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"elicits laughter right from the off."
☆☆☆☆ *The Scotsman*

USHERS

the front of house musical!



music by yiannis koutsakos lyrics by james oban & yiannis koutsakos
book & additional lyrics by james rottger

GALLERY
PLAYERS

USHERS

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Directors Notes

It has been an absolute pleasure working on this little gem of a show. Together with Dan we have created a fun, dynamic and 'showbiz' piece of theatre whilst keeping the sensitive moments touching, real and connected to the character. The cast and creative's have worked relentlessly over the past few months to pull this high energy, action packed musical together. I have had a blast helping Dan to create his initial vision for Ushers. So sit back relax and enjoy the theatrical ride!

Director – Emily Watt

Being able to work with Emily on directing and choreographing this show has been such a pleasure. She has taken my initial idea for the show and helped it to become even more than I thought it could be. So a huge thank you to Emily! I love a bit of a cheese and this has taken it to the max! As both Emily and I have had experience in working front of house at theatres we know how true this show is. It's been a pleasure working alongside Emily, Richard and Kim to help bring the show together and I couldn't have asked for a more committed, hard working and patient cast for the show. Having Mali-Beth on board designing the show has been a joy; bringing an Edinburgh Fringe feel to the set, costume and props has helped to us keep the feel of the original show whilst making it our own! We have included so many references to musicals both old and new to make this the stagiest show on earth! I hope you enjoy the show as much as we have rehearsing it.

Assistant Director – Dan Moore



Creative Team

Director – Emily Watt

Assistant Director – Dan Moore

Musical Director – Richard Healey

Choreography – Dan Moore & Emily Watt

Tap Choreography – Kimberley Healey

Set Design – Mali-Beth Roberts

Lighting Design – Mali-Beth Roberts & Dan Moore

Videography – Wilfred Duggan

Lighting Operator – Betty Charlton

Sound and Audio Visual Operator – Bradley Hardman

Stage Manager – Mali-Beth Roberts

Assistant Stage Manager – Emily Watt

Props – New Wolsey Theatre, Mali-Beth Roberts & Dave Borthwick

Costumes – Mali-Beth Roberts & Co-Op Juniors

Publicity – Peter Ling, Dan Moore & Steve Taplin

Producer – Steve Wooldridge

Photography – Aimee Robinson

Set Construction – Dave Borthwick, Will Dowe, Norman Rutterford, Melvin Mayhew, Steve Wooldridge & Mali-Beth Roberts

Cast Reflections

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Dan Moore – Gary

Playing Gary has been so much fun! Getting to work with a talented bunch of people each bringing something new to the show has been a joy. Gary and I are very similar and it's sometimes hard to separate us but hopefully you can. I am a full on theatre lover so this show has been so much fun for me to perform and I hope you enjoy it! But please no photos in the auditorium!

Stephen Watt – Robin Pockets

I am thrilled to be back doing a musical with the Gallery Players after spending the last 5 years living in London. It's been a wicked show to be involved with. Rehearsals have been a blast and we have all got along so well (even though I have felt like an old man). It has been really enjoyable playing Robin, I've not played many baddies before; I feel sorry for him. He just wants to be happy and successful. I hope you have as much fun watching Ushers tonight as we have had rehearsing it. Remember if you want to take drinks into the theatre, you'll need a plastic cup!

Stephen Bell – Ben

With Ushers being my first Gallery Players show, I am happy to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Ben. Working with such talented, hard-working and hilarious people has always made our rehearsals the highlight of my week and this is one show that I will not forget anytime soon! Thank you to Gallery for letting me be a part of such a fabulously stagey musical and I hope you enjoy the show!

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Lucy Mellamphy – Rosie

Ushers is my first show with Gallery and I am loving every stage second of it. The energy and banter has been on top form since the first rehearsal, with everyone bouncing off of each other's personalities. Rosie is ridiculous and overdramatic and is such a fun part to play. Hope you enjoy all the spontaneous dance breaks, we're already exhausted!

Bronwyn Cooper – Lucy

Working with such a small cast and such a talented bunch of people has made this experience all the more enjoyable! The support we give each other is second to none especially as I'm not the strongest dancer. I have been encouraged to get out of my comfort zone and feel like I've achieved something while working on this project. I want to thank Dan Moore and the Gallery Players for giving me the part of Lucy who is such a fun loving character! I can't wait to perform 'Ushers: the Front of House Musical' at the Sir John Mills theatre.

Peter Ling – Stephen

It's been a joy to join the Gallery Players for Ushers and what a show to kick off with. The whole process has been an amazing blur of jokes, laughs and hard graft, and the cast have been a pleasure to work with. It's been a real comfort to perform alongside such a talented, committed and brilliant group of people! I'm very proud of the show we've created, and I hope you can enjoy the finished product as much as we've enjoyed the process. I'll be Phantom one day...

