

WAOS

PRESENTS

27 OCT - 1 NOV



Irving Berlin's

WHITE CHRISTMAS

THE MUSICAL



This amateur production of White Christmas is presented by arrangement by Concord Theatricals Ltd, on behalf of Tams-Whitmark LLC.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

NODA
For every stage





Janet Hawkes - WAOS President

Welcome to our production of White Christmas—a heart-warming classic that’s sure to make you feel merry and bright, even if we’re a couple of months early for snow! Yes, we know it’s October... but who could resist the chance to dream of a white Christmas before you’ve even posted your letters to Santa? After all, if shops can sell mince pies in September, we can certainly sing Snow with full enthusiasm now!

Our talented cast and creative team have poured their hearts into this joyful show, filled with toe-tapping numbers like Blue Skies, Sisters, and of course, the iconic White Christmas. Whether this is your first visit or you’re a long-time supporter, we’re thrilled to share the magic of live theatre with you.

So, sit back, hum along, and let us transport you to a winter wonderland—albeit a little ahead of schedule!



Nikki Mundell-Poole - Director & Choreographer

Nikki has spent her life surrounded by musical theatre. Raised in a theatrical family, she began performing at a young age and quickly developed a deep passion for the stage. Over the past 30 years, she has become well known as a director and choreographer, working with numerous amateur theatre societies across Essex. After training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and LAMDA, Nikki was fortunate to work on several major West End and UK touring productions, including The Phantom of the Opera, Miss Saigon, Les Misérables, Martin Guerre, Cats, Oliver! and Grease.

She began working with WAOS in 2000 and has since become a regular director for both the main society and its youth group, WOW. Her most recent productions include Anything Goes (WAOS) and Les Misérables (WOW). Nikki regards the society as an extension of her family and loves collaborating with them on every production.

Over the years, her shows have received numerous awards and praise, with standout favourites including Follies, Sweeney Todd, Made in Dagenham, Young Frankenstein and Calendar Girls.

White Christmas marks Nikki’s 25th year with WAOS – a milestone she’s proud to celebrate with this festive classic, which is one of her own personal favourites.



Gerald Hindes - Musical Director

Gerald conducted his first show, “Die Fledermaus” in 1979. Since then, he has been musical director for many operas, musicals and eleven different Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

He has been Musical Director on productions of Salad Days, Gigi, Jesus Christ Superstar, Carousel, Hello Dolly, Half a Sixpence, Calamity Jane, Music Man, The Producers and Fiddler on the Roof.

Operas conducted include Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas, Mozart’s Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, and Così Fan Tutte, Donizetti’s Elixir of Love, Rossini’s Count Ory and Verdi’s La Traviata. His own favourite production was the “Merry Widow” by Lehar, which in Trinity Music and Drama’s 2013 production won a NODA prize. Gerald recently achieved a musical ambition when he conducted 6 performances of Stephen Sondheim’s “Sweeney Todd.”



Assistant to the Director - Emma Loring

Emma has been a member of WAOS since 2013 and has been involved in musical theatre since the age of 21. She was a late-comer to the stage and she fell in love instantly.

The last time Emma was in the “Assistant to the Director” seat was back in 2022 for Betty Blue Eyes and before that in 2021 for Made in Dagenham. She is confident that with Nikki as director this show is going to be amazing. The cast have worked so hard for the last 6 months (albeit a very festive 6 months) and she hopes to enjoy watching it as much as she has been a part of it.



Assistant to the Director - Alice Mason

Alice has been a member of WAOS and WOW for a few years now. She began assisting with makeup and from there made her way onto the stage. She’s been a part of many WAOS shows over the years, including The Flames of Injustice (2022), Betty Blue Eyes (2022), Young Frankenstein (2023), and most recently Anything Goes (2025).

Alice is no stranger to being behind the desk as she was an assistant director with WAOS for Crazy for You in 2023. She has loved being a part of this wonderful Christmas show and hope you get into the festive spirit. Merry Christmas!



