

MUSICAL NOTES

Number 14
February 2004

The Newsletter of Newtown Musical Theatre Company

Magic of the Musicals

Our 21st Anniversary Concert will be called *Magic of the Musicals* and will be performed on the evenings of Friday 1 and Saturday 2 October 2004.

It will incorporate songs from all the shows (music availability permitting) that Newtown Operatic Society and Newtown Musical Theatre Company have presented over the past 21 years of our existence.

The concert will also feature songs from other musicals (e.g. *Les Misérables*, etc.). The concert will finish with a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial By Jury*. This was NOS's first ever production and the original directors, John Harbron and Anne Backhouse, will again direct it 21 years on! Auditions for *Trial By Jury* will be held in the usual way.

The rest of the evening's programme will be put together by John, Kat and Jackie, with John writing the linking material. Subject to the agreement of the Committee, they will choose which songs will be sung and by whom. The Committee wishes to make it clear that this is a Company show and will be performed by Company members only.

Oklahoma!

At the Company vote for the Spring 2005 show, *Oklahoma!* won on the first round of voting.

The 1st choice votes cast were: *Oklahoma!* 19, *The Sound of Music* 11, *The King and I*, *Oliver!* 1.

We hope to announce the Director for this show soon.

Performance dates for *Oklahoma!* are: Wednesday-Saturday 16-19 March 2005. We will wait to see how the matinee for *Me and My Girl* goes before deciding whether we do the same next year.

Me and My Girl

A reminder of the dates for our forthcoming show: Wednesday 24, Thursday 25, Friday 26, Saturday 27 March 2004 at 7.30p.m.

There is also a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30p.m.

Photo Shoot

We are hoping to hold the Photo Shoot for *Me and My Girl* on Sunday 7 March at Broneirion in Llandinam.

Keep your ears open for confirmation and your diaries clear for attendance.

New Editor for "Musical Notes"

Mike Clarke (Hon. Secretary) is now editing this newsletter. All contributions to Mike, either at a rehearsal or by email (text or Word) to mike@mjclarke.fsnet.co.uk.

Members' News

Two of our members, Gwiryon and Melanie, participated in the heats of the "Musical Theatre Young Singers of the Year 2004" Competition.

Congratulations on having a go and fingers crossed for the Finals, which take place in Rhyl on Saturday 6 March - see the flier on the Notice Board.

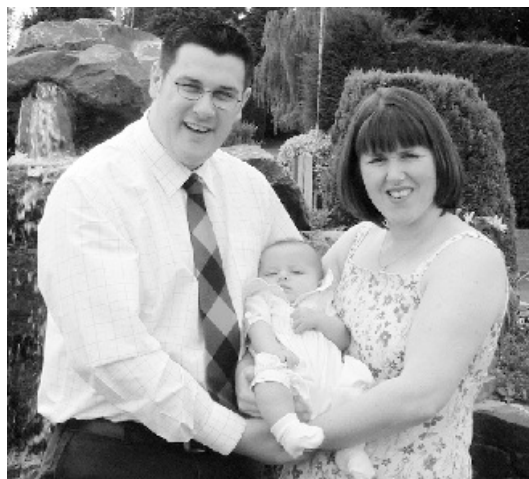
Elizabeth has a book signing on Saturday 7 February at WH Smith's in Welshpool. We hope it is very successful.

Patrons

Do you know anyone who would like to support the Company by becoming a Patron?

For an annual fee, they get full information about the Company and may attend rehearsals and social functions. Patrons receive a ticket for each of our shows and have their names printed in the programme.

Further information and application forms are available from Peggy. Please encourage anyone you know who supports us to become a Patron.



NMTC's newest arrival - Alexander James Pawley - pictured here last summer with proud parents Tracy and Ian - grandson of NMTC vice chair Jim Evans.

Apologies that this photo missed the last newsletter by a couple of days.

