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Singin' in the Rain

Wednesday 27th to
Saturday 30th September
2017

Screenplay by
BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN
Songs by
NACIO HERB BROWN and ARTHUR FREED

PROGRAMME



| | | |
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If you would like to become a member of ROS, whether to perform onstage or behind the scenes, please contact our Membership Secretary at membership@readingops.co.uk.

Rehearsals are held each Monday and Thursday evening starting at 7:30pm in St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley, Reading.



www.ReadingOps.co.uk



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY BY BECOMING A FRIEND?

If you are interested, please contact the Friends Secretary; either by email, Twitter, Facebook or leave your details at the kiosk in the theatre's foyer. Friends benefits include notification of all our activities, priority booking facilities, details of shows and a copy of the Society's newsletter 'Noises Off'.



Reading Operatic Society
presents at
The Hexagon,
Reading

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Screenplay by
BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN
Songs by
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Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc. Music published by EMI, all rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC (Original Movie Choreography by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen) Produced by

Arrangement With Maurice Rosenfield, Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.

An amateur production presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.MTIShows.co.uk

Patrons are requested not to smoke in the theatre, and to switch off mobile telephones, pagers and alarm watches. Photography, video or audio recordings are not permitted.

In accordance with the requirements of the theatre:

- The Public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit door and such doors at that time must be left open.
- All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept free from obstruction whether permanent or temporary, and
- Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or sit in any of the other gangways.



Welcome from our Chairman

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our production of 'Singin' in the Rain'. The show is based on the 1952 classic movie musical. It is packed with great songs and high energy dance routines from the golden age of Hollywood. Complete with stage rain including a highly amusing silent movie scene it promises to be a show that appeals to all the family.

In these apparently interminable grey days of anxiety and gloom it is undoubtedly a potent pick-me-up and should send you dancing down the street with a grin of pleasure on your face.

Once again we are delighted to have a terrific Production Team - assured and creative direction from Jennifer Scott, a delicious score brought to life under Neil Matthews and Choreography pushed to another level by Gemma Hough. Their vision and enthusiasm is evident in all the cast performances and I would like to thank them and our terrific talented cast who have worked so hard in helping to produce a highly professional show.

Stacey Stockwell is now part of the Reading Operatic 'family' and we are so pleased to have Stacey sign for our deaf community once again on the Friday evening performance. The Society are keen to support other charities and we are very pleased to welcome a party from Mencap to the Saturday matinee and one of our evenings will also be devoted to raising funds for the Sue Ryder Hospice.

We are pleased to welcome the NODA Councillor Jacquie Steadman and her husband David to our Wednesday evening performance and our Noda representative Jeanette Maskell to our Thursday evening's performance. We hope they enjoy their evening with us.

Of course there is a vast team of people working hard to put on a production of this size so my thanks and gratitude to all who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

The whole company would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at our next production 'My Fair Lady'.



Yvonne



In 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a famous on-screen romantic pair. Lina, however, mistakes the on-screen romance for real love. Don has worked hard to get where he is today, with his former partner Cosmo. When Don and Lina's latest film is transformed into a musical, Don has the perfect voice for the songs. But Lina - well, even with the best efforts of a diction coach, they still decide to dub over her voice. Kathy Selden is brought in, an aspiring actress, and while she is working on the movie, Don falls in love with her. Will Kathy continue to "aspire", or will she get the break she deserves ?

Meet the Team

Director..... JENNIFER SCOTT



Jennifer has been delighted to be asked to direct 'Singin' in the Rain' this year as it is a very popular show with lots of lovely singing, acting and dancing, for Reading Operatic Society having directed last years production of 'Sister Act'. Originally a dancer herself (dancing since she was three years old), Jennifer is thrilled to be working again with Neil Matthews (Musical Director) and of course her daughter Gemma Hough (Choreographer), having worked together on a great number of productions over the past twenty years.

Jennifer has also appeared on stage over the years, some of her favourite roles being Adelaide (*Gyps & Dolls*), Gladys (*Pajama Game*), Mrs Meers (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Mavis (*Stepping Out*), Velma (*Chicago*) and Mrs Potts (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*).

As far as directing is concerned her favourite shows have included 'Barnum', 'Singin' In The Rain', '42nd Street', 'Mack and Mabel', 'The King and I', 'Kiss Me, Kate', 'Copacabana', 'La Cage Aux Folles' and 'Crazy for You'.

