



HITCHIN THESPIANS PRESENT



ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

MARCH 2012

GORDON CRAIG THEATRE, STEVENAGE



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HITCHIN THESPIANS

present



ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

A comic operetta in three Acts from the original by
HECTOR CREMIEUX and LUDOVIC HALEVY

English book and lyrics by GEOFFREY DUNN *Music by* JACQUES OFFENBACH

Wednesday 21st - Saturday 24th March 2012

The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage

JIM SNELL Director JOHN EDWARDS Musical Director

Sarah Bailes - Choreography of Can-Can Dancers

This amateur production is given by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD. HITCHIN THESPIANS is a Registered Charity, Number 1005332

HITCHIN THESPIANS ...COMING SOON...

GOTTA DANCE

April 27th & 28th, 2012 - Woodside Hall, Hitchin

'A Grand Night For Singing'

July 11th - 13th, 2012 - Woodside Hall, Hitchin

'Oh, What A Lovely War!'

October 29th, 30th & 31st & November 1st, 2nd & 3rd 2012 - Queen Mother Theatre, Hitchin

Christmas at Woodside

December 13th, 14th & 15th, Woodside Hall, Hitchin

HITCHIN THESPIANS 01462 641575, QUEEN MOTHER THEATRE 01462 455166 GORDON CRAIG THEATRE: 01438 363200
www.hitchinthespians.org.uk Visit Hitchin Thespians Website for further details of all of our productions

FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

I am delighted to welcome you to our production of 'Orpheus in the Underworld'. It has been great fun rehearsing what can only be described as an adult pantomime. I hope you have as much fun watching this show as we will be having. We hope you will be supporting us at our future shows and concerts. Our next show, 'Oh, What A Lovely War', will be at the Queen Mother Theatre, Hitchin in the Autumn. We will be returning to the Gordon Craig next March when we hope to be one of the first amateur groups in the country to perform a new show that has taken Broadway by storm. As we go to press we are still in negotiation to bring you this show which hasn't even been performed in the West End yet! Full details of our future events are shown in this programme and we look forward to your continued support. In the meantime, sit back and enjoy our little glimpse into ancient mythology - it may not be quite as you expected!

Tom Evans - Chairman

THE COMMITTEE 2011 - 2012

CHAIRMAN: Tom Evans

PUBLICITY MANAGER: Kier Home

VICE CHAIRMAN: Ann Crook

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING MANAGER: Vivienne Tadman

SECRETARY: Lynne Leggat

CHORAL MANAGER: Jan Nash

TREASURER: Melanie Troiano

WOODSIDE HALL MANAGER: Ann Crook

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Michelle Marple

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Holly Böhme,

BUSINESS MANAGER: Tom Evans

Alan Dickinson, Wendy Hazelwood, Susan Osbourn

LIFE MEMBERS: Ann Crook, Brenda Cundell, Marion Hargraves,
Audrey Jenkins, Derek Jenkins, Denis Rowland, Gordon Wharton

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

Woodside Hall Available for Hire

Hitchin Thespians have their own rehearsal facilities, Woodside Hall which is 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

JIM SNELL

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR



Jim Snell is delighted to be back with Hitchin Thespians for 'Orpheus in the Underworld' a favourite operetta of his, having undertaken the work on three previous occasions. He is also pleased to be re-united with the Musical Director, John Edwards. In the coming months he will undertake productions of 'Singin' in the Rain' for Wembley Operatic Society and 'Fiddler on the Roof' for Bishops Stortford Musical Theatre. Jim has won many NODA awards for best production. He is an active voluntary fund raiser for BREAKTHROUGH the breast cancer research charity and enjoys gardening and travel.

JOHN EDWARDS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR



During his career as a music educator (including posts in Singapore and New Mexico) John has been continuously involved in directing amateur choral and orchestral societies, as well as enjoying theatre work - on both sides of the footlights! 2012 is a milestone year for him as it's sixty years since he directed (and produced!) his first stage musical, 'Trial by Jury', for a church youth club in Newcastle upon Tyne. John thinks that Gluck, Liszt and Stravinsky may have approached the Orpheus legend with a little more respect and dignity, but Offenbach's musical romp has certainly been fun to work on and hopefully it will appeal to the Thespian audiences this week.

CALLING YOUNG THESPIANS...

