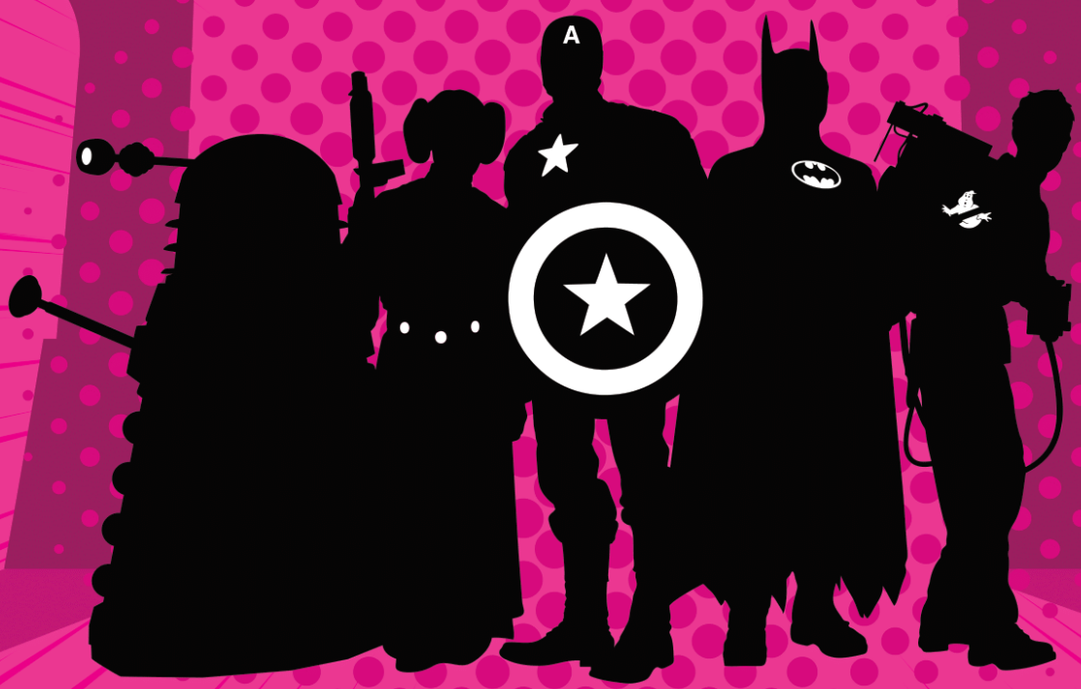



# CENTENARY SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

In Aid of ST HELENA HOSPICE, COLCHESTER & IPSWICH HOSPITALS CHARITY, and MIND (MID & NORTH EAST ESSEX)

# INVASION COLCHESTER



## CHARACTERS & THEMED AREAS · SHOW CARS · SPECIAL GUESTS
## COMPETITIONS & PRIZE DRAW · LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

# 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

## SATURDAY, 10am - 4pm, COLCHESTER CITY CENTRE

**invasioncolchester.co.uk**

f invasioncolchester  𝕏 @invcolchester  invasion_colchester

ACE COMICS · Colchester City Council · COLCHESTER EVENTS · Colchester Market · culver square shopping · Fenwick · COLCHESTER · LW LION WALK · Park and Ride

* Terms & Conditions apply

© Invasion Colchester, 2024

COS MEMBER DISCOUNT £6.50 PER CLASS

ADULT DANCE STUDIO

@adultdancestudio

@adultdancestudio

# ADULT DANCE CLASSES

Class styles including Jazz and Tap

Wednesday evenings from 6pm

£8 per class

PHILIP MORANT SCHOOL

DANCE STUDIO

REMBRANDT WAY, COLCHESTER CO3 4QS




## In Stitches (of West Mersea)

For all your alteration and sewing needs

Jayne Sheeran

2 Westwood Drive
West Mersea CO5 8PH

Email : merseagirl357@gmail.com

Mobile : 07717511697




There's always something awesome in store!

ACE COMICS

acecomics.co.uk

42 Culver Street East, Colchester, Essex CO1 1LE | Tel: 01206 561912

# MESS

## **KATIE CUTMORE** Chairperson of Colchester Operatic Society



Shrek! 2023

I'm so proud to present this centenary concert Some Enchanted Evening at the Mercury Theatre Colchester, celebrating 100 years of Colchester Operatic Society. This achievement is testament to the passion, dedication and hard-work of countless volunteers and performers, who are all members of the Colchester community, giving their time and talent for free, who have been involved in managing the Society and creating its productions over the last 100 years. I hope this success, passion and drive continues for generations to come.

