

WITHAM OPERATIC WORKSHOP



Annie

17 - 21 February 1998

WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"

by permission of Tribune Media Services Inc.

Book by THOMAS MEEHAN Music by CHARLES STROUSE

Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN

Original production directed by Martin Chamin. Originally produced by Irwin Mayer,
Stephen R Friedman, Lewis Allen, Alvin Nederlander Associates,
The John F Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts, Icarus Productions

These amateur performances given by arrangement with JOSEF
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MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK



Programme £1

Welcome to tonight's presentation of Annie

This is the third production that *WOW* has performed since its inception in September 1996. This year the Group is not only confining their efforts to a week's run here in Witham, but is also re-creating the production by rehearsing for four days in August, in the form of a Summer School, putting on a performance for one night in Witham on Friday August 21st, and then travelling to Buxton in Derbyshire to present *Annie* as their competition entry for



***Nicholas Clough
Chairman, WOW***

the *International Festival of Musical Theatre* which is held there, annually, at the Victoria Opera House. This will be a great experience for the members. They will have an opportunity to watch a couple of other entries and also attend some of the numerous lectures and/or Master classes that are taking place throughout the fortnight of the Festival. Last year there were talks and instruction from *Ruth Madoc, Edmund Hockridge, Thomas Round and Mike Craig*.

There are a variety of awards for good performances ranging from, for example, best choral member, best singer, best supporting actor, best producer, best musical director and, of course, best show.

The Group will be travelling by coach and staying in a Youth Hostel in Buxton, all forty of them, (what a thought). The Committee has been, and still is, attempting to obtain some sponsorship for the trip so as not to drain the coffers of *WAOS* or to make the trip too expensive for members of the company.

To the best of my knowledge *WOW* is the first group from Essex to be invited to this festival and I am sure that they will acquit themselves well.



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Witham Operatic Workshop would like to thank:

Alec Hunter High School, Gerald Bass, Chelmsford Young Generation, The Notley High School, Chris Snow, Troupe, Witham Amateur Operatic Society and the many other organisations and individuals who have contributed to the preparation and production of this show.



Sedgwick

WOW are grateful for the financial help provided by the Witham office of international risk consultants and financial services group, Sedgwick, as part of its support for the community.

If you enjoy this show.....

and would like to support **WOW** at their "farewell performance" before leaving for the Buxton Festival please fill in the form below and place it in the box provided in the foyer or post it to: *Angie Crimmins, 1 Chestnut Walk, Witham.* Details will be sent to you at a later date.

All monies collected this week, from ticket sales, raffle, sweets, ices and bar, will, after expenses, be going towards financing the trip to Buxton.

*I would like to support WOW at their
"farewell performance" of "Annie" at Witham Public Hall
on Friday 21st August.*

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Annie

Annie is the musical version of a newspaper comic strip *Little Orphan Annie*, set at the time of the American 1930's Depression. *Annie* was a huge hit in America in the 1976-77 season, winning both the New York Drama Critics' and Tony Award for Best Musical and similar success followed its arrival in London. It tells the story of a little red-haired orphan, Annie, who, determined to find her long lost parents, escapes in a laundry basket from the orphanage run by the tipsy and child hating Miss Hannigan. She meets up with another escapee, a stray dog and spends some time with the down and outs in a makeshift community - a Hooverville. They are raided by the police and Annie is returned to the orphanage and her fate - a fate which takes a dramatic turn with the arrival of Grace Farrell - the personal assistant of Oliver Warbucks, the billionaire. She is looking for an orphan to spend Christmas in the Warbucks mansion and Annie manages to be the one chosen. She immediately captures the hearts of the whole household and even Warbucks himself. He wants to adopt Annie but she really wants to find her own parents and Warbucks galvanises all his wealth and contacts to achieve this - NBC Radio, President Roosevelt (whom Annie inspires with optimism), and a reward of \$50,000. This attracts a number of bogus parents seeking the money. Miss Hannigan, ever eager for revenge on the 'brat', helps her gangster brother Rooster, and his moll, Lily, with all the information they need to present a very nearly successful impersonation of Annie's parents. However, at the last minute, with the help of President Roosevelt and the FBI they are revealed as frauds and arrested along with Miss Hannigan. The orphans join Annie and her new friends for a wonderful Christmas party and Annie and Warbucks are "Together for ever!"

