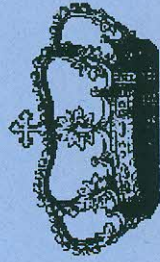


Crowthorne Musical Players
present



Me And My Girl

*Book and Lyrics by
L Arthur Rose and
Douglas Furber.*

Music by Noel Gay.

*Book revised by
Stephen Fry.*

*Contributions to
revisions by
Mike Ockrent.*

*This amateur production
by arrangement with
Samuel French Ltd.*

South Hill Park

Tues 3rd - Sat 7th June 2003 at 7:30pm
Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell

www.crowthornemusicalplayers.org.uk

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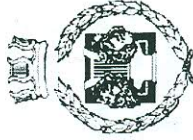
Director: Carol Hardy

Musical Director: Nick Austin

Choreographer: David Parsonson

Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell

Tuesday 3rd June to Saturday 7th June, 2003



Member, National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Crowthorne Musical Players

Crowthorne Musical Players was formed in 1950 by members of the Parish Church and since that time has performed many musical shows at various venues. Our main productions have been held at the Wilde Theatre since 1991:

1991 Calamity Jane	1997 Pirates of Penzance
1992 The Merry Widow	1998 My Fair Lady
1993 Oklahoma!	1999 Calamity Jane
1994 Half a Sixpence	2000 Anything Goes
1995 Carousel	2001 Kiss Me, Kate
1996 Fiddler on the Roof	2002 Die Fledermaus

CMP Vice Presidents

Mrs H Conolly, Mr J Finnie, Mr J Jones, Mr W Jones, Dr J Perry, Mrs S Priest, Mr K Smith.

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	26 Cannon Court Road
	Maidenhead
	01628 417596

We are always pleased to welcome new members, especially male singers. If the thought of treading the boards is perhaps a little too daunting, then we are also delighted to meet volunteers who would like to join the backstage crew or help out front-of-house, or perhaps you could support us by becoming a Vice President.

As well as our annual major musical show here at the Wilde, we also stage an Autumn concert of songs and sketches in Crowthorne. This November we are turning Our Lady's Prep School into an Olde English Smugglers Inn! Details are given later, but note that this event is for members, guests and Friends of the Society - so please join our free Friends mailing list.

We normally meet for rehearsals on Thursday nights at Crowthorne Parish Hall on Heath Hill Road, with additional rehearsals for principals on Monday nights - usually in Wokingham - as required. Why not come along to see us, or contact any of the above officers for further information.

CMP thank our programme advertisers and gratefully acknowledge the support from Wyevale Garden Centre, Millwheel Tack Shop and GJolliffe & Co.



Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our production of *Me And My Girl*, which couldn't be more different from last year's *Die Fledermaus*, or our various Broadway shows, not least because it gives our Northern cast members opportunities to try out new bizarre accents, whereas others can be completely natural!

We are delighted to welcome back Carol Hardy as Director, following her successes with *Anything Goes* and *Kiss Me, Kate*. We must also thank, once again, Nick Austin, our Musical Director for his leadership, enthusiasm and terrible jokes at rehearsal. A warm CMP welcome goes to David Parouson, who has brought a wealth of experience as choreographer and has certainly 'kept us on our toes' (sorry) in the big dance numbers, some of which I have almost learned!

This has been a very popular show with the cast, and I must welcome and thank all the new members who have joined us this year, together with all the other members and friends who have helped behind the scenes. I hope you enjoy the performance and that you will all be walking 'the Lambeth Way' as you leave!

Inside this programme you will find a form which will help us make sure you know about future productions and events by joining our free mailing list as a 'Friend of CMP'. Please fill it in and leave it at the raffle desk in the foyer.