When I joined back in 2005, knowing no-one, I never thought I would end up being the first female chair, leading the group through a pandemic and then later into its 100th year. However, I'm honoured to have done so and so glad I got over the fear and nerves to get involved. I have made lifelong friends and now have a large extended musical theatre family and nearly 20 years of experiences and memories that I not only treasure, but that have shaped who I am today.

So, if you are thinking that you'd love to get involved but feel unsure, my advice is to feel the fear and do it anyway! The best rewards come from challenges you face and the people you meet along the way. You can find more information on joining and/or getting in touch on our website www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk.

Our vision for this centenary production was to showcase the talent of our current and past membership through a selection of songs from our vast back catalogue of musical shows that depicts the history of Colchester Operatic Society and entertains audience members of all generations. Our cast are made up of new, current and returning members, including myself, other committee members, some of the founding members of CO2 and more recent members of CO2. We will be joined by guest soloists, who have been past members of COS/CO2, and who have gone on to be successful creatives/performers professionally since being involved in COS/CO2.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this production, for their time, energy, hard work, commitment, and support towards the Society. Co-ordinating and watching everything come together through this teamwork is always an honour. We have had great fun creating this evening's entertainment, with many of us re-living memories of past shows, as some previous directors also returned to set key numbers for this gala concert.

This performance not only celebrates the work Colchester Operatic Society does but is dedicated to all those who have been involved with and supported the Society, who are no longer with us. We also wish to donate some of the proceeds of this concert to St. Helena's Hospice, a local life-changing charity who need the community's support to continue their work. If you wish to financially support both the Society, which is also a registered charity, and St. Helena's Hospice, all donations are gratefully received.

# AGES

presents

**JOHN ENFIELD** President of Colchester Operatic Society



Jekyll & Hyde, 2017

It was early in the year of 1956 when I arrived at the Red Lion for my audition to become a member of Colchester Operatic & Dramatic Society (as it was named then).

The audition committee consisted of a cigar smoking Chairman, a cigarette smoking Secretary and thank goodness, a non-smoking chorus master, Ken Ferris. Following the audition I became a 'playing member' of the Society. That was the start of my journey as a member for 68 years. I have been so lucky over the years in playing many super parts including 'Frosch' a jailer in "Die Fledermaus", 'Alfred P. Doolittle' in "My Fair Lady" (alongside Mick Hemstedt and Chris Barrell), 'Capt. Von Trapp' in the "Sound of Music", 'Horace Vandergelder' in "Hello Dolly" and many more.

I was elected onto the Executive Committee early on in my time with the Society and was later elected Chairman, from 1977 to 1998.

It was during the production of "The Mikado" at the Playhouse Theatre in 1973 that I became concerned about the future of what was a wonderful theatre and home to our productions at the time, perhaps being turned into a Bingo Hall or more concerning a pub! I took it upon myself to pay a visit to see David Forder, the Managing Director of the Mercury Theatre at the time, to ask if there was a chance that the Mercury Theatre could be our new home. We were welcomed with open arms by David and the other Directors. We have never looked back and what a pleasure it is to celebrate our centenary in the Mercury Theatre.

I can recommend the 68 years with Colchester Operatic Society as a fantastic hobby and please stop and have a chat in the interval or at the end of "Some Enchanted Evening", this Special Gala Concert, celebrating 100 years of Colchester Operatic Society producing live musical theatre.

# THE CO



Mandy Bailey



Grace Bryson



Samuel Carbonero



Valentine Cavanagh-White



Kate Cavill



Paul Flynn



Caroline Fritz



Louisa Futcher



Natasha Gadenne



Chrissie Griffiths



Mathilde Marsh



Kelly Marven



Ed Mehen



David Moye



Lisa Pordham



Claire Turner



Amy Wilson



Jacob Yaxley-Grffiths

# MPANY



Becky Clemens



Katie Cutmore



Emma Dagleish Mehen



Lilly Defrates



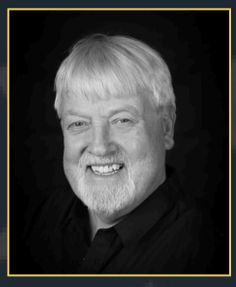
Sarah Elli



Laura Hicks



Dawn King



David King



Sally Leung



Tyler Mair



Amy Reeve



Chloe Rivers



Barbara Ryan



Elia Teatino



Leanne Thomas

**Welcoming back for this celebration concert:**

Wade Ablitt
Hannah Ambrose
Jestin Bartlett
Jamie Fillery
Rob Gathercole
Matt Jewson
Alex Johnson
Will Mugford
Connor Pratchett
Hannah Shayle-Kennedy
Adam Woodhouse