Choreographer..... GEMMA HOUGH



Gemma graduated from Middlesex University in London where she studied Performing Arts majoring in Dance. She has choreographed many productions locally over the years including: 'Copacabana', '42nd Street', 'Crazy For You', 'Oliver!', 'Singin' in the Rain', 'The Producers', 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast' and 'La Cage Aux Folles' to name but a few. This is Gemma's 2nd production with ROS having choreographed last years 'Sister Act'.

Gemma has also performed frequently on stage over the years her most memorable roles being Kathy (*Singin' In The Rain*), Peggy (*42nd Street*) Polly (*Crazy for You*) Millie (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*) and Lola (*Copacabana*). Professional credits include 'Jeeves and Wooster', 'Countdown to Murder', 'Soldier's Wife' and a series with Heston Blumenthal. She also performs with the 'Dolly Mixtures', a professional singing group which sings songs from the 30's to 60's era.

Musical Director..... NEIL MATTHEWS



A pianist, organist and choral director, Neil has always been attracted to a wide variety of music. Originally a graduate of Modern Languages he complemented his studies by gaining qualifications in piano accompaniment and in musical analysis.

Many of his previous theatre productions have been with Maidenhead Musical Comedy Society for whom he continues to be principal MD and more recently with Slough Windsor and Maidenhead Theatre Company. This show is Neil's second with ROS following last year's 'Sister Act'. In addition to his work in musical theatre he leads a choral group, is Director of Music at St Nicolas Church, Taplow, and is regular accompanist for the award-winning Taplow Choirs and for Marlow Choral Society. His own choral arrangements and compositions are published by Banks Music Publications and Oxford University Press.

Don Lockwood..... **RYAN STEVENS**

Ryan is excited to be playing the part of Don in his favourite musical. Previous roles with ROS include Emmett Forrest (*Legally Blonde*) and Sweaty Eddie (*Sister Act*). Other roles include Bobby (*Crazy For You*), Billy Crocker (*Anything Goes*), Billy Lawlor (*42nd Street*) and the title role in '*Jekyll and Hyde*'. Professional credits include Sesame Street Live and Disneyland Resort Paris.

Sit back, relax and wash away your troubles!

Kathy Seldon..... **SHERRIDAN POVEY**

Sherridan graduated from Bath Spa University with a BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre and professionally toured around Germany and Europe. This is Sherridan's fifth show with ROS but her first as the leading lady! Sherridan would like to thank her family and friends, in particular her beautiful parents for their ongoing love and support. She would like to dedicate this show to two very special people: Sally-Anne Coleman and her Gramps.

Cosmo Brown..... **NICK BRANNAM**

Nick has been involved in Musical Theatre since the age of 8 and has since performed in over 90 productions. He is currently reading for a degree in Performing Arts alongside being a freelance director and choreographer. This is his second show with ROS, after appearing, directing and choreographing '*Legally Blonde*' in April. He would like to thank the entire creative team for their patience and support in bringing Cosmo to life!

Lina Lamont... **CHARLEY WOODWARD**

Charley joined ROS in 2014 and has played the roles of the Roseseller (*Oliver!*), Jewel (*The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*), Mama Noah (*Children Of Eden*), Sister Mary Patrick (*Sister Act*) and recently Paulette Buonufonte (*Legally Blonde*). Prior to ROS her roles include Rizzo (*Grease*), Lady Thiang (*The King and I*) and Titania (*A Midsummer Nights Dream*). Charley hopes you enjoy this show as much as she has enjoyed doing it.



R.F. Simpson..... **BARRIE SCOTT**

Barrie is looking forward to his first show with ROS, having spent the last 30 years appearing in many musicals in the Henley and Maidenhead area. His most memorable roles include the title role in 'Barnum', The king (*The King And I*) Warbucks (*Amie*), Kips (*Half a Sixpence*), Fagin (*Oliver!*), Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*), Sky & Nathan (*Guys & Dolls*).



Roscoe Dexter..... **GEORGE APAP**

George has been a member of Reading Operatic Society for 2 years and this is his 5th show in a row since his musical debut. He is very excited to be playing the part of Roscoe Dexter in 'Singin' In The Rain', his biggest role to date.

He sincerely hopes you will enjoy the show and the whole casts performance tonight. Roll 'em -ACTION!



