

THE *gallery*
PLAYERS
present

Sondheim's most
personal masterpiece

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

with
George

music & lyrics Stephen Sondheim
book James Lapine

THE *gallery*
STUDIO
THEATRE
ipswich

Stephen Sondheim - a personal view

Next week will mark a year since *Stephen Sondheim's* passing. He was still attending shows a few days before his death, he had recently collaborated on the new *West Side Story* movie and had appeared (via a voicemail) in *Lin-Manuel Miranda's* film of *Jonathan Larson's Tick Tick Boom*. And there's a still to be aired cameo performance in a new *Netflix* film '*Glass Onion*', alongside none other than the very recently departed original *Mrs Lovett, Angela Lansbury*! Certainly an incredibly full life even in his latter years.

At 91 his death cannot be thought premature or surprising, but it has been deeply felt by all those that admired him.

His work bridged the classic era of *Rogers & Hammerstein* and ushered in what we now recognise as modern musical theatre. *Rogers and Hammerstein* themselves had changed the 'Musical' from a 'revue' of songs into an art form where songs and story were linked and the songs moved the story on rather than detracted from it.

Sondheim took it further. The songs and 'book' in a *Sondheim* show are virtually fused together. It is difficult to remove the songs and look at them alone, but that's not the point, as within the piece they are vital, and electric!

I'm not going to get technical about his work, to me that's losing the magic. As in this show if you get too close you just see dots, you have to 'stand back' to take in the full splendour.

His biography is fascinating and really worth a read. An unhappy and unsettled home life leading him to spending a lot of time with his friend *James Hammerstein*, and being taken under the wing of James' father *Oscar (Hammerstein!!)*

We don't have space to mention all his shows. Most will have heard of the more well known:- *Into the Woods* and *Sweeney Todd*, possibly from their recent film adaptations, *A Little Night Music* (the 'home' of *Send in the Clowns*), and don't forget the two massive shows he 'cut his teeth' on by supplying the lyrics, *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*.

But if you haven't, I urge you to delve deeper and catch a performance of *Passion, Company, Assassins, Follies, Pacific Overtures* or *Merrily We Roll Along*. Each one so different:- one goes backwards, one tells of the westernisation of Japan, one a complex love triangle in a remote Italian military town, one the regrets of ageing showgirls, and another the motivation for those who've tried to murder American Presidents.

If *Sondheim* had only written *any* one of his shows he would have been lauded, but when you look at the breadth and diversity of his whole catalogue it is no wonder he is held in such awe by fellow creatives.

In 1970 he wrote '*Company*', a 'concept' show about marriage. It shook up the relatively 'safe' genre of musical theatre. *Sondheim* showed, as had *Hammerstein*, that musical theatre could tackle serious subjects. *Sondheim* also showed that the music within them could be multilayered and 'clever' as well as beautiful, it didn't have to be 'twee'.

You could be forgiven to think a man with such talent would have been insufferable, a huge ego, impossible to work with and unwilling to pass on his knowledge? But *Sondheim* was none of these. He was a true collaborator, whenever he won any of his numerous awards he would always be at pains to point out the contributions of others most notably the playwrights and orchestrators he worked with. He supported many upcoming artists, *Jonathan Larson (Rent & Tick, Tick, Boom)* and *Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton)* among them. And in 1990, *Sondheim* was made the first *Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre* at *Oxford University*, spending a year working with students learning their craft (including *Stiles & Drew of Honk!, Betty Blue Eyes*, and *Mary Poppins* fame!) As *Hammerstein* had passed on his knowledge to *Sondheim* he, in turn, was passionate about doing the same to the next generation. He also embraced the 're-inventions' of his shows as new generations of Directors found inspiration and new angles to present them. An example of his magnanimity can be seen in his letter to *Jason Carr* who's beautiful orchestral arrangements were used in the landmark production at the *Menier Chocolate Factory's* production of '*Sunday in the Park with George*' in 2005 and who has kindly given us permission to use them for our production.

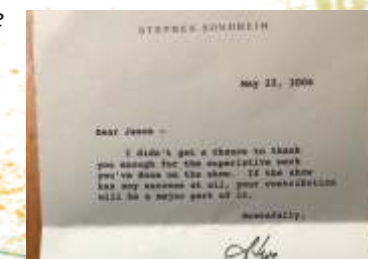
Each of his shows has been an utter joy to present and *Gallery Players* without *Sondheim* is unthinkable.