Young Thespians meet at Woodside Hall - next to Queen Mother Theatre - in Walsworth Road, Hitchin on a Sunday morning from 10 until 12. Members must be aged 10 or above and we charge a fee of £25 per production. Each year we present a musical show in the Spring, with rehearsals starting towards the end of September.

After this show we do a series of workshops on song dance and drama, for which we charge another £25, leading to a concert toward the end of the summer term. There is no audition to join but we do audition for principal parts in the show. Past productions have been 'Bugsy Malone', 'Oklahoma', 'The Wiz' and 'Alice in Wonderland'.

For further details please contact:

Ann Crook 01462 434181 anncrook@btinternet.com

SYNOPSIS

The show is a romp with adults playing panto through a fantastic vocal score - fun and humorously topical. The work is performed with no regard for time.

Orpheus wants to relinquish Eurydice to Aristaeus but Calliope won't allow it – Orpheus decides to get rid of Aristaeus by planting a snake in the cornfields but when Eurydice follows him in she gets bitten and dies. Aristaeus brings her to life briefly and she writes a note telling Orpheus she is off! Aristaeus turns into Pluto.

Calliope and Orpheus go to Mount Olympus to tell Jupiter and we discover the scene with everyone sleepy after the scattering of poppies, and the youngsters then come back from all night revels. Calliope and Orpheus arrive but discover Pluto has

lied to Jupiter of the whereabouts of Eurydice - she has been hidden in a back room guarded by Styx – Jupiter lusts for her and turns himself into a fly for “some fun”. Then Jupiter tells Orpheus he can take Eurydice back if he doesn't look behind – he has no option! – Jupiter then turns Eurydice into a bacchante and the revels finish in Hades with the Can-Can.



First performed in October 1858 and said to be the first full length operetta - all earlier operettas by Offenbach were one act. Using Greek mythology as a backdrop, it is an irreverent parody and scathing satire on Gluck's “Orfeo and Euridice” it is also a burlesque of the Comédie Francaise stilted dramas.

Harriet Kelsall Jewellery Design wish Hitchin Thespians every success with this production

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Harriet Kelsall
JEWELLERY DESIGN

THE COMPANY

ORPHEUS (Professor of Music)	<i>Dean Kirkbride</i>
EURYDICE (Wife of Orpheus)	<i>Nicola Niles</i>
CALLIOPE (Muse of Poetry, Mother of Orpheus)	<i>Lynne Leggat</i>
PLUTO (King of Hades)	<i>Tom Evans</i>
DIANA (Goddess of Hunting)	<i>Melanie Plowman</i>
JUPITER (King of the Gods)	<i>Ian Hamilton</i>
JUNO (Wife of Jupiter)	<i>Judith Coen</i>
MERCURY (Messenger of the Gods)	<i>Isaac Evans</i>
MARS (God of War)	<i>Mike Barker</i>
VENUS (Goddess of Beauty)	<i>Michelle Marple</i>
CUPID (God of Love)	<i>Katherine Males</i>
MINERVA (Goddess of Wisdom)	<i>Mandy Atkin</i>
JOHN STYX (Servant of Pluto)	<i>Kier Home</i>
BACCHUS (God of Wine)	<i>Mark Savage</i>
BALLOON PILOT/CHAUFFEUR	<i>Paul Adams</i>
LIFTMAN	<i>Alan Dickinson</i>

CERBERUS

Nick Morgan, Jack Lardent, Mike Steele

CAN-CAN DANCERS

*Holly Böhme, Caroline Bonja, Caroline Hirst, Sarah Jones, Nicola Niles,
Melanie Plowman, Sue Rayner, Melanie Troiano*

CHORUS OF NYMPHS SHEPHERDS, GODS AND GODDESSES

*Jean Austin, Holly Bohme, Caroline Bonja, Sarah Cunningham,
Judith Harrison, Caroline Hirst, Antonia Homer, Jane Homer,
Zoe Johnston, Sarah Jones, Katy King, Sue Rayner, Jackie Sayer,
Sheila Soothill, Pat Staff, Vivienne Tadman, Andrea Thorpe,
Melanie Troiano, Jane Tunesi, Kate Webb*

*Paul Adams, Ron Burton, Alan Dickinson, Iain Fishpool, Peter Goff,
Jack Lardent, Nick Morgan, Mark Savage, Mike Steele, Bryan Summers*

