

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of the WAOS Newsletter. Despite the ongoing situation that has postponed both our shows this year, we remain active as a society, albeit in many different ways than usual. See the article below about the Drama and Movement workshops that we're been running free for members that have been publicised via membership email and our Web page. We've also held regular workshops to progress our centenary musical which is progressing well – see below for details. We have re-scheduled shows into 2021 and 2022 and hope we can re-start rehearsals for *Annie Get Your Gun* in the new year, although with recent government announcements and the 3-Tier lockdown we will need to take a decision on that nearer Christmas. We are grateful that so many members have continued or renewed their WAOS membership that will allow us to re-start shows as soon as is practical and allowed.

Our very own musical, *The Flames of Injustice*, is taking shape. We have a final draft of the script after 16 members took the opportunity to participate in a readthrough and feed back their comments on characterisation, narrative, anachronisms, local geography and any other items that would improve the dialogue. Since then we have had several lyric-writing workshops. We tackled three songs each week, discussing the context of each song, the narrative and emotions we wished to convey through the song. We collated our ideas and sent them to Sarah Osbourne who wrote the final lyrics. 24 songs are ready for the next stage. Franky Garland is now working on composing the music - we have heard music for five songs already - and our next task is to make adjustments to lyrics that don't quite fit the phrasing of the music. We have a workshop on October 27 to begin that process.

2021 & 2022 shows

We are hoping to put on *Annie Get Your Gun* in April 2021, postponed a full year from 2020. We had planned to be putting on "*Made in Dagenham*" in October 2020 but this has been pushed back to October 2021. To follow that we have booked "*Betty Blue Eyes*" for April 2022. Meanwhile, subject to progress with our own musical, *The Flames of Injustice*, we are pencilling this show in for October 2022.

As soon as we can be definite, we'll let you know.

For information about these shows, go to <http://www.waos.org/news/forthcoming-shows/>

Movement and Drama Workshops.

We are hosting Covid-secure (and so strictly limited to 16) workshops at Witham Public Hall. Directors Claire Carr and Nikki Mundell-Poole are running the workshops which have proved very popular. These workshops are free for members.

Forthcoming dates are:-

Oct 20 and Nov 3 (19:30 – 21:15) for Movement workshops with Claire Carr and
Nov 18, Dec 2 and Dec 18 (19:30-21:15) for Drama with Nikki Mundell-Poole.

Lyric Writing

Members are also invited to attend and contribute to the Lyric writing and adjustment workshop for the *Flames of Injustice*, which will be held virtually via Zoom October 27 at 19:00.

More details and sign-up are via the WAOS web-site front-page at WWW.WAOS.ORG

Grateful Thanks to Geoff and Lu Coverdale.



Our younger members won't remember Geoff and Lu Coverdale but Geoff was an active member of WAOS since *Rose Marie* in 1969 and throughout my time as a member (I joined in 1980). He was President in the 1990s and he and his wife, Lu, were keen supporters of WAOS until Geoff's death in 2008 and Lu's death last year. Geoff and Lu were landlords of the White Hart in Witham in the 1970s and I am told were great hosts of WAOS and friends during their tenure. Geoff was a great raconteur, an excellent Master of Ceremonies at Music Hall events and had wonderful stage presence, usually in comic roles. Although Lu didn't go on stage, she was always in the background supporting her husband. My reason for mentioning this is that Lu Coverdale left WAOS a legacy in her will. Apparently, this was something that was agreed by Geoff and Lu many years ago, before Geoff died. They had no children or close relatives and I suppose WAOS had been the family they had never had. Lu died peacefully late last year and I was made aware

by Bawtree, Witham solicitors, of the bequest early in 2020. Following probate, we have now been sent £2900. It is really humbling that WAOS should be remembered in a will and although there is no-one remaining in Lu's family that I can thank I wish to express my gratitude, nevertheless. I am sure that all the long-standing members of WAOS will join me in this sentiment and perhaps raise a glass to all of our absent friends.

Stewart Adkins.

Other News

WOW's **Legally Blonde** won the NETG award for best show at the same (virtual) awards evening. Congratulations to all those involved with these fantastic shows.

Sadly, **WOW** have had to postpone the planned February show (*Guys n Dolls*) to 2022 as they have not been able to begin rehearsals. However, there are plans to celebrate WOW's 25th anniversary in 2021, which will be announced on their website – www.wow.org.uk.

WAOS partners are critical for us to put on our shows. Whilst times remain tough, it's worth noting that Witham Public Hall has opened in a Covid-secure manner to host a variety of events – see their website (<http://www.withampublichall.co.uk>) for information about their programme of events. We'll be posting updates on the WAOS web-site at <http://www.waos.org/> and more details in the News and forthcoming shows section at <http://www.waos.org/news/>

NODA insurance pays up for abandonment of *Annie Get Your Gun* in April 2020. Many thanks to Anita Goold, our Treasurer, for persisting with the insurance claim following the abandonment of our show in April 2020. We had total expenses of over £6000 which we had already paid - rehearsal room hire, accompanists, professional fees and various miscellaneous expenses – of which we managed to claim £3800 back via our insurance.

The AGM was held 'virtually' this year, via "Zoom" and we had a good level of attendance and participation without any major technical hitches. Full minutes will be made available, but topics of discussion to note here include the appointment and re-election of the existing committee; stable finances as reported by the Treasurer; show planning for 2021 and 2022 and re-affirming WAOS commitment to inclusiveness.

NETG Awards

Sister Act has added to its awards list, scooping the NETG “Adjudicator’s award” for the team playing, and individual characterisations of the Nuns in Sister Act (with special commendation to Aimee Hart, Emma Loring and Rhianna Howard). WOW’s **Legally Blonde** won the NETG award for best show at the same (virtual) awards evening. Congratulations to all those involved with these fantastic shows.



Rhi, Emma, Aimee and the Nuns from Sister Act

WAOS Committee

President	Keith Radley
Chairman	Stewart Adkins
Treasurer	Anita Goold
Secretary	Matt Waldie
Business Manager	Trevor Drury
Production Manager	Paul Goddard
Social Secretary	Emma Loring
Membership Secretary	Liz Chapman
Stage Manager	Ben Sawyer
Committee Member	Annette Maguire

General Enquires – secretary@WAOS.org

Dates for your diary

Shows

Annie Get Your Gun	April 19-24	2021
Made in Dagenham	October 25-30	2021

Betty Blue Eyes	April 25-30	2022
The Flames of Injustice	October 24-29	2022

Workshops (19:30 start at WPH)

Movement & Dance	Nov 3
Drama	Nov 18
	Dec 2
	Dec 18

Stay Safe and best wishes from The WAOS Committee.