

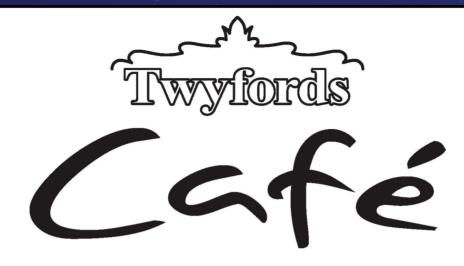
## Spotlight Musical Theatre Group present

# RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S INDERELLA







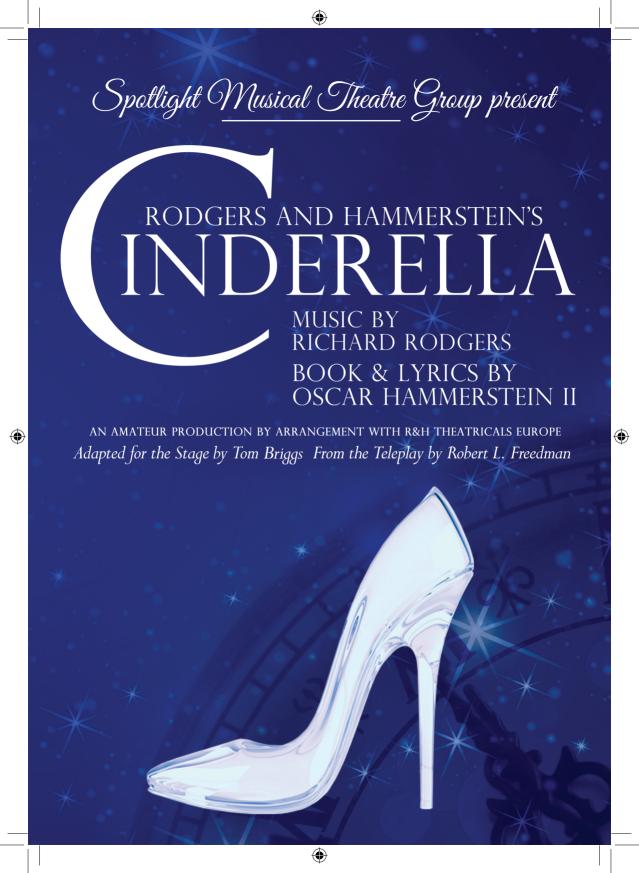


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## Opelcome from the chairman

Good evening (or afternoon, if you're joining us for the matinée!), and welcome to Spotlight's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. This is Spotlight's 45th production and we couldn't be more proud to bring this show to you.

Our 2016 show year could not have been more diverse if we had tried, from a woman's prison with *Bad Girls* this summer to this, a classic fairy tale, scored and written by one of the best writing teams musical theatre (and film) has ever known, Rodgers and Hammerstein.

For this production we welcome Stella Brownsea as our musical director, and I am so very pleased she came to work with us on *Cinderella*. Stella and I have wanted to work together, since working with each other as part of the production team for *Half a Sixpence* with WLOG in 2011, we were just trying to find the right project! Almost two years ago I emailed Stella with a link to the site that had samples of the music for *Cinderella*, as well as information on the show, with the simple question to Stella of 'What do you think?' Stella's reply was quite simple, 'I love it.'

After this, and the Spotlight committee agreeing to produce the show, we went straight into planning Cinderella and bringing together a team that would work the cast hard to bring this production to life on the Public Hall stage. I turned to Natasha Bird to be our choreographer. Natasha had joined Spotlight a year earlier as the choreographer for Tommy, and I knew from seeing that and talking to her that she was just the right fit to complete our production team. The three of us love this musical and especially its music!

We found our cast and the work really began. From the harmonies that Stella has worked so hard to draw out from our cast, the choreography that Natasha has set, mixed with the staging, we feel that we really have a treat of a show for our audiences. We have also all had, cast included, a lot of fun rehearsing this production.

We have welcomed more new members to the Group this year and, as Chairman, I take great pride in knowing that Spotlight continues to grow and attract new members to join us.



I must also thank friend to the Group, Sidi Scott who was a member of the original 1957 cast of RnH *Cinderella* when it went to the West End, performed at the London Coliseum. Sidi was one of the dancers in the production, and shared with us happy memories and funny stories of her time in the show.