'*Sunday*' is possibly his most personal show, the art of making art, and we are thrilled to present it to you tonight. Thank you *Mr Sondheim*.

Steve Taplin



Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine with the original George & Dot (Mandy Patinkin and Bernadette Peters)



Sondheim and gallery players



Sweeney Todd
The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
1998



Passion
2006



photo Denis Taplin



Into The Woods
1994



Pacific Overtures
1997



photo Denis Taplin

A Little Night Music
1992



photo Denis Taplin

Follies
2009



Assassins
1994



A Funny Thing Happened
on the way to the Forum
2001



Merrily We Roll Along
2004



Company
1989

photo Denis Taplin



photo Denis Taplin

Into The Woods
2013

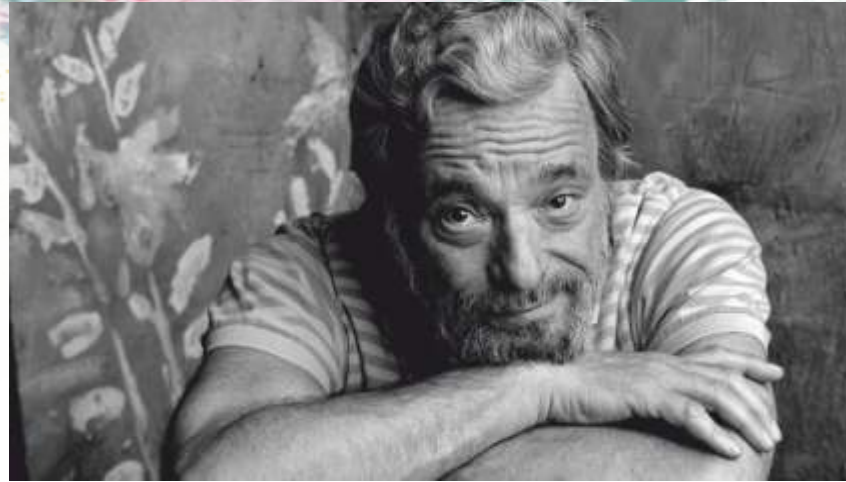


photo Dave Bortwick

Loving you is why I do
The things I do
Loving you is not in my
control.
But loving you, I have a goal
For what's left of my life...

I would live,
And I would die for you.

No one's gonna hurt you
No one's gonna dare
Others can desert you
Not to worry, whistle, I'll be
there
Demons will charm you with a
smile
For a while
But in time
Nothing can harm you
Not while I'm around



stephen sondheim
1930 - 2021

There's a place for us,
Somewhere a place for us.
Peace and quiet and open air
wait for us,
somewhere.

Hard to see the light now
Just don't let it go
Things will come off right now
We can make it so
Someone is on your side
No one is alone

Anything you do, let it come from you.
Then it will be new.
Give us more to see...

Just when I'd stopped
opening doors,
Finally knowing the one that
I wanted was yours
Making my entrance again
with my usual flair
Sure of my lines
No one is there

And all I ever dreamed I'd be,
The best I ever thought of
me,
Is every minute there to see
In Buddy's eyes.

Somebody crowd me with love.
Somebody force me to care.
Somebody let me come through,
I'll always be there,
As frightened as you,
To help us survive,
Being alive.

georges
seurat
his art
in his
words

"I painted like that because I wanted to get through to something new - a kind of painting that was my own."



