

GALLERY
PLAYERS



PUTTING it TOGETHER

a musical 'review' by Stephen Sondheim
concept by Stephen Sondheim and Julia McKenzie



Company - 1989



Merrily We Roll Along - 2004



Assassins - 1994

Me & Mr Sondheim!

It's been a joy working with such a talented group. I saw 'Company' in the West End with Elaine Stritch in the '70s and I was immediately overwhelmed by this fantastic musical which was unlike anything I had ever seen before.

I have always loved musicals from the time my mother took me to see 'Oklahoma' in the West End just after the war. Rodgers and Hammerstein were also revolutionary in their time, and so is Sondheim. I have been lucky enough to direct or produce all the famous Sondheim musicals for the Gallery Players. Each one is different, but also each has similarities.

They are all demanding of actors, musicians, crew, scenic and lighting designers and I am so lucky to have worked with such talented people who all enjoy Sondheim as much as I do.

They have supported me in them all, and I am so grateful to them for letting me indulge myself!

Pat Taplin - Director



Into The Woods
1994



A Little Night Music - 1992



Sweeney Todd - 1998



Passion - 2006



A Funny Thing ... - 2001



Follies - 2009

PUTTING it TOGETHER

Production Team

Direction	Pat Taplin & Stephanie Brown (Stage Movement)
Musical Direction	Joe Cleary
Choreography	Lindsay Ashford
Design	Dave Borthwick
Lighting Design	Will Dowe
Wardrobe	
Co-ordinator	Pam White
Stage Manager	Mike Wadman
Deputy SM/Props.	Judy Wadman
Assistant SM	
/Sound Technician	Indy Clarke
Follow Spot	Ellie Whitmore
Production Assistants	Helen Clarke, Steve Taplin & Steve Wooldridge
Programme and	
Publicity Co-ordinator	Steve Taplin
Publicity and	
Rehearsal photos	Indy Clarke
Stage & Build Crew	Steve Wooldridge, Rachel Doy, Dave Borthwick, Mel Mayhew, Norman Rutterford, Graham Dowe Marcus Nixon, Duncan Broatch, Martin Roberts, Mike Wadman, Judy Wadman, Indy & Helen Clarke
Coffee Bar & FOH	Members of the Company & Assorted Lovies!

Acknowledgements:

Mike and Zena Steward David Henshall, East Anglian Daily Times
The Buttermarket Centre Woodbridge Library
Museum Street Methodist Church and Chris Finbow
Witnesham Church Penny Griffin
Sue Simmons Sylvia Lowe
Ipswich Operatic and Dramatic Society
Tim and Julie Yeo of the Bencotto Restaurant, Felixstowe.
and everyone at the Sir John Mills Theatre for their patience and generosity.

PUTTING it TOGETHER

Putting It Together charts the relationships of five characters during a small, intimate party in a fashionable New York apartment. The hosts are an affluent, middle-aged husband and wife at a crossroads in their marriage; their guests are a younger, sexy couple who are dating, and an unattached observer. What begins lightheartedly enough eventually reaches an emotional climax. Passion, ambition and jealousy surface in turn as couples split, form new relationships and come back together - all explored through the witty and observant songs of the greatest musical theatre writer of our time.

Putting It Together is neither a revue nor a dramatic musical, but a mixture of the two which features of sequence of songs from Stephen Sondheim's many different shows. It came into being as the result of numerous requests for an "update" of Stephen Sondheim's popular compilation show from 1976, *Side by Side by Sondheim*. Sondheim had long resisted updating that show by interpolating new material, but was finally persuaded by producer Cameron Mackintosh (who produced the original *Side by Side by Sondheim*, as well as the 1987 London production of *Follies*) to consider putting together some kind of "sequel" compilation. They brought in Julia McKenzie, who was one of the original creators and stars of the 1976 *Side by Side by Sondheim*, and was appearing in the 1987 production of *Follies*.

The show was revived to great acclaim in 1999, in a Broadway production which starred Broadway legends Carol Burnett and George Hearn alongside John Barrowman and Ruthie Henshall.

Reviews of the 1999 revival:

"What a swell party it is! The next best thing to a new Sondheim score. The evening glows like a candlelit supper, intimate, tasteful, sophisticated and romantic."

William A. Henry III, *Time*

"Sondheim's songs dig so deep into the emotions that each, like a good poem, condenses a full story into a few stanzas."

Elyse Sommer, review in *CurtainUp*..

