

Productions in 2010

Autumn 2010 - 'Guys & Dolls'

After months of hard work the curtain finally went up on 'Guys & Dolls' to reveal an enthusiastic audience whose applause clearly showed they were enjoying an entertaining evening. Things then got better and better as ticket sales reached record levels and the cast rose to the occasion to give a succession of outstanding performances which delighted all those packed into the Public Hall.

Directed by David Ludlow (assisted by Jenni Newman) and with Stuart Lamb as Musical Director, 'Guys & Dolls' is a story of "boy meets girl" set against the somewhat unlikely backdrop of high-stakes illegal gambling and the Salvation Army! Hard-driving production numbers such as 'Luck Be A Lady' and 'Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat' contrast with wistful melodies and duets to make this one of the all-time favourite Broadway shows. We were delighted to have David & Stuart on our production team this year - they are both no stranger to the Society but both made their debut as director for us with this show.

A well-attended Preview Evening was held on 3rd May, when the Directors told us all about their ideas for this blockbuster show which is sure to be another sparkling success for the Society. The Read-Through then gave everyone a chance to see what the entire show was about (and demonstrate some very dodgy transatlantic accents!!) in preparation for the Open Auditions. Separate auditions for the Hot Box girls were then held, and the final result (after the usual degree of pondering and cajoling!) was the following wondrous cast:-

Sky Masterson - Ian Cook	Sarah Brown - Helen Steed
Nathan Detroit - Jason Lambert	Miss Adelaide - Helen Roscoe
Nicely-Nicely Johnson - Ian Eames-Bayton	Benny Southstreet - Philip Allum
Rusty Charlie - Steve Holmes	Lt Brannigan - John Cushing
Uncle Arvide - Peter Martin	General Cartwright - Wendy Marshall
Big Jule - Bob Sharman	Harry the Horse - John Kingston
Hot Box Dancers - Ruth Alder, Louise Archer, Sarah Burgoyne, Debbie Burr, Sarah Cook, Kate Jackson	

Full rehearsals then began in late May but it took many weeks before we'd finished setting all the show - it goes without saying that singing & moving at the same time provided all the usual "issues" (!). The appearance of the scenery flats then provided further excuses for missed entries and forgotten moves and of course when the band joined us it was very tempting to listen to them and

not actually sing! The men just kept on practising shooting those dice though so it all came together in the end.