

## Productions in 2014

Autumn 2014 - "Singin' In The Rain"

Winner of the Award for Technical Achievement, NODA Eastern Region District 6, in 2014

Tumultuous applause from an appreciative audience greeted the final bows of the triumphant Final Night of our show autumn 2014 - "Singin' In The Rain" - and it didn't stop there. Not one but two "audience singalongs" sent everyone out into the night happy and smiling. And so a week of performances of the highest quality presented to near-capacity audiences came to an end. The hard work of Musical Director Stella Brownsea, making a welcome return to the Society after directing a number of award-winning productions for Lowestoft Players, Stage Director Jane Zarins and Choreographer Jean Cator had come together with a dedicated cast and talented band to give a truly outstanding production which is definitely up there with our "best ever".

The inspiration behind the show came from Philip Allum, but ill-health forced him to relinquish the position of Stage Director he was so looking forward to filling. Jane had already been asked to assist Philip and so after he had to drop out she and Jean took on the directing role together. However, Philip had been able to tell us all about the production and the ideas he and Stella had for bringing this fantastic show to Beccles for the first time at the Preview Evening. The Script Read-Through then gave us all the chance to discover just how good a show it is before we plunged into the Auditions for the principal parts, which gave the Audition Panel the usual set of headaches to endure while deciding on their casting recommendations - never an easy task! They managed to come up with almost a full cast though, so only the slightest amount of arm-twisting was needed before all the major roles were filled. Then it was just a question of casting the numerous minor principal roles, the non-speaking parts, the cameo parts, the walk-on parts, the ..... well - you get the idea! However, we got there in the end and so those who told the tale of Monumental Pictures were:-

Don Lockwood - Selden -Jayne Andrew	Ian Cook	Cosmo Brown -	Chris Penn	Kathy
Lina Lamont - Sandy McKay	Natasha Bird	R.F. Simpson -	Jason Lambert	Roscoe Dexter -
Dora Bailey - Gary Watson	Debbie Lambert	Zelda Zanders -	Sarah Cook	Sid Phillips -
Production Tenor - - Steve Holmes	Sandy McKay	Roz Hellaby -	Helen Watson	Vocal Coach
Miss Dinsmore - Minor roles -	Helen Roscoe	Sound Engineer -	Mike Catling	
	Members of the Company			

We were delighted to yet again welcome some new members to our ranks of principals, working alongside the more familiar faces, and are equally pleased to report that the chorus was been augmented not only by entirely new people but also by some of the older members of Rising Stars. Everyone had a really great time!

Things finally get properly under-way with the initial full company rehearsal in early June. This was a music rehearsal, so we got to sing the famous title song for the very first time! We then had to face the testing prospect of several weeks of choreography (known to the ladies as "dance" and to the men as "movement to music"!!) into which a bit of acting could sometimes be squeezed! All the scenes slowly became a little clearer though, and definitely fell into place much more during our All-Day rehearsal at the beginning of September. A number of runs of each Act then followed and when we finally transferred into the performance venue show-time seemed very close. It was then a hectic mixture of music, dance and staging as everything slowly came together but even in the last week it was clear we "weren't going to peak too soon"!!

The rehearsal at which the (real!) rain finally arrived on stage was a momentous evening! A sudden run on umbrellas soon had local stockists wondering whether St. Swithin might not have been right after all, but at least the plumbing expertise of our technical team avoided the Great Deluge turning into the Great Flood! After that we were really on an upswing and the rest of the week confirmed just what a great show it is.