Musical Numbers

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Act One

Welcome – Company
Spend Per Head – Robin Pocketts & Company
Leading Men – Rosie & Men
Induction – Stephen, Rosie, Ben, Gary & Lucy
The Parts I Could Play – Stephen
Dreams & Ice-Creams – Lucy
(It's Time To) Let Go – Ben
Interval Preparations – Company

Act Two

Welcome Back – Company
Half Finished Story – Gary
The Ballard Of Robin Pocketts – Robin Pocketts
Loving You Is All I Know – Gary & Ben
The Ballard Of Robin Pocketts (Reprise) – Robin Pocketts
Goodbye – Company

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts during which refreshments will be served.

Cast

Lucy Bronwyn Cooper
Rosie Lucy Mellamphy
Ben Stephen Bell
Gary Dan Moore
Stephen Peter Ling
Robin Pocketts Stephen Watt

Keyboard Richard Healey
Voice Overs Sam Horsfield, Emily Watt, Lucy Allen & Wilfred Duggan





Fringe Theatre

Fringe theatre is theatre that is experimental with its style and/or subject matter. It is equivalent to New York's 'Off-Off-Broadway' with the performances taking place in small scale/black box theatres. The term came from the Edinburgh festival (Fringe Festival), which is well known for its controversial and unique performances.

Ushers was originally created as a piece of fringe theatre in 2013 where it was performed Off-Off-West End at The Hope Theatre and moved to The Charing Cross Theatre for a 4 month run in 2014. The show was then taken to Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2015 and has been taken back by an amateur company in the season just gone. The show has only recently become available for licensing and the Gallery Players will be the 4th amateur company in the UK to produce the show.

We have aimed to try and keep the Fringe theatre feel to Ushers, keeping the show as minimalistic as possible as we have attempted to condense the props down to the 5 large cardboard boxes you will see on stage, so some imagination may be needed. Additionally the cast acting as some of your Ushers for the evening selling you the programme you have just bought, Ice-creams at the interval and running our on stage cloakroom*.

We hope you enjoy a little taste into fringe theatre and let's just say you will never be late to a show ever again!

*NOTE: Please do not leave any valuable items in the cloakroom, we may use your items in the show.

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Gallery Players were formed in 1985 by Pat Taplin to produce rarely performed plays and musicals that larger companies would find uneconomic or which only use a few actors. The company quickly established a reputation for quality and excellence. Our aims are broadly speaking:

To exploit a niche for staging productions that are progressive and exciting in both content and execution.

To embrace both new and established works.

To act as vehicle for engaging new talent as well as established members.

To foster a group of actors and technicians that are truly a community.

To foster links with schools and colleges.

We generally stage three productions a year.

Performing lesser known shows is always difficult, particularly when it comes to building an audience and balancing the books, but by sticking to our aims we have grown an audience, that, hopefully, trust us to produce interesting work.

Although we have a strong pool of performers new blood and talent is always welcome as are people who want to work on the technical side.

The company is run by a small steering group: Dave Borthwick, Helen Clarke, Steve Taplin and Steve Wooldridge.

We encourage other directors to take the reins of their own pet projects, allowing them to cast freely and create individual shows with the backing of our excellent technical and production crew. Our only insistence is that the final show should entertain and stimulate our discerning audience and should exude that sense of professionalism we strive for.

Gallery have won several awards including the NODA Eastern Area Shield for Best Production with 'Carnival' & 'Putting it Together' and the Councillors Cup for 'The Bakers Wife' and 'Kiss Me Like You Mean It'.

Please visit our website at www.galleryplayers.co.uk for details of all our shows past and future. Please sign up with your email address if you would like us to keep you informed of what we are doing and receive our 'newsletters' which will give details of any workshops/auditions we may be holding.

Our Motto is '**Making Theatre Exciting**' which we like to think we do, most of the time!

Acknowledgements

The New Wolsey Theatre. Ipswich Borough Council. 15-52 Sound & Lighting.
David Henshall - East Anglian Daily Times. Stephen Foster - BBC Radio Suffolk.
Alan Ayres & The Co-op Juniors. Chris and Maggie Finbow - Museum St
Methodist Church. Paul Corbett - Great Blakenham Parish Room. Lanterns
Chinese Restaurant, Ipswich. Will Dowe. Norman Rutterford. Melvin Mayhew.
Jon Tavener, Jess Baker and Sir John Mills Theatre. Mike and Zena Stewart -
Station Farm.

Past Shows:-



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 Magnolia's, 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.

Future Production:-

Jane Eyre - a musical drama
(see back page for details)

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Jane Eyre

a musical drama.

Music and lyrics by Paul Gordon.
Book and additional lyrics by John Caird.
From the novel by Charlotte Bronte.



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