



Off Centre Theatre will host and perform
in a **Stan Stennett** Pantomime



Robin Hood Meets the Babes in the Woods

10 - 16 February 2008

at the Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls

Auditions for the chorus (ages 8 to 18ish with some flexibility)
will be held on Sunday 21 October at 3pm and Tuesday 21 Oct
at 6.30pm in the Off Centre Theatre club room above
Barclays Bank in Agincourt Square
Contact Anne MacFarlane for more information 01600 713415



Monmouth Music Theatre
will present

The Mikado

By Gilbert and Sullivan



At
The Haberdashers' Monmouth
School for Girls
9 - 12 April 2008



* TWO for the price of ONE *
* An evening of comedy and music *



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Theatre
Charity No: 1112609

Off Centre Theatre & Monmouth Music Theatre
present



11, 12, 13 October 2007

At 7.30pm

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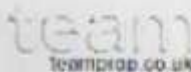
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A Message from OCT's Chairman

For many years Monmouth Music Theatre and Off Centre Theatre, in their separate ways, have been bringing entertainment and enjoyment to the people of Monmouth. For the first time the two organisations are co-operating to produce a joint effort that will display the special talents that each group contributes to create a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Like MMT, of course, OCT is always seeking new members and if you are interested please make yourself known to one of the people helping with Front of House.

Perhaps I could take this opportunity to draw your attention to the professional pantomime that OCT is helping to bring to HMSG in February - another example of OCT's willingness to co-operate in mounting a production - this time with the popular Welsh actor and comedian Stan Stennett. Keep an eye out for further details in the local press.

Thank you for supporting this joint production. We are proud to present this evening of music and comedy, which could be the beginning of a long and successful time of co-operation between MMT and OCT. The question will be, "Why didn't we think of it before?"

Angela Hughes, Chairman



A Message from MMT's Chairman

As chairman of Monmouth Music Theatre and a long time member of Off Centre Theatre I am twice as thrilled to welcome this long overdue collaboration and present to you all an evening of comedy and Drama. The enthusiasm which MMT members have approached Jane Rogers lively direction of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *Trial By Jury*, will be reflected, I'm sure, under the baton of our Musical Director, Ian Russell. If past experience is anything to go by, I'm certain you will be also entertained by OCT's presentation of the comic play *A Little Box Of Oblivion*. Working together with OCT will I'm sure, present future opportunities to doubly entertain you. One for your diary - MMT will be presenting performances next Spring at HMSG The *Mikado* on 9 - 12 April 2008

Enjoy your evening.

Richard Bond, Chairman





About Off Centre Theatre

Off Centre Theatre (OCT) was established in 1986 with its first production - *Maria Marten*. Since then it has gone from strength to strength and established itself as Monmouth's premier amateur dramatics company.

- OCT's productions range from traditional plays, variety shows, pantomimes, outdoor productions and events (in June 2005 on the Kymin in partnership with the National Trust) and touring shows.
- Though many of our productions have a cast of all ages we also specifically have productions for Junior and Youth members
- In late February 2008 OCT will be hosting and performing in a Stan Stennett Pantomime - *Robin Hood meets the Babes in the Woods*. OCT's Jim Newcomb will be the Dame and OCT will provide the chorus Front of House, Box Office etc. If you want to be involved in any way contact Barbara Spence - 01600 715699
- All ages and abilities are welcome to join. It doesn't matter if you have no previous experience and there is no pressure for you to appear on stage.
- You may have an interest in working backstage, helping front of house, making costumes or you may just want to be social member - everyone is welcome.
- We organise theatre trips, have play readings and hold club nights on the first Thursday of most months in our clubroom above Barclays Bank in Agincourt Square.

In 2005 OCT became a registered charity - the Charity Commissioners having recognised the contribution OCT makes to the local community.

Do you want to join in?

Annual membership fees: Juniors (under 16) £10, Adults £15, Household membership £35.

As a member you will be kept up-to-date with a monthly newsletter.

To be a member contact Elaine Andrews 01600 712194

or e.mail: offcentre@btopenworld.com.

About Monmouth Music Theatre



MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE came into existence in 2005 when the membership of Monmouth Operatic Society decided to change the name of their Society, the desire being to reflect more accurately the range of shows and concerts being presented. The Operatic Society had been founded in 1988 and for the first seven years performed only works by Gilbert and Sullivan. Then, gradually, works by other composers—such as Strauss (*Die Fleidermaus*) and Lehar (*The Merry Widow*) - were introduced. In recent years. Apart from more G&S and other operettas, there have been productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Calamity Jane*, *Oklahoma* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. There have also been compilations based on excerpts from musicals and films and. In 2004/5, two very successful Opera Galas were presented giving members their first opportunity to sing "Grand Opera". The first featured soloists from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and the second was in aid of the Tsunami Appeal. For our Spring 2008 production we shall be returning to G&S with *The Mikado*; incidentally, we have performed all but one of the 13 available G&S operettas.