**Featuring from the cast of CO2's Legally Blonde:**

Arthur Allen
Becci Morris
Caitlin Feakes
Chloe Long
Daniel Samulionis
Ellie-Marie Chapman
Freddie Bull
Frederick Coe
Georgia Brindley
Ginevra Ventre
Hannah Wentworth
India Hill
Jessica Dines
Kate Wall-Hardern
Lily Brotherton
Matilda Davis
Molly Cutting
Nathan Smith
Niamh Butcher
Niamh Cullen
Phoebe Wentworth
Tilly Francis
Zachary Davis
Zara Ball

# THE CENTEN

## ACT 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Overture | | |
| Raise Your Voice | *Sister Act* | *Lilly Defrates, Katie Cutmore, Sally Leung, Mathilde Marsh & Full Company* |
| As Some Day It May Happen | *The Mikado* | *Barbara Ryan, Valentine Cavanagh-White & Lisa Pordham with Chorus* |
| Three Little Maids | *The Mikado* | *Barbara Ryan, Valentine Cavanagh-White & Lisa Pordham with Chorus* |
| I Am The Very Model | *The Pirates of Penzance* | *Samuel Carbonero & Chorus* |
| Poor Wand'ring One | *The Pirates of Penzance* | *Becky Clemens* |
| Suddenly Seymour | *Little Shop of Horrors* | *Connor Pratchett, Alex Johnson, Grace Bryson, Mathilde Marsh, Lilly Defrates* |
| Do You Love Me? | *Fiddler on the Roof* | *Dawn King & Dave King* |
| Something's Coming | *West Side Story* | *Will Mugford* |
| Someday | *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* | *Full Company & Jestin Bartlett* |
| Legally Blonde Remix | *Legally Blonde* | *CO2 cast of Legally Blonde* |
| Johanna Sequence | *Sweeney Todd* | *Neil Somerville, Caroline Fritz, Jacob Yaxley-Griffiths & Grace Bryson* |
| Beautiful City | *Godspell* | *Matt Jewson* |
| Little Girls | *Annie* | *Leanne Thomas* |
| Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat | *Guys & Dolls* | *Wade Ablitt & Full Company* |

## ACT 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Do Re Mi | *The Sound of Music* | *Katie Cutmore with Chloe Rivers, Ed Mehen, Kelly Marven, Louisa Futcher, Mathilde Marsh, Natasha Gadenne & Tyler Mair* |
| Hello, Young Lovers | *The King & I* | *Caroline Fritz* |
| Kansas City | *Oklahoma!* | *Rob Gathercole* |
| You'll Never Walk Alone | *Carousel* | *Adam Woodhouse with Full Company* |
| Some Enchanted Evening | *South Pacific* | *Full Company with CO2 cast of Legally Blonde* |
| This is the Moment | *Jekyll & Hyde* | *Jamie Fillery* |
| Wouldn't it be Loverly | *My Fair Lady* | *Barbara Ryan and Hannah Ambrose* |
| Summer Nights | *Grease* | *David Moye, Paul Flynn, Mandy Bailey & Elia Teatino & Full Company* |
| Home | *The Wiz* | *Hannah Shayle-Kennedy* |
| Freak Flag | *Shrek* | *Full Company* |
| Bows | | |
| Consider Yourself | *Oliver!* | *Full Company with CO2 and guest performers* |

Mercury Theatre, Colchester

# ARY CONCERT

| | |
|---|---|
| Concert Coordinators | Katie Cutmore |
| | Caroline Fritz |
| | Andrew Hodgson |
| Musical Director | Neil Somerville |
| Choreography & Direction | Katie Cutmore |
| | Caroline Fritz |
| | Laura Hicks |
| | Dave King |
| | Nikki Mundell-Poole |
| | Adam Woodhouse |
| **Narration** | Andrew Hodgson |
| **Sound & Lighting** | The Mercury Theatre |
| **Costumes** | Caroline Fritz |
| | Jayne Sheeran |
| | Diane Thorpe |
| **Artwork** | Barney Fritz |
| **Programme Design** | Gabriella Skinner |
| **Programme Printing** | Spingold |
| **Photography** | Emma Theedom |
| **Chaperones** | Kirsty Bryant |
| | Charlotte Butcher |
| | Diane Emberton |
| | Tracey Hackett |
| **Front of House / Programme Sales** | Michael Cutmore |
| | Clair Cutting |
| | John Enfield |
| | Wayne Setford |

Colchester Operatic Society would like to express their public thanks to all those who have contributed to this production both on and off stage.

A special thanks to the Mercury Theatre Staff, who have been fantastic as always.

