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THESPIANS

The Gondoliers



MARCH 2011

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Best wishes to Hitchin Thespians
on their forthcoming production of
'THE GONDOLIERS'

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HITCHIN THESPIANS
present



The Gondoliers

by W.S. Gilbert &
Sir Arthur Sullivan



Director
LINDA DYNE

Musical Director
CHARLIE WAKELY

Thursday 10th - Saturday 12th March 2011
The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage

Box Office: 01438 363200 Web: www.gordon-craig.co.uk

www.hitchinthespians.org.uk



From the Chairman...

Good evening and welcome to our production of The Gondoliers.

Like many musical societies our roots are firmly within the Savoy Opera tradition.

Most of our early shows were from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire with The Gondoliers itself being performed on four separate occasions between 1907 and 1948. The Gondoliers is a delightful piece, full of colour and wit and many memorable musical highlights. Our production team of Linda Dyne and Charlie Wakely have brought their love of Gilbert and Sullivan to Hitchin Thespians and have helped us to bring together what promises to be a memorable evening. I hope you enjoy this evening's show and look forward to seeing you at other Hitchin Thespians events through the year.

Tom Evans

The Committee 2010 - 2011

CHAIRMAN: Tom Evans

VICE CHAIRMAN: Ann Crook

SECRETARY: Lynne Leggat

TREASURER: Mark Savage

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Alex Evans

BUSINESS MANAGER: Position Vacant

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING:

Vivienne Tadman

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Mike Roberts, Holly Böhme

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HONORARY MEMBERS: Bert Broe, Mollie Gilbert, Edgar Gilbert, Roger Heath, Bernard Mallett, Jim Snell, Justin Thomas

Woodside Hall Available for Hire

Hitchin Thespians have their own rehearsal Hall, Woodside Hall next to the Queen Mother Theatre in Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, which is available for group activities or private function hire. It is well equipped, with a main hall holding up to 200 people, a smaller room off, which can accommodate about 40 adjacent to a big kitchen. There is a fully stocked bar, good toilets including facilities for the disabled and baby nappy change. There is also a good size lawn and free parking for six cars outside. There is a ramp for wheelchair access.



For further details contact Ann Crook:

Email: woodsidebookings@hitchinthespians.org.uk **Tel:** 01462434181

The Production Team



Linda Dyne
Director

Linda is delighted to have been asked back to direct 'The Gondoliers' for Hitchin Thespians. Rehearsals have been a delight and hugely entertaining! Surely hard work shouldn't be so much fun! Linda has been busy having had 20 years of TV work and has also been lucky enough to have played some wonderful roles including Guenevere in 'Camelot', Nellie Forbush in 'South Pacific', Eliza in 'My Fair Lady', Miss Adelaide in 'Guys & Dolls', Phyllis in 'Follies', Miss Hannigan in 'Annie' and Sally Bowles in 'Cabaret', but her favourite role was playing Roxie in 'Chicago'.

Linda has just directed 'Jesus Christ Superstar' at the Alban Arena, which has just been awarded Best Musical for the Region in 2010 by NODA. Her next two shows this year are 'Guys & Dolls' (Harpenden) and 'The Producers' (Ting Arts Centre). After 30 years of directing Linda says that she finds it just as exciting as when she started and hopes that she will be asked to direct for the next 30 years. (Well, perhaps not that long for everyone's sake!!)



Charlie Wakely
Musical Director

Charlie was born and raised in Hertfordshire where he studied music from an early age. After spells on stage with St Albans Chamber Opera and St Albans Youth Music he took himself off to Edinburgh University where he spent much time on and off-stage with the Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group. He has been a musical director for societies all over London and the South East, as well as in Edinburgh.

Previous credits include Scottish premieres of 'The Amazons' by John Addison and Gershwin's 'Strike Up The Band'. More recently he has been pleased to conduct works by Gilbert and Sullivan, Stephen Sondheim, Frank Loesser and many others. He has even worked recently on an award-winning Pantomime and as a result will be happy if he never hears 'Bob the Builder (Can We Fix It)' again.

Calling Young Thespians!!