I would also like to thank the Spotlight committee for all of their hard work and dedication throughout this year, without them and our members, the Group could not continue

2016 has proven to be an odd year, with many things, good and bad, happening in the world, but for now, for the next couple of hours or so, please sit back and relax as the cast and crew of Spotlight's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* transports you away to a fairy tale land, where magic and true love not only exist but are sung and danced about!

Enjoy the show and from our Spotlight family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

We hope to see you all next summer for our next production The Who's *Quadrophenia*.







#### THE NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) was founded in 1989 and has a membership of 2500 amateur theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK. These groups and enthusiasts are staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls.

NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the National Council (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of regional representatives and officers. These 190 volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre groups themselves.

#### **NODA** aims:

To give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector

To help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance

To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century



# The Spotlight Archive Past Productions

- 1994 Gigi / Half A Sixpence
- 1995 Hello, Dolly! / Humpty Dumpty
- 1996 South Pacific / Oklahoma!
- 1997 The Boyfriend / Guys & Dolls
- 1998 Anything Goes / Oliver
- 1999 Salad Days / Where Do We Go From Here
- 2000 My Fair Lady / Me & My Girl
- 2001 Fiddler On The Roof / Cinderella
- 2002 Annie / Cabaret
- 2003 Broadway Bandwagon / Jack & The Beanstalk
- 2004 South Pacific / The Wizard Of Oz
- 2005 Broadway Bandwagon II / Scrooge The Musical
- 2006 A Funny Thing Happened... / The Hired Man
- 2007 The Full Monty / Oliver!
- 2008 Buddy The Buddy Holly Story / Oh! What a Lovely War
- 2009 Sweeney Todd / The Wind In The Willows
- 2010 Heavens Below / Sinbad
- 2011 Oklahoma! / Beauty & The Beast
- 2012 The Pirates Of Penzance / Honk!
- 2013 The Gondoliers / Grease
- 2014 Thoroughly Modern Millie / Peter Pan
- 2015 Tommy / The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
- 2016 Bad Girls / Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella













# The Tale of Cinderella





## Plot Synopsis

After her father unexpectedly dies, young Cinderella finds herself at the mercy of her cruel Stepmother and Stepsisters, who reduce her to a scullery maid. Despite her circumstances, she refuses to despair. An invitation to a palace ball gives Cinderella hope that she just might meet the Prince, but her stepmother prevents her from going. Help arrives in the form of her Fairy Godmother who has a magic touch for ordinary things... nothing is impossible.

## Composer Motes

Though a few of its songs have become popular, our score for *Cinderella* is another example of what theatre music is really all about. No matter what the medium, a score is more than a collection of individual songs. It is, or should be, a cohesive entity whose words and music are believable expressions of the characters singing them. When the lonely, bullied heroine sings, 'In My Own Little Corner,' it's not merely a song, it's a revelation of the girl herself. When she finishes, we know something more about her than we had before; her sense of humour, her naive optimism, her imagination and her relationship to the rest of her family. It's fair to say that this song is familiar to a vast number of people, but it has never made anyone's hit parade and never will; it is simply part of the score. Like a symphony, concerto or opera, some portions have greater appeal than others, but it is the work as a whole that makes the overall impression.

## Acknowledgements

Andy Osborne, French Cottage for their generous sponsorship

Sidi Scott for her time and visit with the cast

Daniel Self for the programme design

Jenni Newman for the programme cover and poster design

Beccles Public Hall Management Team

St. John Ambulance for first aid facilities

Stuart Malkovich & Kevin Lynch of the Pavillion Theatre, Gorleston for the loan of additional props

Sue and Steve Taylor (Beccles Sewing & Handicraft) for costumes

ECS Web Design for hosting and supporting our website www.spotlightbeccles.org.uk

And a big thank you to all our advertisers and raffle prize contributors.