Whether you are staging a musical, an opera, a play, a concert or a pantomime, as the UK’s leading amateur theatre membership organisation, NODA is here for every show, every rehearsal, every curtain call – here for our members every step of the way.

From just starting out to centre stage; village halls to professional venues; NODA exists to celebrate, connect, support and amplify amateur theatre and theatre groups across the UK.

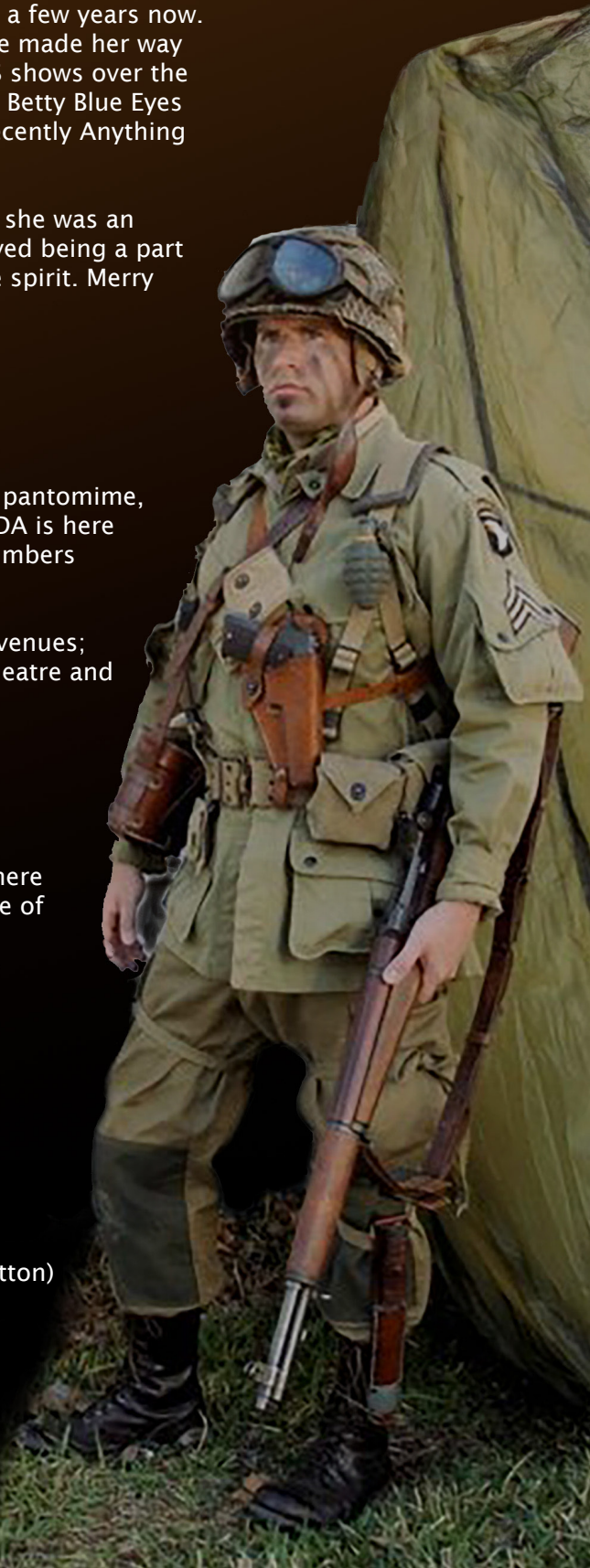
We provide invaluable services, expertise and resources - that help thousands of our member groups create and produce theatre, that enhances lives and benefits communities everywhere.

Whatever your passion, level of experience or stage of life, we are here to help everyone enjoy the unique benefits, opportunities and sense of community that live performance can bring.