John Caley



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Crowthorne Musical Players, *Me And My Girl*, 2003

Synopsis

It is the late 1930s and an excited crowd of toffs are heading for a weekend party at Hareford Hall in Hampshire. Meanwhile, at a family conference, Parchester the solicitor reveals that he has located the heir to the family fortune - a certain Bill Snibson from Lambeth, the product of an unfortunate alliance in the 13th Earl's youth. But he can only inherit the estate if he is a 'fit and proper' person and this must be decided by the executors: Maria, Duchess of Dene and Sir John Tremayne. Although the family are horrified by Bill's uncouth ways, the Duchess believes she can transform him into an aristocrat, while her daughter, Lady Jaqueline Carstone, decides Bill would be a much more lucrative catch than her drippy fiancé, Gerald Bolingbroke. There is a complication however. Bill has brought along his Lambeth girl-friend, Sally Smith, and all can see that she is certainly not the 'fit and proper consort' also required by the will. The Duchess wants to separate the couple, while Sir John would like to send both of them packing. Sally takes the heart-breaking decision not to stand in Bill's way and tries to show him that she is too common for the high-life by turning up at the dinner thrown in his honour with a gang of her cockney chums. The culture clash results in a rousing rendition of the Lambeth Walk.

The next day, with the house party still in full swing, Bill decides that he will return to Lambeth to be with his girl (once he has given his maiden speech in the House of Lords), but Sally still thinks he should remain at Hareford and she heads back to London alone. Sir John has other ideas. He has been touched by the couple's obvious love for each other and follows Sally to persuade her (in one of the corniest plot twists ever!) to take lessons from a remarkable man he knows in Upper Wimpole Street. Back at Hareford, the Hunt Ball is in progress and Bill is preparing to leave. Sir John and the Duchess have finally acknowledged their feelings for each other and Gerald has discovered the way to Jaquie's heart (via somewhere else!) when, unknown to Bill, the transformed Sally returns (Sir John: "I think she's got it!"). Would you believe, they all live happily after!*

The Show

Me And My Girl, in its original incarnation, opened on December 16, 1937 at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London and was an immense hit, running for two years and almost 1,700 performances. Then the show fell into near-total obscurity until its successful revival in the mid-1980s. This version was rewritten by Stephen Fry and Mike Ockrent and was first presented at the Leicester Haymarket Theatre (produced by Richard Armitage, son of the pseudonymous original composer, Noel Gay) before transferring to the Adelphi Theatre, London, where it opened on 12th February 1985 with Robert Lindsay and Emma Thompson. Although the show was hugely popular and won five Drama Desk awards, it was thought to be "too British" for Broadway audiences. In 1986 however, the New York production of *Me and My Girl* went on to earn eleven Tony Award nominations and win three, including Actor (Musical), Actress (Musical), and Choreography.

Coming soon from CMP...

Last year we moved our Autumn Concert to Our Lady's Prep School, The Avenue, Crowthorne, and the show, *Cabaret Night at the Black Cat Club*, proved to be a great success. Many thanks to those of you who supported the event.

This year, from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th November we shall be transforming the school into *The Smugglers Inn*, an Olde English Tavern full of colourful characters, bawdy wenches and assorted persons of ill repute. (Shouldn't be too much of a stretch for some of our members!) The music will include lots of traditional old English arrangements, some folk and opera, and lots of drinking songs and, to help with those, there will be a licensed bar! Directed by Liz Sharp, with Nick Austin as MD, there will be lots of opportunities for audience participation and this should be a very lively and funny production. Rehearsals start on Thursday 12th June, 8-10pm at Crowthorne Parish Hall. New members will be made very welcome.

Become a Friend of CMP (its free!) and receive regular details of all our shows and events.

Next year, we mark the 50th anniversary of its West End debut by performing *The Boyfriend*, here at the Wilde Theatre (note the earlier dates: Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th May 2004), and have also selected *South Pacific* as our show for 2005.

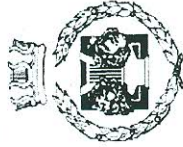
For details on all our performances, auditions, rehearsals, etc., visit our website: www.crowthornemusicalplayers.org.uk

CMP invite you to visit

The Smugglers Inn

14th-16th November 2003, Our Lady's Prep School, Crowthorne

noda



The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) was founded in 1899 "to protect and advance the interests of Operatic and Dramatic Art, and of Societies engaged therein." It has a membership of some 2,300 amateur societies and 2,500 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to tiny village halls. Members have access to a wide range of benefits.

