song and dance men Bob Wallace and Phil Davis form a successful partnership, eventually becoming top Broadway producers. Bob agrees to take in a nightclub act by the Haynes sisters, Betty and Judy, as a favour, so he thinks, for their brother who served with Bob and Phil in the war. Phil has always been trying to get Bob interested in a girl, usually one in the show, but when he realizes that Bob is smitten with Betty, he arranges to accompany them to their show at a small Vermont Inn. Imagine their surprise when they learn that their old commanding officer, Major General Tom Waverley, is the owner. He's sunk his savings and his pension into the venture but it has yet to snow and it looks like he's on the verge of bankruptcy. They come up with a plan to help the General out, but a misunderstanding leads to a rift between Bob and Betty, leaving it to Phil and Judy to try and get them back together

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

Overture
Happy Holiday - 1944 - *Phil and Bob*
White Christmas Music Box - *Bob and Ensemble*
Happy Holiday/let yourself go - *Bob, Phil, Ensemble*
Love and the Weather Part 1 - *Bob*
Love and the Weather Part 2 - *Betty, Bob*
Sisters - *Betty, Judy*
The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing - *Phil, ensemble*
Snow - *Phil, Judy, Mrs Snoring Man, Mr Snoring Man, Betty, Bob, Ensemble*
What Can You Do With a General - *Martha, Bob, Phil*
Let Me Sing and I'm Happy - *Martha*
Count your blessings - *Bob, Betty*
Blue Skies - *Bob, Ensemble*

ACT TWO

I Love a Piano - *Phil, Judy, Ladies Ensemble*
Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun - *Martha, Betty, Judy*
Sisters (reprise) - *Bob, Phil*
Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me/How Deep is the Ocean? - *Betty, Bob*
The Old Man - *Male Ensemble*
Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (reprise) - *Susan*
How Deep is the Ocean? (Reprise) - *Betty, Bob*
Blue Skies Overture/The Old Man (reprise) - *Male Ensemble*
White Christmas - *Bob and Company*



A Word from the Director—Max Bullough

If, like me, you were born in the fifties, you probably had parents who told stories about the war years; the experiences of our fathers at the second world war fronts, on land and at sea, were full of tales that captured heroism, loyalty, friendship and duty. Our mothers shared memories of waiting and worrying, welcoming back those who returned and grieving those who didn't. They remembered the romances that were born during the period of conflict and those which were tested by separation. Home and family were at the heart of what had been fought for, the things that kept folk going through the toughest of times.

No wonder then, that when the classic 1954 film was shown on British TV in the early sixties, I fell in love with it. That mixture of nostalgia, comedy and homely love interest may not have been popular with the first critics, but it had proved a massive success at the cinema for its first ten years and was no less well-loved when broadcast frequently by the BBC at Christmas time year after year

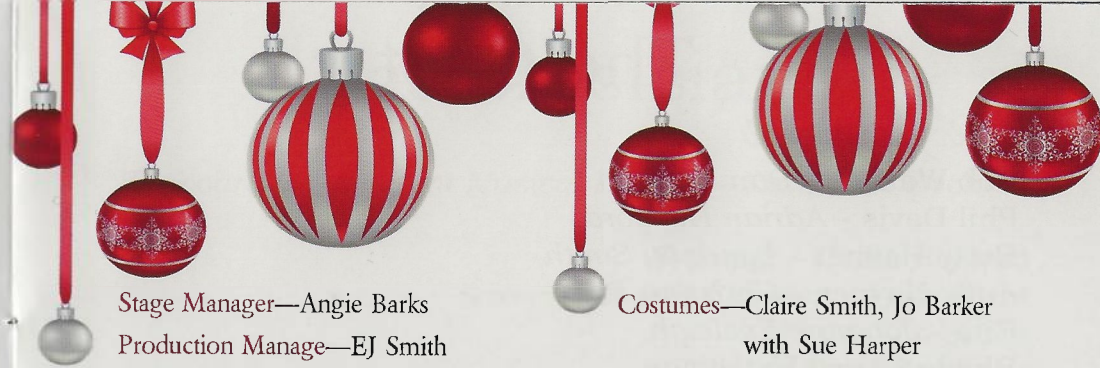
Having had a place in my theatre heart for the show for so long, prompted my approach to WMOS to direct it. To be honest though, it is the music in "White Christmas" which was my real motivation. It is stuffed with great numbers by the king of the classic Broadway composers, Irving Berlin. Like many before him and plenty since, he was not averse to robbing his back catalogue for songs in this one. The title song first appeared twelve years before in the film "Holiday Inn", winning the Oscar for best song in 1942. My personal favourite, "Snow"



was a rewrite of a song from "Call me mad-am". "What can you do with a general" was lifted from an un-produced project called "Stars on My Shoulders". Of course there are also some timeless solos, duets and trios to enjoy; "Love you didn't do right by me" is one of those special moments when the lyrics uncover the internal thoughts and feelings of a main character and reveal a depth to the audience not otherwise obvious; "Sisters" is worth hearing by both pairs, the girls early on and the guys later, tough to decide which one is best. "Falling out of love can be fun" has flashes of Andrews Sisters harmonies as well as sparkling rhymes to chuckle at!