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### The Cast

Cinderella Megan Oakes

Fairy Godmother Vanessa Hembling

Stepmother Pat Newman

Grace, Angie Smith

The Awkward Stepsister

Joy. Amber Leonie

The Sullen Stepsister

Prince Christopher Neville Rowell

King Maximillian Lee Peck

Queen Constantina Clare Jameson

Lionel, Joe Learner

The Royal Steward

Young Cinderella Jessamy Adams

Butcher Mike Catling

Baker Sorrel Adams

Cloth Merchant Steve Taylor

Cheese Merchant Tony Rainbird

Flower Merchant Megan Gallagher

## The Chorus

**Jessamy Adams** 

**Sorrel Adams** 

**Sophie Carter** 

Mike Catling

Megan Gallagher

Sue Moore

**Annabel Morton** 

**Tony Rainbird** 

Steve Taylor

**Tamzin Wright** 



### Act One

**PROLOGUE** 

THE SWEETEST SOUNDS

THE PRINCE IS GIVING A BALL

IN MY OWN LITTLE CORNER

BOYS AND GIRLS LIKE YOU AND ME

REPRISE:

THE SWEETEST SOUNDS

**REPRISE:** 

IN MY OWN LITTLE CORNER

**FOL-DE-ROL** 

**IMPOSSIBLE** 

IT'S POSSIBLE



## ID HAMMERSTEIN'S ERELL

## Production (Team

Director Jenni Newman Musical Director Stella Brownsea Choreographer Natasha Bird Production Assistant Emily Holt

## Backstage Crew

Stage Manager Paul Andrew Stage crew Friends and members of the Group Lighting John Gallagher

Assisted by Theresa Gallagher & Brian Barr

Sound Stephen Brown

Chaperone Amanda Morton

Wardrobe Mistress Sue Taylor Front of House Manager Barbara Warren

Front of House Team Friends and members of the Group

**ENTR'ACTE** THE GAVOTTE **LONELINESS OF EVENING TEN MINUTES AGO** STEPSISTERS' LAMENT **DO I LOVE YOU BECAUSE** YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL?

Act Two

REPRISE: DO I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL? WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING

THROUGH THE MOONLIGHT

A LOVELY NIGHT

REPRISE: A LOVELY NIGHT THERE'S MUSIC IN YOU

## The Band

Keyboard 1 Stuart Lamb

Keyboard 2 John Mondon

Flute Lisa Janisch

Clarinet Deborah Walden

Trumpet (Tue - Fri) Neil McEwen Trumpet (Sat) Frankie Ayers

Bass (Tue - Fri) Alison McEwen

Bass (Sat) Owen Morgan

Percussion Robert Lockwood

#### **(**

# Our Magical Cast

#### Megan Oakes - Cinderella

This is Megan's first show with Spotlight and she is delighted to have been cast in her first ever title role as 'Cinderella'. Previously Megan has performed in various musicals including *The Wedding Singer, Les Miserables, Copacabanna, RENT*... in Gorleston and Norwich. Megan looks forward to working with Spotlight on future productions.





#### Wanessa Hembling – Fairy Godmother

Vanessa soooo enjoyed being Mrs. Beaver, in Spotlight's 2015 production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, that she found herself auditioning AGAIN, and was overjoyed when the call came that she had been chosen to play The Fairy Godmother.



Pat is an original member of Spotlight Musical Theatre Group from 1994–2001, and appeared in many of their early productions. More recent roles have included Grace in Spotlight's *Honk!*; and Mrs. Walsingham in WLOG's *Half a Sixpence*. She is happy to re-visit the role of Stepmother, another spiky woman, enjoying once again playing the overly ambitious mother role – not to type. It's been a pleasure joining in this vibrant and enthusiastic cast of Cinderella.





#### Angie Smith - Grace

This is Angie's 2nd show with Spotlight having played the role of Helen Stewart in *Bad Girls The Musical*. Her most recent role was Ado Annie in Gorleston Theatre Company's production of *Oklahoma!*. Angie has played Crystal in an in-house production of *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Pavilion Theatre Gorleston and is looking forward to being in her 3rd Adult Panto there in December. It's been amazing to work with such a fantabulous cast and production team.





#### Amber Leonie – Joy

Amber is delighted to bring to life the 'Joy' of Cinderella. This is her second show with Spotlight, last performing as a chorus member in Bad Girls. Amber has a degree in Drama and has notably performed Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing in Bordeaux, France. She is excited for the show, and hopes you enjoy the magic in this version of the iconic fairy tale.

#### Meville Rowell – Prince Christopher

Neville went to the Guildhall School of music and drama where he studied the violin. He also did his academic studies at the City University London. Since leaving he has had to change to operatic studies. *Cinderella* marks his first stage show performance.





#### Lee Peck – King Maximillian

Lee joined Spotlight in 2008 after his father mentioned that they were a bit shorthanded for their upcoming production of *Oh! What a Lovely War.* Eight years and sixteen shows later, he's still here and can't wait to play King Maximillian in Spotlight's production of *Cinderella*. Lee's hobbies include art, musical instruments, motorcycles and classic cars.

