

# MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

(Formerly Monmouth Operatic Society 1988 - 2005)



National Operatic & Dramatic Association  
Registered Charity No. 254640



No: 32

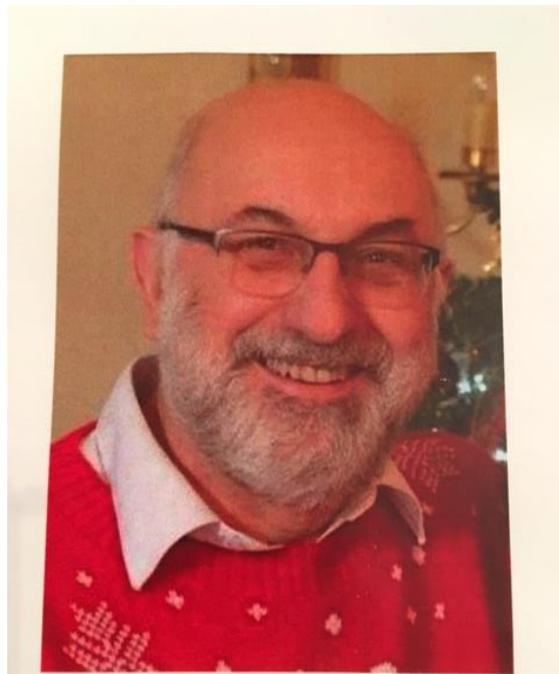
Edited by  
Sheryl Westoby

## Winter 2019 Newsletter

PRESIDENT - MR VERNON JONES (FOUNDER MEMBER)

[www.monmouthmt.co.uk](http://www.monmouthmt.co.uk)  
<http://www.facebook.com/monmouthmusictheatre>

Dear Members and Friends



Graham Bryant

*“When you see a guy reach for stars in the sky, you can bet that he’s doing it for some doll” .....*

What an appropriate reference Louise made when she spoke at Graham’s Celebration of Life Service in Wyesham recently. Graham would have gone to the ends of the earth for Jane and vice versa. A strong inseparable couple, who gave their all to the society, as well as each other. Everyone will certainly miss Graham for his sense of fun, his energy and his enthusiasm. Our sympathies go to Jane and to all the family.

Graham had a very hard time with cancer but vowed to carry on. In January he and Jane took the difficult decision to step down as directors from our production of *Guys and Dolls*. The show was the last one that they worked on together.

He was a source of inspiration to everyone, always cheerful, practical, efficient, encouraging of new and young members, in fact a good friend to everyone. A former chairman of the society, director of several productions and principal actor on numerous occasions, he had become an integral part of Monmouth Music Theatre.

We know he will be watching and supporting us when we perform in April. We hope we make him proud ☺ God bless you Graham, you are sorely missed.



# MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

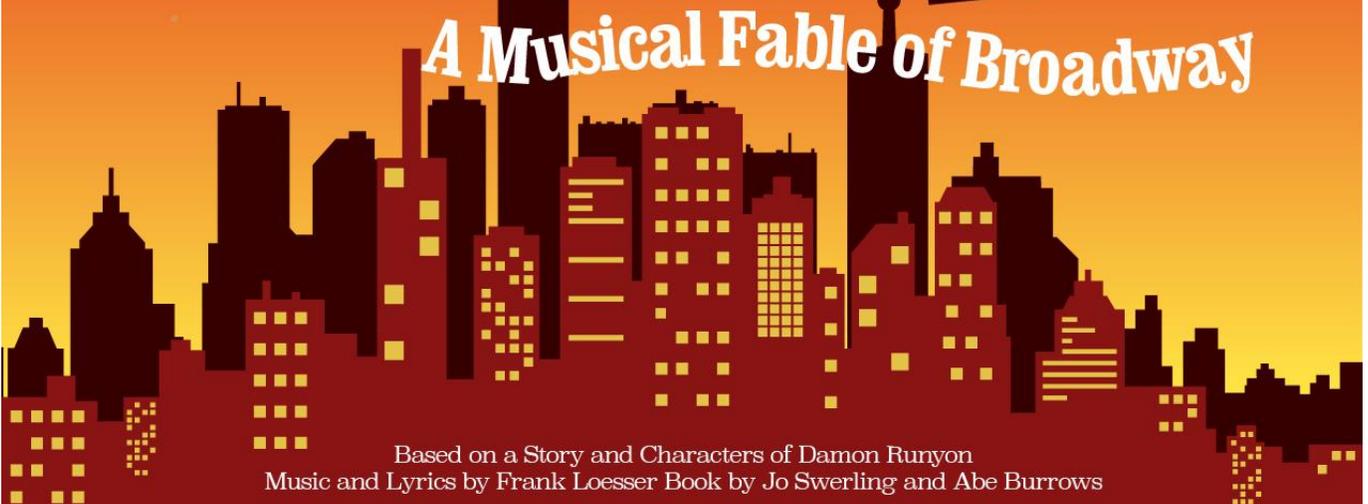
Registered Charity No. 1154731

presents

# GUYS & DOLLS



A Musical Fable of Broadway



Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon  
Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