There are plenty of other big numbers for you to enjoy too. "I love a piano" may not seem Christmassy but Berlin did first release it in the month of December (1915!) He knew it was worth a revival here. "Blue skies" wasn't quite so old; he wrote it for the 1926 Rogers and Hart show, "Betsy". What he did change this time was the orchestrations and the vocal settings. The real treasure of tonight's show will be the choral brilliance of his lush chording and crunching harmonies so typical of the period.

Finally, I want to mention the many cameo roles on stage tonight; when I was considering this musical at the early stage of the project, I knew Winchester Musicals and Operatic Society was best placed to bring to life the many quirky comic vignettes an audience will warm to.



Stage Manager—Angie Barks

Production Manager—EJ Smith

Music Secretary—Anne Croudass

Lighting & Sound Design—Tony Lawther

Sound Operative—Brittany Pepper

Stage Crew—Jayde Burton, Mark Smith

Carys Davies, Elliot Exton,

Flying—Vanessa Denson

Set Design—Max Bullough

Set Construction—David Freemantle,

Warner Hall, Brian Hurst,

Sue Larcombe, Liz Petley-Jones,

Colin Paice, Peter Theobald,

Hamish McDonald

Costumes—Claire Smith, Jo Barker
with Sue Harper

Props—Amy Stewart, Stephen Hotton

Publicity—Katie Hickson,

Photos—Matt Veal, Katie Hickson,

Peter Sillick

Programme & posters—Suzanne Hall,
Max Bullough

Front of House—Peter Theobald

Thanks toCheriton Players for costume loan, Turf Walker at Mollies Den for loan of Antlers, Chesil Theatre for loan of props, United Church for rehearsal space, all the staff at the Theatre Royal, Martin Larcombe for roadside posters, Tony Neal for filming and Maskers Theatre.



The Cast

The Show Tolk

Bob Wallace - *Dan Hickson*
Phil Davis - *Adrian Hickford*
Betty Haynes - *Lyndsay Smith*
Judy Haynes - *Christina Finn*
Rita - *Johanne Eveleigh*
Rhoda - *Lucy Hutchings*
Mike - *Wesley Buckeridge*

The People in Vermont

General Henry Waverly - *Kevin Denson*
Martha Watson - *Penny Bullough*
Susan Waverly - *Ruby Hall*
Ezekiel Foster - *Alan Morgan*

Ralph Sheldrake - *Andy Morgan*
Mr Snoring Man - *Simon Meanwell-Ralph*
Mrs Snoring Woman - *Suzanne Hall*
Tessie - *Cressida Bullough*

Clubgoers, Passengers, Guests, Chorus Kids, Soldiers

Peter Barber, Cressida Bullough, Anne Croudass,
Stephen Glead, Suzanne Hall, Marina Humphrey,
Kimberley James, Sally Male, Anne McDonald,
Hamish McDonald, Lorraine Morgan, Charles Quinn,
Emma Jane Smith, Juliet Surridge, Gina Thorley,
Denise Truscott, Isabel Wylde

The Musicians

Keyboard & Assistant Musical Director—Katherine Rockhill


Trumpet - Chris Bolland
Saxophone and Clarinet - Andy Hunt
Flute - Jo Sabin
Bass - Perri Seymour
Trombone - Ed March
Percussion - Paul Lovegrove

Rehearsal pianist—Lucinda Pillow

Katherine Rockhill

Katherine attended the Royal College of Music in London. At the personal request of Prince Charles, Katherine has twice performed at Sandringham House. Katherine has played keyboard on many West End musicals including 'Grease', 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'My Fair Lady', 'Miss Saigon' and most recently, 'Mamma Mia' and 'Kinky Boots'. Katherine's orchestral work has been with the RPCO, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra. In December 2018, Katherine will be performing with the London Concert Orchestra, accompanying Katherine Jenkins on her UK tour.






Lyndsay Smith—Betty Haynes

Lyndsay is an in-and-out of work actor and lives in Andover. For WMOS she has appeared in 'Carousel' as Louise Bigelow, 'The Merry Widow' as Frou-Frou, 'Anything Goes', '42nd Street' and began her career with us aged 9 in HMS Pinafore. Lyndsay plays football for Winchester Flyers.


Favourite thing about Christmas - Pigs in Blankets and Brussel sprouts!



Christina Finn—Judy Haynes

Christina is a dance teacher for Integr8 Dance and lives in Winchester. Previously for WMOS she has choreographed 'Sweeney Todd' and 'Calamity Jane'. Chrissie was resident choreographer with SJ productions: 'The Full Monty', 'La Cage Aux Folles', 'West Side Story' and 'The A to Z of Musicals' Chrissie loves cooking, singing in the shower and all things theatre.


Favourite thing about Christmas - Giving presents to my loved ones.



Dan Hickson—Bob Wallace

Dan works in insurance and lives in Andover. Favourite past roles for WMOS include Don Jose in 'Carmen', Beadel in 'Sweeney Todd', Dexter in 'High Society' and Demetrius in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Dan enjoys going to the gym and supporting Southampton Football club.