Dora Bailey..... **SARAH ABBOTT**

This is Sarah's fourth show with Reading Operatic Society having previously played the part of Prudy (*Hairspray*) and Mary Martin of Tours (*Sister Act*). As a local primary school teacher she enjoys employing her love of drama into lessons and class assemblies. Sarah is very excited to play the part of Dora and getting into the 20's vibe for Singin' in the Rain.



Rod / Show Tenor..... **BEN HUDELL**

This is Ben's second show with Reading Operatic Society having played Kyle in their most recent production 'Legally Blonde'.

Ben is very excited to be playing the parts of both Rod and the Show Tenor, and hopes that you will enjoy his performance and the wonderful show this evening.



Act One

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Overture | <i>Orchestra</i> |
| SCENE 1 - OUTSIDE GRAUMANN'S CHINESE THEATRE | |
| Fit As A Fiddle | <i>Don & Cosmo</i> |
| SCENE 2 - INSIDE GRAUMANN'S CHINESE THEATRE | |
| SCENE 3 - STAGE OF GRAUMANN'S THEATRE | |
| SCENE 4 - HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD | |
| You Stepped Out Of A Dream..... | <i>Don & Ensemble</i> |
| SCENE 5 - R.F.SIMPSON'S MANSION | |
| Temptation..... | <i>Singer</i> |
| All I Do Is Dream Of You..... | <i>Kathy & Girls</i> |
| You Stepped Out Of A Dream (Reprise)..... | <i>Don</i> |
| SCENE 6 - MONUMENTAL PICTURE STUDIOS | |
| Make 'Em Laugh..... | <i>Cosmo</i> |
| SCENE 7 - SET OF THE LAUGHING CAVALIER | |
| SCENE 8 - MONUMENTAL STUDIOS SOUNDSTAGE | |
| Beautiful Girls | <i>Show Tenor & Ensemble</i> |
| You Are My Lucky Star | <i>Kathy</i> |
| SCENE 9 - DESERTED SOUNDSTAGE | |
| You Were Meant For Me | <i>Don & Kathy</i> |
| SCENE 10 - VOCAL COACHES OFFICES | |
| Moses Supposes..... | <i>Don & Cosmo</i> |
| SCENE 11 - SET OF THE DUELLING CAVALEIR | |
| Moses Supposes (Reprise)..... | <i>Ensemble</i> |
| SCENE 12 - OUTSIDE A MOVIE THEATRE | |
| SCENE 13 - DON LOCKWOOD'S HOUSE | |
| Good Mornin' | <i>Kathy, Don & Cosmo</i> |
| SCENE 14 - STREET OUTSIDE KATHY'S HOUSE | |
| Singin' in the Rain..... | <i>Don</i> |

Act Two

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Entr'acte..... | <i>Orchestra</i> |
| SCENE 1 - R.F. SIMPSON'S OFFICE | |
| SCENE 2 - MONUMENTAL PICTURES - SOUNDSTAGE | |
| Would You?..... | <i>Kathy</i> |
| SCENE 3 - LINA'S DRESSING ROOM | |
| What's Wrong With Me? | <i>Lina</i> |
| SCENE 4 - R.F. SIMPSON'S OFFICE | |
| Broadway Melody..... | <i>Cosmo, Don & Ensemble</i> |
| SCENE 5 - INSIDE GRAUMANN'S CHINESE THEATRE | |
| Would You? (Reprise)..... | <i>Kathy & Cosmo</i> |
| You Are My Lucky Star (Reprise)..... | <i>Kathy & Don</i> |
| Singin' In The Rain (Finale)..... | <i>Company</i> |



Orchestra

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Musical Director</i> | NEIL MATTHEWS |
| <i>Violin</i> | RACHEL COLBOURNE |
| <i>Cello</i> | NEIL CHARLTON |
| <i>Woodwind</i> | ANNA O'BRIEN, JO PATERSON-NEILD, DIANA HEAD |
| <i>Trumpet</i> | ANDY CONGDON, DAVID GRAY |
| <i>Trombone</i> | NICK KERSHAW, JOE MATTHEWS |
| <i>Piano/Keyboard</i> | TREVOR DEFFERD |
| <i>Bass Guitar</i> | ANDREW SMITH |
| <i>Drums</i> | SAM GREENLAND |