Performing this delightful show for Gallery Players are some of the best actor/singers in Suffolk: Stephanie Brown, Shelley Clempson, James Hayward and Mike Cook.



PUTTING it TOGETHER

Cast: Stephanie Brown
Shelley Clempson

Mike Cook

Paul Stone
James Hayward

Pianist: Joe Cleary

Scene: An exclusive apartment in New York
overlooking Central Park.

Time: The Present.

Act 1: A Lunchtime Party

Act 2: An Evening Cocktail Party



Mike Cook

West Side Story, for which Stephen Sondheim wrote the lyrics, has always been something special to me, so I will always be grateful to James Hayward for giving me the opportunity to play A-Rab in Ipswich Operatic's 2004 production. However, my first Sondheim experience came a few years earlier when I was lucky enough to meet the 'musical god' himself while assisting with the West End production of Passion, starring Michael Ball.

Over the years I have been privileged to see some of his work both at the New Wolsey and here at the SJM, but being a part of this delightful pick and mix has not only been an education, it has also ignited a passion to see and hear more. Let's just say my Ipod's musical genre will be getting a makeover!!!

So, now to my character in 'Putting it Together'. Am I a guest...? Am I simply their inner thoughts...? It is an interesting concept and one which we have explored. Well, I'll certainly be having fun at the party, I hope you do too!

James Hayward

As a performer, my first encounter with Stephen Sondheim was in 1989, playing Paul in Gallery's production of his 1970s hit musical 'Company', from which a couple of numbers have found their way into 'Putting It Together'.

By the time you read this, I will have been in a further 5 Sondheims, and that doesn't count directing one of the greatest musicals ever, 'West Side Story', which features his unforgettable lyrics.

Some people think that Sondheim can't write tunes. I think this show is full of them. Some people think that Sondheim can be too clever for his own good. I think he's clever and good.



Shelley Clempson

Sondheim, a 'marmite conundrum': you either love him or hate him - and I love him and have a great appreciation of his songs and lyrics.

Having performed in 3 other Sondheim musicals, my favourite being 'Follies', I knew what lay ahead when I started 'Putting It Together': a lot of hard work, frustration, dedication, joys and challenges.

His songs ring true to me and have such depth and layers to them that they can be interpreted in so many ways. There is so much emotion to his songs; so much going on, so much to think about and they are never boring to learn because he keeps you on your toes.

Sondheim gives you complicated brilliance!

I just hope that I do the songs justice and hopefully make other people appreciate him as much as I do.





Paul Stone

Sondheim isn't easy. Every time you think you can relax into one of his gorgeous songs - one that you think you know - there's another tricky lyric or clever musical development to challenge the performer. And it isn't pretentious cleverness; everything is so thoroughly considered you are constantly finding more depth.

After a light introduction to Sondheim as Pseudolus the slave in his 'A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum', I joined Gallery Players to fill the role of The Beadle in 'Sweeney Todd' and enjoyed a run of shows with Pat and her challenging choice of shows. I also enjoyed Sondheim's lyrics for 'West Side Story' when I played Tony at The Regent.

Apart from a love of Sondheim music, it was the cast Pat had put together that really excited me. It's a privilege to appear alongside some of my favourite performers.

Stephanie Brown

If someone were to ask me to draw up a list of things I wanted to do before I popped my clogs, it wouldn't include bungee jumping, swimming with dolphins or climbing the north face of the Eiger. Oh no, it would be to appear in every Stephen Sondheim musical!

"Putting It Together" is number eight on the list for me but I still have a fair few to go! Favourite roles to date would have to include Mrs Lovett in "Sweeney Todd" and Sally in "Follies."

There's something very exciting, even exhilarating, about learning a new Sondheim show. The perfectionist in me has an intense desire to try to do justice to every clever lyric and every wonderful melody.

Although the process may well bring out your worst language, frantic hair pulling and even a few diva strops, once you've risen to the challenge and have finally cracked it, there's a tremendous sense of achievement. This production has been no exception; extremely hard work, yet lots of fun and an absolute privilege once again to work with such a talented bunch of Sondheim devotees.



