



**HITCHIN
THESPIANS
PRESENT**

OCTOBER 2008

**THE GORDON CRAIG THEATRE,
STEVENAGE**



**CALAMITY
JANE**



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on their forthcoming production of
'CALAMITY JANE'

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THE HITCHIN THESPIANS PRESENT

Adapted by **RONALD HANMER**
and **PHIL PARK**

From the stage play by
CHARLES K. FREEMAN
after **WARNER BROS.**

film written by **JAMES O'HANLON**

Lyrics by **PAUL FRANCIS WEBSTER**

Music by **SAMMY FAIN**

**Monday 6th October -
Saturday 11th October
2008**

**The Gordon Craig
Theatre, Stevenage**



**Production Director
Linda Dyne**

**Musical Director
John Edwards**



The Hitchin Thespians - About us...



In 1902 Miss Pepper, returning to Hitchin after a visit to the south coast, told her friend, Mrs Walter Carling, of a performance she had seen there. Hitchin, she said, must have an operatic society. Mrs Carling agreed, and arranged a local performance, by ladies only, of Coleridge Taylor's "The Gitanos". On February 21st 1903, a decision was taken, to form the Hitchin Amateur Light Opera Company, with the Reverend G.B. Gainsford, as president. In its early years, the Society devoted itself largely to the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. In March 1905, the name was changed, for the sake of brevity, to Hitchin Thespians. Though the Society suspended its activities during World War 1, the popularity of its shows grew rapidly in post-war years. In May 1933, "The Desert Song" was played to almost 10,000 people in a week at the Hermitage Cinema! In 1958 the Thespians purchased the freehold of the Old Guild Rooms in Paynes Park, in which they had rehearsed for a number of years, for £750. In 1977 the Society presented "Robert and Elizabeth" in Stevenage's new Gordon Craig Theatre, where it still continues to stage its major productions. Its policy has been to present, whenever possible, the first performance of newly released shows, of near-professional standard.

MUSICAL THEATRE Each year we present two fully staged musicals at The Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage. We thrive on challenge and have presented some shows that many other societies are wary of. In addition there are occasionally smaller scale productions of musicals which are performed at our purpose built rehearsal suite, Woodside Hall, or at the Town Hall, Hitchin. Groups of members are also welcomed to get together and perform concerts and shows with a smaller cast.

CONCERTS AND CHORAL WORKS In addition to our musical theatre activities we have a thriving choir. The variety of music performed by this group is staggering, as one member put it - "from Bach to Bernstein!" There are typically three concerts each year, often performed at Woodside Hall, but sometimes in surroundings that might suit the performance better such as the lovely parish church of St. Mary's in Hitchin.

WORKSHOPS AND SPONSORSHIPS We are proud to fulfil our educational aims and ambitions through workshops and sponsorships. In recent years we have sponsored members to attend voice and performance training at the Little Benslow Music School in Hitchin and have also been arranged for members to participate in masterclasses with professional singers and voice coaches. One of our Musical directors has also led a fascinating series of lectures on wide-ranging aspects of music.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

★ Welcome to this evening's performance of 'Calamity Jane'. My first exposure to this wonderful musical was the film version with Doris Day and Howard Keel when I was a young girl, many years ago.

★ It has so many well known and loved melodies and of course the comedy and romance that musicals of this era promise. Interestingly this is the first time Hitchin Thespians have staged this musical and we are delighted to welcome back Linda Dyne as our Stage Director for this show; she also directed the award winning 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' and more recently 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'. John Edwards joins us again as both an exacting and ever capable Musical Director.

★ Rehearsals have been hard work - but tremendous fun and I hope you will enjoy the results of the company's labours in this performance.

★ Hitchin Thespians like to maintain a varied programme and so this more traditional show is a contrast to the previous production of 'Chess' and of course our next show 'Sweeney Todd' in March which we welcome you to as well. I would like to thank you for supporting us in this production and if this is the first production of ours you have attended we hope it will be the first of many. Now it's time to sit back, read the synopsis and enjoy the show as the curtain rises on the Wild West in the late 1800's.