AMELIA DOREY



AMIE JONES



ANDREW JOHNSON



BECKY STAUNTON



DIANNE FARMILOE



ELLEN DARKE



EMILY GALE



EMILY JOHNSON



GEMMA DIDCOCK



GLORIA GRIFFITHS



HAYDN REES



JANE HARDCASTLE



JOLENE WALSH



KATE DEW



KAYLEIGH
HOLLOBONE



KERRY HUDSON



LAUREN STOCKER



LUISA KENT



MATTHEW JACOBS



NATASHA
MAXWORTHY



NICOLA MORRIN



NICOLA JAGGAR



PHILIP ELLIOTT



RHIANNON
ROWLANDS



SAMANTHA PRIOR



SARAH LEIGH



SARAH SEABROOK



SARAH WERNÉR



STUART BROOKFIELD



HARRY DEW



JAKE DIDCOCK



JASPER MORRIN



STACEY STOCKWELL

STACEY STOCKWELL has been signing with the ROS for 5 years now. Her shows with us include; Oliver! Grease, Hairspray, Sister Act and Legally Blonde.

By day she runs a Disability Awareness training company, Beans Training Ltd, which specialises in removing the many misconceptions surrounding disability and gives delegates the tools and confidence to interact with disabled people in the right way. However, her love of BSL coupled with a musical background keeps her busy in the evenings and at weekends where she spends much of her time learning set lists/scripts and signing for theatres and music festivals. She designs her songs using a mixture of British Sign Language, Sign Supported English, expression and natural body language to get across the meaning of a song, while trying to stay true to its original feel and speed.

Her latest performance was at the recent Reading Festival where she signed for EMINEM among a number of other big acts.

The ROS are committed to making our shows accessible to Deaf and Disabled people and we are delighted to have Stacey, as one of our team members, helping us to do so. www.beanstraining.com

| | |
|--|---|
| Dora Bailey | SARAH ABBOTT |
| Zelda..... | NICOLA MORRIN |
| Olga Mara..... | RHIANNON ROWLANDS |
| Mary Margaret..... | ELLEN DARKE |
| R.F.Simpson..... | BARRIE SCOTT |
| Roscoe Dexter | GEORGE APAP |
| Cosmo Brown..... | NICK BRANNAM |
| Lina Lamont..... | CHARLEY WOODWARD |
| Don Lockwood..... | RYAN STEVENS |
| Young Don..... | HARRY DEW |
| Young Cosmo..... | JAKE DIDCOCK |
| Stripper..... | KAYLEIGH HOLLOBONE |
| Clowns..... | DIANNE FARMIOE, GEMMA DIDCOCK, NICOLA JAGGAR, SARAH SEABROOK |
| Lady in Waiting..... | NICOLA JAGGAR |
| Rod..... | BEN HUDELL |
| 'Temptation Singer'..... | AMIE JONES |
| Kathy Seldon..... | SHERRIDAN POVEY |
| Policeman..... | STUART BROOKFIELD |
| 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Assistant..... | GEMMA DIDCOCK, SAMANTHAN PRIOR, ELLEN DARKE |
| Wardrobe Assistant..... | GLORIA GRIFFITHS |
| 'Beautiful Girl' Tenor..... | BEN HUDELL |
| Sid Phillips..... | HAYDN REES |
| Miss Dinsmore..... | SARAH WERNÉR |
| Voice Coach..... | SARAH LEIGH |
| Sound Engineer..... | ANDREW JOHNSON |

Showgirls

AMÉLIA DOREY, AMIE JONES, BECKY STAUNTON, DIANNE FARMIOE,
EMILY JOHNSON, JOLENE WALSH, KATE DEW,
KAYLEIGH HOLLOBONE, NICOLA JAGGAR, NICOLA MORRIN,
SARAH SEABROOK, LAUREN STOCKER

Dancers / Ensemble

ELLEN DARKE, EMILY GALE, GEMMA DIDCOCK, GLORIA GRIFFITHS,
JANE HARDCASTLE, KERRY HUDSON, LUISA KENT,
NATASHA MAXWORTHY, RHIANNON ROWLANDS, SAMANTHA PRIOR,
SARAH ABBOTT, SARAH LEIGH, SARAH WERNER