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

Please note that the taking of photographs and / or the recording of this performance on film, video tape, audio tape or any other medium is strictly prohibited.

Synopsis of Scenes

Act I

December 11 - 19, 1933

Scene 1: The New York Municipal Orphanage (Girls' Annex)

Scene 2: St Mark's Place

Scene 3: A Hooverville

Scene 4: The Orphanage

Scene 5: The Warbucks Mansion

Scene 6: New York City

Scene 7: The Orphanage

Scene 8: The Warbucks Mansion

Act II

December 21 - 25, 1933

Scene 1: The NBC Radio Studio and the Orphanage

Scene 2: The Orphanage

Scene 3: Washington : The White House

Scene 4: The Warbucks Mansion

Scene 5: The Warbucks Mansion

Musical Numbers

Act I

Maybe	Annie
Hard Knock Life	Annie and Orphans
Tomorrow	Annie
Hooverville	Chorus
Little Girls	Miss Hannigan
I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here	Annie
NYC	Annie, Warbucks
Easy Street	Miss Hannigan, Rooster
You Won't Be An Orphan For Long	Annie, Warbucks, Grace Farrell, Servants

Act II

Fully Dressed	Boylan Sisters, Bert Healy
Fully Dressed - Children	Orphans
Easy Street (reprise)	Miss Hannigan, Rooster
Cabinet - Tomorrow	Annie, Warbucks, Roosevelt, Cabinet Members, Howe
Something Was Missing	Warbucks
I Don't Need Anything But You	Annie, Warbucks, Grace Farrell
New Deal For Christmas	The Company

Production Team

Director/Producer	Eddie McKay
Musical Director	Phil Toms
Additional Music & Lyrics	Phil Toms
Choreographer	Cathy Court
Lighting design & operation	Rhuddian Davies
Lighting Assistant	Robert Kettridge
Follow Spots	Robert Kettridge
Lighting suppliers	RHE, Braintree Arts Council, Colchester Theatre Arts, TADS
Sound	Paul Galley
Stage Manager	David Hunt
Stage Crew	Jonathan Baron, Jim Crimmins, Tony Fox, Graham Green, Richard Herring, Peter McKay, Richard Thornelow, Keith Radley, Mark Tinworth
Make-up	Marea Irving, Angie Crimmins, Judy Henderson
Hair / Wigs	Patsy Page
Prompt	Angie Crimmins, Bobbie Tyler
Box Office	Angie Crimmins, Jim Crimmins
Props Manager	Helen Clark
Props Team	Caron Bradbury, Charlotte Clough, Julie Cockell, Georgina Davey, Janice Hawkes, Natalie Hawkes, Judy Henderson, Tracey Smith, Chris Willison
Wardrobe	Pat Ladd, Jane Furnival
Set Design	Carousel Costumes
Scenery	Peter McKay
Programmes	Peter McKay, Paul Lazell, Jake Davies, The Company
Programme Advertising	Freda Willingham
Bar Manager	Terry Willingham
Chaperone Co-ordinator	Jim Crimmins, Angie Crimmins
Chaperones	Ron Howe
	Freda Willingham
	Eve Digby, Lin Ould, Sue
	Pavelin, Gillian Sewell, Carol
	Shilling, Terry Willingham
Front of House	Lydia Clough
Foyer and Publicity Photographs	Peter McKay

WOW Committee

Chairman	Nicholas Clough
Business Manager	Bill Chaplin
Production Secretary	Angie Crimmins
Secretary	Judy Henderson
Treasurer	Julia Reed
Assistant Treasurer	Helen Clark
Social Committee	Jackie Allen, Freda Willingham
WOW Representative	Andrew Ould

WOW are grateful to **B&Q** Braintree
for sponsoring this production of "Annie"

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We hope that you have enjoyed tonight's production of **Annie** and that you will book early for our next show, **The Boyfriend**, which will take place in February 1999. If you are interested in joining WOW or supporting us in any way, please contact our Secretary, Judy Henderson, on (01376) 516706.