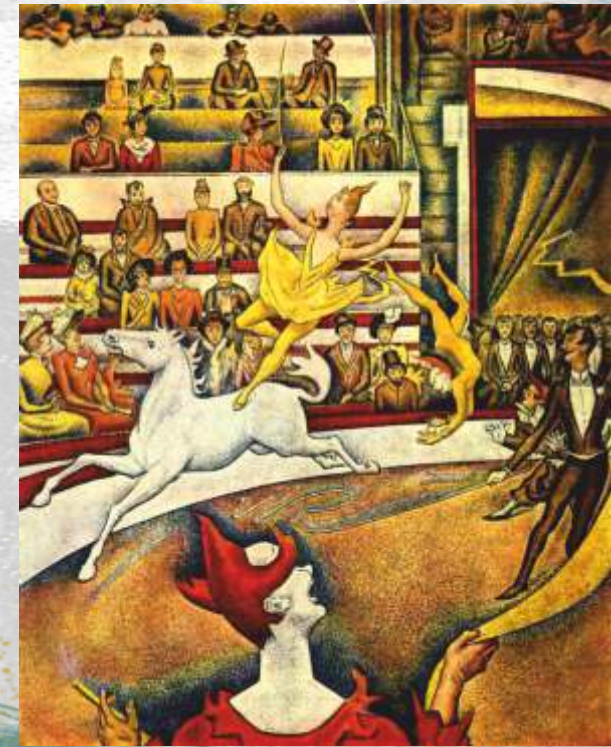
"Let's go and get drunk on the light again – it has the power to console."

"Some say they see poetry in my paintings; I see only science."

"Under a blazing mid-afternoon summer sky, we see the Seine flooded with sunshine . . . people are strolling, others are sitting or stretched out lazily on the bluish grass."



"Harmony is the analogy of contrary and similar elements of tone, of colour, and of line, conditioned by the dominant key, and under the influence of a particular light, in gay, calm, or sad combinations."



yellow
PLAYERS

Sondheim's most
personal masterpiece

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

with
George

music & lyrics Stephen Sondheim
book James Lapine

Creative Team

Director **Steve Taplin**
Assistant Director **Lucy Mellamphy**
Musical Director **Olly Wood**
Set Design **Dave Borthwick**
Lighting and Sound Design **James Aleksic**
Costumes **Lucy Mellamphy** and **Steve Taplin**
Dot, Yvonne's & Soldier's hats **Dave Borthwick**

Production Team

Stage Manager **Helen Nock**
ASM & LX Operator **Rachel Doy**
SX Engineer/Operator **James Aleksic**
Props Manager **Herbie Taplin**

Band

(under the direction of **Olly Wood**)
Piano **Olly Wood**
Keys/Synth **Matthew Snow**
Violin **Jess Bobby**
Cello **Katherine Joyson**
Reeds **Maddie Wegg**

Orchestrations

Jason Carr

(originally prepared for the 2005 Menier Chocolate Factory
production)

Act 1 1884-1886 Paris

Georges, an artist **Wade Ablitt**
Dot, the mistress of Georges and his model **Evie White**
An Old Lady, Georges' mother **Stephanie Brown**
Her Nurse **Aimee Salmon**
Jules, another artist **Martin Leigh**
Yvonne, his wife **Helen Wheatley**
A Boatman **Dayle Saunders**
Celeste #1, a shop girl **Martha Mugford**
Celeste #2, another shop girl **Chloe Brown**
Louise, the young daughter of Jules and Yvonne **Misty Taplin**
Franz, coachman to Jules and Yvonne **Simon Hoyle**
Frieda, cook for Jules and Yvonne and wife to Franz **Charlotte Sampson**
A Soldier **Glyn Lee**
Mr & Mrs, an American couple **Roger Jackaman & Jan Simmons**
Louis, a baker and Dot's husband to be **Charlie Leggett**

Act 2 1984 Chicago & Paris

George, an artist **Wade Ablitt**
Marie, George's grandmother **Evie White**
Dennis, a technician **Glyn Lee**
Bob Greenberg, the Institute director **Charlie Leggett**
Naomi Eisen, a composer **Charlotte Sampson**
Harriet Pawling, a patron of the arts **Jan Simmons**
Billy Webster, her friend **Roger Jackaman**
Charles Redmond, a visiting curator **Martin Leigh**
Alex, an artist **Dayle Saunders**
Betty, another artist **Chloe Brown**
Lee Randolph, the institute's publicist **Martha Mugford**
Blair Daniels, art critic **Helen Wheatley**
Elaine, George's former wife **Aimee Salmon**
A waiter **Simon Hoyle**
A woman in the Gallery **Susan Taplin**



Misty Taplin

'Let's go throw stones at the ducks'



Glyn Lee

'My name? Napoleon - some people feel I should change it!'