★ **Lucy Miller-White** ★

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 Richard Moore, Jim Snell, Justin Thomas



THE PRODUCTION TEAM



★★★★
REWARD
\$500

LINDA DYNE

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Linda has thoroughly enjoyed working with Hitchin Thespians again after her last show 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'. Having played all of her favourite lead roles for various societies in her youth, she has now directed over eighty shows. Linda's last show won a NODA award and went on to win another award at Buxton International G & S Festival and received eight nominations! Thespians are thrilled that Linda will be directing for us again in October 2009 with 'Fiddler on the Roof'.



★★★★
REWARD
\$500

JOHN EDWARDS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

A music graduate of Durham University, John has held senior teaching appointments in Scotland, Singapore and New Mexico. In all these locations he has been involved in orchestral and choral work. A pianist, organist, composer and arranger, John has directed many stage shows such as 'Crazy For You', 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Jekyll & Hyde', and most recently Hitchin Thespians' production of 'The Mikado'.

For all up-to-date news and information, don't forget to log on to...

www.hitchinthespians.org.uk

If you are interested in joining the Society as either a member or a patron, then please contact:-

Alex Evans - Hon. Secretary, 4 Cubitt Close, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 0EL

Email: alex.j.evans@talk21.com

Alternatively, if you would prefer you can join our 'SHOW MAILING LIST'



THE STORY...

We are in the wild, lusty, warm and humourous Old West of Deadwood City, Dakota Territory, 1876. Our story tells of famed Calamity Jane who dresses, rides and shoots like a man, but given the proper chance, can be a beautiful girl who hankers for the love of a man. The man may be dashing Lt. Danny Gilmartin or the justly famed Wild Bill Hickock.

Fuss-budget Henry Miller, owner of Deadwood's hotel-bar-theatre, nervously awaits the arrival of the lovely eastern actress, Frances Fryer, to embellish his show. His niece, Susan, assures him that Calamity will bring the stagecoach to town on time. And so Calamity does to the sharp and singable beat of Deadwood Stage. But the "actress" turns out to be a young man, "Francis" and not "Frances" of the hoped-for opposite sex,

The show must go on, and Miller contrives to dress Fryer as a woman, but when the latter's wig falls off during the show, the local characters rise in noisy anger. Only Calam's trusty pistol restores order; also her promise that she will import to Deadwood the East's most glamorous star, Adelaide Adams herself. The men are overjoyed, but Wild Bill, Lt. Danny Gilmartin and Miller know full well that Adelaide Adams wouldn't be caught dead in Deadwood.

Calam, after a rip-roaring row with Wild Bill, storms out headed for Chicago. Calam mistakes Adelaide's maid, Katie Brown, for the great actress herself. Before she is aware of it, she is stage-coaching Katie back to Deadwood where Katie is greeted in high excitement as the famed Adelaide Adams. Unnerved by Fryer when he becomes aware of her true identity, Katie breaks down at the opening show, and only Calam's masterful control of the audience saves the day. Bucked up by Calam, Susan and Fryer, Katie gives a show-stopping performance. All of Deadwood's hearts are won, not the least being the hearts of Danny and Wild Bill.

After a ball given in honour of the new commander at Fort Scully, Calam, dressed in Katie's finery, is the belle of the event. Her hour of triumph explodes when she finds Katie with Danny. In a fit of jealous anger she orders Katie to leave town, but Wild Bill corners her and reveals to the inner Calam that she is a real woman despite the fact she professes to act like a man. She learns that it was Bill all the time (not Danny) she loved. The show closes joyously with all of Deadwood's citizens attending a double wedding, that of Calam to Wild Bill and Katie to Lt. Danny Gilmartin.



★ THE COMPANY ★



NERYS MARTIN
CALAMITY JANE

Nerys started performing at the age of 3 and has been involved in over 80 productions since. She trained at the Bancroft Players Youth Theatre and also appears regularly in the Gordon Craig productions. For Hitchin Thespians Nerys has appeared as Muzzy in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', Sally in 'Me & My Girl', Anita in 'West Side Story' and Dorcus in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'.