WOW!

Eddie McKay, Director

Eddie directed WOW's very first production *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and is very impressed to be working again with such a large number of that original cast. She also directs for Witham Amateur Operatic Society, her latest production being *Orpheus in the Underworld*. In October and November she presented *Murder in the Cathedral* with Colchester based group 'Troupe' in six local Essex and Suffolk churches and in July 1998 will be directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Priory Players in Colchester in the open air. All the family, ie husband and dog, are involved in this production.



Cathy Court (Choreographer)

Cathy trained at the Arts Educational School, Tring, and Laine Theatre Arts before embarking on a teaching career taking her to Guernsey, London College of Dance and LTA. On returning to live in Witham she became a member of WAOS and also choreographed many shows including *Kismet*, *The King And I*, *Fiddler On The Roof* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.



PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

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Phil Toms, Musical Director

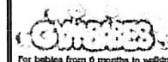
Phil has been involved with WAOS since 1994 and with all WOW productions so far. He was Assistant MD for last year's dramatic *West Side Story* and is now pleased to take up the baton as MD for *Annie*, even composing new music for the show. He has recently been involved with *Cabaret* in Barnet and *Me And My Girl* in Ilford and was commissioned to arrange, typeset and demo a new musical which will be in production soon. He is currently MD for the Chelmsford Christ Church Players, who will be performing Richard Stilgoe's musical *Brilliant The Dinosaur* in June with the Boys' Choir from Widford Lodge School, where Phil is Director of Music. He looks forward to taking *Annie* to the Buxton Festival after his honeymoon in the summer and to play double bass for the next three WAOS productions.



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Victoria Adkins - Cecille

Victoria is 13½ years old and attends New Hall School in Chelmsford. She has been in each of the WOW productions as well as the adult group's *Oliver!* At school she learns ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary dance.

Richard Adkins - Sound Effects Man

Richard is 11½ years old and attends King Edward's Grammar School in Chelmsford. This is his first show with WOW but he took part in the adult group's *Oliver!* and has been in various school productions.



Joe Allen - Wacky

Joe attends Honywood School. This will be his 3rd show with WOW including *West Side Story* and *Joseph*. Joe was also in *Oliver!* with WAOS, *Dick Turpin* with Junior Kelvedon Players and *Pinocchio* with Kelvedon Players. He hopes to continue with WOW and has found *Annie* the most exciting of all the WOW shows he has been in.

Gavin Baldry - Third Policeman

I am 13 years old. My first production with WOW was *Joseph*. I played one of the brothers, Dan. I am also a member of the Junior Kelvedon Players and Silver End Drama Group. At school I go to Drama Club and I am a member of the Choir and I have sung solo at school concerts. I enjoy singing, drama and basketball.



Chris Bellehewe

- Assistant Dog Catcher

Hi, my name is Chris Bellehewe This is my 2nd production and I am still thoroughly enjoying it.

Suzanne Bellet - Peggy

I am 14 years old and I have been a member of WOW for 2 years. This will be my 4th performance with the Society. I have also been in *The Wizard of Oz* at Braintree. My other hobbies include dancing.



Sarah Burkin - Lily

I am Sarah Burkin, I'm 15 years old and attend the John Bramston School in Witham. I have been dancing since I was 4 years old with the Pam Patricia School of Dancing. This is my 3rd show with WOW. I have also appeared in shows at the Civic with the Chelmsford Ballet Company. I am hoping to pursue a performing career and have been accepted at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts when I leave school this summer.

Stephen Butler - Rooster

I enjoy performing, whether playing saxophone, singing or playing guitar. This is my second WOW performance; I enjoy stage work and in the future hope to take it up as a career.



Alice Chaplin - Ronnie

When I was little I had tap and ballet lessons. I then started disco dancing and joined Carlow Players. I was in the first WOW production *Joseph* and now have a number of roles in *Annie*. I am also learning jazz and contemporary dancing at the moment.