Helen Wheatley

'I rather fancied Georges'



Roger Jackaman

'Paris looks nothin' like the paintings!'



Jan Simmons

'Let me try Daddy!'



Charlie Leggett

'Cream Puffs!'



Martin Leigh

'I am completely out of proportion'



Wade Ablitt

'Pretty isn't beautiful, pretty is what changes. What the eye arranges, is what is beautiful.'



Evie White

'..there are only two worthwhile things to leave behind when you depart this world, children and art.'



Simon Hoyle

'I was never intended for work'



Aimee Salmon

'Nobody can even see my profile!'



Dayle Saunders

'.....pens & pencils, not pricks!'



Stephanie Brown

'You cannot eat paintings my dear, not when there is bread in the oven!'



Charlotte Sampson

'Franz, I believe that artist is drawing us'



Martha Mugford

'At least I have a reputation! You could not attract a fly to flypaper!'



Chloe Brown

'No, no. I didn't really mean odd ...'



'jeune femme se poundrant'
Georges real life Dot,
Madeleine Knobloch. She was
Seurat's model and mistress.
They had a child together,
Pierre-Georges, born in the
summer of 1890.

georges seurat

his painting and his Paris



The Parisian Follies



The only known photograph
of Georges Seurat



Ecole des Beaux Arts. The second of two
art schools Seurat attended in Paris.



Pointillism or Divisionism
small dots and dashes of
separate colours fused in your
eye rather than mixed on the canvas



Le Ciel and L'Enfer cabarets



Thirty two million people visited
the 1889 Exposition Universelle.
The tallest structure in the world,
the Eiffel Tower was specifically
commissioned for it.



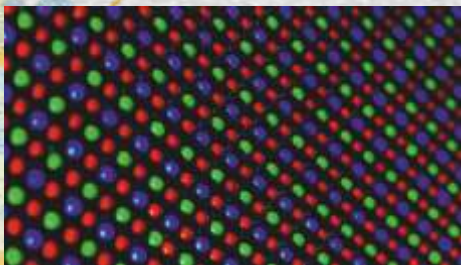
The infamous Le Moulin Rouge



The 'Flower Pot' hat



I was drawing the monkeys, not the cage!



RGB TV/Monitor Screens
Individual LED's coloured Red, Green or Blue in
different combinations. Fused in the eye rather
than on the screen. Sounds familiar?



Aman-Jean by Seurat.
His first exhibited drawing
and with whom he shared a studio



Late 19th Century Paris was a vibrant centre
for the artistic and scientific communities of the whole world



The Island of la Grande Jatte. A meeting
place for the upper, middle and working
classes of 1880's Paris



photo Mike Kwasniak

Acknowledgements

Judith Peeling & Platform Musicals
 Dave King, Headgate Theatre
 New Wolsey Theatre
 Bridget Jackaman, IODS
 Coes Menswear Ipswich
 John & Linda Pollard
 Maureen Whelton, Appeal Theatre Group
 Norman Rutterford
 Maggie Mudd
 All the Studio DM's and FOH Helpers
 Jason Carr
 Rupert Sharp, MTI Europe
 Equipment Hire - JLA Sound and Light
 Mike Kwasniak
Bathers at Asnières by *George Seurat*, kindly
 loaned by the National Gallery
 Phil Cory
 Steve Wooldridge
 Set Construction - Dave Borthwick &
 Norman Rutterford



Sondheim's most
 personal masterpiece

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

with
George

music & lyrics Stephen Sondheim
 book James Lapine

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE
 Music and Lyrics by
 STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by
 JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James
 Lapine
 Originally Produced on Broadway by
 The Shubert Organization and Emanuel
 Azenberg