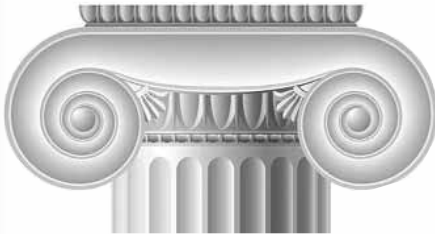


THE COMPANY

ORPHEUS



Dean Kirkbride

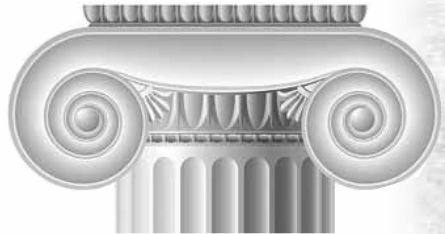


Dean enjoys performing and first appeared with Hitchin Thespians in the 2009 production of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. More recently, he played 'Tulsa' in last year's 'Gypsy'. He has also performed in numerous other plays including 'Music Man', 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'The Wiz', and also our 'On a Lighter Note' concert performance. He is currently studying A-Levels in Music, Drama and History and is excited about playing the role of Orpheus.

EURYDICE



Nicola Niles



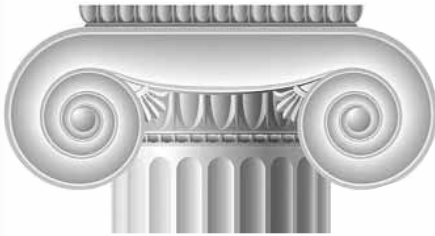
Nicola loves the music in Orpheus and is very excited about playing Eurydice. Nicola last performed with Hitchin Thespians in March 2011 when she played Gianetta in their production of 'The Gondoliers'. Her other roles have included Yum Yum in 'The Mikado', Marian in 'The Music Man', Hodel in 'Fiddler on the Roof' and Emma in 'Jekyll and Hyde'. During the day she teaches part time in school in Luton and provides a taxi service for her children's extra-curricular activities!

THE COMPANY

PLUTO



Tom Evans

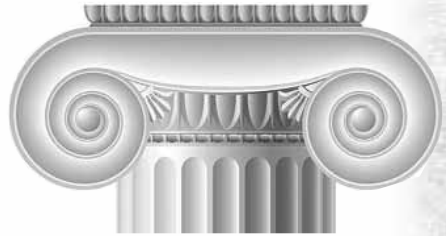


Having played many romantic leads over the years, Tom is delighted to be playing the villain. Tom has performed regularly with the Thespians since the 1980's and his favourite roles with us have been Adam in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers', Billy Bigelow in 'Carousel', Fred Graham in 'Kiss Me Kate', Anatoly in 'Chess' and the dual role of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde in our award winning production of the musical of the same name. Last year Tom was delighted to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe with several other Thespians, some of them in this show, in a production of Maury Yeston's 'Nine'. During the day Tom is headteacher of Martins Wood Primary School in Stevenage.

CALLIOPE



Lynne Leggat



Lynne has been fortunate enough to play many lead roles in the past, her favourites including Anna in 'The Merry Widow', Sara in 'Bitter Sweet', Elsie in 'Yeomen of the Guard', Eliza in 'My Fair Lady' and The Countess in 'A Little Night Music'. She joined Hitchin Thespians seven years ago and has appeared in many concerts and shows. Audiences at Gordon Craig Theatre saw her last as the Duchess of Plaza Toro in 'The Gondoliers' in March 2011. Lynne is delighted to be playing Calliope in this production. Off stage she enjoys water colour painting but as yet has not been 'discovered'!

ACT ONE

SCENES AND SONGS

‘PROLOGUE’

THE COUNTRY NEAR THE HOUSE OF THEBES

- ‘*Pastoral Chorus*’ *Shepherds & Shepherdesses*
‘*The happy bride never slumbers*’ *Eurydice*
‘*Quarrelling Duet: “You’ve gone too far!”*’ *Orpheus & Eurydice*
‘*May I make myself known?*’ *Aristaeus*
‘*My death appears divinely smiling*’ *Eurydice*
‘*If there is no other way*’ *Orpheus, Calliope, Pupils & Chorus*

ACT TWO

SCENES AND SONGS

‘OVERTURE’