Act 1:

Musical Numbers

Invocation and Instructions to the Audience (from *The Frogs*, 1974)
Putting It Together (from *Sunday in the Park with George*, 1983)
Rich and Happy (from *Merrily We Roll Along*, 1981)
Do I Hear A Waltz? (from *Do I Hear A Waltz?*, 1965)
Lovely (from *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, 1962)
Hello, Little Girl (from *Into the Woods*, 1986)
My Husband the Pig (cut from *A Little Night Music*, 1973)
Every Day A Little Death (from *A Little Night Music*, 1973)
Everybody Ought to Have a Maid (from *A Funny Thing* , 1962)
Have I Got A Girl For You (from *Follies*, 1971)
Pretty Women (from *Sweeney Todd*, 1979)
Sooner or Later (from the Warren Beatty film *Dick Tracy*, 1990)
Bang! (cut from *A Little Night Music*, 1973)
Country House (cut from *Follies*, 1971)
Unworthy of Your Love (from *Assassins*, 1990)
Could I Leave You? (from *Follies*, 1971)



Act 2:

Back in Business (from *Dick Tracy*, 1990)
It's Hot up Here (from *Sunday in the Park with George*, 1983)
The Ladies Who Lunch (from *Company*, 1970)
Good Thing Going (from *Merrily We Roll Along*, 1981)
Live Alone and Like It (from *Dick Tracy*, 1990)
More (from *Dick Tracy*, 1990)
There's Always A Woman (cut from *Anyone Can Whistle*, 1964)
Buddy's Blues (from *Follies*, 1971)
Marry Me a Little (cut from *Company*, 1970)
Getting Married Today (from *Company*, 1970)
Being Alive (from *Company*, 1970)
Like It Was (from *Merrily We Roll Along*, 1981)

IPSWICH OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENT AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF:

Oliver!

IPSWICH
REGENT

Box Office:
01473 433100

Visit us at
www.iods.co.uk



or find us
on Facebook



April 18th – 21st 2012

A Glorious Show for the Whole Family!

Music, lyrics and book by Lionel Bart.

Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick and Donald Albery.

By arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Limited of New York.



Gallery Players was 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.

The Gallery Players founder is Pat Taplin who has recently stepped down from running the group and now acts as President. The company is now run by a small steering group: Dave Borthwick, Helen Clarke, Richard Healey, 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 Players have won several awards including the NODA Eastern Area Shield for Best Production with Carnival in 1999 and the Councillors Cup in 2000 and 2003 for The Bakers Wife and Kiss Me Like You Mean It.

For more information please phone Steve Taplin (01473 833403) or Steve Wooldridge (01473 413675). To join our mailing list contact either Steve's by phone or email steve@wahoo-clothing.co.uk

Our Motto is 'making theatre exciting' which we like to think we do, most of the time!



'Bit by bit, putting it together,
Piece by piece, only way to make a work of art,
Every moment makes a contribution,
Every little detail plays a part,
Having just a vision's no solution,
Everything depends on execution.'

Friends of Gallery Players

Mrs J. Bolton
Mrs P. Curtis
Mr.Mrs. P. Holder
Mrs. M. Morton
Dennis Pennock
Ally & Roy Riley
John Whitear

Brenda Caddick
Mrs B. Dredge
Jean Harvey
Mr.Mrs.C. Mudd
Philip Rawe
Mr.Mrs E. Smart
Mr.Mrs Quelch

Mrs. D. Cornford
Paul Goymour
Margaret Morphey
Mrs. P. Osborne
Mr.Mrs Richmond-Hardy
Mrs. P. White

If you would like to help us to continue to present our shows to a high standard and, just as importantly, help to raise money to help others, perhaps you would like to become a 'Friend of the Gallery Players'?

You will receive advance information and discount booking forms for all our productions & newsletters.

To become a 'Friend', or for any information on other forms of sponsorship or advertising please contact Steve Taplin on 01473 833403 or email steve@wahoo-clothing.co.uk

Honorary Friends:- Gary Avis,
Margaret Haddock & Michael Morton

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.

Forthcoming Shows:- 'Love Story'

Summer 2012 (see back page for details)



GALLERY
PLAYERS
present
ipart

"'Love Story is a delightful,
five- star boutique musical,
artistically innovative,
simple and beautiful"
The Daily Mail

*Music and Additional Lyrics
by HOWARD GOODALL*

*Book and Lyrics by
STEPHEN CLARK*

*Original production directed
by RACHEL KAVANAUGH*

A beautiful new musical

LOVE STORY

JULY
11-14
2012

BY ERICH SEGAL

BOX OFFICE 01473 295 900
NEW WOLSEY THEATRE, IPSWICH

*Original London production presented by MICHAEL BALL, ADAM SPIEGEL, STEPHEN
WALEY-COHEN & ROS POVEY. Originally produced at Chichester Festival Theatre*