For the past six years she has worked as an actress and background artist on TV and Film productions such as 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', 'Batman Begins', 'The Dark Knight', 'Stardust', 'The Golden Compass' and 'The Imaginarium of Dr Parnassus'. TV credits have included 'Eastenders', 'The Bill', 'Holby City', 'New Tricks' and 'Primevil'.

Nerys is excited to be performing the role of 'Calamity Jane', as it has been a dream of hers to play this fantastic part.



MICHAEL NILES
WILD BILL HICKOCK

'Calamity Jane' will be Michael's 10th show with Thespians, and twenty-second at the Gordon Craig. He last appeared with Thespians, playing Poo Bah in our last production here - 'The Mikado'. Michael joined us 12 years ago as the Pirate King in 'Pirates of Penzance'. He has taken many different parts in many shows for us, including 'Chess', 'The King & I', 'Oliver' and 'Jekyll & Hyde'. He has also been the vocal coach for our Young Thespians for their last five performances and is looking forward to their next show, Aladdin, in April next year.

Michael's first love is singing, having had classical lessons since the tender age of eight, and he often competes in the Milton Keynes Music Festival.

In his spare time, he enjoys fencing, film, and spending time with his family.

★ THE COMPANY ★



LUCY ARNOLD
KATIE BROWN

Lucy got bitten by the performing bug from an early age, watching her mum rehearse! In 2006, Lucy starred as 'Annie' in the musical of the same name for the CAMCIT players at the Cambridge Corn Exchange and has appeared in several productions for the Young Thespians, playing Tallulah in 'Bugsy Malone' and more recently, Dream Laurie in 'Oklahoma'. Lucy started dancing at a very early age with the Granville School of Dance and more recently with the DLJ School of Dance and would love to run her own dance school when she is older. Lucy is currently studying for her A levels and is hoping to go to university in September 2009 to study to become a teacher.

Lucy is absolutely delighted to be playing Katie Brown, her first principal role for the Society.



JAMES BUNKER
LT. DANNY GILMARTIN

James first joined the Hitchin Thespians in 1988, where his previous principal roles have included Caleb in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers', and Peter in 'Jesus Christ Superstar'.

James says he is really glad to be back and is looking forward to playing the part of Danny Gilmartin in 'Calamity Jane'.

Outside the world of musical theatre, James co-runs 'Cabaroke' with Bigredfunbus productions and is a solicitor specialising in commercial property."

★ THE COMPANY ★



GINA ABBATT
ADELAIDE ADAMS

Gina joined Hitchin Thespians back in 2004, when she played Mary Magdalene in 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. Since then, she has appeared as Bianca in 'Kiss Me Kate', Julie Jordan in 'Carousel', Miss Dorothy Brown in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', Vicki Nichols in 'The Full Monty', and Pitti-Sing in 'The Mikado'.

Some of Gina's favourite roles have included Dorothy Brock in '42nd Street', Bricktop in 'Red Hot and Cole', Chesty Prospects in 'Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens', Hodel in 'Fiddler on the Roof', and Nancy in 'Oliver!'.

Gina will be back at the Gordon Craig in two weeks' time, appearing as Mama Noah in Stephen Schwartz's 'Children of Eden'.

Gina is thrilled to be playing Adelaide Adams in this production.



COLIN WILSON
FRANCES FRYER

Colin joined us in 2004 and has appeared in most of the shows since then, including 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Kiss Me Kate' and 'Jekyll & Hyde'. His favourite roles include Dexter Haven in 'High Society', Nathan Detroit in 'Guys and Dolls' and particularly KoKo in 'The Mikado' earlier this year. Colin has been acting since he was nine and has appeared in around thirty shows. He also directed a gothic version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' whilst at university in Durham. He would like to point out that he's less ineffective than Francis Fryer in real life.

★ THE COMPANY ★



MELANIE PLOWMAN
SUSAN MILLER

Melanie joined Hitchin Thespians 5 years ago as one of the townsfolk in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'. Since then she has been actively involved in all shows since, including dancing roles in 'Kiss Me Kate' and 'Carousel'. For Thespians she has appeared as Nellie in 'Jekyll & Hyde', Ruth in 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' and Susan Hershey in 'The Full Monty' (both in Hitchin and the Edinburgh Festival!).