NODA
For every stage

The Band

Gerald Hindes	- Musical Director / Conductor
Simon Wood	- Double Bass
Jessie Tabor	- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
Sandy Tate	- Clarinet, Flute, Saxophone
Louise Chappell	- Clarinet, Saxophone (Saturday John Cotton)
David Hall	- Clarinet, Saxophone
Pam Campanelli	- Clarinet, Saxophone
David Charles Howell	- Horn
Mark Roberts	- Trumpet
Trevor Stubbington	- Trumpet
David Healey	- Trombone
Paul Codling	- Percussion
David Mitchell	- Keyboard



WHITE CHRISTMAS SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

The story begins with World War II U.S. Army buddies, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, on Christmas Eve 1944 somewhere on the Western Front. Bob and Phil are putting on a make-shift holiday show for the troops of the 151st Division (White Christmas/Happy Holidays). Major General Henry Waverly arrives for the end of the show and holds a field inspection before being relieved of command of the 151st Division.

After the war in 1954, the pair, now labelled “America’s favourite song-and-dance-team,” appear on The Ed Sullivan Show (Happy Holidays/Let Yourself Go). Bob and Phil plug their new show Blue Skies set to open on Christmas Eve in Florida. Before leaving their dressing room, Phil tells Bob about a letter he received from an old army buddy of theirs asking them to go watch his sisters’ act. Phil convinces Bob he needs to fall in love and that the Haynes sisters could be good for them (Love and the Weather), so Bob reluctantly agrees to go watch the girls.

They go to the club to audition the sister act (Sisters), only to discover that Judy actually sent Phil the letter. Bob and Phil have train tickets to go to Florida for their new show that night, while Betty and Judy are booked to leave for Pinetree, Vermont. Phil and Judy dance together at the club and decide to trick Bob into going to Vermont so all four of them can be together (The Best Things Happen While You’re Dancing). Bob and Phil board the same train as the Haynes sisters, and it doesn’t take long for Bob to figure out he has been played. The four begin to get excited about arriving in Vermont (Snow), but when the train pulls in, things are not exactly as expected. They discover that the Columbia Inn in Pinetree is run by their former commanding officer, Major General Waverly, and it’s about to go bankrupt because of the lack of snow and, therefore, lack of guests. The General has invested all of his savings, pension and hope into the inn, so the foursome want to help out and bring business back (What Can You Do with a General). Bob and Phil bring Blue Skies and their entire Broadway cast to Vermont and add Betty and Judy into the show. Martha, Columbia Inn’s concierge, also gets in on the show after impressing Bob and Phil with her talent (Let Me Sing and I’m Happy).

That night, the General’s granddaughter, Susan, is upset. She can’t sleep because she discovered her grandfather tried to rejoin the army but was rejected and now feels like he doesn’t belong. Bob comforts her until she falls asleep (Count Your Blessings) and then shares a romantic moment with Betty. After hearing about the General’s rejected plans to rejoin the Army, Bob decides to prove to him that he is not forgotten. He calls his friend and former army cohort, Ralph Sheldrake, at the Ed Sullivan Show to have him send out letters to the men under the command of the General in the war. The letters are part of a “secret plan” to get the men to come to the inn for the holiday and surprise the General. Sheldrake returns Bob’s call to let him know that the “secret plan” is going great, but Martha answers the phone and confuses the message thinking Sheldrake is a real estate bigwig and that Bob is going to force the General to sell the inn. After Martha tells Betty about the phone call, Betty confronts Bob about his intentions but still doesn’t learn the truth (Blue Skies).

ACT TWO

A full run-through of the show is taking place in the barn (I Love a Piano) while romantic drama ensues: Judy’s angry at Phil for his flirtatious manner with all the chorus girls, and Betty is packing for New York because of what she thinks Bob is going to do to the General (Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun). Susan is also desperately trying to create an act to be part of the show but is turned down by Bob and Phil. Back in the rehearsal hall, nobody can find the Haynes sisters, so Bob and Phil rehearse their number for them (Sisters Reprise). Susan tells Bob that Betty has left for New York, and he goes after her immediately.

In New York, Betty is performing at The Regency Room (Love You Didn’t Do Right by Me/How Deep is the Ocean). Bob brings Sheldrake to watch Betty’s performance and afterwards they explain the “secret plan” to her. Betty agrees to return to Vermont.

