

# MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

(Formerly Monmouth Operatic Society 1988 - 2005)



National Operatic & Dramatic Association  
Registered Charity No. 254640



No: 35

Edited by  
Sheryl Westoby

## Winter/Spring 2020 Newsletter

PRESIDENT - MR VERNON JONES (FOUNDER MEMBER)

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

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

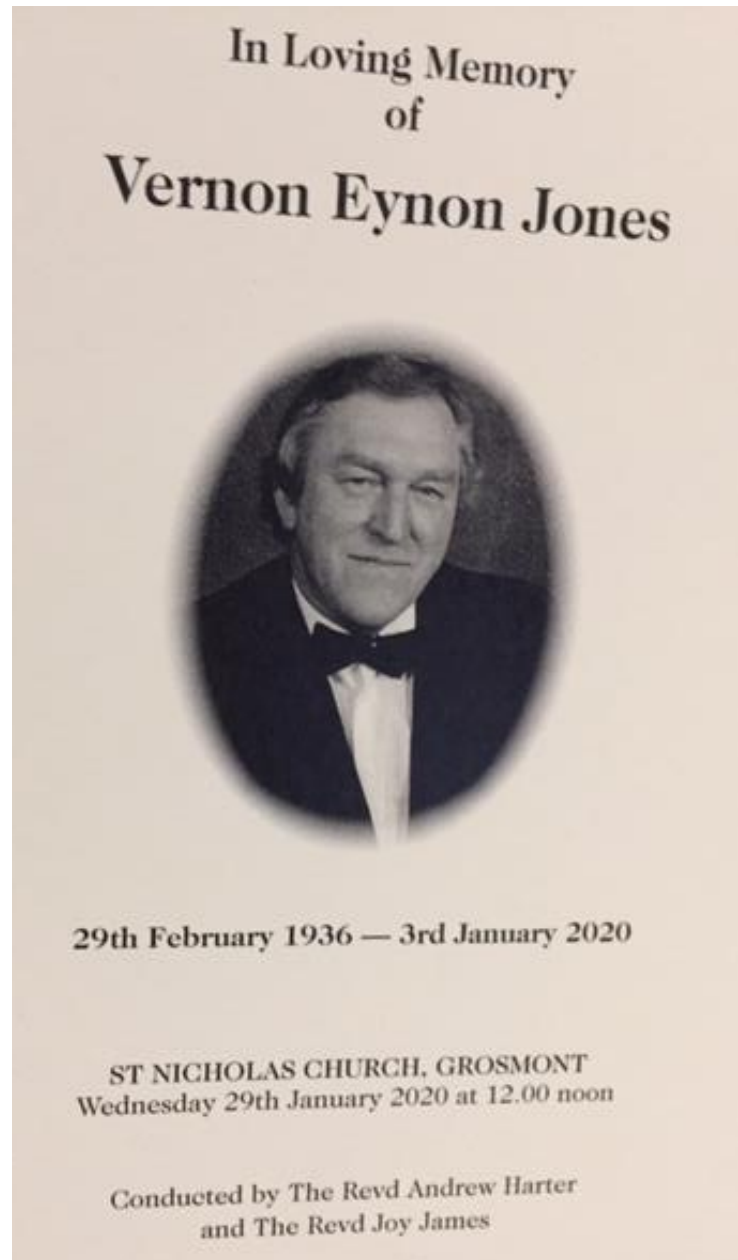
Dear Members and Friends

We bid a  
*Fond Farewell*  
to  
**Vernon Jones**  
Our President  
&  
Founder Member of the Society

The following eulogy was put together by a few committee members for Vernon's service.

It was held at St Nicholas Church in Grosmont. Over 200 people attended representing different aspect of his life, family, shooting, singing, and farming. It was so busy there were 2 people on traffic control duties in the road outside!

He would have enjoyed all the attention..... God bless him!



My name is Vernon Jones, I am Chairman of Monmouth Music Theatre, and I'm a very important person! This is how Vern introduced himself to Prince Edward at the opening of the Blake Theatre.

Monmouth Music Theatre started its life in early 1988 as Monmouth Operatic Society. Several people who had belonged to a Society in Abergavenny decided to start a group in Monmouth and that is how it all began. Anyone who was interested in getting the new Society off the ground was invited along and Vernon was there right from the beginning. The first production in the autumn of 1988 was HMS Pinafore.