Laura Clark - Orphan

Before *Annie* I participated in *Joseph* and *West Side Story*. I have enjoyed all of the productions even though it was hard work. At WOW I am able to do the things I enjoy, like acting and dancing. I hope to continue being a part of WOW for some time to come. WOW is a very friendly youth company and I have made many friends.



Natalie Cudlip - Grace Farrell

Annie is Natalie's 3rd production with WOW. She trained in dancing for 11 years with The Mandy Manson School of Dance but at the moment is taking a break to study for 9 GCSEs in the summer. Once finished school she hopes to go on to college to study for 4 A levels. Natalie is currently in the 6th year of singing lessons with Patricia McLeod to whom she owes her every success.



Craig Digby - President Roosevelt/Fred McCracken

My name is Craig Digby and I am 16 years old. *Annie* is my 2nd show with WOW; my first was *West Side Story*. I enjoyed doing *West Side Story* so much I decided to take part in the next show too. I enjoy WOW because it is a good way of meeting people and making new friends. Along with drama my other hobbies include football, basketball, music and having a good time.

Coral Dunlop - Orphan

My name is Coral Dunlop and I'm 10 years old. I love performing. When I grow up I would like to do something more or less the same. My favourite girl band would have to be All Saints and my favourite tv programme is "Friends".



Laura Furnival - Bonnie

This is Laura's second show with WOW. Since the age of four Laura has participated in dance classes and currently attends the Weston School of Dance and Italia Conti, London. She is also a member of Chelmsford Ballet Company and has regular singing lessons with Pat McLeod. Laura has been in several WAOS shows, the first being *The King And I* at the age of eight. At the moment Laura is studying for her GCSEs at St Mary's in Colchester.



Pamela Groom - Orphan

Hi, my name is Pamela Groom and I am 12 years old. This is my first production with WOW and I am enjoying every bit.



Lucy Hayden - Molly

I am 11 years old and a pupil at White Court Primary School. I love dancing, singing and acting. When I was 9 years old I was fortunate to play the part of young Cosette in *Les Miserables* at the Palace Theatre in the West End. Playing the part of Molly in *Annie* is one of the most enjoyable things I have ever done. It is my first show with WOW.



Duncan Henderson - Cordell Hull

My name is Duncan Henderson and I am 15 years old. My first show was with the senior group when they did *Oliver!* and I became a member of WOW when it started two years ago - I have been in all the shows so far - *Joseph*, *West Side Story* and now *Annie* - let's hope it will help me at school where I am taking both Music and Drama GCSE!

Gemma Herring - Mrs Pugh

I am 15 years old and this is my 3rd show with WOW. *Annie* has been the most challenging show for me. I hope to continue with drama for as long as possible, at least for the next 3 years with WOW anyway.



Katy Humphreys - Connie

I have been dancing since the age of three and attend regular dancing classes. I enjoy singing, dancing and acting and this is my first performance with WOW. I am a member of the Chelmsford Ballet Company.



Lora Johnson - Sophie

Annie is my second show with WOW. The first was *Joseph* and I also worked backstage in *West Side Story*.



Jonathan Kent - Louis Howe

My name is Jonathan Kent and I have been with WOW for a few years. I did *Joseph* with WOW and *Annie* is my second production with them. I want to stay on with WOW after *Annie* for as long as I can.



Robert McDonald - Drake/Bundles McClusky

This is my third show for WOW and it has been the most challenging show for me. It has enabled me to add a new dimension to my acting capabilities. *Annie* has been a wonderful show to do and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I have also appeared in *The King and I* and *Carousel* with WAOS and *Joseph* and *West Side Story* with WOW.





Alicia Neale - Kate

I enjoy being in *Annie* and this is my first show with WOW. My other hobbies are singing and dancing. I go dancing twice a week. I also hope to start piano lessons soon.



Kathryn Neale - Tessie

This is my first show with WOW and I have really enjoyed it. I have just finished *Mother Goose* the panto where I was principal girl. I hope this performance with WOW is one of many to come.