Before leaving New York, Bob makes another appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show to announce one final time that all the men of the 151st Division should go to the General’s inn for Christmas (We’ll Follow the Old Man). Bob and Betty return to the inn to find that Judy and Phil have got engaged, and Susan is going to have an act in the show (Let Me Sing and I’m Happy Reprise).

On the night of the show, Martha convinces the General that all of his suits have been sent to the cleaners, and General Waverly concludes that he’ll have to appear in his old uniform. The cast is getting ready in the barn when Bob and Betty confess their love for one another (How Deep Is the Ocean Reprise). When the General enters the barn where the show is to take place, he is greeted by his former division (We’ll Follow the Old Man Reprise). The show is performed without a hitch (Happy Holiday/White Christmas), and snow begins to fall as the foursome celebrate their love (Finale: I’ve Got My Love To Keep Me Warm).



Welcome to Lian

We have been serving Chinese food for over two decades and pride ourselves on creating dishes prepared with exacting care using only the finest produce available. Our menu includes such diverse inspiration as Pekinese, Szechuan and Malaysian cuisine. The Lian team are always delighted to discuss the menu with you and recommend a compatible wine from our cellars.

Opening Times

Closed Every Monday

Tuesday - Sunday
Lunch Service: 12pm Until 2:30pm
Dinner Service: 5:30pm - 10:30pm

Takeaway Menu

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR
TAKEAWAY MENU IS
COLLECTION ONLY

Order online and collect
your food 30 minutes later.

Contact Us

Lian Restaurant
5 Newland Street
Witham
Essex
CM8 2AF
T: 01376 510684
E: info@lianwitham.com

Act 1

Scene 1:	The Western Front of WW2 ~ Christmas Eve 1944		
	Overture	-	Orchestra
	Happy Holiday	-	Bob & Phil
	White Christmas	-	Bob, Phil, Sheldrake, GI's
Scene 2:	The Ed Sullivan Show ~ 1954		
	Happy Holiday / Let Yourself Go	-	Bob, Phil & Dancers
Scene 3:	Backstage at the Ed Sullivan Show		
	Love and the Weather	-	Bob & Betty
Scene 4:	Jimmy's Back Room ~ Later that evening		
	Sisters	-	Betty & Judy
	The Best Things Happen While Your Dancing	-	Phil & Judy
Scene 5:	A Train Car ~ Later that Night		
	Snow	-	Phil, Judy, Betty, Bob & Passengers
Scene 6:	Front Desk of the Columbia Inn ~ Vermont		
	What Can You Do With a General?	-	Martha, Bob & Phil
Scene 7:	The Barn Rehearsal Hall ~ The next Day		
	Let Me Sing and I'm Happy	-	Martha
Scene 8:	The Front Porch of the Inn ~ That Night		
	Count Your Blessings	-	Bob & Betty
Scene 9:	Ralph Sheldrake's Office, New York		
Scene 10:	The Barn Rehearsal Hall ~ Later that day		
	Blue Skies	-	Bob & Chorus

Act 2

Scene 1:	Onstage in the Barn Theatre		
	Entr'acte	-	Orchestra
	I Love a Piano	-	Phil, Judy & Chorus
Scene 2:	Betty's Room at the Inn		
	Falling Out of Love Can be Fun	-	Martha, Betty & Judy
Scene 3:	The Barn Theatre Rehearsal		
	Sisters (Reprise)	-	Bob & Phil
Scene 4:	The Regency Room, New York		
	Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me	-	Betty
	How Deep is the Ocean	-	Bob
Scene 5:	The Ed Sullivan show ~ The next evening		
	The Old Man	-	Bob & Male Chorus
Scene 6:	The Front Desk of the Columbia Inn ~ Vermont		
	Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (Reprise)	-	Susan
Scene 7:	Backstage at the Barn Theatre ~ Christmas Eve		
	How Deep is the Ocean (Reprise)	-	Betty & Bob
	The Old Man (Reprise)	-	Bob, Phil, Sheldrake & Male chorus
	White Christmas	-	Full Company
Scene 8:	Curtain Call		
	I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm	-	Full Company

