

Spring 2014 - 'Curtains'

Nominated for Best Musical in NODA Eastern Region District 6 in 2014

When the Last Night for our spring show finally came and went, we were able us to look back with pride on a very enjoyable week's entertainment. After months of hard work we were delighted by the reception from very appreciative audiences who laughed in all the right places and contributed plenty of applause to our finale ultimo and bows. A firm foundation for the week was laid by a well-received Opening Night, enabling us to look forward to the entire run with keen anticipation. This was not misplaced, as each performance built upon those which had gone before, resulting in a highly successful run. Don't take our word for it though - read the NODA review, by clicking here.

We presented 'Curtains', a work by the acclaimed pairing of Kander & Ebb famous for 'Cabaret' and 'Chicago' - not a bad pedigree! After 'Anything Goes' and 'Sweet Charity' the show's big tap routine was clearly not going to be problem (!), but a few of the men did feel that to dig out those shoes labelled "left" and "right" was a good move! However, this was an unfamiliar show for many so the Preview Evening gave our Directors, Christine Mullord and Stuart Lamb, the chance to tell us all about the show and its mix of music, dance & comedy. We then held a Tap Dance Workshop, which totally baffled some but allowed others to show off the talent in their twinkling feet. Next up was the Script Read-Through, giving plenty of opportunity for over-acting while finding out just what a hilarious show this really is!

The Principals' Auditions were held in November in Beccles Public Hall. These produced the usual mix of the brilliant and the unexpected, giving the Audition Panel another hard time deciding who should be cast in which role. We then had to go through the complex process of congratulating those who were successful and commiserating with those who were not, and then re-casting a few roles where things didn't quite go as expected, so the casting details took a little time to finalise. All roles were eventually cast however, so the band of troubadours who were entertaining us was:-

Lt. Frank Cioffi - Ian Cook Philip Allum	Georgia Hendricks - Clare Osborne	Aaron Fox -
Carmen Bernstein - Sarah Cook Harris - Jayne Andrew	Christopher Belling - Peter Simmen	Niki
Oscar Shapiro - Bob Sharman John Cushing	Bambi Bernet - Natasha Bird	Sidney Bernstein -
Jenny Harmon - Jane Zarins Deborah Lambert	Daryl Grady - Tony Hardy	Jessica Cranshaw -
Bobby Pepper - John Hammond	Randy - Tom Elgie	Harv - Stephen Brown
Det. O'Farrell - Steve Holmes	Minor roles - Members of the Company	

Then it was finally time for rehearsals! These concentrated on the choreography for several weeks, with the singing gradually being added in as the cast found they really could open their mouth and move their feet at the same time! The principals were then allowed to join in to set their scenes before the whole lot was stitched together (somewhat loosely at times!) in a full run-through of Act 1. We then took much the same route through Act 2, and then things really started to fall into place during our all-day rehearsal in early April, when we got our first chance to see how the whole thing was hanging together. We then hoped it would be just a case of brushing up a few details before show week rushed upon us all too soon (well, one can dream, I suppose!).