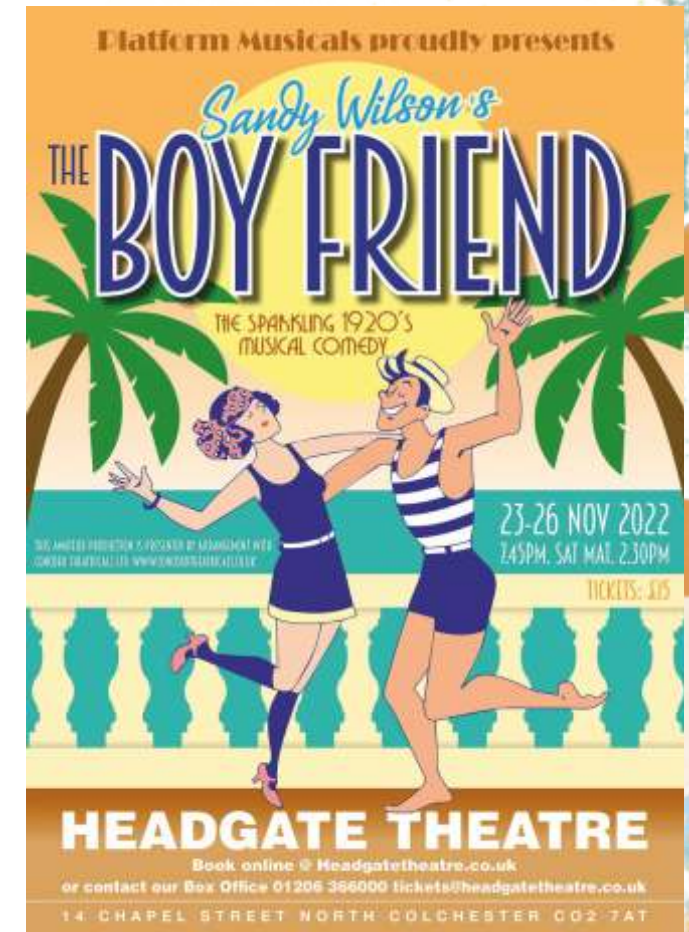
By arrangement with Playwrights Horizon, Inc.
 New York City which produced
 the original production of "Sunday in The Park
 With George" in 1983.

This amateur production is presented by
 arrangement with

Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also
 supplied by MTI

www.mtishows.co.uk



1st

2nd

Daddy Long Legs
the musical

1st

14th - 18th March
The Gallery Studio Theatre
www.gallerystudiotheatre.co.uk
Book by John Galford, Music & Lyrics by Paul Gordon,
Based on the novel by Jean Webster

gallery STUDIO THEATRE

gallery PLAYERS

tribes

a play by Nina Raine

those who can
hear
don't always
listen

22 - 27 may
the gallery studio theatre,
ipswich
www.gallerystudiotheatre.co.uk

KNOW YOUR ENEMY * 21 GUNS * WALKING DEAD * SUBURBIA
HOLIDAY * WAKE ME UP WHEN SEPTEMBER ENDS * S
BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS * AMERICAN IDIOT

american IDIOT

GREEN DAY'S

MUSIC BY GREEN DAY
BOOK BY BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG
& MICHAEL MAYER

SUMMER 2023

gallery STUDIO THEATRE

gallery PLAYERS

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

BY MANUEL PUIG
AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION ALLAN BAKER
26 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023
TICKETS FROM £11