Thanks also goes to Phillip Morant School & Home Farm Primary School for providing our rehearsal venues, and to anyone who has not been named but has helped with this production.

Finally a special thank you to you, members of our audience, for all your support.

# COLCHESTER OP

We are an amateur theatre company that is there for everyone and anyone who wants to perform or help to put on amazing shows.

Colchester Operatic Society was founded in 1924 and is one of the region's oldest musical theatre companies, performing annually to rave reviews. Over the years we have put on over 130 shows and concerts involving over 8,500 cast and crew.

We currently produce a main show in the early part of the year, running for two weeks at The Mercury Theatre and a summer concert, which has been performed at a variety of smaller venues in and around Colchester.

A huge number of our young people have gone on to form successful careers within the theatrical industry. Many of these are currently performing on West End stages and on your TV screens!

For many of our members it is being part of an exciting theatrical project that interests them. If you love acting, dancing, singing or assisting in other aspects of theatre productions, there is something for you in COS.

We pride ourselves on being community based. Whatever your age, gender, ethnicity, experience or ability, Colchester Operatic Society offers challenging, rewarding and above all FUN activities for anyone with an interest in musical theatre.







NODA, the National Operatic & Dramatic association, founded in 1899, is the main representative body for Amateur Theatre in the U.K. It has a membership of some 2400 amateur/community theatre groups and 300 individual enthusiasts throughout the country.

www.noda.org.uk

OUR SOCIETY IS PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED TO NODA

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

# ERATIC SOCIETY








*Photos courtesy of Sally Parkinson Photography, Pamela Raith and Wild Bears Photography*

Our Committees of volunteers keep the society running smoothly, putting in hours of hard work in their own time.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
Chair & Safeguarding Deputy – Katie Cutmore
Secretary – Natasha Gadenne
Treasurer – Neil Somerville
Business Manager – Caroline Fritz
Assistant Secretary – Laura Hicks
CO2 Chair & Safeguarding Lead – Charlotte Butcher
Inclusion Lead – Valentine Cavanagh-White
Funding Co-ordinator – Wayne Setford
Marketing & Events Chair – Jessica Bailey
Vice Chair – Andrew Hodgson
Committee Member – Claudia Haswell

**CO2 COMMITTEE:**
Chair & Safeguarding Lead – Charlotte Butcher
Secretary – Max Woodward
Treasurer – Neil Somerville
Business Manager – Caroline Fritz
Vice Chair – Clair Cutting
Cast Representatives – Caitlin Feakes, Zarah Noray
Members – Scarlett Brothers, Kirsty Bryant, Katie Cutmore, Nicholas McKeown, Stefanie Wyatt

**MARKETING & EVENTS COMMITTEE**
Chair – Jessica Bailey
Website – Mike Cutmore
Media Design – Emma Theedom
Members – Charlotte Butcher, Katie Cutmore, Natasha Gadenne, Shannon Hannah, Koralia Salacuri

**PRESIDENT**
John Enfield

**LIFE MEMBERS**
John Enfield, Sylvia Hawkins, Alan Larner, Sally Leung, Val Massey, Barbara Pears, Gill Plumtree, Barbara Ryan, Barbara Scully, Ann Taylor, Colin Thorne, Maggie Walton and Trevor Walton

To find out more about our future productions or how you can become involved with the society, please visit www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk

Or follow us on

@colchesteroperaticsociety @colchesteroperatic @colchesteroperatic

# THE HISTO

In a small room in Colchester Town Hall in 1924, a group of businessmen met to form an organisation, which has developed into an integral part of the local community, run by a diverse group of volunteers and is now celebrating 100 Years. It began its existence as Colchester Amateur Operatic Society, before becoming known as Colchester Operatic Society (or COS for short), and from the beginning was an enormous success.

The first production was Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers', staged at The Hippodrome Theatre in Colchester's High Street. The Essex County Telegraph reported in kindly terms on its reception, saying that "it must be remembered it was being performed by amateurs"! We are happy to report that the Society receives much more glowing reviews today!

In 1938 we produced our last show before the Second World War interrupted production, and it was 7 years before the Society returned to annual performances.

With the end of the war, the Society lost no time in getting back into production, now at The Old Repertory Theatre. In 1947 'Tom Jones' was the first show to be performed by the Society at The Playhouse in St Johns Street, where we stayed until 1973. Increasingly ambitious shows were staged during this time, and several plays were introduced.

As time went on, The Hippodrome became a popular nightclub and The Playhouse became a pub, as such the Society had to develop as well. In 1973 the Society moved to its current performance venue, The Mercury Theatre, a professional performance venue with a 500 seat capacity. Once again the reputation of the Society was enhanced as we performed such classics as 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'The King and I' and 'Hello Dolly', with the demand for tickets regularly exceeding the number of seats available.