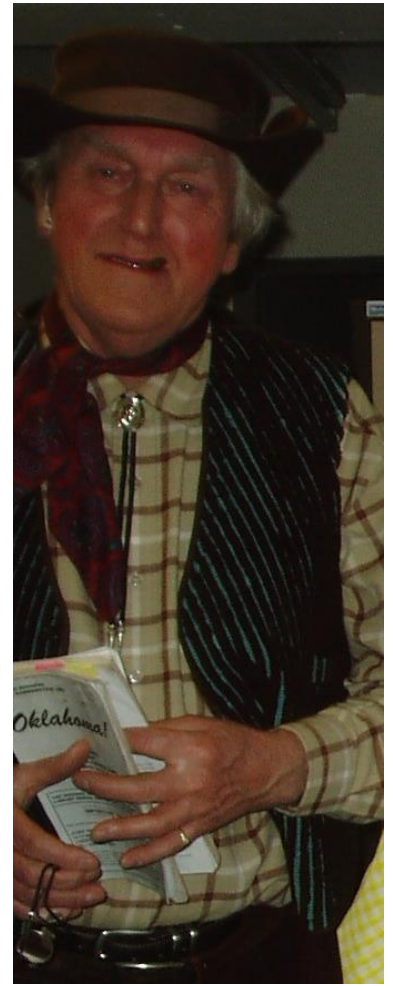
Since then Vernon rarely missed a show either taking on a part or being a member of the chorus. He was the obvious choice to play The Mikado and Sgt Willis due to his stature. The role of The Mikado he particularly made his own, although I think our directors sometimes had a hard time trying to get him to follow their instructions!

His last appearance on stage was in Anything Goes when we had several deckchairs on the top deck of the ship so members could pretend to relax and read a newspaper. Vernon did relax and our stage manager had to wake him up when the interval curtain came down.

Through his long association with the Society he went out of his way to support and encourage other members both old and new and was not only active whilst the Society was in production but was active behind the scenes in making sure the Society went from strength to strength as the years went on. Vernon was twice elected as chairman of the Society and was delighted to be selected as President in 2012 although he was a little disappointed about the absence of a chain of office although this was quickly remedied by Helen our pianist. As President, Vernon always made the effort to attend our shows, the last being in the Autumn when we performed Iolanthe.

### Some Photographs From Past MMT Productions







*Rodgers & Hammerstein's*

# “CAROUSEL”

**This production will take place  
on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2020  
at The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth.**

**Ruth Friend** is our Conductor/Music Director for the show along with **Helen Stidolph** as piano accompanist and Andrew **Griffiths** as stage director for this production. He will be assisted by his sister, **Lizzie Griffiths**.

**Lizzie Nicholson** will be helping with the choreography.

Welcome to our returning members and to our new recruits – Mary Brigg, Marion Francis and Tim Walker. I hear the rehearsals are buzzing!

Mr Ian Russell has decided to step down from this show due to personal reasons. We thank him for his initial work on the production and look forward to working with Ruth Friend who has been appointed to replace him. Ruth already has an association with the society having played the violin in the orchestra on previous occasions. Her daughters have also participated in a previous MMT production, Wizard of Oz.

Welcome also to our younger guests from Mayhem Theatre who will be joining us for this production. It's great to have you on board!

**Rehearsal Schedule:**

Sunday 16th Full Company Choruses Act 2, and Carousel Waltz  
 Tuesday 18th Dancers  
 Wednesday 19th Full Company 19th Choruses Act 2 and Carousel Waltz .

Sunday 23rd February Full Company : Choruses Act I  
 Tuesday 25th February : Act 2  
 Wednesday 26th February : Dancers

Tuesday 3rd March : Act 1  
 Wednesday 4th March Act 2

Sunday 8th March : Run Show, St James Hall, Wyesham  
 Tuesday 10th March : Act 1  
 Wednesday 11th March : Act 2

Sunday 15 th March : Run show, St James Hall, Wyesham  
 Tuesday 17th March : Run show  
 Wednesday 18th March : Run show

**Show Synopsis:**

*Carousel* is the second musical by the team of Richard Rodgers (music) and Oscar Hammerstein II (book and lyrics).

The story revolves around carousel barker Billy Bigelow, whose romance with millworker Julie Jordan comes at the price of both their jobs. He participates in a robbery to provide for Julie and their unborn child; after it goes tragically wrong, he is given a chance to make things right.

A secondary plot line deals with millworker Carrie Pipperidge and her romance with ambitious fisherman Enoch Snow.

The show includes the well-known songs "If I Loved You", "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" and "You'll Never Walk Alone".

Richard Rodgers later wrote that *Carousel* was his favorite of all his musicals.

# MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

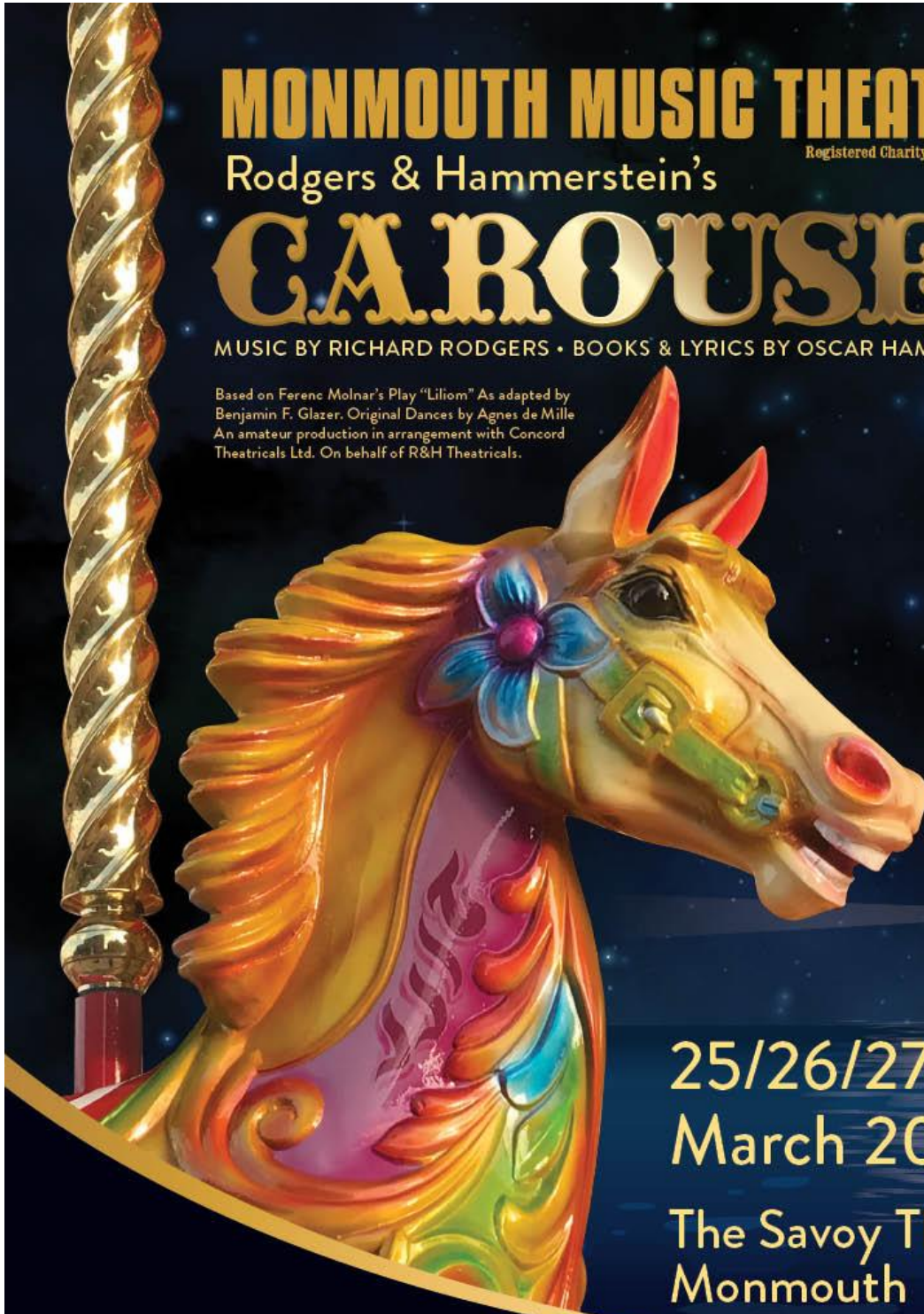
Registered Charity No. 1154731

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

# CAROUSEL

MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS • BOOKS & LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Based on Ferenc Molnar's Play "Liliom" As adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer. Original Dances by Agnes de Mille  
An amateur production in arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. On behalf of R&H Theatricals.