If you are in Year 6 or above come and join Young Thespians who meet every Sunday morning in Woodside Hall, Walsworth Road, near the Queen Mother Theatre, in Hitchin from 10 until 12 pm. We are currently rehearsing for a production of 'The Wiz' to be staged just before Easter 2011. In the summer we will be joining the main choir for a concert of songs from the shows in July.

For more information contact: Ann Crook, 01462 434181 anncrook@btinternet.com or just turn up.



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Synopsis

Act One

The opera opens in Venice with a group of young maidens declaring their love for a pair of gondoliers, Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri. The male chorus adore the young ladies, but the ladies explain that the two brothers must choose first. The two gondoliers pick their brides in a game of blind man's buff. After a bit of cheating Giuseppe picks Tessa, and Marco picks Gianetta.

The Duke and Duchess of Plaza-Toro, their daughter Casilda, and their attendant, Luiz, arrive from Spain to meet Don Alhambra, the Grand Inquisitor. The Duke and Duchess tell their daughter a secret - when she was only six months old, she was married to the son and heir of the King of Barataria. She is indignant, since the union was conducted without her knowledge. Also she is secretly in love with Luiz.

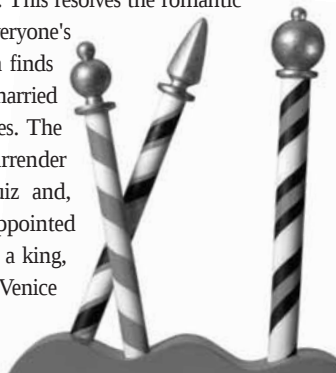
The Grand Inquisitor explains that the prince was raised by Baptisto Palmieri, a humble gondolier, who had a son of his own, but the gondolier forgot which boy was which. The two boys are now both gondoliers themselves. Fortunately, the nurse who took care of the infant prince (and who happens to be Luiz's mother) has been found and she will be able to reveal which of the two gondoliers is the lost prince. Don Alhambra informs Marco and Giuseppe that one of them is the King of Barataria, but no one knows which. Despite being Republicans the gondoliers agree to go to Barataria to rule the kingdom jointly. The Grand Inquisitor tells them that ladies are not allowed until the actual king is identified.

As the two wives are imagining what it will be like to be a queen their friends enter. Marco and Giuseppe promise to reign in a Republican fashion and the men set sail for Barataria leaving their wives behind.

Act Two

In Barataria the gondoliers are enjoying living under "a monarchy that's tempered with Republican equality". It turns out that Marco and Giuseppe have been doing all the work around the palace - it is the privilege of royalty! They are happy enough with this arrangement, but they miss their wives. Soon all the ladies arrive having risked the sea voyage from Venice. The reunited couples have a magnificent banquet and a dance (a cachucha). The Grand Inquisitor arrives and breaks the news that one of the gondoliers had married Casilda when a baby and therefore is an unintentional bigamist. The gondoliers console their wives, who are distraught to discover that neither will be queen and that one is married to someone who's already married. The Duke and Duchess, appalled at the lack of ceremony with which they were received he attempts to educate the two monarchs in proper royal behaviour. Marco and Giuseppe are left alone with Casilda. She agrees to be an obedient wife, but warns them that she is in love with someone else.

Don Alhambra brings in the nurse. She reveals that when the Grand Inquisitor came to steal the prince, she had exchanged him with her own son. Thus, the king is neither Marco nor Giuseppe, but Luiz. This resolves the romantic entanglements to everyone's satisfaction. Casilda finds that she is already married to the man she loves. The two gondoliers surrender their crown to Luiz and, though a bit disappointed that neither will be a king, they can return to Venice with their wives.