For further information contact: NODA, NODA House, 1 Crestfield Street, London, WC1H8AU. Tel 0870 770 2480. www.noda.org.uk

The Cast

BILL SNIBSON

Tony Jones

SALLY SMITH

Laura Gosden

MARIA, DUCHESS OF DENE

Sandra Lewis

SIR JOHN TREMAYNE

Mark Conolly

LADY JAQUELINE CARSTONE

Lucy Gosling

THE HON GERALD BOLINGBROKE

Simon Elliott

HERBERT PARCHESTER

John Caley

SIR JASPER TRING

Tony Kershaw

CHARLES, the Butler

Roger Lansdown

LORD BATTERSBY

Robin Anderson

LADY BATTERSBY

Danusia Maleczek

MRS BROWN

Anne Darsley

DANCERS:

David Bennett

Kate Cooper

Joanna Lynch

Debbie Mann

Hayley Spong

Shirley Twist

CHORUS OF GUESTS, SERVANTS, COCKNEYS, ANCESTORS, etc.

Gaby Anderson, Alex Aucken, Christine Charlton, Janet Clark,

Mervyn Clark, Terri Chopping, Anne Darsley, Laura Darsley,

Sara Dillon, Sue Dyer, Pat Evans, Sue Ford, Ro Gorell, Ryszard Gorell,

Estelle Johnson, Suzanne Lee, Sue Mimshall, Gabby Rees, Rachel Roberts,

Liz Sharp, Laura Stock, Michael Sturdy, John Taylor, Janet Winn,

Chris Wood, Michelle Worthington

Scenes and Musical Numbers

England: the late 1930s.

ACT ONE

- Overture
Instrumental
- Scene 1**
The road to Hareford/Hareford Hall. A Summer's evening
A Weekend at Hareford
Thinking of No-one But Me
The Family Solicitor
Me And My Girl
*Guests, Jaquie, Gerald
Jaquie, Gerald
Parchester, Family
Bill, Sally*
- Scene 2**
The Kitchen
An English Gentleman (plus Reprise)
Charles & Staff
- Scene 3**
The Drawing Room
You Would If You Could
Hold My Hand
*Jaquie, Bill
Bill, Sally*
- Scene 4**
The Hareford Arms
Once You Lose Your Heart
Sally
- Scene 5**
Hareford Hall
Preparation Fugue
The Lambeth Walk
*Instrumental
Bill, Sally, Cockneys,
Aristocrats*

ACT TWO

- Scene 1**
The Garden of Hareford Hall
The Sun Has Got His Hat On
Take It On The Chin
*Gerald, Jaquie, Company
Sally*
- Scene 2**
The Library
Once You Lose Your Heart (Reprise)
Song of Hareford
Love Makes The World Go Round
*Duchess, Ancestors
Bill, Sir John, Ancestors*
- Scene 3**
Capstan Street, Lambeth
Leaning On A Lamppost
Bill
- Scene 4**
Hareford Hall
Finale & Calls
Company

*There will be an interval of 20 minutes
between Acts One and Two*

Cast Profiles

Bill Snibson - Tony Jones

In words wot 'e rote 'imself: Well, first outing with CMP and oh boy what fun ☺. I'd just like to say 'hit's han 'onor to be 'ere wiv this hall-star line up' and before she beats me up (again), I'd just like to say its been a real pleasure working with My Sal, an actress with, may I say, such 'big' potential, and, of course, the Tiger (if only he'd remember his lines!!!). Credits include: Bill Snibson in *Me and My Girl*, followed by Bill Snibson in *Me and My Girl*, and, oh yeah, there's Bill and, and, and, well the list is endless - AND to all of you, just sit back and let us do the worrying! - Enjoy yourselves and see you down Lambeth Way ☺



Sally Smith - Laura Gosden

Laura was in the chorus of CMP's *Kiss Me, Kate*, but this is her first show as a principal. In fact, at 21, we reckon she is possibly our youngest-ever leading lady. She has appeared in many shows with CATS in Crowthorne, including several pantomimes. Her favourite role was Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and her all-time idol is Judy Garland. (Funnily enough, those passions are also shared by Mr Parchester!)