New members of all ages are always welcome. If you want to join or just want more information contact - Doug Hall tel. 01594 530365

Tonight Monmouth Music Theatre are Performing:

TRIAL BY JURY

By Gilbert and Sullivan

A one act operetta, initially described as a "novel and entirely original Dramatic Cantata"

Trial by Jury is essentially a comedy and so, not wishing to spoil your enjoyment, we will not reveal too much about the plot. The story takes place in a court room where the Judge (played by *Doug Hall*) is about to hear an action for "Breach of Promise". It is brought by the Plaintiff (Angelina - *Kate Downes*) against the Defendant Edwin—played by *Matthew Watkins* who has jilted her. The Plaintiff's Counsel (*Cliff Smith*) endeavours to present his client's case while the Court Usher (*Vernon Jones*) strives to control the unruly Jury and members of the public. Various solutions are considered before the Judge is able to bring the case to a conclusion that suits all parties.

The Foreman of the Jury is *Lynn Hounsome*, other members of the Jury, the Bridesmaids and the Public are *Myra Bowen*, *Grace Dray*, *Lynda Foster*, *Annette Groves*, *Tracey Mapp*, *Jill Rogers*, *Carolyn Watkins*, *Dianne Webb*, *Sheryl Westoby*, *Margaret Wrightson*, *Phil Bell*, *Richard Bond*, *David Cantrell*, *Richard Ellis*, *Tony Ferguson*, *Peter Howard*, *Ted Mitson*, *Norman Lewis*, *Haydn Pinnell* and *John Pope*.

A Little Box of Oblivion

By Stephen Bean



By arrangement with Plays and Musicals

Cool Tony Wells
Neuro Paula Brady
Doom Peter Spence
Dick Caroline Mitchell
Woman Ann Hartland

Support team

Director Tom Rigby
Stage Manager David Wells
Sound Charles Wintour

The action takes place in a park where a woman puts a box down next to a stranger. She gives strict instructions before rushing off, not to move, knock, tilt or open it. What can be in it?

Trial by Jury

By Gilbert and Sullivan

The Learned Judge Doug Hall
The Plaintiff Kate Downes
The Defendant Mathew Watkins
Counsel for the Plaintiff Cliff Smith
Usher Vernon Jones
Foreman of the Jury Lynn Hounsome

Bridesmaids, Jury & the Public

• Phil Bell • Richard Bond • Myra Bowen • David Cantrell •
Grace Dray • Richard Ellis • Tony Ferguson • Lynda Foster •
• Annette Groves • Peter Howard • Norman Lewis •
• Tracey Mapp • Ted Mitson • Haydn Pinnell • John Pope •
• Jill Rodgers • Carolyn Watkins • Diane Webb •
• Sheryl Westoby • Margaret Wrightson •

Support team

Accompanist Helen Stidolph
Musical Director Ian Russell
Stage Director Jane Rogers



The action takes place in a courtroom where the jilted Angelina takes Edwin to court for breach of promise. A joyous farce about love and marriage!





Who's Who in Little Box of Oblivion?

Tony Wells - Cool You may have seen Tony researching his role by sitting on park benches around Monmouth, acting in a generally suspicious manner and attracting the attention of the local police and the Cat's Protection League. The authorities have only allowed him to appear tonight as long he is home by 11pm. Tony has been with Off Centre for 10 years and his roles have included both appearing on stage and backstage. He is perhaps better at moving scenery than moving performances!



Paula Brady - Neuro Born and bred in Dublin, Ireland, she came to Wales in April 2006 and loves it. A new member of OCT with little experience in amateur dramatics, previous roles as a child included, Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz' and Rasputin in the story of the 'Mad Monk' and later on one of the ugly sisters in Cinderella! She played her first adult part as Gwendolyn in *The Odd Couple* with OCT. Her background is in education and she is in the early stages of setting up 'Bristol Business College' delivering professional evening diploma courses. Her hobbies include walks with her Westie and Springer Spaniel and golfing!

Peter Spence - Doom Peter is originally from Ffestiniog in North Wales moving to Monmouth when he was 18mths old. He has been a member of OCT since 1995 appearing first in *Piccalilli Circus* as a knife thrower. He has also appeared in 5 of OCT's renowned pantomimes. He studied chemistry at university where he played Quince in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. He now works in HMSG as the Chemistry Technician. In his spare time he enjoys photography and playing the violin.