The Company

Marco Palmieri	Tom Evans
Giuseppe Palmieri	Michael Niles
Gianetta	Nicola Niles
Tessa	Stephanie Seal
Duke of Plaza-Toro	Ian Hamilton
Duchess of Plaza-Toro	Lynne Leggat
Don Alhambra Del Bolero	Colin Wilson
Luiz	Kier Home
Casilda	Melanie Plowman
Antonio	Matt Hallas
Francesco	Roger Newman Turner
Giorgio	Mike Barker
Fiametta	Jane Stott
Vittoria	Caroline Bonja
Giulia	Rhian Hegarty
Inez	Katy King

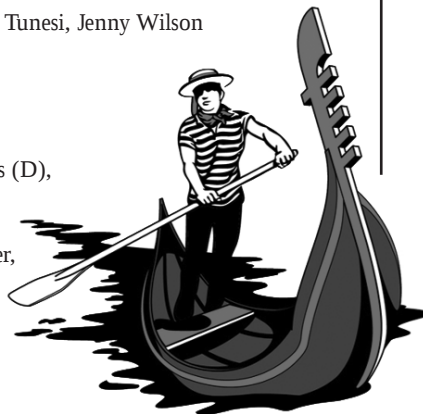
Ladies' Chorus

Jean Austin, Sarah Bailes (D), Holly Böhme (D), Caroline Bonja (D), Judith Coen (D),
 Justine Dickson (D), Belinda Gee (D), Rhian Hegarty (D), Judith Harrison (D),
 Katy King, Susan Osbourn, Sue Rayner (D), Sheila Soothill, Pat Staff,
 Jane Stott, Vivienne Tadman, Melanie Troiano (D), Jane Tunesi, Jenny Wilson

Men's Chorus

Mike Barker (D), Isaac Evans, Iain Fishpool, Matt Hallas (D),
 Stephen Holder (D), Andy Johnson, John Keogh,
 Nick Morgan (D), Tim Neill (D), Roger Newman Turner,
 Mark Savage (D), Bryan Summers

(D) denotes 'Dancer'



The Company



Marco
Tom Evans

Tom has been a member of Hitchin Thespians since 1987 and has played a number of leading roles in that time. Tom's first role with the Society was as Tony in a production of 'The Boyfriend' at Hitchin Town Hall. Last year he took on the challenging role of Harold Hill in 'The Music Man' and between the two he has played leading roles in 'Kiss Me Kate', 'Oklahoma', 'Carousel', 'Chess', 'South Pacific', 'Jekyll and Hyde' and 'The Mikado'... and that's just the shows he has done with us! By day Tom is Headteacher of Martins Wood Primary School, Stevenage and he is also currently Chairman of Hitchin Thespians. How does he fit it all in? Tom says, "If I ever stopped and asked myself this question I'd convince myself I couldn't do half the things I do!"



Gianetta
Nicola Niles

Nicola is thrilled to be singing in another G&S. This is the second time she has played Gianetta, the last time being when she was five months pregnant with her daughter! She performed with Hitchin Thespians last year and played Marion in 'The Music Man'. Other roles include Hodel and Chava in 'Fiddler on the Roof' (different performances!), Yum Yum in 'The Mikado', Phylis in 'Iolanthe', Emma in 'Jekyll and Hyde', Hope Harcourt in 'Anything Goes', Ann in 'Half a Sixpence' and Eliza Doolittle in 'My Fair Lady'. During the day Nicola teaches part time and provides a regular taxi service for her children's extra-curricular activities.

The Company



Giuseppe
Michael Niles

Michael has been working with Hitchin Thespians since 1996. He is very happy to be returning to G&S and this is his third time in the role of Giuseppe. This is Michael's fifty-third show and his twelfth with Hitchin Thespians, enjoying many different roles such as Jigger in 'Carousel', Pooh Bah in The 'Mikado', Molokov in 'Chess' and John Utterson in 'Jekyll and Hyde'. His first love is singing and he regularly competes in local music festivals. When not acting with Hitchin Thespians, Michael is acting up with his two children and working with an enterprise agency as a Business Advisor and Trainer.