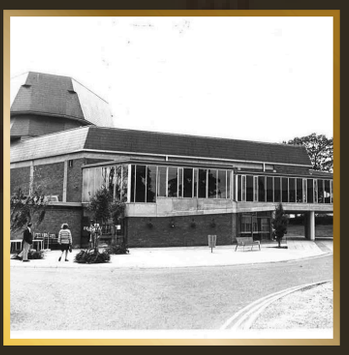
The costs of staging productions have escalated enormously from our humble beginnings, and whilst we once spent £700 per show, decades later the Society spends a great deal more on each show, nearing £100,000 for a big production! As you would expect from an increased budget, the standards of performance have also risen significantly, with the appointment of professional directors, musicians and musical directors.









# RY OF COS

As well as our main shows, over the years the Society has also produced a number of spring/summer concerts, and many local charities benefit enormously from these efforts. Many of these concerts are shown at another well-known Colchester venue; The Headgate Theatre.

In 1984, Colchester Operatic Second Edition (CO2) was formed to mount shows of greater interest to the younger members of the society, and appeal to a wider range of audiences, In the Autumn of that year 'Grease' was presented at the Essex University Theatre. CO2 has continued to grow in popularity over the years, proving that there is a wealth of talent amongst Colchester's youngsters – with over 130 young people now auditioning for our CO2 shows! CO2 now perform shows annually at The Mercury Theatre.




In 2019, the Mercury Theatre closed for renovations and Colchester Operatic Society joined forces with the team at the Mercury Theatre to produce "Oliver!", which was performed in a large purpose built theatre tent on Abbeyfields. Following this, productions were briefly stopped by the COVID pandemic. However, we used the time to improve our governance, whilst connecting through online choir rehearsals and producing two online streamed concerts. We returned to the Mercury theatre in 2022 with our production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and in May 2022 COS proudly became a registered charity (number:1198865), allowing us to continue putting on great shows for the public benefit of our local community.

From our "amateur" beginnings in 1924, COS and CO2 now receive rave reviews from our audiences, have won many awards for our productions and continue to enjoy a fantastic reputation for producing high-quality musical theatre

## Announcing our new Society Logo

As part of our centenary celebrations we are very excited to be launching a new Society logo. This has been designed by member Alice Wightman.

There is a COS and CO2 version, which you will soon start seeing as we begin to rebrand.

# 100 YEARS



## 1925

1925 *The Gondoliers*
1926 *The Mikado*
1927 *Princess Ida*
1928 *Iolanthe*
1930 *Les Cloches de Corneville*
1931 *Yeoman of the Guard*
*Trial By Jury*
*& Pirates of Penzance*
1932 *The Quaker Girl*
1933 *The Mikado*
1934 *The Gondoliers*

## 1935

1935 *Merry England*
1936 *Duchess of Dantzic*
1937 *Oenone*
1938 *A Country Girl*

## 1945

1946 *The Beggar's Opera*
1947 *The Arcadians*
*Tom Jones*
1948 *A Waltz Dream*
1949 *The New Moon*
1950 *The Desert Song*
1951 *The Student Prince*
1952 *Harmony Hill*
1953 *Showboat*
1954 *Brigadoon*

## 1955

1955 *Pink Champagne*
1956 *The Vagabond King*
1957 *The Whitehorse Inn*
*H.M.S. Pinafore*
1958 *The Pirates of Penzance*
*Summer Song*
1959 *The Merry Widow*
*The Yeoman of the Guard*
1960 *Song of Norway*
1961 *The Naughty Marietta*
1962 *Ruddigore*
*The Dancing Years*
1963 *Kismet*
1964 *Iolanthe*
*The Most Happy Fella*

## 1965

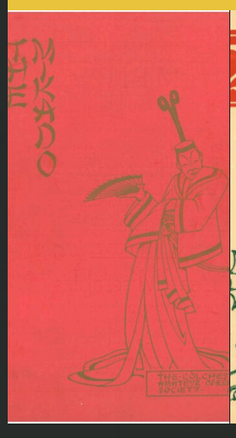
1965 *The Student Prince*
1966 *La Belle Helene*
1967 *Carousel*
*Semprini (Concert)*
1968 *Merrie England*
*The Count of Luxemburg*
1969 *Oklahoma*
*Tom Jones*
1970 *Kiss Me, Kate*
*Die Fledermaus*
1972 *Spring Concert*
*The Mikado*
1973 *Robert & Elizabeth*
1974 *Orpheus in the Underworld*