Male Ensemble

ANDREW JOHNSON, JASPER MORRIN, STUART BROOKFIELD,
PHILIP ELLIOTT, HAYDN REES, MATTHEW JACOBS

Behind the Scenes

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Production Manager..... | DAVID PARSONSON |
| Stage Managers..... | CAROL HODGKINSON |
| Assistant Stage Manager..... | JAMES COOK & CHRIS DINSEY |
| Stage Crew..... | STUART BROOKFIELD, MARTYN BROWN, KEVIN GINGELL, EMILY HAWKES, TERRY HODGKINSON, BEN TAIT, MATTIAS WERNÉR |
| Lighting Designer..... | KIM HOLLAMBY |
| Lighting Technician..... | ADRIAN CROTON (The Hexagon) |
| Lighting Assistants..... | LOUIS MARTIN & TOMMY WILLIAMS |
| Sound Design & Operation..... | DAN BRYAN (The Hexagon) |
| Sound No.2..... | STEVE BRANNAM |
| Scenery..... | SCENIC PROJECTS LTD (0150 237 5000) |
| Properties..... | SCENIC PROJECTS LTD & SAMANTHA PRIOR |
| Props table management..... | KATIE COSTELLO & JO HUNT |
| Makeup..... | DYLAN DAMBELLA |
| Hair Stylists..... | PAM DENNIS & MENA ZOTTARELLI |
| Chaperone..... | SUSAN COSTELLO |
| Costume Suppliers..... | TRIPLE C (01384 893911), STARMAKER COSTUMES (0118 988 7878) |
| Costumes Co-Ordinators..... | YVONNE MAYNARD & JENNIFER SCOTT |
| Advance Ticket Sales..... | JEAN & BARRIE THEOBALD (0118 926 7135) |
| Front of House..... | JULIA SADLER and Friends and Members of The Society |
| Programme & Poster Design..... | RYAN STEVENS (Stevens-Signage.co.uk) |
| Programme Printing..... | |
| Production Photographs..... | MICHAEL GRIBBLE |
| Programme Photographs..... | BRIAN BURDEN (0754 557 8398) |

Acknowledgements

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St. Peter's Church Earley, The Oracle Reading, Radio Berkshire, Woodley Town Centre Management,
Stage Print Banners, Ian Whittaker, Dinrino Theatre Services, Shinfield Theatre, Paul Freeman
The Hexagon Staff and the technical management and staff.
Filming on location at Sue Ryder Hospice by George Riddell (www.EyesOpenWild.co.uk)

Forthcoming local productions

STARMAKER THEATRE COMPANY - Wilde Theatre
Bugsy Malone, 4th-7th October

SHINFIELD PLAYERS THEATRE
80'S - Best Years of Our Lives, 12th-14th October

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Godspell, 25th-28th October

HAODS - Kenton Theatre, Henley
A Chorus Line, 8th-11th November



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The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of approximately 2000 amateur theatre groups and approximately 800 individual members staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls.

Membership of NODA provides theatre groups and individuals with a wide range of benefits including access to NODA's advice service at national and regional level, as well as representation to government, access to funding agencies, direct access to rights holders and the media as well as access to regional and national conferences, workshops and seminars to help share information on best practice.

NODA holds an annual residential Summer School (with bursaries available) offering training from professional tutors in a wide range of both performance and technical courses.

NODA also holds an annual national and regional programme and poster competition to encourage high standards in design.

Through its trading arm, NODA Limited members have access to a varied range of products and services including insurance for both societies and individuals, long service awards that recognise the dedication made by individuals to amateur theatre, discounts on plays, vocal scores, libretti and technical books and a range of NODA branded merchandise. As a rights holder NODA Limited has 150 pantomimes by leading authors as well as a growing catalogue of plays and musicals.



We lost a very dear friend and Vice President, Jill Lawes (better known to our audiences as Jill Morgan.) Jill was our much loved Director for over 30 years. She was well known in the theatrical world for her inimitable skills as a director, choreographer and performer. She always projected warmth, good humour and offered great encouragement to all cast members. She was a lady of undoubted talent and during her last few years while undergoing treatment for Cancer, of undeniable courage. She will be greatly missed by hundreds of people who knew her as their friend. Our love and condolences go to her husband John and their children Zannah, William and their families.

My Fair Lady

RS
READING
OPERATIC
SOCIETY
musical theatre

Book and Lyrics by
ALAN JAY LERNER

Music by
FREDERICK LOEWE

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to join this cast?

Pop along to our welcome evening to meet the team!

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MON 16TH OCT - PRE AUDITIONS LIB /MUSIC
THUR 19TH OCT - PRE AUDITIONS LIB/MUSIC
SUN 29TH OCT - AUDITIONS
THUR 2ND NOV - FIRST REHEARSAL

All previews and auditions will be held at
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley, Reading.
Start times are 7.30pm except Auditions (2pm)



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