gallery STUDIO THEATRE

THE gallery PLAYERS present

2023 season

THE gallery PLAYERS present

Piaf

by pam gems

November 2023

THE gallery STUDIO THEATRE ipswich

THE
gallery
PLAYERS
have presented

**exceptional theatre,
since 1985!**

1985 Cowardy Custard, 1986 Happy as a Sandbag, 1987 Sail Away, 1988 Something's Afoot, 1989 Company, 1990 The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, 1991 The Hired Man, 1992 Snoopy - The Musical, A Little Night Music, 1993 Stepping Out, Cabaret, 1994 Assassins, The Ghost Train, Into the Woods, Hobson's Choice, 1995 Man of La Mancha, Steel Magnolias, City of Angels, Scent of Flowers, 1996 Little Shop of Horrors, The Most Happy Fella, Blue Remembered Hills, 1997 Dancing at Lughnasa, Pacific Overtures, Chicago, Hard Times, 1998 The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Sweeney Todd (The Demon Barber of Fleet Street), Shadowlands, Something's Afoot, 1999 Carnival, Trip to Bountiful, The Boys From Syracuse, Tons of Money, 2000 On Golden Pond, The Bakers Wife, Kiss of the Spiderwoman, A Slice of Saturday Night, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, 2001 Mrs Warren's Profession, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Billy, Breezblock Park, 2002 The Memory of Water, Flora The Red Menace, A Slice of Saturday Night, Radio Times, 2003 Kiss Me Like You Mean It, Days of Hope, Honk!, And A Nightingale Sang, 2004 Bouncers, Merrily We Roll Along, Talking Heads, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, 2005 Kindertransport, She Loves Me, A Night At The Dogs, 2006 Amy's View, Passion, With Love, Colder Than Here, 2007 This Happy Breed, Grand Hotel, You Want Chilli Sauce With That & Marry Me A Little, The Sunshine Boys, 2008 Oh Kay!, Spend Spend Spend, To Kill A Mockingbird, 2009 The Long Road, Follies, Flare Path, 2010 Ordinary Days, Rent, Spring & Port Wine, 2011 My Mother Said I Never Should, Our House, Heroes, 2012 Putting it Together, Love Story, Be My Baby, 2013 A Man of No Importance, Into the Woods, The Importance of Being Earnest, 2014 Oh What a Lovely War!, Galileo, The History Boys, 2015 A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, Hairspray, A Streetcar Named Desire, 2016 Jumpers For Goalposts, The House Of Bernarda Alba, Spring Awakening, Ushers, 2017 Urinetown, Far From The Madding Crowd, 2018 Wolf Hall, Grow Up Grandad, Lucky Stiff, 2019 The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Lady In The Van, A New Brain, 2020 Gallery @ 35 (an online celebration), 2021 The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Macbeth, Bully Boy/Mortuary Sisters (a double bill), 2022 Celebrating Sondheim, Gutenberg - The Musical, Di & Viv & Rose, Come Back to the Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4 - The Musical, Sunday in the Park with George.

Future Productions:-

For our exciting 2023 season see more details in this programme or for more info on all these wonderful shows please see our website.

getting by with a little help from our friends.....

www.galleryplayers.co.uk for more info.

Gallery Players (CIO). Charity number:- 1186641

THE
gallery
friends scheme

Gallery Players started back in 1985. *Pat Taplin* decided, with a group of friends, that in order to get the kind of *Theatre* they wanted to see performed locally, they'd have to do it themselves. Mounting lesser known, rarely produced plays and musicals has always been our forte and we'd like to think we've been doing it rather well for close to 40 years!

Although this direction brings many freedoms, to uncover hidden and forgotten gems of theatre that other groups wouldn't tackle, it can also be financially challenging for us, as we inevitably take more box office risks.

In 2021 we took another 'leap', moving into our very own premises, **The Gallery Studio Theatre**. A dream for a decade had been realised.

The opportunities the **Studio** gives us are immense, no rushed get-ins a couple of days before opening night, the ability to rehearse and build a show in the same space it will be performed in - all huge positives.

The 'flip' side, of course, will be paying a 'commercial' rent and all the associated costs that go with running and maintaining the building.

Since 2019 **Gallery Players** has been a *Charity* and every penny we make goes back into the shows and the upkeep and improvement of **The Studio**.

So, we're asking for a little help from you, our dear friends and supporters.

We don't just want to 'get by with a little help as the *Beatles* sang, we want to **Thrive and Flourish!**

We were hoping you'd consider making a manageable monthly donation?

Perhaps **£2.50, £5 or £10**, nothing silly (unless you wanted to!) which over a year would build to be incredibly useful to us and most welcome. Furthermore, if you are a tax payer this amount could grow 25% at no cost to you through *Gift Aid*.

More details of the scheme are on our website (www.galleryplayers.co.uk) along with a link to join it. There's also leaflets in the Studio foyer .

Our first & current friends are:-

Hattie Bennett, Di Borthwick, Sarah Caddick, Theo Clarke & Sonia Duncan, Stuart Hume, and Teresa & Paul Jennings
What a lovely bunch you are!

Thank-you all for supporting our shows and perhaps you to will consider becoming a 'Gallery Friend' too?



Daddy Long Legs

the musical



1ST

14th-18th March
The Gallery Studio Theatre
www.GalleryStudioTheatre.co.uk
Book by John Caird, Music & Lyrics by Paul Gordon,
Based on the novel by Jean Webster