## 1975

1975 *The Merry Widow*
1976 *My Fair Lady*
*Spring Serenade*
1977 *The Great Waltz*
1978 *Fiddler on the Roof*
1979 *Tht King & I*
1980 *Showboat*
1981 *Hello, Dolly!*
1982 *Camelot*
1983 *Half a Sixpence*
1984 *Brigadoon*

## 1985

1985 *Carousel*
*Guys & Dolls*
1986 *The Pirates of Penzance*
*The Sound of Music*
1987 *Oliver*
*South Pacific*
1988 *Annie Get your Gun*
*The Desert Song*
1989 *My Fair Lady*
*The Mikado*
1990 *The Music Man*
*The Pyjama Game*
1991 *Fiddler on the Roof*
1992 *Oklahoma*
1993 *Kiss me, Kate*
1994 *Godspell*
*Orpheus in the Underworld*

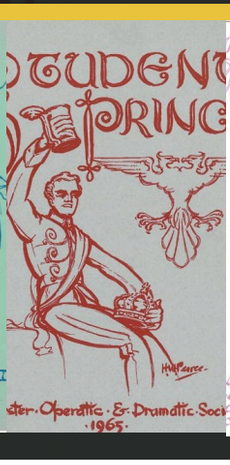
















# OF SHOWS

1995 *Hello, Dolly!*
*A Christmas Concert*
*Back to the Future (Concert)*
1996 *The Pirates of Penzance*
1998 *The Musical World of Colchester Operatic S ociety (Concert)*
*Me and My Girl*
*The Musical World of Colchester Operatic Society II (Concert)*
1999 *Singin' in the Rain*
*Musical Memories (Concert)*

## 1995

2000 *Sweet Charity*
2001 *Half a Sixpence*
*Showsongs (Concert)*
2002 *50 Musical Years (Concert)*
*Carousel*
2003 *Sing Around the World*
*The King & I*
2004 *Oliver!*

## 2000

2005 *Crazy for You*
2006 *My Fair Lady*
2007 *Camelot*
*The Wicked West End (Concert)*
2008 *South Pacific*
*Make 'Em Laugh,*
*Make 'Em Cry (Concert)*
2009 *Fiddler on the Roof*
*Not Just Broadway, Baby! (Concert)*

## 2005

2010 *Calamity Jane*
*Best of British (Concert)*
2011 *Sweeney Todd*
*Jesus Christ Superstar*
2012 *Happy and Glorious (Concert)*
2013 *Sweet Charity*
*Fantasy and Fairytale (Concert)*
2014 *The Sound of Music*
*From Stage to Screen (Concert)*

## 2010

2015 *42nd Street*
*Come Fly with Me (Concert)*
2016 *Sister Act*
*Dolls & Guys (Concert)*
2017 *Jekyll & Hyde*
*Seasons with Swing (Concert)*
2018 *Hairspray!*
*The Seven Deadly Sins (Concert)*
2019 *Annie*
*Oliver!*

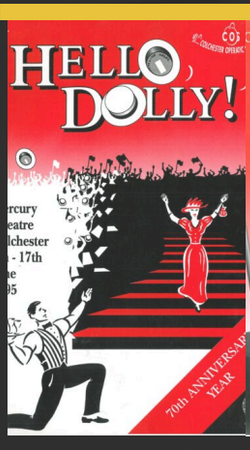
## 2015

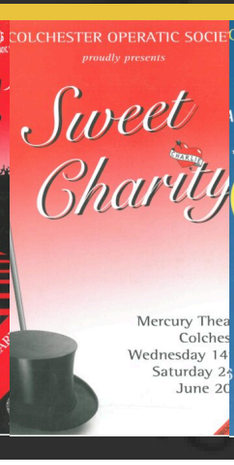
2020 *Dare to be Different (Concert)*
*Celebrate COS (Virtual Concert)*
2021 *The Show Must Go On-Line (Virtual Concert)*
2022 *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
*From Page to Stage (Concert)*
2023 *Shrek!*
*Iconic (Concert)*
2024 *My Fair Lady*
*Some Enchanted Evening (Concert)*