## April 3rd - 6th 2019

AT THE  
**SAVOY THEATRE, MONMOUTH**

Adults £15 ★ Children £8 ★ Concessions £12 (Wednesday only)

Tickets from the Savoy box office 01600 772467 • [www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk](http://www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk)

[www.monmouthmt.co.uk](http://www.monmouthmt.co.uk)

*noda*  
Be inspired by amateur theatre

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



# "GUYS AND DOLLS"

3<sup>RD</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

## Guys and Dolls to be presented by Monmouth Music Theatre

3rd to 6th April at The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth

*"When you see a guy reach for stars in the sky, you can bet he is doing it for some doll!"*

Nothing much has changed in the last 70 years! Yes, 70 years, but, essentially, what we have here, set against the gambling culture of 50's New York, is two very different love stories.

Those awful Prohibition years are well in the past now, but there are still some remnants from those days looking for action and cash, albeit of a less 'racy' nature. This provides a perfect opportunity for Nathan Detroit to carve out an easy income, merely providing venues and opportunities for them to lose their money to each other! Low risk and safety - that's his policy - and that's true of his relationship with Adelaide too. Engaged for 14 years because he's too scared to commit! And yet he couldn't bear to lose her. So she has to accept what he is capable of giving and wait for her man to grow up!

What is needed is a catalyst - and Sky Masterson breezes into town! Now here's a free spirit if you like! No low-risk strategies for him! Never afraid to gamble huge amounts on bets that he regards as worth the risk, and not bothered by emotions that get in the way. And then he meets a 'doll' - a doll unlike any he has met before - and his whole world is turned upside down! As is hers! When opposite worlds collide! Something else that hasn't changed in the last 70 years!

So ... while we wait for the inevitable to happen - to both couples - let's enjoy the sparkling wit and brilliant songs that remain as fresh today as when

they were written. We are guaranteed to leave the theatre chuckling and singing, especially after joining in with the final number! And we will certainly be agreeing with the sentiment: *"Luck be a lady tonight!"*

Tickets available from Savoy Box Office.  
01600 772467

Adults £15. Children U16 £8. Concessions £12 (Wed only).

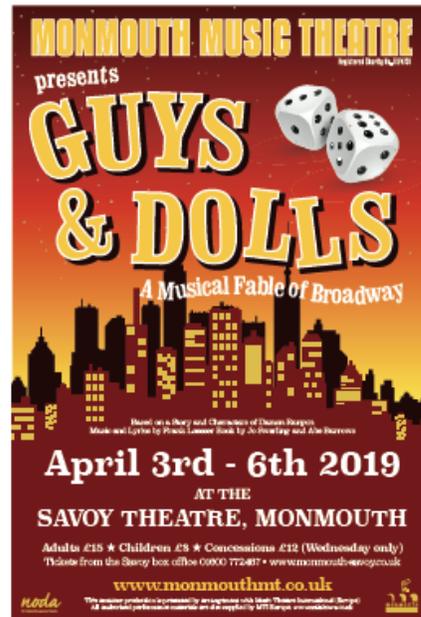




Photo by Des Pugh

Our thanks go to Kate Russell who has kindly offered to assume the role of Director for Guys and Dolls in the circumstances. Kate has had considerable experience directing our Gilbert and Sullivan productions and we appreciate her stepping up to assist.

A big thank you to Helen Stidolph (accompanist) for her constant support rehearsing with the principals and cast. She is often the unsung hero of our productions.

Welcome to our new members May Gardner, Florence Mayo and Emma Lane.