Lady Jaqueline - Lucy Gosling

This is Lucy's second show with CMP, having played Haitie in *Kiss Me, Kate* in 2001. She has always wanted to play Lady Jaqueline and is really enjoying the part. She has performed with many local societies in the last 10 years or so, and her favourite parts include Nancy in *Oliver*; Maisie in *The Boyfriend* and Phoebe in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Lucy also directs, most recently *Patience* with WLOS last year. Her busy life includes looking after her children, Jacob and Anna, working part-time as a statistician, and singing with a 50's/60's soul band called 'Soul Purpose'.



Gerald Bolingbroke - Simon Elliott

Simon has only been living in the UK for two years, having moved over here from New Zealand, where he played lead roles in shows such as *Godspell* and *Under Milk Wood*, albeit several years ago. This is his second show in England following a chorus role in *Crazy For You* with EBOS last year. The main challenge of this part has been hiding his antipodean accent - no small feat!



Maria, Duchess of Dene - Sandra Lewis

Sandra hails from Glasgow, but has lived in Berkshire for many years during which she has sung leading roles with many local operatic groups. Favourite CMP parts include Magnolia in *Shonboat*, Calamity in *Calamity Jane*, Madame Glavari in *The Merry Widow* and both Adele and Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* (but not simultaneously!). Other appearances were as Irene in *Crazy for You* with Masquerade and as a "Celebrated Diva" in an "Old Time Music Hall" for Wokingham Theatre. She has also appeared in cabaret and many concerts.

Sir John Tremayne - Mark Conolly

Mark returns to CMP for his tenth show following successful outings with EBOS in *Guys and Dolls* and *Crazy for You*. Previous CMP roles include Fred/Petruchio in *Kiss Me, Kate*, Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes* and Bill Hickock in *Calamity Jane*. His preparation for the part of Sir John has entailed many hours practising, and perfecting, the character of a grumpy old man!



Parchester - John Caley

John's fifth CMP show sees a radical departure from recent roles as lecherous old drunks or gangsters, although quite what the Law Society would make of this portrayal of the family solicitor is anyone's guess. John has a passion for Rugby League. It is probably fair to say, in this incarnation at least, that Parchester does not.

Sir Jasper - Tony Kershaw

Tony is a CMP stalwart (i.e. he's old), having appeared in many roles in many shows over the years. In fact his last 'performance' for CMP was as Santa Claus at our Christmas Carol Concert (whoops - sorry kids!). He has found that Sir Jasper's dialogue is not exactly the most challenging he has ever had to learn!



Charles - Roger Lansdown

This is Roger's umpteenth show with CMP, recent roles having required him to play idiots and gangsters - and sometimes a combination of the two. He says he is just as happy being in the chorus as taking principal roles (*which is just as well - Ed*). He says dancing is not his strong point, but promises to get better the longer the show runs - he is still looking for a summer season!



Lord & Lady Battersby -

Robin Anderson & Danusia Maleczek

Robin is a regular with both CMP and Masquerade and has appeared as a principal in many shows over the years, most recently as Alfred in last year's *Die Fledermaus*. His 'married' scenes with Lady Battersby can't get too realistic since his real wife, Gaby, is keeping an eye on them from the chorus! Danusia was also in *Fledermaus*, playing Ida. *Anything Goes*, and she also appeared as a dancer in *Kiss Me, Kate*. Danusia is a primary school teacher and has a house full of cats (real and otherwise).

Mrs Brown - Anne Darsley

Or *Mrs Braun*, as it should be pronounced. A native of Stevenage and therefore, naturally, a Manchester United supporter, this is Anne's fifth show with CMP - and the first time we've let her speak! Anne has featured as a dancer in previous shows and is also in charge of the Society's fundraising, in which capacity she terrorises members with her frequent demands for 'a palmd'.



Lambeth Characters - John Taylor, Hayley Spong & Alex Aucken

Whenever a policeman is required in one of our shows, the cry goes up, "Where's John Taylor?!" CMP's Mr. Versatile and a regular with CATS, John has played many roles - often in the same show! Hayley dances in this show and also has a cameo appearance as a tart - which she doesn't want to make too realistic as her Mum is in the orchestra pit! Alex has a small part - but that's enough said about that. He appears tonight as Sally's friend, Bob. Previous CMP roles include Bill/Lucentio in *Kiss Me, Kate* and his unforgettable (and frightening) Francis/Frances Fryer in *Calamity Jane*.

