

SOME OF OUR RECENT SHOWS



Man of la Mancha '07



West Side Story '06



West Side Story '06



Anything Goes '07



Mikado '04



Pirates of Penzance '08



42nd Street '08



Anything Goes '07

ENTERTAINING ST ALBANS FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS

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Executive committee

President: Mary Myers Chairperson: Samantha Cross

Treasurer: Michael Readman Secretary: Penny Grey

Members: Jo Coleman, Helen Davies, Matthew Gregory, Kathy Pilkinton, Julia Smith, Linda Van Wieringen



www.saos.org.uk

St Albans Operatic Society is an Amateur Society Charity Reg. No. 295795
 The Object of the Society is to educate the public in the operatic, dramatic and musical arts.
 Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

designed and produced by www.artdirection.co.uk

The St Albans Operatic Society presents

South Pacific

Featuring -
*There is Nothin' Like a Dame,
 Some Enchanted Evening,
 Younger Than Springtime*

**7.45pm 29th April
 – 2nd May 2009
 Saturday matinee 2.30pm**

Directed by Mike Monk Musical Direction by Stuart Harding

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, Music by Richard Rodgers, Book by Oscar Hammerstein and Joshua Logan based on stories from James Michener's 'Tales of the South Pacific'. This amateur production is given by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.



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THERE IS NOTHIN' LIKE A GOOD MUSICAL!

Being newly elected to the role of Chairperson, I am thrilled to be welcoming you to St Albans Operatic Society's production of South Pacific. I am very excited to be part of this production of the popular Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, which has won a string of awards since it was first performed on Broadway, in 1949.

It tells a moving tale of troubled romance, set on a tropical island during the Second World War. The show was adapted from J.A. Michener's novel Tales of the South Pacific and has real substance and grit. Not to mention a few musical numbers you might be familiar with, such as 'Younger than Springtime', 'There is Nothing like a Dame', 'I'm Gonna Wash that Man Right out of my Hair' and 'Some Enchanted Evening.' With these toe-tapping tunes and the fantastic cast and orchestra we've put together, it promises to be a great show.



I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that SAOS has recently elected a new President, Mary Myers. Regulars to our productions over the last sixty years will know her well! We are so lucky to have her at the head of our society with her wealth of knowledge and experience. You will find her Front of House today, greeting all as they enter.

So whether South Pacific is one of your well loved favourites or you are seeing it for the first time, sit back and enjoy the show!



If you are interested in getting involved with any of our future productions, please contact us. We have a large membership, who contribute both on and off stage and we would love to hear from you! For more information visit: www.saos.org.uk.

Samantha Cross
Chairperson



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For everyone's enjoyment

We want you to enjoy this evening's performance to the full, so as a courtesy to both audience and cast:

- Switch off all mobile phones and pagers.
- Do not use cameras, video cameras or recording equipment of any kind.

Thank you for your co-operation.

ACT I

On a South Pacific island during World War II a U.S. Navy nurse, Nellie Forbush, falls in love with middle-aged French plantation owner, Emile de Becque. Although everyone else is worried about the outcome of the war, Nellie explains to Emile that she's still "**A Cockeyed Optimist**". She and Emile are in love, but each wonders if the other feels the same, "**Twin Soliloquies**". Emile recalls how they met ("**Some Enchanted Evening**"). Nellie returns to the hospital, and Emile's children, Ngana and Jerome, from his marriage to a Polynesian wife, sing "**Dites-Moi**".

Meanwhile, a group of restless American sailors, led by Seabee Luther Billis, lament the absence of women and combat. It's so boring that "**Bloody Mary**", a middle-aged Tonkinese (Vietnamese) grass skirt seller, is the girl they love.

Billis wants to go to a nearby island, Bali Ha'i, where the French Plantation owners have hidden their women and which is off-limits to all but officers. He and the sailors proclaim that "**There is Nothin' Like a Dame**".

Lieutenant Joe Cable of the U.S. Marine Corps arrives on the island to take part in a dangerous mission that might help turn the tide of the war against Japan. Bloody Mary tries to convince him that "**Bali Ha'i**" is his special island.