Favourite thing about Christmas - Traditions



Adrian Hickford—Phil Davis

Adrian is a university researcher and lives in Winchester. Favourite past roles for WMOS include the title role in 'Sweeney Todd', Daryl Van Horn in 'Witches of Eastwick', Mike Connor in 'High Society', and Hines in 'The Pajama Game'. He is also a member of Pocket Theatre. Adrian enjoys creating dishes in the kitchen.


Favourite thing about Christmas - 'Tis the season to be jolly.



Penny Bullough—Martha

Penny is a retired head teacher and lives in Colden Common. She has been taking principal roles for many years, highlights being Katisha in 'The Mikado', Katie Brown in 'Calamity Jane', Julie in 'Carousel' and Mabel in 'The Pirates of Penzance'. Penny enjoys kayaking and owns her own sea kayaks.


Favourite thing about Christmas - Family breakfast on Christmas morning.



Ruby Hall—Susan

Ruby is 12 and lives in Corhampton. She attends Churchers College and West Meon School of Dance. This is her second show for WMOS having played a fairy in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Ruby enjoys swimming, camping, playing the piano, guinea pigs and creating hair styles.


Favourite thing about Christmas - Christmas songs and silly games with my family.



Kevin Denson—General Henry Waverley

Kevin is an IT project Manager and has recently left Winchester to live in Putney. He has previously been in 'Oh What A Lovely War' and 'Sweeney Todd'. Kevin was the leader of Chesil Youth Theatre for the last 3 years.

Favourite thing about Christmas - The lie in on Boxing Day



Wesley Buckeridge—Mike Nulty

Wesley is a sales and events co-ordinator and lives in Winchester. He joined WMOS earlier this year to play Fogg in 'Sweeney Todd'.

Favourite thing about Christmas - I don't like gravy on my roast dinners and have ketchup instead. My favourite thing at Christmas is to watch my poor mum pour Ketchup into a small ramekin to have next to my plate. This is so that when she takes photographs of us all eating together, we don't have a Ketchup bottle in all of the pictures.

Max Bullough Director

Max is a retired Headteacher and lives in Colden Common. He has been a member of the Society for many years and has been active as a performer and director. Notable roles include Quince in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream', Pirelli in 'Sweeney Todd', Major General Stanley in 'The Pirates of Penzance' (winner Best Performance in an Opera, Curtain Call Awards) Director credits include 'The Mikado' 1996, 'Iolanthe' 1998, 'The Sorcerer' 2008. Max has an enduring love of Africa and it's wildlife.

Favourite thing about Christmas - Peace and Goodwill

Katie Hickson Musical Director

Katie is a Vocal Teacher and lives in Andover. This is her first time taking the role of MD as she can usually be seen on the stage. Notable roles include Mrs Lovett in 'Sweeney Todd', Tracey in 'High Society', Titania in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream', and Josephine in 'HMS Pinafore'. Katie would like to thank the cast for their encouragement and the orchestra, particularly Kathy, for their patience, advice and support. Katie enjoys baking and dreams of being on Bake Off.

Favourite thing about Christmas - Buying presents for my family and being able to drink at 10am without anyone making a fuss!

Elle Wolf Choreographer

Elle is an account project manager and lives in Eastleigh. This is her first time working with WMOS having choreographed for Music Theatre South and Stickman Productions in the past. Elle enjoys reading, crafting and sailing.

Favourite thing about Christmas - getting together with family and friends for lots of food and fun!

Executive Committee 2017 Chair—Suzanne Hall, Vice Chair—Katie Hickson, Treasurer—Adrian Hickford, Secretary—Heather Reid, Simon Meanwell-Ralph, Vanessa Denson, EJ Smith, Sally Male, Cressida Bullough, Amy Stewart, Peter Theobald

Council of Management President—Jain Steel, Secretary—Martin Larcombe, Brian Hurst, Anne Croudass, Adrian Hickford, Suzanne Hall

Friends of WMOS Tim Ames, Janet Bird, Richard & Maureen Chisnell, Alan Clark, Elizabeth Duff, Muriel Fisher, Grace Honeysett, Austen & Connie Hooker, Irene Johnston, Ann Lake, John Murray, Mike Palette, Brenda Pomeroy, Lady Jane Portal, Tony Reid, Joyce Sadd, Joyce Smith, Carol Steel, Tim Stevens, Paul Tipple, Vernon Tottle, Mike Vokes, David Weait, Margaret Williams, Angela Winteridge.

Honorary Vice-Presidents and Life Members Derek Beck, Geoffrey & Jo Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Suzanne Hall, Brian Hurst, Bob & Pam Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, Richard Steel, Christine Walters, David Weait.

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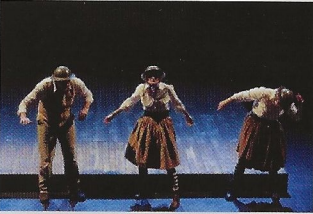


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Our next show is 'Utopia Limited' in May 2018 and then 'Singin' In The Rain' in November 2018

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