Aside from the shows, Melanie enjoys singing with the choir and appearing in fundraising performances held at Woodside, such as 'Songs in Summer' and 'That Ole Devil Called Love'. Melanie, like many other Thespians, has been performing from a young age. She has played Kate in 'Yeomen of the Guard' and been in the chorus of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' both in the UK and USA. Melanie is thrilled to be playing the part of Susan in 'Calamity Jane'.



MIKE BARKER
HENRY MILLER

This is Mike's twenty-first show with Hitchin Thespians. He has performed many character roles for us, such as Prince Nikki in 'My One and Only', the Gangster in 'Kiss Me Kate' and Harold in 'The Full Monty'. You will have seen him last as Alexander Molokov in our Spring production of 'Chess' here on this very stage.

Mike has also enjoyed taking lead roles for other local societies, most recently playing Colonel Pickering in 'My Fair Lady' for our friends, Letchworth Arcadians. Other roles have included Eric 'Rubber-Legs' Devine in 'A Slice of Saturday Night', Dr. Whackhoff in 'Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens' and Professor Higgins in 'My Fair Lady'.

He has been performing, directing and choreographing shows locally for many years now and is just starting rehearsals for his local 2009 January Panto - 'The Snow Queen'.

★ THE COMPANY ★



JAMES HAMILTON
RATTLESNAKE

James started treading the boards back in 1987 as Little Jake in the Hitchin Thespians production of 'Annie Get Your Gun'. His most recent roles for us have been Brother Daniel in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' and Dave Bukatinsky in 'The Full Monty', which also took him to the Edinburgh Fringe with the production!

His interests outside of the Society keep him fairly busy; playing football, hockey and badminton, also playing trumpet, trombone, French Horn and singing in 'Kicking Back'.



PAUL ADAMS
DOC PIERCE

Paul joined Thespians in the chorus of '42nd Street' and has been an active member of the society, both on and off stage. He has played a variety of character roles for us, including the Photographer in 'Half A Sixpence', The Starkeeper in 'Carousel', Sir Jasper Tring in 'Me & My Girl' and Harry/Baptista in 'Kiss Me Kate'. His interests include walking, reading, Real Ale and Family History. Paul says he is extremely pleased to be back after a break from performing, and is raring to go in the part of Doc Pierce.

THE COMPANY

★ CALAMITY JANE	NERYS MARTIN ★
★ WILD BILL HICKOCK	MICHAEL NILES ★
★ LIEUTENANT DANNY GILMARTIN	JAMES BUNKER ★
★ KATIE BROWN	LUCY ARNOLD ★
★ HENRY MILLER	MIKE BARKER ★
★ SUSAN	MELANIE PLOWMAN ★
★ FRANCIS FRYER	COLIN WILSON ★
★ ADELAIDE ADAMS	GINA ABBATT ★
★ DOC PIERCE	PAUL ADAMS ★
★ RATTLESNAKE	JAMES HAMILTON ★
★ HANK	JOHN KEOGH ★
★ PETE	FRAZER LUCAS ★
★ JOE	CHRIS WAGHORN ★

∞ DANCERS ∞

Holly Bohme, Caroline Bonja, Michelle Johnstone, Marie Marcantonio,
Michelle Marple, Nicola Niles, Carolyn Roberts, Melanie Trioano

∞ HARRY GIRLS ∞

Holly Bohme, Caroline Bonja, Lucy Miller-White, Nicola Niles, Nicola Wilson

∞ MALE CHORUS ∞

Philip Arend, Tom Evans, Paul Hine, Kier Home, Charles Langford,
Nick Morgan, Keith Mortland, Mike Roberts, Mark Savage,
Bryan Summers, Ian Turner, Andrew Wyllie

∞ FEMALE CHORUS ∞

Jean Austin, Philippa Bayfield, Lesley Greasley, Jane Homer, Katy King,
Emma Knott, Lucy Miller-White, Sheila Soothill, Pat Staff, Lindsey Waghorn,
Ellen Ward, Rosamunde Ward, Kate Webb, Jenny Wilson, Nicola Wilson