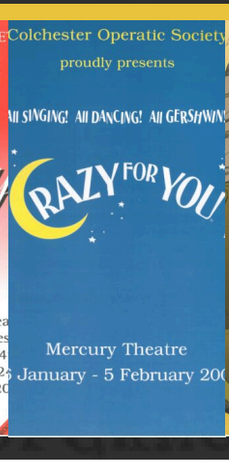
## 2020




## 2025



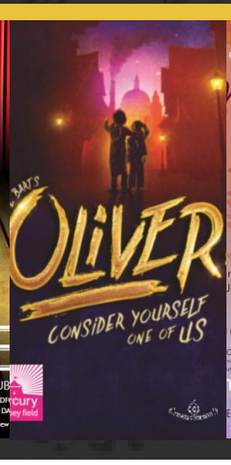



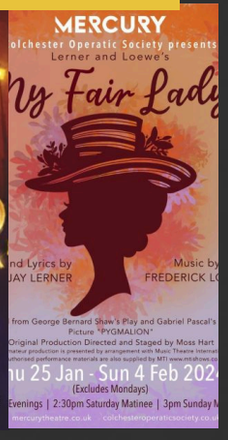









# COME AND

## BECOME A MEMBER

**Being part of a society is so rewarding and really helps unleash your creativity, whether you love to act, dance, sing, be more hands on backstage or even directing!**

To find out more about joining, email secretary@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk



**Amy Reeve**
Member COS

> "I am brand new to COS and I am absolutely loving my time here! Everyone is so friendly and welcoming and I absolutely love singing with everybody. So if you haven't joined - you definitely should!"

## PERFORM WITH US

**Auditioning is quite simple, although as with any auditions, they can be a little scary or daunting but you are not alone in feeling like this; we all feel the same, even the seasoned COS members!**

Audition information can be found on our website and social media, - you will need to be a paid member to audition.

> "My first memory of COS was walking in on my own in 1974, not knowing a soul and I auditioned and got the part of Cupid! Over the years I've built up a lot of friendships, I've enjoyed the comradeship and it's just been a fantastic hobby."



**Barbara Ryan**
Member COS



## BE PART OF THE BACKSTAGE TEAM

**Our productions do not just rely on a hard working talented cast along with professional, experienced direction but on the hard work, skills and experience of the hidden heroes backstage.**

Information about how to apply to help backstage can be found at www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk.

# JOIN US

## DONATE

As a registered charity, your generous donations will go towards future COS/CO2 productions; increasing accessibility for all and some of our expenses, which include:

- *Theatre Hire*
- *Rehearsal Space Costs*
- *Director & Musical Director Fees*
- *Set Hire*
- *Costume & Props Hire*
- *Show Licensing & Script/Score Hire*
- *Equipment Hire*
- *Orchestra/Band Hire*
- *Expenses*
- *Captioning*
- *Members Show Fee Bursary*

To donate, please scan the QR code, or visit www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk/donate

*If you have donated and would like to know more about how your donation has been used please feel free to contact us.*

## Colchester Operatic Society

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID



# CASTING CALL

The registration to be in the cast for The Little Mermaid at the **Mercury Theatre, 31st Jan – 9th Feb 2025** is now open!

### Ensemble

**Pre-Audition Rehearsal**
**(For all auditionees aged 16 or over)**
**Thursday 27th June**
**19.30-22.00pm**

**Audition Date**
**Sunday 7th July**
**10.00am-18.00pm**

### Flounder

**Pre-Audition Rehearsal**
**(For auditionees aged 10-14)**
**Thursday 4th July**
**19.30-22.00pm**

**Audition Date**
**Wednesday 17th July**
**19.30-22.00pm**

All auditionees (except Flounder auditionees) must be 16 years and over and are required to do an Ensemble audition. The audition panel will then ask certain auditionees to audition for specific parts at the Principal auditions.

For full information, visit our website:
**colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk**

# MERCURY

## Colchester Operatic Society 2nd Edition (CO2)

# LEGALLY BLONDE

## The Musical

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
**Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin**

BOOK BY
**Heather Hach**

Based on the novel by **Amanda Brown**
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

# THU 24 - SUN 27 OCT 2024

mercurytheatre.co.uk | colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk

COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY'S PRODUCTION OF

# Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID




LEGALLY BLONDE The Musical
THU 24 - SUN 27 OCT 2024

MERCURY

15% OFF

WHEN YOU BUY TICKETS FOR BOTH LEGALLY BLONDE AND LITTLE MERMAID IN ONE TRANSACTION. VISIT MERCURYTHEATRE.CO.UK

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID


Music by
ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics by
HOWARD ASHMAN &
GLENN SLATER

Book by
DOUG WRIGHT

## MERCURY

## FRI 31 JAN - SUN 9 FEB 2025

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by John Musker and Ron Clements

Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

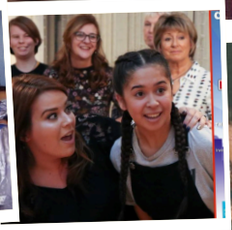

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe) All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.mtishows.co.uk


colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk mercurytheatre.co.uk









































































# THANK YOU COS

"I took part in 4 brilliant productions with CO2 and, as much as I loved performing, the most special part was the people and I'm so fortunate to have lifelong best friends who I met whilst performing in those shows. Several years on, I am the co-Artistic Director of The Gallery Studio Theatre and still perform on-stage at any opportunity I can!"