Nellie learns more about Emile's past and, realising how little she knows about him, tells the other nurses "**I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair**". But then she meets Emile unexpectedly and realises that she loves him. He invites her to a party to meet his friends. Nellie accepts, and after Emile returns home, declares that she's in love with "**A Wonderful Guy**".

Emile is asked to guide Cable on a reconnaissance mission to a Japanese-held island. Emile refuses due to his love for Nellie. Cable is told to go on leave until an opportunity arises. Since only officers can sign out boats, Billis convinces Lt. Cable to accompany him to Bali Ha'i. There Cable meets and falls in love with Bloody Mary's teenage daughter, Liat, and tells her she is so beautiful that she is "**Younger than Springtime**".

The two couples – Nellie and Emile, Liat and Joe – gain deepening affection, and marriages are proposed. After his party, Emile reveals that he is a widower with mixed race children. Nellie, torn between her long-held prejudice and her heartfelt love for Emile, refuses to marry him.

ACT II

Mary urges Liat and Joe to marry and "**Happy Talk**" all day long. Joe says he cannot marry Liat because she is Tonkinese. Though ashamed of their bigotry, Nellie and Joe are prisoners of their upbringings: they think they have no options. Nellie organises the Thanksgiving Show for the sailors and does a vaudeville turn dressed as a sailor singing the praises of his "**Honey Bun**", played by Billis dressed in a grass skirt and coconut shell bra.

Emile asks Joe why he and Nellie have such prejudices. Joe replies that it's not something you're born with; "**You've Got to be Carefully Taught**". Emile laments what could have been, "**This Nearly Was Mine**". Dejected and with nothing to lose, Emile agrees to join Joe on his dangerous mission behind Japanese lines. The two send back reports on enemy forces which the Americans use to intercept and destroy Japanese convoys. "**Operation Alligator**" gets underway, and the previously idle sailors, including the reluctant Luther Billis, go off to battle. Joe is killed; Emile narrowly escapes. Nellie, meanwhile, spends time with Ngana and Jerome and overcomes her prejudices. Emile returns to the now-understanding Nellie and his children, and they join together in "**Dites-Moi**" (reprise).



MIKE MONK

DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

This will be Mike's second production with SAOS as Director and Choreographer; his first being *Anything Goes* in April 2007.

He has been appearing on stage since the age of eleven, with over 100 musicals to his credit. He has played several principal and dancing roles with numerous companies over the past few decades.

Mike has practically retired from 'treading the boards' to concentrate on directing and choreography for various companies in and around London, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. To date his other shows include: *Oliver*, *Broadway Pirates of Penzance*, *Crazy For You*, *Half A Sixpence*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hot Mikado*, *Salad Days*, *Iolanthe*, *The Music Man*, *White Horse Inn*, *No No Nanette*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Gondoliers*, *Me & My Girl*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma*, *Guys & Dolls* and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Broadway version).

His production of *Iolanthe*, performed with Abbot's Langley G & S Society, took part in the International G & S Festival at Buxton and won the award for Best Concerted item. *The Music Man* for Radlett Light Operatic Society was nominated for the Kathleen Oyler award for Best Chorus work. In 2007 his production of *The Gondoliers*, again with Abbot's Langley won the inaugural Dorothy Lawson award for Best G & S production in the NODA London Region. He is currently available for productions in 2010 onward.



STUART HARDING

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Stuart trained in singing at the Guildhall School of Music. He has performed many operatic and musical theatre roles with SAOS including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Macbeth*, *Onegin*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *The Flying Dutchman* to name but a few. He has also conducted for the society; *West Side Story* being the most recent production before this one.

As music director, he jointly created St Albans Youth Music Theatre and the professional Regeneration Theatre Company. Stuart musically directed the premier of *The Dream of the Rood*, commissioned by the Cathedral and performed in St Albans Abbey. He has enjoyed enormously working with – and disciplining – the talented cast, crew and orchestra for *South Pacific* and hopes you will enjoy this performance.