ACT ONE

SCENES & SONGS

★ Overture Orchestra ★

★ SCENE ONE - THE GOLDEN GARTER SALOON, DEADWOOD CITY ★

★ 'The Deadwood Stage' Calamity & Ensemble ★

★ 'Careless With The Truth' Calamity, Bill & Men ★

★ 'Adelaide' Bill & Men ★

★ 'Ev'ryone Complains About The Weather' Francis ★

★ 'Can-Can' Golden Garter Girls ★

★ 'Hive Full Of Honey' Francis ★

★ 'I Could Do Without You' Calamity & Bill ★

★ SCENE TWO - THE BIJOU THEATRE, CHICAGO ★

★ 'It's Harry I'm Planning To Marry' Adelaide & Girls ★

★ 'It's Harry I'm Planning To Marry' (reprise) Katie ★

★ SCENE THREE - THE GOLDEN GARTER SALOON ★

★ 'Adelaide' (reprise) Quartet & Men ★

★ 'Windy City' Calamity & Ensemble ★

★ 'Keep It Under Your Hat' Katie ★

★ 'Keep It Under Your Hat' (reprise) Katie & Ensemble ★

★ 'Careless With The Truth' (reprise) Ensemble ★



ACT TWO

SCENES & SONGS



Entr'acte *Orchestra*



SCENE ONE - CALAMITY JANE'S CABIN



'A Woman's Touch' *Calamity & Katie*

'Higher Than A Hawk' *Bill*



SCENE TWO -- A TRAIL THROUGH A PASS IN THE BLACK HILLS



'Black Hills Of Dakota' *Ensemble*



SCENE THREE : FORT SCULLY



'Love You Dearly' *Katie & Danny*

'Men!' *Calamity & Bill*



SCENE FOUR - CALAMITY JANE'S CABIN



'Secret Love' *Calamity*

'Secret Love' *Calamity & Bill*



SCENE FIVE - THE GOLDEN GARTER SALOON



'Windy City' (reprise) *Ensemble*

'Finale' *Ensemble*

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts.

Please do not smoke in the auditorium. The use of cameras, mobile phones and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.



Hitchin Thespians is proud to be affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) which was founded in 1899 as the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. It has a membership of some 2,500 amateur/community theatre groups and 3,000 individual enthusiasts throughout the country, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging

from leading professional theatres to village halls. NODA is divided into eleven national Regions, each headed by a Regional Councillor who sits at the ruling body of the Association and who is supported by a network of Regional Representatives and other volunteers. The Representatives and their volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies themselves. The association is administered from its headquarters in Peterborough.

NODA offers multiple benefits to its members, providing free expert advice and factsheets on the many issues which can arise in putting on a performance. NODA represents the interests of amateur theatre in authorities, rights holders and the media. Conferences, workshops and seminars held at National and Regional level all help the members to share information on best practice.



The NODA Annual Summer School offers training from professional tutors in acting, directing, music directing, musical theatre, stage management and other technical aspects of theatre performance.

Bursaries are available from National and Regional funds. Regular Regional magazines and the quarterly 'NODA National News' provide a range of useful advice and information for amateur societies and practitioners, as well as free

listings of performances, free classified ads for selling, buying or hiring scenery, props, scripts, and details of shows released or restricted for amateur performance. NODA's trading area offers access to goods and services for members and other amateur theatre enthusiasts, such as NODA pantomimes, a sheet music service, official badges, youth representatives, commendation badges and Long Service Awards. There awards are available for presentation to those who have given active service to amateur theatre for a period of ten years and every five years thereafter. NODA Insurance provides a package that caters for the specific needs of amateur theatre with discounted premiums for NODA members.

NODA aims to ensure that it provides help to amateur societies and individuals in achieving the highest standards of best practice and performance, and in meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

CALLING YOUNG THESPIANS...

If you want to sing, want to act, and want to dance and are in Year 6 and above we want to hear from you. Young Thespians meet Sunday mornings from 10am to 12 noon at Woodside Hall, Walsworth Road, Hitchin. There is a charge of £25 to take part in each production.