Carol Hardy - Director

This is Carol's third major CMP show as Director following her successes with *Anything Goes* and *Kiss Me, Kate*. Carol has been involved with CMP for longer than she cares to remember and has also directed several of our smaller Autumn shows. She is very experienced in all aspects of amateur production, having been involved with backstage work, costumes, lighting and, of course, acting with both CMP and Woodley Operatic Society.



Nick Austin - Musical Director

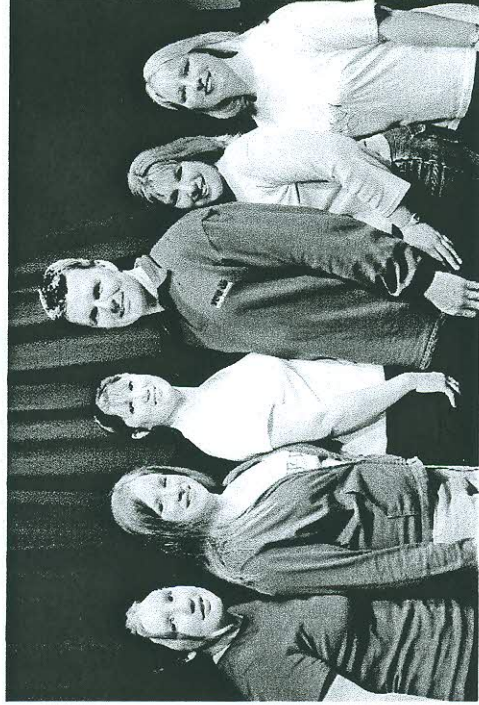
Nick is a graduate of Guildhall School of Music and Drama and qualified as a teacher at King Alfred's College, Winchester. Nick is currently Head of Music at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. Having joined CMP in 1988, this is his thirteenth show as Musical Director and we sincerely hope that it is not unlucky for anyone! Nick is a busy man. He teaches piano, is rehearsal pianist for Bracknell Choral Society and has recently been appointed conductor of Berkshire Young Musicians Trust's Corelli Orchestra, who are due to tour Germany this summer. 'Gute Fahrt, Nick!'



David Parsonson - Choreographer

David has a wealth of experience in all branches of dance and drama. Acting credits include West End shows such as *Godspell* and *Cavalcade*, *The Odd Couple* in America and as Sir Nicholas Vaux in *Henry VIII* for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations at Windsor Castle. He has directed and choreographed countless shows including *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Cabaret*, *Annie*, *42nd Street*, - the list is endless. He has numerous film and television credits, before and behind the cameras, including over five hundred interviews as a presenter on Sky and Cable TV of his own programmes *Flicks*, *Today* and *You And The Law*. David currently lectures in Drama, Dance, Musical Theatre & Television Production at Reading College and presents *The Biz* for radio station *Blast 1386*.

The Dancers



L.toR. Joanna Lynch, Hayley Spong, Debbie Mann, Dave Bennett, Kate Cooper and Shirley Twist

Production Team

Director

Carol Hardy

Musical Director

Nick Austin

Choreographer

David Parsonson

Stage Manager

Alan Smith

Deputy Stage Manager

Christine Tilbury

Lighting Director & Crew

Geoff Bamford, Charlotte Hollingshead

Sound

Lewis Harman

Stage Crew

Danielle Austin, Tony Critchley, Chris Evans, Bill Fox, Stuart Humphrey, Peter Tilbury & Peter Winn

Rehearsal Pianist

Merryl Spong

Photography

Brian Hardy

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Estelle Johnson

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Linda Peacock

Front of House Manager

Maxine Robinson

Programme Editor

John Caley

CMP wishes to thank Wyevale Garden Centre, Wokingham, and Millwheel Tack Shop, Binfield, for the loan of properties; all those who have helped with Front of House and the raffle; and all the Friends of the Society who have made this production possible

Orchestra

Violin

Harold Kershaw

Bass

Lucy Heath

Reeds

Chris Gillett, Joanne Nield, Martin Hayward

Trumpets

Paul Tungay, David Gray

Trombone

Nick Kershaw

Keyboards

Merryl Spong, Toby Cruse

Percussion

Ray Dare