



# MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

(Formerly Monmouth Operatic Society 1988 - 2005)



National Operatic & Dramatic Association  
Registered Charity No. 254640



No: 33

Edited by  
Sheryl Westoby

## Spring 2019 Newsletter

PRESIDENT - MR VERNON JONES (FOUNDER MEMBER)

[www.monmouthmt.co.uk](http://www.monmouthmt.co.uk)

<http://www.facebook.com/monmouthmusictheatre>

Dear Members and Friends



HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
TO  
COLWYN SILLMAN

Colwyn is a former musical director of the society.

Our Next Production

# MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

Registered Charity No. 1154731

*presents*

# Iolanthe

By Gilbert and Sullivan



*The Musical Story of Love, Fairies  
and the House of Lords*

**September 18th, 19th & 20th**

*at*

**The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth**

Adults £12 Children £8

Tickets from The Savoy Box Office

01600 772467 [www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk](http://www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk)

[www.monmouthmt.co.uk](http://www.monmouthmt.co.uk)



MONMOUTH  
musictheatre

noda  
Be Inspired by our Theatre

The Society last performed Iolanthe in November 1993 so it is new to most of us!

The show week will take place 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 so please mark your diaries now.

The auditions have taken place and the cast is as follows –

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Adrian Bevan     | Earl Tolloller      |
| Michelle Cooper  | Phyllis             |
| Ella Drabble     | Fleta               |
| Katie Ellis      | Fairy Queen         |
| Andrew Griffiths | Private Willis      |
| Stephen Hunter   | Earl of Mountararat |
| Reuben Jones     | The Lord Chancellor |
| Florence Mayo    | Leila               |
| Martha Newman    | Celia               |
| Dominique Walker | Iolanthe            |
| Gareth Wigg      | Strephon            |

Welcome to three new members Ella Drabble, Michelle Cooper and Roger Williams. Dominique Walker has made the transition of stepping from the shadows of the wings (stage assistant) to a principal part, treading the boards for her first appearance on stage with MMT! Well done Dominique or should I say Iolanthe?!

Ian Russell is our Musical Director for the show along with Helen Stidolph as piano accompanist and his wife Kate as stage director.





## Extract from The Voice

# Monmouth Music Theatre

Tickets from the Savoy and online: Adults £12.00, Children £8.00.

Following their outstanding success of 'Guys and Dolls' in April, one of South Wales' most dynamic and versatile theatre companies, Monmouth Music Theatre, turns its artistic and creative talents to their new show, 'Iolanthe'.

Set in Victorian England, this hilarious comic opera – considered to be way ahead of its time – stunned the sensibilities of unsuspecting audiences at the time. The masterful combination of fantastical fairies and pompous peers in an outrageously satirical romp that would make even today's politicians blush with embarrassment, will draw you in to the mad maze of parliamentary intrigue. The plot has almost every political twist and turn crafted to distinction by the ultimate masters of musical comedy, Gilbert and Sullivan.

Featuring many of the magnificent cast from 'Guys and Dolls', plus some exciting new performers, the production will be directed by the superbly creative Kate Russell. Joining forces with the artists and chorus on stage will be a professional orchestra under the direction of Monmouth

Music Theatre's Music Director, Ian Russell.

All this will take place at Monmouth's jewel in the crown, the wonderfully atmospheric Savoy Theatre. So sit back, relax, and immerse yourself in the truly hilarious and riveting comic experience.

Performances Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th September, at 7.30pm.



**MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE**  
Registered Charity No. 120471  
 presents

# Iolanthe

By Gilbert and Sullivan

*The Musical Story of Love, Fairies and the House of Lords*

**September 18th, 19th & 20th**  
 at  
**The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth**

Adults £12 Children £8  
 Tickets from The Savoy Box Office  
 01900 773807 [www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk](http://www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk)  
[www.monmouthmt.co.uk](http://www.monmouthmt.co.uk)

# "GUYS AND DOLLS"

## Review from Dee McIlroy

NODA WALES & IRELAND  
 DISTRICT 3  
 MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE  
 GUYS AND DOLLS  
 MUSICAL  
 THE SAVOY THEATRE MONMOUTH  
 04 05 19  
 REVIEWED BY DEE Mc ILROY  
 DIRECTOR KATE RUSSELL  
 MUSICAL DIRECTOR IAN RUSSELL  
 ACCOMPANIST HELEN STIDOLPH

"This is one of the best of the American musicals and ever popular, it is performed by many professional and amateur companies. The whole company lit up the stage with their fantastic production of Guys and Dolls, bringing New York to Monmouth.

Monmouth Music Theatre has triumphed through their difficulties, as despite the illness and stepping down of the well loved stalwart and respected member Graham Bryant who was their Director for this show with his wife Jane, everyone pulled together to make a success. Kate Russell must be credited for stepping in at the last minute as Director, and saved the day very well done!

An interesting well staged opening with many characters took us into the New York scene with high impact, setting the show on track from the first minutes with Fugue For Tin Horns.