### Cast

Nicely Nicely Johnson - Kevin Passey  
 Benny Southwest - Nick Thompson  
 Rusty Charlie - Martin Newell  
 Sarah Brown - Louise Petrie  
 Arvide Abernathy - Chris Godwin  
 Agatha - Sheryl Westoby  
 Harry the Horse - Andrew Griffiths  
 Lt. Brannigan - Tony Wells  
 Nathan Detroit - Gareth Wigg  
 Miss Adelaide - Lizzy Nicholson  
 Sky Masterson - Johnny Goddard  
 Mimi - Flo Mayo  
 General Matilda Cartwright - Kate Russell  
 Big Jule - Stewart Cooper  
 Master of Ceremonies - Brinley Morgan

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In 1930's New York, con man and gambler Nathan Detroit has to find a new home for his illegal craps (dice) game. He doesn't have enough money and to solve the problem he bets Sky Masterson, a high stakes gambler, that he won't succeed in taking a "doll" chosen by Nathan on a date to Havana, Cuba. Sky agrees to the bet and Nathan chooses Sarah Brown of Broadway's Save a Soul Mission. While persuading Sarah to make the trip, Sky falls in love with her.

Well known songs like "A Bushel and a Peck", "Guys and Dolls", "Take Back Your Mink", "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat" immediately come to mind, written by the multi-talented award winning American lyricist and composer Frank Loesser.

Come and join us one and all for our next musical adventure!

## Rehearsals 😊

In the Sewers!



### Hot Box Girls



### Various Scenes





Mission Band

**We promise you lots of action!!! 😊**



*"Guys and Dolls", here's the thing.*

*"Sue me" if you like but we have a show and it's on 3rd - 6th April. Now "If I were a bell" that would be enough to get your attention but Facebook and Newsletter will have to do.*

*"My time of day" is 7:30pm and "I'll know" if you've bought your tickets to come and support us. "More I cannot wish you" than to "Sit down" (you're rocking the boat) at "The oldest established" Savoy theatre in Monmouth for this amazing show.*

*See you there!*

Thanks to Nick Thompson alias Benny 😊

*Brain Teaser! Who were the leading film stars in the 1955 Movie Film  
"Guys and Dolls"?  
Answer at foot of newsletter*

## **We have some exciting news!**

Dee McIlroy of NODA has sent her nominations for this year's awards. We have been nominated for the following:—

Best Supporting Individual Performance MT – Adrian Whitehead for Eddie Souther in Sister Act

Best Musical Theatre Production – HMS Pinafore and Sister Act

Best Stage Management & Technical - Sister Act

The awards ceremony will be on Saturday 15th June at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford.

Well done to everyone involved in these shows. They are team efforts.



for  
our autumn show  
which will be.....

# Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe"

The Society last performed this in November 1993 so it will be new to most of us! Show week is 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

There's some lovely music and we will have some great costumes from the ladies at Worcester. ☺

**MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE**  
Registered Charity No. 1154731

*presents*

# Iolanthe

By Gilbert and Sullivan

*The Musical Story of Love, Fairies  
and the House of Lords*

**September 18th, 19th & 20th**  
*at*  
**The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth**

Adults £12 Children £8  
Tickets from The Savoy Box Office  
01600 772467 [www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk](http://www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk)

[www.monmouthmt.co.uk](http://www.monmouthmt.co.uk)

MONMOUTH  
musictheatre

noda  
In partnership with...

It is with sadness that we also remember **Bill Griffiths** who sadly passed away in November. He is always fondly remembered for his gentle, quiet ways but big heart.



Bill and his wife Doreen were in the society for many years and since leaving had always supported our productions.

In fact it has always been a family affair with MMT as Andrew and Liz (their son and daughter) have also had long connections with the society. Liz will be appearing as a Hot Box Girl and Andrew as Harry the Horse, one of the crap game characters in *Guys and Dolls*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
**Lizzy Nicholson and Gareth Wigg**  
 Alias Nathan and Adelaide  
 On their Engagement



Yes! They really are a match made in heaven!  
 I wonder if they will have 6 kids???!!! 😊

Join us for our  
AGM  
**Wednesday 15th May 2019**  
Monmouth Methodist Hall  
@ 7.30pm

We are always looking for fresh faces and new ideas on the committee.  
There are various roles available to fill / shadow .....  
chairperson, treasurer, publicity, secretaries (minute, membership, show)  
or maybe sit as a committee member.

We want YOU on board!



COFFEE MORNING  
AT  
THE PRIORY  
ON  
SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Join us for a hot cuppa and slice of cake!

We welcome any relevant contributions to our newsletter. Please send any items you wish to be included to:-

Sheryl @ [shez.westoby@btinternet.com](mailto:shez.westoby@btinternet.com)

Have you any fundraising ideas?

Please inform the committee - we must continue raising funds to enable us to put on these great shows!





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<http://www.facebook.com/monmouthmusictheatre>



If you no longer wish to receive MMT Newsletters please reply to this email with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE. Thank you.

*Next Spring 2020 Production*  
*To be announced shortly.....*

*Brain Teaser Answer:*