Principals

Bob Wallace	-	Paul Flynn
Phil Davis	-	Nick Skinner
Betty Haynes	-	Amy Marsh
Judy Haynes	-	Sarah Miles
General Henry Waverly	-	David Slater
Martha Watson	-	Corrina Groombridge
Susan Waverly	-	Olivia Reynolds
Susan Waverley (Understudy)	-	Leona Reynolds
Ralph Sheldrake	-	Stephen Taylor
Rita	-	Jenny McNeilly
Rhoda	-	Madison Violet
Ezekiel Foster	-	Richard Herring
Mike	-	Jason Norton
Mr Snoring Man	-	Tim Clarke
Mrs Snoring Man	-	Rhoda Taylor

The Best Things - #7 – Sextet

Simon Possee	Tim Clarke	David Slater
Corrina Groombridge	Tracey Hackett	Anita Goold

Ensemble

Anita Goold	Tracey Hackett	Sam Gould
Gary Rolph	Jason Norton	Stephen Taylor
Tim Clarke	Richard Herring	

Dancers

Julie Slater (Dance Captain)	Sophie Hill (Dance Captain)	Rachel Ings
Annabelle Waplington	Heather Davis	Jenny McNeilly
Rhoda Taylor	Celia Greaves	Madison Violet
Simon Possee	Philip Spurgeon	Leona Reynolds

Production Team

Director/ Choreographer	Nikki Mundell-Poole
Musical Director	Gerald Hinds
Assistant to the Director	Alice Mason & Emma Loring
Production Manager	Michael Mundell-Poole
Set	Built in kind support by Cressing Temple Community Shed & WAOS
Set Painting	WAOS
Special Effects / Screen	Trevor Drury
Stage Manager	Ben Sawyer
Stage Crew	Graham Aldred, Jeremy Lee, Constance Lawton, Emma Loring & Olly Smith
Sound	Event Light & Sound ~ Paul Galley, Brett Faris
Lighting	Trevor Drury
Props Team	Donna Goddard, Annette Maguire, Emily Bartle, Steph Gunn & Denise Scrivener.
Costumes Mistress	Shelley Fenn
Wardrobe team	Anne Howe, Sue Rogers, Debbie Stirling, Liz Watson
Wigs	Patsy Page
Make Up	Liz Watson
Prompt	Janet Hawkes
Publicity	Paul Flynn and cast team
Photography	Maldon Camera Club & cast team
Programme	Michael Mundell-Poole, Emma Loring and cast team
Front of House	Kathy Sherlock
Bar Manager	Kath Adkins
Box Office Mgr	Donna Goddard

Honorary Life Members

Alison Lawfield	Helene Jones	Kath Adkins	Patsy Page
Anne Howe	Janet Hawkes	Keith Radley	Stewart Adkins
Cynthia Draper	Janice Hawkes	Liz Watson	Sue Rogers
Cynthia Stead	John Gunson	Pat Briggs	Tim Sheppard
Graham Green			

Friends of WAOS

Jim Briggs	Alma Clarke	Kate Dawson	Steve Draper
Paul Goold	Ken Hawkes	Marea Irving	Steve Rogers
Colin Watson	Jim Wilson		

Committee

President	-	Janet Hawkes
Chairperson	-	Stewart Adkins
Treasurer	-	Mike Silvester
Secretary	-	Matthew Waldie
Production Manager	-	Michael Mundell-Poole
Publicity & Media Manager	-	Paul Flynn
Membership Secretary	-	Anita Goold
Stage Manager	-	Ben Sawyer
Executive Committee	-	Tracey Hackett, Richard McNeill
WOW Representative	-	Anita Goold

General Enquiries : Secretary@waos.org



Opened in September 2016, El Pulpo is an authentic Spanish Restaurant & Tapas Bar located in Witham High Street.