Jessa
Stephanie Seal

Stephanie was born on Cyprus, and now lives in Clifton, Bedfordshire. Since leaving school she has studied with Jennifer Dakin, and is well-known to audiences in Herts, Beds. and North London as a result of numerous leading roles in musical theatre and operetta. Roles include Ann in 'Half a Sixpence', Julie Jordan in 'Carousel', Tuptim in 'The King and I', Laurie in 'Oklahoma!', Hope Harcourt in 'Anything Goes', all on more than one occasion, plus many more. Whilst at school she played Gianetta in 'The Gondoliers' and is delighted to be part of Hitchin Thespians' 2011 production. When not singing, she enjoys gardening, and reading in quiet country retreats!

Act One

SCENES & SONGS...

The Piazzetta, Venice

1. 'List and learn ye dainty roses' *Fiametta, Vittoria & Guilia with chorus of ladies*
2. 'For the merriest fellows' *Antonio, Francesco & Giorgio with chorus*
3. 'Buon' giorno signorine' & 'We're called Gondolieri' *Marco & Giuseppe, Fiametta, Vittoria with chorus*
4. 'From the sunny Spanish shore' *Duke, Duchess, Casilda & Luiz*
5. 'In enterprise of martial kind' *Duke*
6. 'O rapture, when alone together' *Casilda & Luiz*
7. 'There was a time' *Casilda & Luiz*
8. 'I stole the prince' *Don Alhambra, Duke, Duchess, Casilda & Luiz*
9. 'Try we life long' *Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Luiz & Don Alhambra*
10. 'Bridegroom & bride' *Chorus*
11. 'When a merry maiden marries' *Tessa*

FINALE

12. 'Kind sir, you cannot have the heart' *Gianetta*
13. 'Then one of us will be a Queen' *Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta & Tessa*
14. 'Then away we go to an island fair' *Chorus with Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta & Tessa*



*The use of cameras, mobile phones and
other recording equipment
is strictly prohibited.*



Act Two

SCENES & SONGS...

Pavillion in the Court of Barataria

1. 'Of happiness the very pith'Marco & Giuseppe with chorus of men
 2. 'Rising early in the morning'Giuseppe with chorus of men
 3. 'Take a pair of sparkling eyes'Marco
 4. 'Here we are at the risk of our lives'Chorus with Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta & Tessa
 5. 'Dance a cachucha'Chorus
 6. 'There lived a king'Don Alhambra, Marco & Giuseppe
 7. 'In a contemplative fashion'Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta & Tessa
 8. 'With ducal pomp'Chorus of Men with Duke & Duchess
 9. 'On the day when I was wedded'Duchess
 10. 'To help unhappy commoners'Duke & Duchess
 11. 'I am a courtier grave and serious'Duke, Duchess, Casilda, Marco & Giuseppe
 12. 'Here is a case unprecedented'Marco, Giuseppe, Casilda, Gianetta, & Tessa
- FINALE
13. 'Now let the loyal lieges gather round'Don Alhambra & Inez
 14. 'Once more gondolieri'Chorus with Marco, Giuseppe, Gianetta, Tessa, Luiz, Casilda, Duke & Duchess

*There will be an interval
of 20 minutes between acts.*



The Company



The Duke of Plaza-Toro

Ian Hamilton

Ian has been a member of Hitchin Thespians since 1982, when he played Pluto in 'Orpheus in the Underworld' (and lost in straight sets). He has not been in a production of 'The Gondoliers' since 1956, when his father played Giuseppe. In between he has worked with Harpenden Light Operatic Society (where he played Will Parker opposite Linda Dyne's Ado Annie in 'Oklahoma!'), The Lytton Players, and Broxbourne and Luton Societies. His favourite parts include the Emcee in 'Cabaret', Nathan Detroit in 'Guys & Dolls' and the Arbiter in 'Chess'. He is now officially elderly but still has a 30-inch inside leg and modestly denies his vocal inadequacy.



The Duchess of Plaza-Toro

Lynne Leggat

Lynne has been fortunate enough to play many leading roles for local societies in the past. Her favourite roles are Eliza in 'My Fair Lady', Sari in 'Bitter Sweet', the Countess in 'A Little Night Music', Anna in 'The Merry Widow' and Elsie in 'Yeoman of the Guard'.