Young Thespians will be presenting 'Aladdin' at Woodside Hall from 16th - 18th April 2009. ...Come and see us!

There are no auditions to join so if you are interested please contact Ann Crook 01462 434181, anncrook@btinternet.com



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Wishing Hitchin Thespians much success in their production of

'Calamity Jane'

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Lucy Miller-White
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HITCHIN THESPIANS PAST PRODUCTIONS

1903	The Gitanos	1932	Rose Marie	1968	Half A Sixpence	1993	H.M.S. Pinafore
1904	The Sorcerer	1933	The Desert Song	1969	Carmen	1994	Guys and Dolls
1905	The Yeomen of the Guard	1933	The Vagabond King	1970	Kismet	1994	Charlie Girl
1905	The Mountebanks	1934	The New Moon	1971	The Merry Widow	1995	A Little Night Music
1906	The Pirates of Penzance	1935	The Maid of the Mountains	1972	The Sound of Music	1995	Barnum
1907	The Gondoliers	1936	Miss Hook of Holland	1972	Hello Dolly	1996	42nd Street
1908	The Mikado	1937	The Student Prince	1973	Most Happy Fella	1996	The Pirates of Penzance
1909	H.M.S. Pinafore	1938	Goodnight Vienna	1974	Night in Venice	1997	Hello Dolly
1910	Trial by Jury	1939	Showboat	1975	South Pacific	1997	La Cage Aux Folles*
1910	Ruddigore	1946	The Rebel Maid	1976	The Beggars Opera	1998	Crazy For You
1911	The Yeomen of the Guard	1947	The Desert Song	1976	Bitter Sweet	1998	Chess
1913	Patience	1948	The Gondoliers	1977	Robert & Elizabeth	1999	Oliver!
1920	The Gondoliers	1949	Chu Chin Chow	1977	Yeomen of the Guard	1999	Singin' in the Rain*
1921	The Mikado	1950	Rose Marie	1978	Die Fledermaus	2000	Mack & Mabel
1922	The Yeomen of the Guard	1951	Bitter Sweet	1979	Fiddler on the Roof	2000	South Pacific
1922	The Pirates of Penzance	1951	Yeomen of the Guard	1980	Showboat	2001	The King & I
1923	Ruddigore	1952	Viktoria & Her Hussar	1981	Hello Dolly	2001	Half A Sixpence
1923	The Sorcerer	1953	The New Moon	1982	Orpheus in the Underworld	2002	Carmen
1924	Iolanthe	1954	Wild Violets	1983	The Music Man	2002	My One & Only
1924	The Gondoliers	1955	Magyar Melody	1983	Grease	2003	West Side Story
1925	Merrie England	1956	The Quaker Girl	1984	Carousel	2003	Barnum
1925	The Yeomen of the Guard	1957	Goodnight Vienna	1985	The Merry Widow	2004	Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*
1926	Patience	1957	Call Me Madam	1986	The Pirates of Penzance	2004	Jesus Christ Superstar
1926	Trial by Jury	1958	Bless the Bride	1986	Trial by Jury	2005	Kiss Me Kate
1926	H.M.S. Pinafore	1959	Love from Judy	1987	Kismet	2005	Carousel
1927	The Mikado	1960	Oklahoma	1987	West Side Story	2006	Me & My Girl
1927	Miss Hook of Holland	1961	Carousel	1988	Annie Get your Gun	2006	The Full Monty
1928	The Geisha	1962	Hansel & Gretel	1989	The Mikado	2006	Jekyll & Hyde*
1928	A Country Girl	1962	The Merry Widow	1989	The Boyfriend	2006	Thoroughly Modern Millie
1929	Princess Ida	1963	Kiss Me Kate	1990	My Fair Lady	2007	The Mikado
1929	Veronique	1964	Pink Champagne	1991	Kiss Me Kate	2007	Chess
1930	Tom Jones	1965	The Music Man	1991	Cabaret	2008	Calamity Jane
1931	The Pirates of Penzance	1966	Trial By Jury	1992	Oklahoma		
1931	Merrie England	1966	The King & I	1992	The Sound of Music		
1932	The Belle of New York	1967	Orpheus in the Underworld	1993	Trial by Jury		

* NODA Region 9 Eastern Area Award

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THE STORY OF 'CALAMITY JANE'



Many remember the story of 'Calamity Jane' from the classic movie starring Doris Day. While the film proves to be entertaining and fun, it does little to tell the true story of the life of this adventurous woman. Born Marthy Cannary in 1852, she gained her moniker when she seemed to be followed frequently by calamitous events. At a

young age she was an accomplished horsewoman and spent much of her day training stubborn horses.