MOUNT OLYMPUS - The Home of the Gods

- ‘*Sleep on, sleep on*’ *Chorus of Deities*
‘*Couplets of the Gods*’ *Venus, Mars, Cupid & Chorus*
‘*Couplets of Diana*’ *Jupiter, Diana & Chorus*
Balloon Trio: ‘We’re here because we thought’ *Calliope, Orpheus & Pilot*
‘*To arms!*’ *Chorus of Deities*
‘*Teasing Rondo*’ *Cupid, Minerva, Venus, Juno, Mercury, Pluto & Chorus*
Finale: ‘Here comes Orpheus’ *Pluto, Calliope, Orpheus, Jupiter and Chorus*

‘TWENTY MINUTE INTERVAL’

ACT THREE

SCENES AND SONGS

PLUTO'S OFFICE

'When Pluto enthralled me with passion' Eurydice

'When I was King of the Boeotians' John Styx

'I'm Cerberus, the triple-headed' Cerberus, Pluto, Jupiter & John Styx

EURYDICE'S BOUDOIR

Fly Duet: 'I thought that I felt on my shoulder' Eurydice & Jupiter

'If you're the cause of some commotion' John Styx

A LIFT

Lift Trio: 'Any lift ought to be sure and swift' . . . Calliope, Orpheus & Liftman

LONDON 2012 - THE OLYMPIC CEREMONY

Infernal Chorus: 'Hail! Pluto, hail!' Company

Hymn to Bacchus: 'What heavenly joy is mine' Eurydice & Chorus

Minuet: 'If I had my way' Company

Gallop: 'This ball is the best of all' Mars & Chorus

Finale: 'Take the course they've recommended' Company

There will be an interval of 20 minutes after Act Two.

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

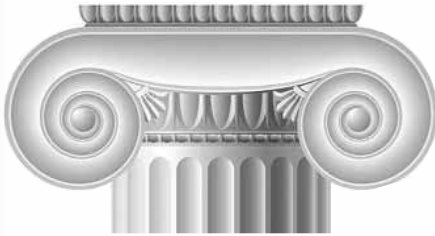
Strobe lighting will be used in this production.

THE COMPANY

JUPITER



Ian Hamilton

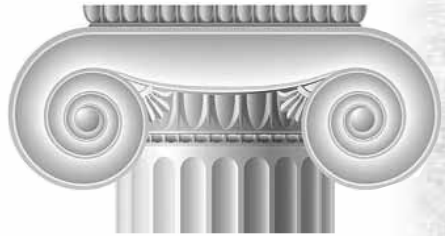


'Orpheus in the Underworld' was Ian's first show with Hitchin Thespians in 1982. He was a young, dashing, virile Pluto then but now he has become a dissolute, overweight, senile Jupiter...such is life! When he's not messing about on the stage he practises as a solicitor (but has given up hope of ever getting it right), prances around as a singer in a rock band or tries to re-live some modest and long-departed prowess on cricket and hockey fields in the area. What a loser! Still, as Jupiter says, "The façade is everything".

JUNO



Judith Coen



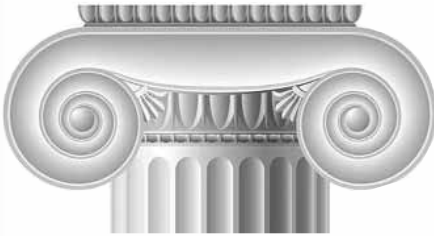
This is Judith's fifth show with Hitchin Thespians since re-joining after a fifteen year gap and she is delighted to be playing the part of Juno. This part follows hot on the heels of Miss Cratchitt in 'Gypsy' and Golde in 'Fiddler on the Roof'. She is wondering if this run of bossy women's roles means that the casting committee have been talking to her family! Other parts Judith has enjoyed playing for other societies have included Sally Bowles in 'Cabaret', Adelaide in 'Guys and Dolls', Carrie Pipperidge in 'Carousel', Ado Annie in 'Oklahoma', Katisha in 'The Mikado' amongst many others.

THE COMPANY

JOHN STYX



Kier Home



Kier started in shows from the age of five and has been a member of Hitchin Thespians for nine years, joining in 2003 for West Side Story. Over the years, Kier has earned a Degree in Performing Arts and has performed in venues from Stevenage to the West End. Kier's work with the Thespians has seen him perform some of his favourite roles, including Anthony in 'Sweeney Todd', Lun Tha in 'The King and I' and most recently as Luiz in 'The Gondoliers'. Continuing his streak in Operetta, Kier is delighted to be taking on the role of John Styx in 'Orpheus' and has loved every moment that has led up to tonight's performance.