MATTHEW GREGORY – EMILE DE BECQUE

Having recently performed in a number of shows at the Watford Palace Theatre, Matthew is delighted to be back with SAOS after a gap of 10 years. He is also pleased that, twenty-five years after first hearing *South Pacific*, he is finally old enough to sing this wonderful part. Matthew trained at the Royal Academy of Music. Operatic roles include: Banquo, *Macbeth* and Escamillo, *Carmen* – both for SAOS; Doctor, *La Traviata*; Death, *Savitrì*; Lockett, *Beggars Opera*; Faffner, *Das Rheingold*. Previous roles with SAOS include Wild Bill Hickok, *Calamity Jane*; Jud Fry, *Oklahoma* and Sergeant, *Broadway Pirates*.



CLIVE WEBB – LUTHER BILLIS

Clive joined SAOS as a 'juvenile member' in 1986 and has enjoyed performing a variety of principal, chorus, front of house and backstage roles since then. He has sung with and supported a variety of other local societies, including St. Albans Chamber Opera and the Company of Ten. He loves playing the role of Luther Billis; claiming that he can identify with the character of this sailor 'who bullies, bribes and charms his way through military life, although he ultimately loses...' Clive was, until recently, Chairman of SAOS!



CHARLOTTE GREGORY – NELLIE FORBUSH

Charlotte is delighted to have an excuse for getting a sun-tan to do this show. Previous SAOS performances include the title roles in *Calamity Jane* and *Hello Dolly*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma* and Alice in "Charlie and Algernon". Other favourite roles include Anna in *The King and I* and Katisha in *Hot Mikado* with Harpenden Light Operatic Society and for Regeneration Theatre Company, The Lady in *Blues in the Night*, the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Gloria in *Forbidden Planet* and Miss Sherman in *Fame*. Recently, Charlotte played Miss Hannigan in Watford Operatic Society's production of *Annie*, Florence in *Chess* and the role of Mae in the Pump House Theatre Company's production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.



TANIA PARKER – BLOODY MARY

Tania recently performed with SAOS as Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*. She is the recipient of the Evelyn M. Harrison Scholarship and The Trinity Scholarship. She has performed several seasons with Holland Park Opera, Opera New Zealand and regular engagements as a soloist. She will appear in the Aeolian Singers Summer Concert on July the 4th, singing Dido's Lament at Boxmoor. Other roles include Flora, from Verdi's *La Traviata*, and Venus from Monteverdi's *Un Ballo Ingrata*. She has a 5 year old son called Nathan who loves to 'Talk Happy'.



JULIAN WATHEN – LT JOE CABLE

Following his performance as the Sergeant in *Pirates* last October, Julian is pleased to have been promoted to Lieutenant. Other musical roles include: Sky Masterson, *Guys and Dolls*; Pilate, *JCS*; Harry, *Company*; Rick, *A Slice of Saturday Night*; Ralph Rackstraw, *HMS Pinafore*; Koko, *The Mikado*; Cookie, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*; Czolgosz, *Assassins*; and his personal favourite, Dick Barton in *Dick Barton - Special Agent*. Julian has never appeared in Casualty or The Bill.



JOHN HORLEY – CAPT BRACKETT

Having served his apprenticeship as a Butlins Redcoat, John is no stranger to leading roles and has been 'treading the boards' for over 40 years. Favourite roles include: Eric, *Slice of Saturday Night*; Uncle Max, *The Sound of Music*; Mr Bumble, *Oliver*; Arvide, *Guys and Dolls*; Pat *42nd Street*; Gepetto, *Pinocchio*; Colonel Pickering, *My Fair Lady*; the Colonel, *Allo Allo*; and an Ugly Sister, *Cinderella*. John has performed with many societies in the area, and is delighted to make his debut with SAOS in South Pacific.