Since joining Hitchin Thespians in 2005 she has performed in many choral concerts and in the chorus of 'The Mikado', 'Jekyll and Hyde' and 'Sweeney Todd'. She is delighted to be playing the Duchess in this production. When not on stage Lynne enjoys pursuing her hobby of painting, although she is yet to produce a masterpiece!

The Company



Luiz

Kier Home

Kier has spent most of his life on stage, since his first musical here in 1991 in 'The King And I', performing in many different venues over the years and earning a degree in Performing Arts. 'The Gondoliers' will be Kier's fifteenth show with Hitchin Thespians, his first being 'West Side Story'. Kier has also played in principal roles for us including Fyedka in 'Fiddler on the Roof' and Jacey Squires in 'The Music Man'. Kier's favourite roles are his first principal role as Anthony in 'Sweeney Todd' and his latest role with us as Lun Tha in 'The King and I'. This is Kier's first venture into an operatic role, something he finds both exciting and a little nerve-wracking at the same time. He's pleased however to be taking the challenge with the company of good friends in the cast.



Casilda

Melanie Plowman

Melanie joined Hitchin Thespians for 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' and was bitten by the performing bug. Since then she has taken part in all subsequent productions with her most favourite roles being Susan in 'Calamity Jane', Tzeitel in 'Fiddler on the Roof' and Tuptim in 'The King and I'. Other roles for Hitchin Thespians include Nellie in 'Jekyll and Hyde', Ruth in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' and Susan Hershey in 'The Full Monty' (Hitchin, London, Edinburgh Fringe Festival). She is also a member of By Invitation and The Lytton Players, where she performed as Caroline Neville in 'Titanic'. Aside from shows, Melanie enjoys singing with the choir and participating in fund raising performances at Woodside Hall. In the real world she works as Productions Manager at Media Trust.

The Company



Don Alhambra Del Bolero

Colin Wilson

Colin joined Hitchin Thespians in 2004 and has appeared in eight productions since then. He has played a variety of roles for the society, several of which involved taking his clothes off or wearing voluminous red dresses. He particularly enjoyed playing KoKo in 'The Mikado' and Jimmy in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'. He is returning to the society after a two year break during which he has been playing with his baby son (which is even more fun than doing shows). He is very much looking forward to playing Don Alhambra as it's always fun to play a villain.

The Orchestra

Violin Jane Ring, Muriel Carpenter
..... Gareth Covey-Crump, Clare Lawrence
Viola Jane Eldred, Rebecca Shepton
'Cello Liz Kirkwood
Double Bass Pete Hutchinson
Flute Ian Judson, Neil Pennock
Clarinet Neil Pennock, Jamie Semark
Oboe Alison Bowen-Davies
Bassoon Peter Dodsworth
French Horn .. Eddie Morgan, Phillippa Slack
Trumpet Ellie Lovegrove, Claire Evans
Trombone Paul Sylvester, Jim Gribben
Percussion Steve Fawbert

ROBERT DAY

**REHEARSAL
ACCOMPANIST**



Robert first worked with us in 1987, on 'West Side Story' with Justin Thomas as MD, using a grand piano in the pit - a luxury never to be repeated! Since then, he has played for several shows per year, his favourites being 'Carmen', 'Barnum', Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Singing In The Rain' and 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'. Having completed 20 years penal servitude as a secondary school music teacher, he now works as a piano teacher for Hertfordshire Music Service and as a freelance jazz pianist.



Fiametta, Vittoria, Inez & Giulia

Jane Stott, Caroline Bonja, Katy King & Rhian Hegarty



Francesco, Antonio & Giorgio

Roger Newman Turner, Matt Hallas & Mike Barker



The Dancers

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Mrs G Atkinson	Mrs D Fisher	Mrs A Mansfield	Mr F Smith
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Mrs E Edwards	Mr & Mrs M Mackenzie	Mrs P Slade	Mr R Worbey
Mr M Everitt	Mrs B Mallett	Mrs B Smith	