Diary 2004

Feb 28-29	Weekend rehearsal for <i>Me and My Girl</i>
Mar 6	Fundraising - Ladywell Car Park
Mar 7	Photoshoot for <i>Me and My Girl</i> at Broneirion (tbc)
Mar 24-27	<i>Me and My Girl</i>
Oct 1 - 2	<i>Magic of the Musicals</i>

Musical Theatre Round Up

Spring 2004

Obviously, *Me and My Girl* is the show of the season, but Musical Theatre enthusiasts may also be interested in:

Theatr Hafren

Dave Willetts (billed as Britain's foremost Musical Theatre star) performs a selection of his favourite shows from the West End and beyond.
Friday 23 April 2004 - £12.50

The Arts Centre, Aberystwyth

The Gondoliers by the Showtime Singers. 26 - 28 February 2004 - £8.50
Cabaret. 28 April - 1 May 2004 - £9

Grand Theatre Wolverhampton

Scrooge starring Tommy Steele. 16 - 28 February 2004
Blood Brothers. 1 - 13 March 2004
42nd Street. 30 March - 3 April 2004
Whistle Down the Wind. 19 April - 1 May 2004

Birmingham Hippodrome

Whistle Down the Wind. 10 - 21 February 2004
Tell Me on a Sunday. 29 March - 3 April 2004

NMTC Committee

Chair	Jackie Titley
Vice Chair	Jim Evans
Treasurer	Jeremy Thorp
Secretary	Mike Clarke
Business Manager	Peggy Bound
Publicity Manager	Tony Crozier
<i>Committee Members:-</i>	
Vivica Flynn	Karen McMurdo
Mark Ward	
<i>Non-Committee Posts:-</i>	
Membership Secretary	Ruth Thorp
Librarian	Gwiryon Bond

New Member Application Form

As from now, anyone wishing to become a member of NMTC will be required to complete a Member Application Form which is to be submitted to the Committee.

Upon acceptance, the new member must pay the appropriate subscription before being allowed to engage in floor rehearsals. Prior to that, if we are having sit-down music rehearsals, the prospective member may join in those.

If you bring a prospective new member to rehearsal, please make them aware of these rules and introduce them to the Chairman in the first instance.

The Constitution

Your committee is working hard at rationalising and updating the current Constitution.

When the work is completed, it will be presented to the Company for ratification at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). This could take place during a rehearsal evening. Members will be given at least one week's notice in writing of the EGM. Proposed changes to the Constitution require a two-thirds majority of members present.

Les Misérables Masterclass

The latest group of NMTC members to attend what were the final *Les Misérables* Masterclasses were Kat, Gwiryon, Emma, Karen, Gaz and Paul.

Newer members might like to know that Mike and Rob Jones attended the first ever series of *Les Mis* Masterclasses way back in 1997! A good many other members have since also become "Masters of the Class". Mike even attended the Advanced Masterclass in 1999 when he was cast to sing Javert opposite a professional Jean Valjean.

New Masterclasses by the same production company are now on offer on: *Chicago**, *Mamma Mia**, *Trial By Jury* (chorus) and an Acting Summer School!!!! (*These two are aimed at dancers.)

Me and My Girl - the Music

by Kat Bond

"A good tune, or two, to go away and hum" - this was the definition given by a colleague of mine to describe the ingredients for a successful show. That being the case, it isn't hard to see why *Me and My Girl* has been so successful.

Nothing complicated, nothing deep, nothing shocking, just good fun (and lots of it), simple tunes (if a little trite at times!) and enough repetition to ensure them being remembered and hummed long after the audience has left the theatre.

There are technical musical reasons for these songs being so easily memorised - I could list a lot, give you all the jargon (use of basic scales and arpeggios and modulations etc etc to form the tunes themselves) but suffice it to say in current popular speak "less is more".

The simpler the better - the appeal is there in the childlike "nursery song" or "music hall song" style of these melodies. You can (nearly always) guess what is coming up next.

But there are a few exceptions to this simple style and they really make their mark adding extra poignance where year appear. Most notable is "One You Lose Your Heart" with its beautiful opening phrases and harmony and its middle "restless" section.

The other really notable piece of music comes just before the "big number", the "Lambeth Walk", and is spoken in rhythm over the music: the "Preparation Fugue", which is something more like a piece of avant garde experimental music by the time all the voices are overlapping in strict time with each other - very clever - to give a big build up to the first appearance of Bill in "Society".

The music all blends together well, despite the fact that three or four of the more well known songs were added for the "re-vamp" of the show in 1985 (taken from the pool of "unused" songs written by the show's composer, Noel Gay).

So we have a fun show with well written but light hearted music. Aren't we lucky?! Let's smile our way through it and ENJOY!