HOLLY MARTIN-SMITH – LIAT

Holly has just turned eighteen and is in her final year at St. Albans Girls' School. She is a pupil of the Marguerita Hoare School where she has danced since the tender age of four. Holly is excited to be back for her third show with SAOS after playing Charity in *Anything Goes* and Phyllis Dale in *42nd Street*. She is looking forward to playing the part of Liat and hopes everyone has an enjoyable show week!



RUSSELL STRATTON – CMDR HARBISON

Russell has enjoyed a national NODA scholarship and performed in award-winning shows at festivals such as Waterford and Buxton. Favourite parts include: Tony, Krupke, *West Side Story*; Judas, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Guiteau, Balladeer, *Assassins*; God, *Children of Eden*; Brian, *Elegies*; Pirelli, *Sweeney Todd*; Freddie, Anatoly, *Chess*; curly, *Oklahoma*; Observer, *Putting it Together*; John, *Hired Man*; Bardolph, *Falstaff*; Turridu, *Cavalleria Rusticana*; Max, *Lend me a Tenor*; Barrington Frunge, *Girl Next Door*. He will play the title role of *The Mikado* at the Buxton Opera Festival this August, but more importantly, a fortnight later, he will marry his beautiful fiancée Emma.

ACT 1...

- 1: The Terrace of Emile de Beque's Plantation Home
Dites-Moi *Ngana and Jerome*
A Cockeyed Optimist *Nellie*
Twin Soliloquies *Nellie and Emile*
Some Enchanted Evening *Emile*
Reprise: Dites-Moi *Ngana and Jerome*
- 2: Another Part of the Island
Bloody Mary *Sailors, Seabees and Marines*
- 3: The Edge of a Palm Grove near the Beach
There is Nothing Like a Dame *Billis, Sailors, Seabees and Marines*
Bali Ha'i *Bloody Mary*
- 4: The Company Street
- 5: Inside the Island Commander's Office
- 6: The Company Street
- 7: The Beach
I'm Gonna Wash that Man
Right Out-A-My Hair *Nellie and Nurses*
Reprise: Some Enchanted Evening *Emile and Nellie*
A Wonderful Guy *Nellie and Nurses*
- 8: The Company Street
- 9: Inside the Island Commander's Office
- 10: Another Part of the Island
Reprise: Bali Ha'i *French and Native Girls*
- 11: Inside a Native Hut on Bali Ha'i
Younger than Springtime *Cable*
- 12: Near the Beach on Bali Ha'i
- 13: Emile's Terrace
Finale Act I *Emile*

ACT 2...

- 1: A Performance of "The Thanksgiving Follies"
Dance *Nellie, Nurses and GI's*
- 2: Backstage at "The Thanksgiving Follies"
Happy Talk *Bloody Mary and Liat*
- 3: The Performance Resumes, as in Scene 1
Honey Bun *Nellie, Billis and Ensemble*
- 4: Backstage, as in Scene 2
You've Got to be Carefully Taught *Cable*
This Nearly was Mine *Emile*
- 5: *Another Part of the Island*
- 6: The Radio Shack
- 7: *Another Part of the Island*
- 8: The Radio Shack
- 9: The Company Street
- 10: The Beach
Reprise: Some Enchanted Evening *Nellie*
- 11: The Company Street
- 12: Emile's Terrace
Finale Ultimo *Emile, Nellie, Ngana and Jerome*

South Pacific



CAST...

Nellie Forbush	Charlotte Gregory
Emile de Becque	Matthew Gregory
Ngana (A)	Taylor Farnella
Jerome (A)	Archie Rush
Henri	David Berridge
Ngana (B)	Ellie Barrett
Jerome (B)	Aran Cherkez
Bloody Mary	Tania Parker
Liat and Dance Captain	Holly Martin-Smith
Lt Joe Cable	Julian Wathen
Luther Billis	Clive Webb
Capt Brackett	John Horley
Cmdr Harbison	Russell Stratton
Stewpot	Tom Handley
Professor	Stephen Addison
Lt Buzz Adams	Oli Martin-Smith
Yeoman Quale	Gareth Edwards
O'Brien	Clive Ogden
Steeves	Andy McClennon
Bob McCaffrey	Graham Blundell
Patrolman	John Hope
Lt Genevieve	Penny Grey
Dinah Murphy	Kathy Pilkinton
Janet MacGregor	Jo Coleman
Pamela Whitmore	Samantha Cross
Cora MacRea	Hayley Evans