**Wade Ablitt**

*Guys & Dolls, CO2 2012*



"Some of my favourite performing moments came on the Mercury stage. Making my CO2 debut in Guys & Dolls - 2012 and my professional debut in the same musical at the Royal Albert Hall in 2018 was full circle. Being the T-Birds with my best mates in 2014 also has to be a highlight! Since my final show with Colchester Operatic Society, I've graduated from drama school and been working professionally since including my dream show, Jersey Boys."

**Connor Pratchett**

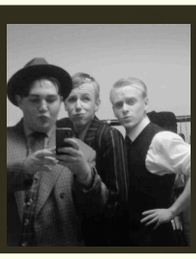
*Sister Act 2016*

"I first joined CO2 back in 2007 where I took part in my first show; 'We Will Rock You'. I then continued to perform in many of their other productions over the years such as; 'Summer Holiday' (Alma), 'The Wiz' (Addaperle), and 'Footloose' (Rusty) where I created so many fond memories. It is a real pleasure to be back on stage and perform with Colchester Operatic Society again this evening."



**Alex Johnson**

*Footloose, CO2 2010*



"Growing up I had an insatiable appetite to do every show by every theatre group going! But the CO2 shows stand out for their quality, professionalism and the enormous fun onstage and off. I then went off to train at Rose Bruford College, and now work as a professional actor/musician and composer!"

**Rob Gathercole**

*Guys & Dolls, CO2 2012*

"I Love the fact I can bring BSL (British Sign Language) to the centre of the stage being fully inclusive . Showing that there is no barrier to music for the deaf community, showing signing can be a translation as well as an art to watch."



**Jestin Bartlett**

*The Hunchback of Notre Dame, 2022*



"The memories I have of CO2/COS live with me forever. It grew and nurtured my love for musical theatre and inspired me to pursue a career in the industry. A real highlight From my time in Colchester was 'The Lion' in 'The Wiz'. However, I love telling people I played 'Britney Spears' in 'We Will Rock You'"

**Jamie Fillery**

*The Wiz, CO2 2009*

"So many life long memories were made during my time with Colchester Operatic Society. I owe a great deal of gratitude to this wonderful Society and it's an absolute privilege and a joy to be back, and to now be directing CO2's next production of Legally Blonde in the Autumn"



**Matt Jewson**

*Footloose, CO2 2010*

# Chappells

## Cocktail Bar

**Open Until Late**

Thursday from 5pm

Friday from 4pm

Saturday from 2pm

Bookings can be secured by emailing
chappellsofcolchester@gmail.com

Chappells would like to congratulate COS on their Centenary



65 North HIll, CO1 1PX

# Wishing Colchester Operatic Society many congratulations on their Centenary.

From one Colchestrian local to another;
we applaud you and look forward to
supporting you for another 100 years!




SUMMER SALE



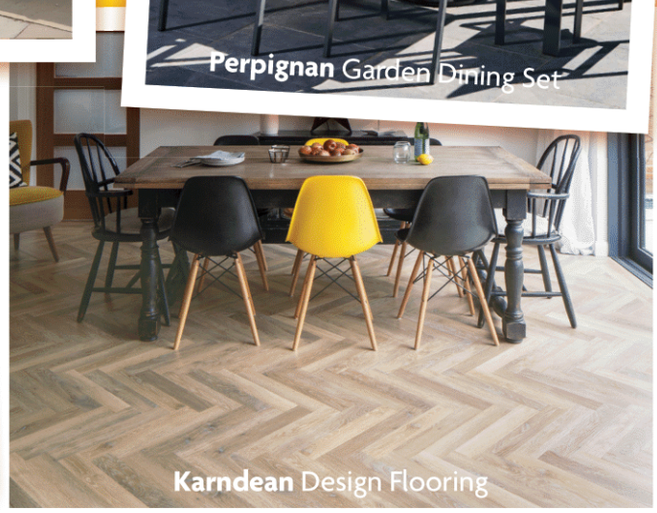
**Maldives** Corner Dining Set




**Perpignan** Garden Dining Set



**Zuri** Bedroom Furniture



**Karndean** Design Flooring

HATFIELDS
FURNITURE & INTERIORS

Peartree Road, Colchester, CO3 0LA
**01206 765444 www.hatfields.com**
*Whilst Stocks Last.

Col Operatic Society_Centenial Celebration.indd 1 11/06/2024 15:03