For Hitchin Thespians

Stage Manager Philippa Tadman
Assistant Stage Manager Richard Cobb
Production Manager Alex Evans
Dance Captain Sarah Bailes
Lighting James Wakerell, Chris Firth
Sound The Gordon Craig Theatre
Scenery Paul Lazell
Stage Crew Neil Leggat, Carrie Skelton-Hough,
 Wayne Skelton-Hough, Viv Stephenson
Props Katie Hrbek, Michael Roberts
Continuity Michelle Marple
Costumes .. Tony Brett, Costume Store, Great Dunmow
Wardrobe Manager Keryle Rutherford

Wardrobe Team Nicky Bowles, Margaret Brendish
 Helen Goddard, Pearl Hare, Angela Hollingsworth
 Judy Page, Barbara Pennicott, Mary Roberts
Make Up Manager Donna Barrett
Make Up Team Lorraine Davies, Jenna Knight
 Michelle Marple
Front of House Manager Lilian Dixon
Programme Design TeeeGeee Design
Programme Editors Susan Osbourn, Nick Morgan
Programme & Poster Printing ... Streets of Baldock
Photography Ralph Rapley/XMO4
Rehearsal Accompanist Robert Day
Librarian Lucy Miller-White

Hitchin Thespians Choir is looking for new members...

Do you enjoy singing? If so you will receive a warm welcome any Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 10.00 pm.

We love to see new faces, particularly tenors and basses, although sopranos and altos will also be most welcome. Each year we perform concerts in which the choice of music varies from songs from the musicals, through opera to oratorio. The whole object is to enjoy singing and hopefully make new friends along the way.

If you are interested you can email our Secretary at: secretary@hitchinthespians.org.uk or write to:

The Secretary, Hitchin Thespians, Woodside Hall, Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP

Visit our website at www.hitchinthespians.org.uk to learn more about our activities.



OUR LAST PRODUCTION
AUTUMN 2010
THE KING & I



HITCHIN THESPIANS - Founded in 1902

PAST PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE:

1970 Kismet	1988 Annie Get your Gun	2001 The King & I
1971 The Merry Widow	1989 The Mikado	2001 Half A Sixpence
1972 The Sound of Music	1989 The Boyfriend	2002 Carmen
1972 Hello Dolly	1990 My Fair Lady	2002 My One & Only
1973 Most Happy Fella	1991 Kiss Me Kate	2003 West Side Story
1974 Night in Venice	1991 Cabaret	2003 Barnum
1975 South Pacific	1992 Oklahoma	2004 Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*
1976 The Beggar's Opera	1992 The Sound of Music	2004 Jesus Christ Superstar
1976 Bitter Sweet	1993 Trial by Jury	2005 Kiss Me Kate
1977 Robert & Elizabeth	1993 H.M.S. Pinafore	2005 Carousel
1977 Yeomen of the Guard	1994 Guys and Dolls	2006 Me & My Girl
1978 Die Fledermaus	1994 Charlie Girl	2006 The Full Monty
1979 Fiddler on the Roof	1995 A Little Night Music	2006 Jekyll & Hyde*
1980 Showboat	1995 Barnum	2007 Thoroughly Modern Millie
1981 Hello Dolly	1996 42nd Street	2007 The Mikado
1982 Orpheus in the Underworld	1996 The Pirates of Penzance	2008 Chess
1983 The Music Man	1997 Hello Dolly	2008 Calamity Jane
1983 Grease	1997 La Cage Aux Folles*	2009 Sweeney Todd*
1984 Carousel	1998 Crazy For You	2009 Fiddler on the Roof
1985 The Merry Widow	1998 Chess	2010 The Music Man
1986 The Pirates of Penzance	1999 Oliver!	2010 The King & I
1986 Trial by Jury	1999 Singin' in the Rain*	2011 The Gondoliers
1987 Kismet	2000 Mack & Mabel	* NODA Region 9 Eastern Area Award
1987 West Side Story	2000 South Pacific	

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Saturday 2nd & 3rd April 2011, Woodside Hall, Hitchin

The Wiz

April 14th, 15th & 16th 2011, Woodside Hall, Hitchin

On A Lighter Note

July 14th, 15th & 16th 2011, Woodside Hall, Hitchin

Gypsy

18th - 22nd October 2011, Queen Mother Theatre, Hitchin

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