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PAUL FLYNN - BOB WALLACE

White Christmas is Paul's second show with WAOS. He previously played Billy Crocker in Anything Goes earlier this year! He feels incredibly honoured to be playing the iconic role of Bob Wallace, famously played by Bing Crosby in the movie version.

Paul cannot wait to perform Blue Skies for you all. Merry Christmas!!!



NICK SKINNER - PHIL DAVIS

This is Nick's first show with WAOS, and he hasn't stepped on the stage in 20 years. Yes, 20 years since studying Performing Arts at College, doing shows such as Fiddler on the Roof, South Pacific and Joseph.

White Christmas is an all-time favourite movie, so he is keen to do Phil Davies justice.



AMY MARSH - BETTY HAYNES

Amy is delighted to be back with WAOS, especially with a show that is very close to her heart. This musical is a highlight each Christmas for Amy and her family, and she is thrilled to be taking on the role of Betty Haynes.

What a way to start the festive period!



SARAH MILES - JUDY HAYNES

Sarah is delighted to be returning to WAOS, having previously played Doralee in "9 to 5" and more recently one of Reno's Angels in Anything Goes!

It has been a joy being able to don her dancing shoes once again and play opposite her stage sister Amy. She hopes you enjoy the show and Merry Christmas!



DAVID SLATER - GENERAL HENRY WAVERLY

David trained at the Guildhall and worked as a professional actor for 25 years. This show will be David's 17th WAOS production. Favourite roles include Max Bialystock in The Producers and Professor Higgins in My Fair Lady.

David is looking forward to performing with his wife Julie again.



CORRINA GROOMBRIDGE - MARTHA WATSON

After 15 years with WAOS it seems Corrina longed for the stage once more after her moving plans were delayed. It was meant to be, as she's had the most magical time with the best people.

Corrina hopes this show brings you the joy it has brought her.



OLIVIA REYNOLDS - SUSAN WAVERLY

Olivia, 10, is a singer, dancer (specialising in tap, modern, and ballet), and actress with a passion for musical theatre. She is proud to play Susan in White Christmas.

Olivia has performed at His Majesty's Theatre and is excited to perform in her first WAOS show.



STEPHEN TAYLOR - RALPH SHELDRAKE

Steve is excited to play this role. White Christmas is fun and full of laughter, as well as some more emotive scenes.

This is his 2nd show with WAOS and is very proud once again to be sharing the stage with his wife Rhoda.



JENNY MCNEILLIE - RHODA

This is Jenny's first show with WAOS, and she has loved rehearsing for White Christmas since rehearsals started in April! She has enjoyed being part of a double act, having a dance and getting to know all the amazing cast and crew!



MADISON VIOLET - RITA

This is Madison's first show with WAOS after being with WOW since she was 11. Her favourite part of rehearsals was hearing "Oh, Philly-dilly" and also loved her opportunity to play a comedy role!



JASON NORTON - MIKE

Jason returns for his fourth WAOS show, enchanted by the festive spirit and classic charm of White Christmas. He's enjoyed every rehearsal and looks forward to spreading a little seasonal cheer with this joyful and timeless production.



RICHARD HERRING - EZEKIEL FOSTER

Richard is no stranger to the WAOS stage, after many shows with the society. He has had so much fun with White Christmas and playing Ezekiel. Such a heart-warming show and he hopes you enjoy this show and walk away feeling festive! "Ay up!"



RHODA TAYLOR - MRS SNORING MAN / DANCER

This is Rhoda's fourth show with WAOS after performing previously in Crazy for You, Anything Goes and Calendar Girls.

It's Rhoda's favourite time of the year and she has loved the chance to take part in more of the dancing this show





TIM CLARKE - MR SNORING MAN

Tim's been with WAOS for almost 40 years now. He enjoyed being one of the bad guys in Flames of Injustice, but now it's time for a laugh with something lighter.

Tim's enjoyed rehearsing for White Christmas all year long! Snowballs at the ready, grab your elf ears and Santa hat



SOPHIE HILL - DANCE CAPTAIN

This is Sophie's 3rd show with WAOS having previously been a member of WOW. She has enjoyed being in the ensemble and dance captain. Her favourite song in the show is 'Blue Skies!' She hopes you enjoy the show!



JULIE SLATER - DANCE CAPTAIN

Julie has been performing with WAOS since 2005 and is delighted to be performing in White Christmas.

Julie trained as a dancer and met her husband David who is also in the show.

She hopes you enjoy this fabulous show.



SIMON POSSEE - DANCER

This is Simon's 4th show with WAOS and can be seen as a dancer. He is loving the dancing and the Christmas cheer in this show!

He hopes you enjoy the show and have a very Merry Christmas.



PHILIP SPURGEON - DANCER

Philip returns after a short break and what a show to return to! The dancing, singing and Christmas cheer is almost too much excitement.

He hopes you enjoy this wonderful production!



RACHEL INGS - DANCER

Rachel is no stranger to the stage having danced from an early age and hasn't stopped since! White Christmas is a firm favourite and She's looking forward to performing in her 20th show with WAOS.



ANNABELLE WAPLINGTON - DANCER

White Christmas is Annabelle's first WAOS show, however she has previously been in WOW'S High School Musical and Les Misérables.

Annabelle would like to thank Nikki (the director) for giving her this incredible opportunity.



CELIA GREAVES - DANCER

This is Celia's 9th show with WAOS, and she's excited to be cast as a dancer. White Christmas is so much more than a seasonal special and learning all the numbers with her WAOS family has been great. And having an audience to share with is even better! Happy Holidays!



HEATHER DAVIS - DANCER

This is the 5th WAOS show Heather has been involved in. She is having great fun rehearsing White Christmas in the hottest June ever as dancer, ensemble & Loretta. It's a show she loved watching on TV as a child. Her favourite number is the gorgeous Blue Skies.

Enjoy!



LEONA REYNOLDS - DANCER (Understudy Susan)

Leona, 12, is a passionate singer, dancer, and performer with a love for musical theatre. She has been dancing and singing since age 2 and has performed in junior productions of WOW's Les Mis, as well as local productions of Mamma Mia, Grease, and Oliver.

Leona also supported G4's 2023 tour and performed at His Majesty's Theatre. She is excited to be part of this incredible show as Susan's understudy and part of the ensemble



GARY ROLPH - ENSEMBLE

Gary has been part of WAOS and WOW it's junior group since 2009. He has performed in 18 shows. He has enjoyed both performing and working backstage and is looking forward to White Christmas.



ANITA GOOLD - ENSEMBLE

Anita is in her 25th show with WAOS. She loves the music for White Christmas, her favourite is "The best things happen whilst you're dancing" as she gets to sing in a sextet.

Hope you enjoy the show, thank you for your support.



TRACEY HACKETT - ENSEMBLE

Tracey is delighted to be part of White Christmas, her twelfth show with WAOS. The camaraderie of the wonderful cast makes it a joy to be a part of and it has certainly been interesting singing about snow during the summer!



SAM GOULD - ENSEMBLE

Sam had just joined WAOS & she had been singing since she was 8 years old! Sam has enjoyed rehearsals and meeting new people, who share the same interests.

She is looking forward to starring in her first show.

WOW!

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16th - 21st February 2026



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This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe).
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe.
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Nativity!
The Musical

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Music by
Debbie Isitt & Nicky Ager
Orchestrations by George Dyer

5 - 8 NOV 2025

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29 Jan - 8 Feb 2026



North Essex Theatre Guild

WAOS is a long-standing member of the North Essex Theatre Guild. NETG aim to help amateur dramatic groups in Essex by adjudicating shows to give professional comments and feedback and host an annual awards evening to credit exceptional performances throughout the year. WAOS have won NETG awards on many occasions, including:-

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Cinderella | - Best Musical |
| Sister Act | - Best Musical |
| Ron Howe | - Jan King award for outstanding work for WAOS & WOW! |
| Made in Dagenham | - Amy Pryce: Best Actress
- Justine Ephgrave: Best Supporting Actress
- King Costume Award |
| Betty Blue Eyes | - Aimee Hart: Best Actress
- King Costume Award |
| Flames of Injustice | - Millennium Writers award for Best Original Script |
| Young Frankenstein | - The Dave Ross Adjudicators Award 'Roll in the Hay Sequence!'
- Corrina Groombridge: Best Supporting Actress |
| Crazy for you | - Best set design & Construction |
| Calendar Girls | - Will Hackett: Best Young Actor |
| Salad Days | - Avalon Lawton: Best Young Actress |
| Anything Goes | - Aimee Hart: Best Actress |

National Operatic and Dramatic Association Awards

Best Musical and Production
Sister Act

Best Musical, Best Production and Best Programme
Made in Dagenham

Best Musical for
The Addams Family,
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
Crazy for You

Nominated for Best Musical
Cinderella
Betty Blue Eyes

Best Technical Achievement
Return to the Forbidden Planet

Nominated for the Best Technical Award
The Flames of Injustice was



DID YOU KNOW...!

It costs around £25,000 to stage a show, which, since WAOS is a charity, we need to recoup through ticket sales, programme sales, bar receipts and fund-raising. Costs include license fees for the show, hiring rehearsal space and rehearsal pianists, the orchestra, costumes, wigs, lighting & sound, hire of the hall for the week of the show, hiring the set, major props and fees for the Director and MD. We rely on the significant help from volunteer bar staff, stage and backstage crew, chaperones and many others who give their time for free – as do the WAOS committee members who help keep things going from year to year. Whilst the cast usually numbers around 30 people, typically there will be at least 60 people supporting the on-stage talent for each show!

To break even, we usually need to sell at least 80% of seats – which means about 1,500 seats across the 7 shows (277 max capacity each night). The Director, MD, Choreographer, and cast spend 6 months planning and rehearsing for each show. For White Christmas, casting took place in April and rehearsals started in May, two nights a week for more than 20 weeks, with five all-day sessions on Sundays. We've also taken many hours of video to help get the dances, entrances, and flourishes just as the Director and MD have planned it.

WHAT'S NEXT...?

We plan our shows 2-3 years in advance! Forthcoming shows already in planning include Jesus Christ Superstar (April 2026), Bake Off the Musical (October 2026) followed by Come From Away (April 2027)

Directors and MDs for the next 2 shows are in place and we have already booked rehearsal space and show weeks for 2025 and 2026.

Keep an eye on our website or Facebook for more information.

SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST

To receive information about our Shows, sign up for our mailing list. Point your smart-phone camera at the square box and follow the link to sign up.



Thanks & Acknowledgments

- Spring Lodge, Hatfield Peverel Village Hall and Witham Public Hall for use of their rehearsal facilities
- The Railway Tavern, Witham Public Hall, AEGON and Andrew Wood for allowing us to display Banners and boards
- Yaxley Homes for the advertising boards
- Witham Tourist Information Centre & Witham Library for permission to display posters and selling tickets
- Our Front-of-House volunteer Ushers and Refreshments staff
- David Mitchell – Our rehearsal Pianist
- Our First Aid volunteers – Essex Community First Aid Volunteers
- Our Bar Staff volunteers
- Michael Oxley at the Witham Art Framers for printed photos
- Suffolk Sounds, Ovation Radio, Lisa Wakely at Radio Chelmsford and Chelmer Community Radio
- Hills Storage Company, Colchester
- Chelmsford Young Gen and WAOS members for the loan of props
- John Crickett for making props
- Gary Rolph, cast and crew for the raised seating, banners and boards

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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WAOS 27-31 OCT '26
Staging Musical Theatre in Witham

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The Great British Bake Off is a registered trade mark of Love Productions Ltd.
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