CERBERUS

Jack Lardent Mike Steele Nick Morgan

THE COMPANY



(from left to right)

CUPID Katherine Males

MARS Mike Barker

DIANA Melanie Plowman

MERCURY Isaac Evans

VENUS Michelle Marple

THE COMPANY



THE ORCHESTRA

Violins *Janet Hicks,(Leader), Andrea Kelly*

Viola *Naomi Morris*

'Cello *Rachel Sanders-Hewitt*

Double Bass *Charlie Pyne*

Flute *Clare Taylor*

Clarinet *Neil Pennock*

French Horn *John Lavelle*

Trumpet *Al Nunn*

Trombone *Paul Sylvester*

Percussion *Phil Stephenson*

Keyboard *Nigel Gray*

HITCHIN THESPIANS PATRONS 2012

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Mrs E Edwards	Mr & Mrs H Leonard	Mrs G Rowland	
Mr M Everitt	Mr & Mrs W E Lewis	Mr G H Russell	
Mrs D Fisher	Mr M Mackenzie	Mrs R Saunders	

FOR HITCHIN THESPIANS

Stage Manager	 Philippa Tadman	Wardrobe Manager	 Jan Morris
Assistant Stage Manager	 Richard Cobb	Wardrobe Assistants	 Rosa Diamond, Alex Evans
Production Manager	 Michelle Marple	Make Up Manager	 Donna Barrett
Lighting	 Dave Nott	Make Up Team	 Sarah Barry, Sophie Behagg
Sound	 Gordon Craig Theatre	 Lorraine Davies, Rhian Hegarty, Jenna Knight	
Scenery	 Paul Lazell Scenery	Front of House Managers	 Ann Crook, Lilian Dixon
Stage Crew	 Cliff Gulbis, Carrie Hough	Programme Editor	 Derek Jenkins
..... Wayne Hough, Neil Leggat, Viv Stephenson		Programme Design	 TeeeGeee Design
Props Manager	 Michelle Marple	Programme and Poster Printing	 Herts & Essex Printers
Props Assistant	 Belinda Gee	Photography	 Ralph Rapley/XM04
Continuity	 Viv Hamilton	Rehearsal Accompanist	 Nigel Gray
Costumes	 Carousel Costumes, Barataria Costumes Ltd	Librarian	 Holly Böhme

HITCHIN THESPIANS is a Registered Charity, Number 1005332

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
OCTOBER 2011

GYPSY



HITCHIN THESPIANS - Founded in 1902

PAST PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE:

1970Kismet	1989The Mikado	2002Carmen
1971The Merry Widow	1989The Boyfriend	2002My One & Only
1972The Sound of Music	1990My Fair Lady	2003West Side Story
1972Hello Dolly	1991Kiss Me Kate	2003Barnum
1973Most Happy Fella	1991Cabaret	2004Seven Brides for
1974Night in Venice	1992Oklahoma	Seven Brothers*
1975South Pacific	1992The Sound of Music	2004Jesus Christ Superstar
1976The Beggar's Opera	1993Trial by Jury	2005Kiss Me Kate
1976Bitter Sweet	1993H.M.S. Pinafore	2005Carousel
1977Robert & Elizabeth	1994Guys and Dolls	2006Me & My Girl
1977Yeomen of the Guard	1994Charlie Girl	2006The Full Monty
1978Die Fledermaus	1995A Little Night Music	2006Jekyll & Hyde*
1979Fiddler on the Roof	1995Barnum	2007Thoroughly Modern Millie
1980Showboat	199642nd Street	2007The Mikado
1981Hello Dolly	1996The Pirates of Penzance	2008Chess
1982Orpheus in the Underworld	1997Hello Dolly	2008Calamity Jane
1983The Music Man	1997La Cage Aux Folles*	2009Sweeney Todd*
1983Grease	1998Crazy For You	2009Fiddler on the Roof
1984Carousel	1998Chess	2010The Music Man
1985The Merry Widow	1999Oliver!	2010The King & I
1986The Pirates of Penzance	1999Singin' in the Rain*	2011The Gondoliers
1986Trial by Jury	2000Mack & Mabel	2011Gypsy
1987Kismet	2000South Pacific	2012Orpheus in the Underworld
1987West Side Story	2001The King & I	
1988Annie Get your Gun	2001Half a Sixpence	

* NODA Region 9 Eastern Area Award



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Best wishes to Hitchin Thespians on their forthcoming production of

'ORPHEUS'

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