Our introduction to the mission band with Sergeant Sarah Brown a fine performance with attitude from Louise Petrie whose golden voice raised the roof of the Savoy Theatre and good chemistry with high roller Sky Masterson always ready for action, played very well by Johnny Goddard totally in character. Johnny and the gangsters also gave an energised sewer scene with Luck Be A Lady Tonight and of course the famous Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat number with Nicely Nicely Johnson and his twelve genuine sinners a truly fantastic scene, Andrew Griffiths made an excellent Harry the Horse

Nothing like a romance to warm our hearts and reluctant Nathan Detroit, Gareth Wigg lived the man and his Fiancee Adelaide a superb performance from Lizzie Nicholson in all their scenes, a natural rapport, they were made for them! A showstopper Hot Box Scene!

The Mission band gave some nice cameos, the rich voice of Chris Godwin, Arvide Abernathy More I Cannot Wish You was well supported by Kate Russell as General Cartwright.

Lt Brannigan Tony Wells was reminiscent of Columbo with his spot on timing

Expert MD Ian Russell always sympathetic to the score and performers and his orchestra excelled.

Helen Stidolph was a fine Accompanist.

Superb costumes technical and backstage

Monmouth can be proud of their accolades for this very successful production."



Well done everyone on a fantastic show!



Photo by Des Pugh

**Treasured Memories and Hilarious Out Takes!**



“Hot Hotbox Dolls!”



“The Guys Photo Bombing the Dolls”

“Caught in the Act!” – No Elegance!

“Such Elegance!”



“The Red Light District?!”



“I got my eye on you,,,,,you dirty welcher!”





“Brinley getting all “dolloed” up to appear with the Hot Box girls!”



“Steve is determined to use his duress word this evening!”







“After his starring role as Big Jule, Stew is waiting for the call to play Dorothy” – just love those red shoes!

“Nathan, do you want to take the money or open the box?!”





Finally one to include us all!





At our recent AGM the following committee was elected:-

### MMT Committee 2019/2020

**Chairman** Stephen Hunter

**Vice Chairman** Steve Brettle

**Secretaries** Andrew Griffiths  
Jane Bryant

**Treasurer** Chris Godwin

**Show Secretary** Lynda Foster

**Membership Secretary** Sheryl Westoby

**Publicity Officer** Gay Rogers

#### **Other Committee Members**

Diane Webb

Johnny Goddard

Lizzy Nicholson

Martha Newman

Katie Ellis

**Current Musical Director** - Ian Russell

**Current Stage Director** - Kate Russell

**Accompanist** - Helen Stidolph

### Membership Fees

It was decided that membership fees would remain the same:-

Adults £90 for the whole year or £50 per show

Students £50 per year or £25 per show

Associate membership - £25

Please contact Sheryl re payment of your membership fee or pay direct by bank transfer to Barclays Bank - 204545

Account Number - 10220531

Annotate your Name and MMT Sub as the reference please.

## NODA NOMINATIONS

### Everything Crossed for our Noda Nominations!

Dee McIlroy of NODA has sent her nominations for this year's awards. We have been nominated for the following:-

Best Supporting Individual Performance MT – Adrian Whitehead for  
Eddie Souther in Sister Act

Best Musical Theatre Production – HMS Pinafore and Sister Act

Best Stage Management & Technical - Sister Act

The awards ceremony will be on Saturday 15th June at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford.

Well done to everyone involved in these shows. They are team efforts.



The recent coffee morning at The Priory was very successful with a profit of £130.00.  
Well worth doing and thanks to the helpers and members who came to support it.

Look out for our next one!





MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE  
presents

A Midsummer  
**Curry & Quiz**  
**Night**  
**Just £12 each!**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 @ 7.30 pm  
At Monmouth Priory, St Marys Church

Featuring special guest quizmaster:  
David Davies MP

## Please read

Raise money by registering to raise funds for MMT  
when using Easy Fundraising

Register for [www.easysearch.org.uk](http://www.easysearch.org.uk)

Every time you search on the internet, MMT will receive a donation

If you shop online try using [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

You could earn money for MMT at the same time.

Many major shopping outlets are featured

Eg: M&S, Next, Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, EBay.

Please put both addresses into your "Favourites" and use them!

Remember  
Fundraising  
Finances our Productions!

# THANKYOU

We welcome any relevant contributions to our newsletter. Please send any items you wish  
to be included to:-

Sheryl @ [shez.westoby@btinternet.com](mailto:shez.westoby@btinternet.com)

Have you any fundraising ideas?

Please inform the committee - we must continue raising funds to enable us to put on these  
great shows!







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If you no longer wish to receive MMT Newsletters please reply to this email with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE. Thank you.

## *Next Spring 2020 Production*

*Could it be*

*Carousel, Addams Family, Half a Sixpence, Sweeny Todd, Pyjama Game,  
Camelot, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Sound of Music.  
Just a few of the many suggestions made at our AGM by the members.*

*Your new committee will review and announce shortly.....*

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