#### Clare Jameson – Queen Constantina

Clare has been a member of Spotlight since 2013, and this production will be her sixth one in a row! Previous productions have included, *Bad Girls, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Tommy, Peter Pan* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The role of Queen Constantina will be her third principal part! Clare hopes you enjoy this magical show as much as she has.





#### Joe Learner – Lionel

Joe joined Spotlight in Beccles for *The Pirate of Penzance* in 2012, where he played a pirate. Later that year he played his first principal role, The Cat in *Honk!* Joe recently played one half of the leading role in *The Gondoliers* playing Giuseppe Palmieri, and later in the year Doody in *Grease*. Joe also had the pleasure of playing Mr. Graydon in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Joe would like to say thank you for coming to watch and hope you all have a lovely time and enjoy the show.

## Our Spectacular Production Team



#### Jenni Newman – Stage Director

Jenni has been a member of Spotlight since she was 11 years old! *Cinderella* marks the fourth production she has directed for the Group. Jenni has previously directed Spotlight's successful 2014 productions *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Peter Pan – a Musical Adventure* and the 2012 production of *Honk!*. Jenni has also co-directed *Guys & Dolls* and *Half a Sixpence* for WLOG, as well as the NODA award winning youth production *The Wiz* for WLOG Rising Stars. In May of this year, Jenni was the Assistant Director for Threshold Theatre Company, Norwich production of *Dolly Parton's 9to5 the Musical*.

Jenni is currently in rehearsals with Rising Stars, directing their forthcoming March 2017 production *Seussical*, and will be returning to work with WLOG to direct their Autumn 2017 production, *The Hot Mikado*.

Jenni would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with this production of *Cinderella* and for making the rehearsals so much fun!

#### **NOTES ON CINDERELLA:**

I first became aware of this version of *Cinderella* after watching the Walt Disney filmed production, starring Whitney Houston and Whoopi Goldberg. I researched the show and, a couple of years ago; found that it was indeed available for amateur societies to perform. For me it wasn't just the simple romantic story of *Cinderella* that attracted me to it, but also its score. Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote together and created a beautiful treat for all the family to enjoy and we, as a Company, have enjoyed rehearsing it to bring it to our audiences. The production has changed over time from its original 1956 television debut, starring, the now Dame, Julie Andrews as *Cinderella*, to the London Coliseum stage the production which became a pantomime. The musical would return once again to TV screens in 1965, starring Leslie Ann Warren, and then once more – with additional music and a slight change to the script – in 1997 it was presented by Walt Disney. More recently *Cinderella* has been revived and performed very successfully, on Broadway, with more songs added from the R&H 'trunk' of songs.

I have enjoyed working on this show with my fellow production teammates and the cast. It has not been without its bumps in the road, but here we are and I could not be a more proud director or Chairman of this Group.





#### Stella Brownsea – Musical Director

Stella has had over thirty year's experience working with societies in Norfolk and Suffolk as Musical Director, from Lowestoft Players to Dereham Operatic Society, conducting in the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft, to Maddermarket Theatre in Norwich. Her experience ranges from Carmen - the Musical to My Fair Lady and Gounod's St Cecilia Mass. In her spare time Stella plays timps and percussion with several local orchestras and sings with Friends in Harmony (Beccles).

She was delighted when Jenni suggested working together on *Cinderella*, not only because she loves the music of Rodgers & Hammerstein, but also because she wanted to work with Jenni! She has really enjoyed working with Spotlight and thanks everyone for their support, fun and hard work.

#### NOTES ON CINDERFLIA:

It has been a great surprise and challenge, to both me and the cast, the amount of underscore (speaking over music) there is in this score. When I first listened to the score I was surprised to recognise so many tunes although I hadn't come across the musical before. I kept thinking "So that's where that comes from!" (and I bet you will too).



#### Matasha Bird - Choreographer

Natasha first joined Spotlight as a choreographer/dancer for *Tommy*. This is Natasha's first time working with the wonderful director Jenni, but the second time she's choreographed to a Rogers and Hammerstein's production this year. Natasha developed a real love for the duo's beautiful music and lyrics earlier this year after choreographing GTC *Oklahoma!*. Natasha has really enjoyed being a part of the team; so much she can't wait to get stuck into Spotlight's next production *Quadrophenia*.





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