Caroline Mitchell - Dick Born in Iran of Scottish descent, Caroline has lived most of her life in Monmouthshire. She joined OCT in 2003 when she played Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She has been a stalwart of Usk panto for many years and is also a keen member of the Monmouthshire Reel Club. The club with it's 140 members spends it's time dancing Scottish Reels in the country houses of Wales. A brilliant way of getting a simultaneous physical and social work-out.

Ann Hartlamd - Woman Ann is originally from Leicester but came to Monmouth in 1964. She is a founder member of OCT and has enjoyed taking part in many productions. She has played a range of roles including Madam Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Emily in the recent *Summer End* and Angela in *Abigail's Party* - for which she won the Gwent Drama League award for Best Supporting Actress. Ann is an avid reader - reading a book a day. She says her favourite hobby is her family, particularly her grandchildren.



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Who's Who in Trial by Jury?



Doug Hall - The Learned Judge As well as being a member of MMT, Doug has also been a member of Lydney and District Dramatic Society for 35 years. He has taken the lead in many plays such as Hobson in *Hobson's Choice* and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. In addition he has played the Dame in many pantomimes. His most recent roles have been Suffolk in *Lady Jane* and Buffalo Bill in *Annie get Your Gun*.

Kate Downes - The Plaintiff Kate has been singing since the age of 3, not only as a chorister but also on the stage. Her introduction to Gilbert and Sullivan was as a pupil at HMSG, where she sang "April" in *Princess Ida*. Her big moment came when she sang the title role in Offenbach's sparkling operetta *The Drum Major's Daughter* under Colwyn Silman. Recently she performed the role of Ado Annie in *Oklahoma* to great acclaim.



Matthew Watkins - The Defendant Matthew is a student at Monmouth Comprehensive School where he is studying DT, Physics and Drama. He plans to go to Drama College when he finishes his studies at MCS. He has performed the title role in *Humpty Dumpty* for OCT and first appeared with MMT/MOS in *HMS Pinafore* in 2003. At school he has appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Guys and Dolls*. In his spare time he enjoys car mechanics - so Matthew is a useful person to know.

Cliff Smith - The Counsel for the Plaintiff Cliff is a native of Woodford in Essex and came to Monmouth 17 years ago when he was a founder member of the Operatic Society. He has always preferred "character" parts having first played a gouty old colonel in the farce *Queen Elizabeth Slept Here* as a teenager. He has previously appeared in *Trial by Jury* in the Old Court House in Usk when he played the part of the Judge.



Vernon Jones - Usher Vernon is one of the founder members of Monmouth Operatic society which is now MMT. He has played lead roles in many productions and was also Chairman for many years. This is not the first time he has played the Usher, as he has performed it before in a production of "Trial" at the Old Court House in Usk. Vernon was born and bred in Llangua where he still lives. He lists his hobbies as singing, shooting and cricket and when not doing these he spends his time running his mixed farm.

Lynn Hounsome - Foreman of the Jury Lynn has appeared in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas since her youth when she first played the part of Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance*. She has been part of MMT/MOS for 10 years having appeared in among other productions - *The Geisha* and *Calamity Jane*. Lynn helps with the choir at St Nicholas' Church in Grosport. She is the Welsh Regional co-ordinator for the charity DELTA - Deaf Education Through Listening and Talking. Lynn describes herself as a "Welsh Cockney" who came here from London to stay in 1995. She says "I love nothing better than making people laugh" so keep an eye on her tonight.



Who's Who Behind the Scenes?

Production Secretaries	Linda Foster & Barbara Spence
Tickets and printing	Pastorprint
Box Office	Brian Williams, St Mary Street Nelson Museum, Priory Street BoJangles, Monnow Street DS Music, Monnow Street
Marketing & Publicity	Barbara Spence, Linda Foster, Richard Bond & John Pope
Front of House	Elaine Andrews, Barbara Spence & Team
Programme	Barbara Spence & Dianne Webb
Poster	Geoff Webb



Thank you from
**OFF CENTRE THEATRE
& MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE**



Thank you to the following for their support with this production:
ATC (Monmouthshire) Ltd, BoJangles, DS Music,
Hazel Eyles of Monmouth Priory, Free Press, Monmouthshire
Beacon, Monmouth Priory, Nelson Museum Monmouth,
Des Pugh, Andy Sherwell, Brian Williams and anyone else we
have forgotten to mention.