Andrew Ould - Oliver Warbucks

After ten years "in the business", I have performed in at least 15 musicals, operas, plays and sketches, with several different societies and groups. My first show on the Witham stage was *Oliver!* with WAOS. I have since been in *Joseph* and *West Side Story* with WOW, where I have found the most enjoyment out of my acting. My future plans are for a career in the professional theatre.



Kirsty Oxlade - Orphan

Hi, I'm Kirsty, aged 13. In this production I'm an orphan. This is the second time I've been in *Annie* although this is my first show with WOW. I have also had starring and supporting roles in a variety of shows and concerts.



Simon Palmer - Bert Healy

Hi, I've been with WOW since its first production, *Joseph*. I have also appeared in the later production of *West Side Story*. I began my interest in musicals by performing in WAOS production of *Oliver!*, which I enjoyed immensely. I have also worked backstage for WAOS in the show *Guys and Dolls*.



Jason Scott - Jimmy Johnson

My name is Jason Scott and I am 15. This is my third production in WOW as I was also in *Joseph* and *West Side Story*. I also took part in the *One Night Only* review.



Emma Sewell - Miss Hannigan

This is my 3rd show with WOW and I would like to pursue performing as a career.



David Shields - Perkins/Judge Brandeis

Hi! My name is David and I've been interested in drama for many years - I really enjoy it. This will be third show with WOW.



Claire Shilling - Annie

I am 12 years old and a pupil at Notley High School. I dance about 3 times a week with White Court Dance Unlimited. My first production was *Annie* with the Braintree and Bocking Musical Society and I have been cast in 4 WAOS / WOW productions - *Oliver!*, *Joseph*, *West Side Story* and this production of *Annie*.



Gemma Smallpage - Pepper

My name is Gemma Smallpage and I'm 14 years old. I love performing and have really enjoyed being in *Annie*. I am thrilled to be playing the part of Pepper in this show and I can't wait until the next production!



Lianne Smallpage - Annie (Saturday Matinée)/Orphan

My name is Lianne. I'm 12 years old. Being the understudy for *Annie* and *Annie* herself in the Saturday matinee is just great!



Hannah Smith

This is my first show with WOW having been with other companies in the past. I hope to go on into the entertainment business.



Jason Stone

Hi, my name is Jason Stone. I have been in two previous shows with WOW which were *Joseph* and *West Side Story*. In this show I am in the boys' chorus.



Darren White

I'm 17 and studying Music, Music Technology A Level and Media Advanced GNVQ. This is my third show with WOW and I hope to carry on in some way for as long as possible with WOW and WAOS.



Grace Williamson - July

Performing drama and music is my all-time favourite hobby. This is now my 3rd show with WOW and hopefully it will not be my last.



Ian Willingham - Lieutenant Ward/Ickes

This is my 3rd show with WOW. I have been involved in theatre since I was 8 years old and have taken part in many productions with various other companies.



Sarah Willingham - Duffy

This is my 2nd show with WOW (the first was *Joseph*) and I hope to continue performing with the group for a long time.



Mopsa - Snowy

Mopsa is a 'little rescue' from Swansea who is developing her mining skills in the gardens of Colchester. This is her first stage appearance but she is definitely looking for an agent. She likes choc drops, Bonios and long, preferably muddy walks.

R. Pipe

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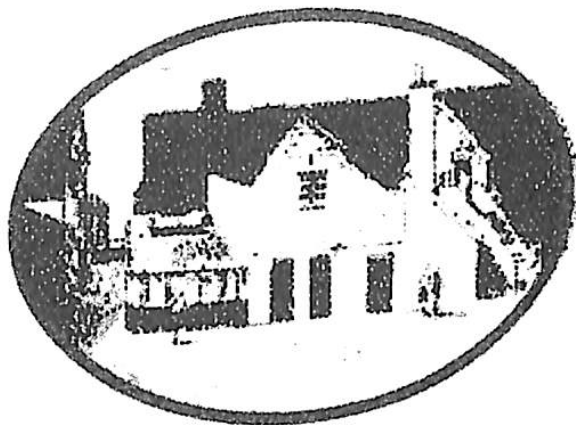


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Witham Operatic Workshop

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