Ensemble: Elspeth Jackman, Vicky Hargreaves, Linda van Wieringen, Finola Holyoak, Emily Romain, Alison Belding, Nicola Collins, Jane Farrar, Julia Smith, Emma Southorn, David Halshaw, Michael Readman, Carl Robinson, Pete Town, Children (A) = Wed, Fri & Sat Mat, (B) = Thur & Sat Eve

SPRAY TANS by The Sun Set
 Tel: 01727 872000
 8 How Wood, Park Street,
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Good Luck with the Show!



PRODUCTION...

Director.....	Mike Monk
Musical Director.....	Stuart Harding
Production Manager.....	Linda van Wieringen
Production Secretary.....	Tania Parker
Rehearsal pianist.....	Neil Buick
Ticket sales.....	Pam Kell
Rehearsal refreshments.....	Janet Biggs, Margaret Baker
Publicity manager & Librarian.....	Kathy Pilkinton
Publicity team.....	Graham Blundell, Jo Coleman, Samatha Cross, John Hope, Elsbeth Jackman, Hannah James, Julia Smith
Programme design and production.....	Graham Blundell and Fran Lewis
Wardrobe.....	Sheila Pilkinton
Stage Manager.....	Mike Smith
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Gillian Farrar
Stage crew.....	Oyinda Akinola, Sola Akinola, Clive Cavill, Tamsin Evers, Anne Fowler, Sam Gaines, Lawrence Schooledge, Hugh Westrop
Lighting design.....	Charles Clemow
Lighting.....	Stephen Conradi
Sound design.....	Phil Stannard
Props.....	Liz Waller, Rosalind Edwards, Ailsa Edwards, Jenni Hale, Doreen Gray
Chaperones.....	Janice Farnella, Paul Sugden
Signer.....	Carol Gaisford
Front of House.....	Mary Myers, Eve Davies and company
Photography.....	Steve Carter of xmo4
Archivist.....	Jim Parkinson
Quartermaster.....	James Shipp
Editor of society columns.....	Julia Smith

Thanks to: St.John Fisher School for the rehearsal space
and a special thanks to Lesley Duggan.



ORCHESTRA...



1st Violin.....	Jenny Wigram
2nd Violin.....	Murial Carpenter
Cello.....	Rosemary Leek
Bass.....	Helen Boyea
Keyboard.....	Neil Buick
Flute.....	Laura Bookbinder
Clarinet.....	Angela Crispe
Horn.....	Hilary Rosenthal
Trumpet.....	Paul Sutton
Trombone.....	Jim Gribben
Percussion.....	Richard Baron-Tait

JOIN US...

If you've enjoyed watching tonight's performance, think how much more fun it can be to take part. It takes all sorts of talents, whether on stage or behind the scenes, to produce such a show and there is an infectious team spirit throughout the society as rehearsals build towards this week.

In addition to Full Active Members, there is a growing number of Junior Members. Associate membership is also available at reduced cost to give members access to priority booking and attendance at SAOS meetings and social functions.

Anyone who feels that he or she has something to offer can be sure of a great welcome with SAOS! Pick up the phone and call Penny Grey on 01438 832714 or check out the website www.saos.org.uk.

OUR NEXT SHOW: Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – see overleaf for more details...



STEPHEN SONDEIM'S

Sweeney Todd

13TH - 17TH OCTOBER 2009
AT THE ALBAN ARENA
www.saos.org.uk



SWEENEY TODD The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – a version of the Musical Thriller.
Music & lyrics by STEPHEN SONDEIM
Book by HUGH WHEELER. From an adaptation by CHRISTOPHER BOND. Originally directed by HAROLD PRINCE. Originally produced on Broadway by Richard Barr, Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lea Johnson, Martin Richards in association with Dean & Judy Manos
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK.