

OKLAHOMA!



A few words from the Chair:

Hello and welcome to our 2024 production of Oklahoma!

Oklahoma! was the first professional pairing of the show's now legendary creators, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, and is considered one of the most influential musicals of all time!

When Oklahoma! opened on Broadway on March 31, 1943, it was a smash that went on to set a Broadway record of 2,212 performances before it finally closed five years later on May 29, 1948. It held onto the record for Broadway's longest-running show until "My Fair Lady" came along in 1956.

In 1944, Oklahoma! was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The musical and its soaring songs like "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'", "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top" and the title theme quickly grew so popular that Oklahoma! became the first Broadway show to record an original cast album, rather than just the score.

Oklahoma! was then adapted into a popular 1955 movie that won two Oscars, for best score and best sound recording.

It's fair to say the full ensemble have greatly enjoyed bringing you, our audience, this fantastic, bright and fun production!

We are delighted to welcome back as our Producer, Graham Weston, for this, his eighth production with our Society and we extend our thanks, as always, to our MD Colin Akers who also never fails to draw from each of us the very highest musical standards of which we are capable. Also, our huge appreciation for our wonderful accompanists on piano, Philip Sutcliffe and Chris Pulley. Thank you all!

As always, I also offer special thanks to all of our 'unseen' members and friends. Those individuals working incredibly hard behind the scenes. Jim Cheetham and team, who have created and built our sets which form the backdrop to our performances this week. The front of house team keeping our audience comfortable and safe. Our prompter, lighting technician and props manager. No show could be produced without their dedication, which often goes uncredited. So, to each of these too, my thanks.

And finally, I say thank you to each one of you, our families, friends and supporters here to share with us our presentation of this wonderful show. We hope you enjoy the performance!

Amy Ellison

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**ALL SOULS' AMATEUR
OPERATIC SOCIETY**
present their Sixty-First production

Oklahoma!

Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs

**Music by
RICHARD RODGERS**

**Book and Lyrics by
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

*This amateur production of OKLAHOMA! is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk*



www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk

At The Playhouse, Halifax
9 – 13 April 2024
Tuesday to Friday @ 7.15 pm
and Saturday Matinee @ 2.15 pm

Producer	Graham Weston
Musical Director	Colin Akers
Accompanists	Philip Sutcliffe & Chris Pulley
Dancers' Choreographer	Miss Stacey

Programme cover designed by Paul Talbot-Greaves

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

This page kindly sponsored by Jean & Andrew Murphy

Authors

Music by: Richard Charles Rodgers (1902 - 1979)



Rodgers was an American composer who worked primarily in musical theatre. With 43 Broadway musicals and over 900 songs to his credit, Rodgers was one of the most well-known American composers of the 20th century, and his compositions had a significant influence on popular music. Born into a Jewish family in Queens, New York, Rodgers was the son of Mamie (Levy) and Dr William Abrahams Rodgers, a prominent physician who had changed the family name from Rogazinsky. Rodgers began playing the piano at the age of six. Rodgers spent his early teenage summers in Camp Wigwam where he composed some of his first songs.



Book and Lyrics: Oscar Greeley Clendenning Hammerstein II (1895 - 1960)

Hammerstein II was an American lyricist, librettist, theatrical producer, and (usually uncredited) director in musical theatre for nearly 40 years. He won eight Tony Awards and two Academy Awards for Best Original Song. Many of his songs are standard repertoire for vocalists and jazz musicians - he co-wrote 850 songs. He was born in New York City, the son of Alice Hammerstein and theatrical manager William Hammerstein. His grandfather was the German theatre impresario Oscar Hammerstein. His father was from a Jewish family, and his mother was the daughter of British parents.

Rodgers & Hammerstein

Their first musical, the groundbreaking hit *Oklahoma* (1943), is a notable example of a “book musical”, a musical play in which the songs and dances are fully integrated into the plot. The team went on to create four more hits that are among the most popular in musical history. Each was made into a successful film: *Carousel* (1945), *South Pacific* (1949, winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *The King and I* (1951), and *The Sound of Music* (1959). Other shows include the minor hit *Flower Drum Song* (1958), as well as relative failures *Allegro* (1947), *Me and Juliet* (1953), and *Pipe Dream* (1955). They also wrote the score to the film *State Fair* (1945) (which was remade in 1962 with Pat Boone) and a special TV musical of *Cinderella* (1957).

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19 **TWO PIANOS** Rock n Roll Experience at 7:30pm
20 **Don't Stop Queen Now** Queen Tribute at 8pm
23-27 **Welcome to our Village, Please Invade Carefully**
Halifax Thespians Studio Bar 7:30pm & 2:30pm Sat mat.

May 2024

14-18 **The Revlon Girl** Halifax Thespians 7:30pm & 2:30pm Sat matinees
24 **50's & 60's Atlantic Hits** Music Masters at 7:30pm
25 **ELTONESQUE** Elton John Concert Experience at 7:45pm
26 **LE GRAND RETURN** by Alan Stockdill Talking Stock Prodn. at 7:30pm

June 2024

18-22 **NELL GWYNN** Halifax Thespians 7:30pm & 2:30pm Sat matinees
26 **Forbidden Nights** 9 years of muscle and mayhem at 7:30pm
28 **Status Faux** a Rockin' tribute to the Quo at 7:30pm

July 2024

5 **10CCL0** Tribute to ELO and 10CC at 7:30pm
20 **Beauty & The Beast** Adult Panto at 7:30pm
23-27 **The Coiners Wife** Halifax Thespians 7:30pm & 2:30pm Sat matinees

August 2024

2-3 **Disney FROZEN Jr** Amber Lights Performing Arts at 7:30pm
27-31 **The Bench** Halifax Thespians Studio Bar 7:30pm & 2:30pm Sat mat.



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The Story

Act I

On a radiant summer morning in Indian Territory not long after the turn of the century, Aunt Eller sits on her porch churning butter and looking out over her farmstead. Curly, a local ranch hand, comes to call. Curly, and Eller's niece Laurey, have a lot in common - both are equally smitten with the other, and both are too proud and stubborn to admit it. When Curly grandly offers to take Laurey to the box social that evening, Laurey claims that he can't escort her in style and refuses to believe that he has rented a classy rig for the occasion. Jud Fry, Laurey's hired hand, settles the matter by announcing that he will take her to the social and because she is scared of Jud, who has a morose, vindictive temperament, she is too frightened to turn him down. Curly invites Aunt Eller to ride with him.

Laurey's friend, Ado Annie, is caught between two fellows too. Will Parker has just returned from Kansas City where he earned \$50 in a rodeo - the exact sum Ado Annie's father, Andrew Carnes, told Will he had to come up with if he wanted to marry her. However, during Will's absence Ado Annie has become transfixed by the Persian peddler man, Ali Hakim, whose sales pitches always leave her swooning. Ado Annie may not know which way to turn but her father does: Will, since he already spent the \$50 on wedding gifts for Annie and technically no longer has the cash, has lost his chance at marriage - while Ali Hakim has been so forward with Annie that nothing short of a shotgun wedding will do!

Laurey is confused about her love for Curly, and about Jud, of whom she is terrified, but has used his invitation just to make Curly jealous. After a short reconciliation between the two, Curly goes to see Jud in his smokehouse. Curly paints a beautiful picture of just how popular Jud would be - at his own funeral and there is an angry confrontation about Laurey. Feeling mocked, alone now in his room, Jud confronts himself, his lonely fantasies, his bleak existence that fills him with anger and violence.

Laurey still wants to clear her mind between Curly and Jud. Her girl friends ridicule her and offer their own homely advice; she drifts into a dream - a ballet sequence in which she is to marry Curly, but he is killed by Jud, who abducts her. As she wakes, both men arrive, and Jud hauls her off to the party, leaving Curly dejected.

The Story cont'd

Act II

At the box social that night lots of men bid for Laurey's hamper but, as the bidding rises, so does the tension as Jud and Curly square off. Curly sells his saddle, his horse and then even his gun to raise enough cash to buy the hamper and the right to escort Laurey, which frustrates and angers Jud. When Jud corners Laurey in the barn later on, her frightened calls for help bring Curly to her side. Jud runs off, and finally, Laurey and Curly confess their love for each other. Ali Hakim, still trying to manoeuvre his way out of marrying Ado Annie, contrives to bid \$50 for all the gifts Will bought in Kansas City. With cash in hand, and a few rules in mind, Will approaches Ado Annie again, and this time they set the date.

Three weeks later, Laurey and Curly are married. Gertie Cummings, an annoying flirt who couldn't get her hands on Curly, has managed to also snare a husband - Ali Hakim. Will and Ado Annie are hitched as well and everyone is celebrating. The wedding festivities pall, however, when Jud Fry stumbles in, uninvited, unwelcome and drunk. He gets into a fight with Curly and, in the ensuing mêlée, the drunken Jud falls on his own knife and is killed. Curly's friends don't want him to have to spend his wedding night in jail and so, a trial is quickly held on the spot and Curly is acquitted. With their friends and loved ones waving them on, Curly and Laurey drive off on their honeymoon, "in a surrey with the fringe on top".

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Opening Act I – Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top
Kansas City
I Cain't Say No
Many a New Day
It's a Scandal! It's a Outrage!
People Will Say We're In Love
Pore Jud is Daid
Lonely Room
Dream Sequence

ACT II

Opening Act II – The Farmer and the Cowman
All 'er Nothin'
Reprise – People Will Say We're In Love
Oklahoma
Finale

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Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

- Scene 1: The Front of Laurey's Farm House.
- Scene 2: The Smoke House.
- Scene 3: A Grove on Laurey's Farm.

ACT II

- Scene 1: The Skidmore Ranch.
- Scene 2: Skidmore's Kitchen Porch.
- Scene 3: The Back of Laurey's Farm House.

Raffle prizes can be collected after the show, in the foyer

The Cast

Curly	Mark Hutchinson
Laurey	Amy Ellison
Aunt Eller	Christine Roberts
Will Parker	Chris Pilgrim
Jud Fry	Michael Madden
Ado Annie Carnes	Helen Burton
Ali Hakim	Chris Littler-Moore
Gertie Cummings	Anna Trent
Andrew Carnes	Richard Farrar
Ike Skidmore	Paul Holroyd
Cord Elam	Gareth Treece
Slim	Peter Sugden
Mike	Mike Padden
Joe	Martin Hoyle

Cowboys, Cowgals & Farmers

Molly Akers	Stephanie Bolton	Millicent Burton
Fiona Fox	Alyssia Holroyd	Martin Hoyle
Jean Murphy	Mike Padden	Fionna Pilgrim
Rachael Prosser	Peter Sugden	Debbie Townsend
Gareth Treece	Matthew Treece	

Dancers

Amelia Brown	Imogen Clarke	Fearne Gleeson
Ella Howlett	Helena Marson	Olivia Stones

Production Officials

Producer	Graham Weston
Musical Director	Colin Akers
Accompanists	Philip Sutcliffe & Chris Pulleyn
Rehearsal Accompanist	Philip Sutcliffe
Dancers' Choreographer	Miss Stacey
Stage Manager	Jim Cheetham
Joint House Managers	Cathy & Tony Sutcliffe
Set Designer	Jim Cheetham
Costumes	Ian Stead arranged by Stephanie Bolton Also with thanks to Woodseats Musical Theatre Company & The Heckmondwike Players for their support with costumes
Properties	Julia Taylor & Lauren Taylor
Publicity	ASAOS Committee
Ticket Secretary	Susan Hutchinson
Prompter	Kathryn Buxton
Librarian	Richard Farrar
Scenery Building & Painting	Jim Cheetham, David Howard Chris Murphy & Jean Murphy
Make Up	Sarah Jones, Sophie Warrilow & Helen Woodcock
Stage Crew	Liz Cheetham, William Heavyside, David Howard Chris Murphy, Richard Goswell, Anthony Goswell & James Goswell
Lighting	Jeanette Kendall

FOR THE PLAYHOUSE

Duty Stage Manager	Nathan Hall
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Production Officials cont'd

PRODUCER

GRAHAM WESTON: Graham's involvement in the theatre began at an early age and his love of musicals has led him to play many principal roles, specialising mainly in comic leads. He won 'Best Supporting Actor' at the International Festival of Musical Theatre, and has now developed a successful career as both performer and stage director. Graham has performed with or directed for many societies in the Yorkshire area. He has directed the G&S Operas, Musicals, Operetta and Pantomimes. Also performed in professional pantomime and worked in York for Mark Mark Productions. This Autumn he will once again be touring with the West Yorkshire Savoyards, whilst future work includes The Mikado (director & KoKo), Ruddigore (director & Robin Oakapple) and playing The Major General at the G&S Festival. Graham is delighted to be working on his eighth production with this friendly and talented society and would like to thank everybody for the work they have put into the show.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

COLIN AKERS: Colin started his musical life quite late at the age of 11 and at 16 went to Chethams School of Music with joint first study instruments of piano and flute. He attended Huddersfield University studying primarily music performance. He joined Halifax G&S in 1988, initially as accompanist, then promoted to Musical Director in 2000. He became the Musical Director for Batley G&S in 2005 and joined All Souls' in the same capacity in 2009. Since starting with All Souls' he has striven to continue the high performance standards expected and has championed new and varied composers in the Accent On Song concerts, with works ranging from the 15th Century to the present day, enabling the Society to showcase its abilities and talents. As well as being an accompanist, Colin is also a member of an orchestra that supports several societies throughout West and North Yorkshire.

Production Officials cont'd

ACCOMPANISTS

PHILIP SUTCLIFFE: Philip got his first piano at the tender age of five. Although it stood just three inches off the ground, had only nine keys and was made of purple plastic he made swift progress and eventually managed to gain entrance into Huddersfield University where he studied big piano. Having spent several years studying music he ran away to join a touring theatre company. As an actor he has toured most of England, the bottom bit of Germany and bits of Scotland, including taking shows to the Edinburgh Festival. He has performed Beckett in Minsk and Shakespeare in Kiev, but that was all a very long time ago. Philip has played for ASAOS on numerous occasions, and we welcome him back for Oklahoma!

CHRISTOPHER PULLEYN: Christopher enjoys a busy and varied career as a collaborative pianist, *répétiteur* and conductor, working regularly with a number of large arts organisations, predominantly around the North of England. Since 2013 he has worked with Opera North on their many outreach programmes and Opera productions. Other organisations include BBC Proms, RNCM, Welsh National Opera, Huddersfield Choral Society, Leeds Lieder and Sage Gateshead. He is pianist-in-residence for Greenhead College, Assistant Musical Director for Bradford Festival Choral Society, accompanist for Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and accompanies regularly at Leeds Conservatoire and University of Huddersfield. In 2018, he launched the &Piano Music Festival in Huddersfield, an annual series of relaxed classical music concerts, to help people discover and learn about classical music and celebrate musicians with a connection to the region. You can find out more about the festival by visiting www.andpiano.co.uk. Having worked with ASAOS since 2010 (Kismet) he is delighted to be joining All Souls' once again for Oklahoma!

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ABOUT ALL SOULS' AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

ASAOS was founded in 1962. Originally based and performed at All Souls' Church. From 1985 to 1987 we performed at The Malborough Hall, and since then at the Halifax Playhouse. We are a group of around forty people, of whom thirty or so are performing members.

Although the Society is non-denominational, we still retain a Christian ethos and continue to support many local charities. We strive to fill as many roles as possible from our own membership, but also hold open auditions for our shows, which continue to attract new members, singers, actors and helpers. We also aim to design and manufacture our own sets which we take great pride in, and our own wardrobe is also used to furnish as many costumes as possible.

Each year, in addition to our musical stage production, we perform our annual 'Accent on Song' concert offering a variety of music to suit all tastes. The overall performance and musicianship of the Society has been widely acclaimed and we strive to maintain high standards of performance and musicianship.

Our rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings at The Studio Rooms, St James Street, Halifax. They are very enjoyable and everybody is welcome!! Like all Societies we are reliant on our performing members and audience to survive, so if **you** would like to sing, act, help with scenery or costumes, assist backstage, front of house, or simply join a group of friendly people, why not become a member yourself? Interested? **Please see our website – www.asaos.org.uk** or contact Mrs Jean Murphy, Secretary, on 01484 717934.

The Society wishes to thank all advertisers, programme sponsors and anyone who helped in any way with the compilation of this programme. Last, but no means least, thanks to you, our audience, without whom we would have no reason to perform. We hope you enjoy the show!

All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society is a Registered Charity, No: 700670

Previous Productions

1962. The Mikado	1993. The Merry Widow
1963. The Pirates of Penzance	1994. Princess Ida
1964. Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1995. La Belle Hélène
1965. The Gondoliers	1996. Fiddler on the Roof
1966. The Yeomen of the Guard	1997. Die Fledermaus
1967. The Mikado	1998. The Yeomen of the Guard
1968. Iolanthe	1999. The Count of Luxembourg
1969. La Vie Parisienne	2000. Bluebeard
1970. Princess Ida	2001. Orpheus in the Underworld
1971. Die Fledermaus	2002. La Vie Parisienne
1972. Trial by Jury & The Pirates of Penzance	2003. The Merry Widow
1973. The Gypsy Baron & Accent on Song	2004. The Beggar Student
1974. Ruddigore	2005. The Gypsy Baron
1975. The Grand Duchess	2006. La Perichole
1976. Patience & Accent on Song	2007. Die Fledermaus
1977. The Merry Widow	2008. La Belle Hélène
1978. The Yeomen of the Guard	2009. Fiddler on the Roof
1979. The Count of Luxembourg	2010. Kismet
1980. The Gondoliers	2011. The Merry Widow
1981. La Belle Hélène	2012. My Fair Lady
1982. Die Fledermaus & Accent on Song	2013. The Sorcerer
1983. Fiddler on the Roof	2014. Die Fledermaus
1984. La Vie Parisienne	2015. Brigadoon
1985. My Fair Lady	2016. Kiss Me Kate
1986. Ruddigore	2017. Hello Dolly!
1987. La Perichole & Accent on Song	2018. La Belle Hélène
1988. The Student Prince	2019. Calamity Jane
1989. Orpheus in the Underworld	2020. ----
1990. The Grand Duchess	2021. ----
1991. The Beggar Student & Accent on Song	2022. Fiddler on the Roof
1992. The Mikado	2023. Carousel

Diary Dates:



Accent on Song
5th, 6th, 12th, 13th October 2024

My Fair Lady
March/April 2025



NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION

Noda is a membership organisation, with over 2000 societies and over 1000 Individual, Joint and Life members. It is dedicated to supporting affiliated member amateur theatre societies and individual enthusiasts and has been in existence since 1899. The association has evolved on a regular basis to meet the needs of its members whilst maintaining a secure financial bedrock on which to grow.



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Noda Council, as trustees of the charity, are the ruling body, comprised of the Chairman, President, immediate Past President, 11 Regional Councillors and 2 life members, elected by Council.

Our regional representative is Joan Lowe.

There are four staff members at HO based in Peterborough.

Further information about membership can be obtained from:

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Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society will present
HMS Pinafore
and Trial by Jury

Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 November 2024



Auditions for principal parts in both shows are open to all and will take place in May (please check our website for dates and other information).

New members are very welcome to join the chorus, for which there are no auditions. Please see our website for rehearsal dates and other events.

Enquiries to the Secretary Kathryn Buxton
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Saturday 27 July	2.30 pm	The Gondoliers	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	The Gondoliers	National G&S Opera Company
Sunday 28 July	2.30 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	National G&S Opera Company
Monday 29 July	7.30 pm	The Yeomen of the Guard	Grosvenor Light Opera Company
Tuesday 30 July	7.30 pm	The Gondoliers	Edinburgh G&S Society
Wednesday 31 July	2.30 pm	HMS Pinafore & Trial by Jury	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	HMS Pinafore & Trial by Jury	National G&S Opera Company
Thursday 1 August	7.30 pm	Iolanthe	Peak Opera
Friday 2 August	2.30 pm	The Sorcerer	Charles Court Opera
	7.30 pm	The Sorcerer	Charles Court Opera
Saturday 3 August	2.30 pm	New The Best of G&S	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	National G&S Opera Company
Sunday 4 August	2.30 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	HMS Pinafore & Trial by Jury	National G&S Opera Company
Monday 5 August	7.30 pm	The Grand Duke	Savoy Company
Tuesday 6 August	7.30 pm	Patience	Bus Pass Opera
Wednesday 7 August	2.30 pm	The Gondoliers	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	The Gondoliers	National G&S Opera Company
Thursday 8 August	7.30 pm	The Mikado	The SavoyNet Performing Group
Friday 9 August	2.30 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	New - Best of G&S	National G&S Opera Company
Saturday 10 August	2.30 pm	HMS Pinafore & Trial by Jury	National G&S Opera Company
	7.30 pm	The Gondoliers	National G&S Opera Company



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