In 1865 Calamity's family began to emigrate west. The journey took five long months and during that time Calamity learned to hunt alongside the men, until eventually they stopped in Virginia City, Montana. As a young girl of 13, she possessed many skills that most women would never obtain. After the deaths of her parents Calamity moved on to Wyoming and became a scout for General Custer. Despite her masculine habits, Calamity had dressed in female attire up until this time. Upon her employment as Custer's scout she began wearing a soldier's uniform.

It was during her campaign with Custer that she gained her nickname, 'Calamity Jane'. During a skirmish with some Indians, a captain was shot and Calamity turned in her saddle just in time to see him about to fall from his horse. She galloped alongside his mount and caught him just before he hit the dirt and lifted him onto her saddle. From then on she was always referred to as 'Calamity Jane', and most never knew her given name.

Calamity's time spent in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territories is where she gained most of her notoriety and fame. It is here that

she began her great friendship with Wild Bill Hickock. Hollywood chose to glamourise this time in Calamity's life, portraying her as a sweet-natured, singing beauty that overcame her masculine sensibilities. In truth, she was a hard-drinking woman who slept under a wagon or in a field. And although she may not have been a singing beauty, she was known as a kind and generous woman who would tend any sick prospector who needed care.

Calamity loved Bill Hickock but her love for him was unrequited, as he considered her only a very good friend. In 1885 she met a man named Clinton Burke and they were married not long after, where she gave birth to a daughter who she said had, 'the temper of her mother'. Calamity died in 1903 at the age of 51. The townsfolk of Deadwood honoured her with an ostentatious funeral and buried her next to her good friend, Wild Bill Hickock.

Calamity Jane the movie was released in 1953. It is (very) loosely based on the life of Wild West heroine Calamity Jane and explores an alleged romance between Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickock in the American Old West. The film starred Doris Day as the title character and Howard Keel as Hickock. It was devised by Warner Brothers in response to the success of 'Annie Get Your Gun'. It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song ('Secret Love'), and was also nominated for Scoring of a Musical Picture and Best Sound, Recording. The film was also adapted for television in 1963, with Carol Burnett in the title role.



FOR HITCHIN THESPIANS

Stage Manager	Philippa Tadman
Assistant Stage Manager	Richard Cobb
Production Manager	Sarah Bailes
Lighting & Sound	Black Duck AV LTD
Wardrobe Manager	Keryle Rutherford
Wardrobe Team	Margaret Brendish, Judy Page, Mary Roberts, Helen Goddard, Pearl Hare, Iain Rutherford
Stage Crew	Viv Stephenson, Neil Leggat Kirsty McArthur, Wayne Hough
Properties Manager	Cliff Gulbis
Properties Assistants	Emma Knott, Sarah Bailes
Continuity	Viv Tadman, Iain Rutherford
Make Up Manager	Donna Barrett

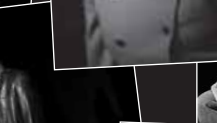
Make Up Team	Sarah Cunningham, Sarah Barry Rhian Watkins, Sheila Soothill, Bronwen Martin
Rehearsal Accompanists	Nigel Gray, Robert Day, Richard Moore
Costumes	Carousel Costumes
Scenery	Proscenium Ltd
Front of House	Kate Webb
Librarian	Lucy Miller-White
Programme Editing & Advertising	Nick Morgan
Programme Design	TeeGeee Design
Programme/Poster Printing	Streets of Baldock
Business Manager	Nick Morgan
Photography	Ralph Rapley/XMO4

Special thanks go to Dance of Hitchin for loan of costumes



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