25/26/27/28  
March 2020

The Savoy Theatre,  
Monmouth

Adults £15 Children £8  
Concessions £12 (Wednesday only)  
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)



noda  
As inspired by modern theatre



# Rehearsals



**YOUR MMT Committee**  
**2019/2020**

**Chairman** Steve Brettle

**Vice Chairman** Dominique Walker

**Secretary** 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

Katie Ellis

Mr Stephen Hunter resigned as MMT Chairman last autumn. We thank him for all his support within MMT. Mr Steve Brettle has gallantly picked up the gauntlet to lead our faithful band of committee members onwards and upwards. Thanks go to him and to Dominique Walker who has become our new Vice-Chairperson.

**Membership Fees**

It was decided at the May AGM 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 see Sheryl or Chris re payment of your membership fee or pay direct by bank transfer to Barclays Bank - 204545

Account Number - 10220531

Please remember to annotate your name as the reference please, so we know you have paid!



## Next Fund Raising Coffee Morning

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

at

The Priory, Monmouth

Bring a friend and support!

Come and see participants from "Carousel" all kitted out in their costumes!

It's the Saturday before we move into the Savoy, ready for the performance week!!

### **Other Society News:**

Lizzie Griffiths, Katie Ellis and Andrea Pole (present members) are all in AAODS Abergavenny's production of "Chicago" which takes place at the Borough Theatre in May.

Katie Powell (former member) has had a baby boy. Kate Russell is a granny again – Becca Caldicot, her daughter and former member of the society, has had a boy who they have named Wren.

Congrats to all! 😊

Roger has asked to remind you that he is doing an  
**Old Time Music Hall**  
on the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb  
at the Phoenix in Ross  
and that several MMT members are involved including Helen, Dom, Andrew, Marian and himself.  
Tickets can be bought on line, or at Rossiters book shop.

Look who won our Christmas Raffle!



Well done Andrew

Looks like you had a cracking Christmas 😊

Sign up to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> - takes less than 2 minutes -  
 install the easyfundraising donation reminder - takes less than 30 seconds - and  
 feel good about raising money by not doing anything!!!!👍

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

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

Please put these 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!



Find us on:  
**facebook**

**FOLLOW US  
 ON  
 FACEBOOK!**

VISIT

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



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

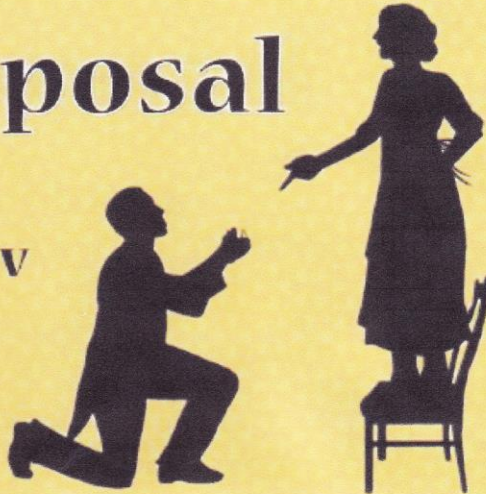
Off Centre Theatre Invites Our Members to:

## *Next Club night*

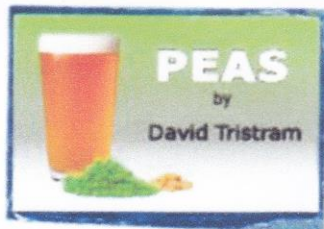
*On Thursday 27th February at 7-30pm we will be previewing our entry for this year's Hereford Festival.*

# The Proposal

a comedy by  
Anton Chekhov



*The evening will also showcase sketches including*



*Light refreshments & drinks will be available. We just ask for a small donation to cover costs.*

*This all happens at the  
**Monmouth Methodist Church Hall**, the venue for  
our next club night on  
**16A St James St,**  
**Monmouth NP25 3DL**  
Come and join in the fun!*



Do you have a sketch you'd like to perform?  
Please email Judith with details, so that a running order can be produced.  
[mrsjrossiter@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjrossiter@gmail.com)

**The**  
**♀ Opposite**  
**♂ Sex**

by David Tristram  
 an  
**ADULT comedy**

Thurs 12th - Sat 14th March at 7.30pm  
 at The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth

Off Centre Theatre present an adult-themed comedy, set in the 1980s, about marital infidelity and its consequences.

Mark and Vicky and Judith and Eric have something in common and a chance meeting could have made for a pleasant social evening. Unfortunately, as they all come face-to-face, the common denominator turns out to be that they each had an affair with their opposite partner and it isn't long before the air is thick with insults, black eyes and broken china!

**Tickets £12 - Box Office 01600 772467**  
**online: [www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk](http://www.monmouth-savoy.co.uk)**

Off Centre Theatre  
 Charity 1112602