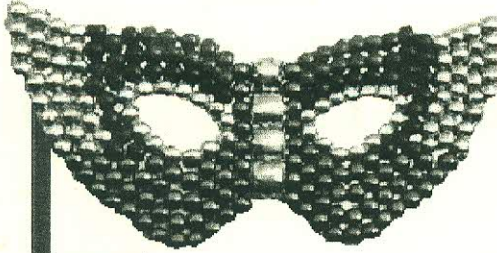




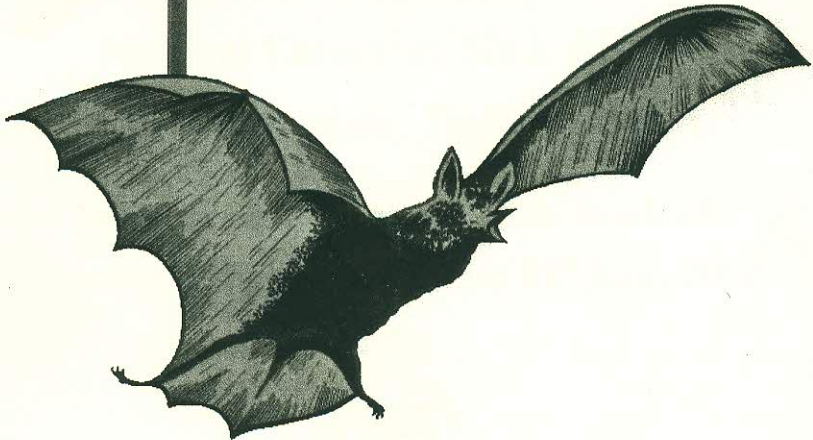
South Hill Park

Crowthorne Musical Players
present



Die Fledermaus

by Johann Strauss



Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd June 2002
Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell
at 7:30 p.m.

English Translation and Adaptation by Phil Park & Ronald Hanmer.
Amateur production given by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER Ltd.

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Director: Alan Bowman

Musical Director: Nick Austin

Choreographer: Debbie Mann

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Member, National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our production of *Die Fledermaus* which marks a departure from our recent run of Broadway/West End musicals and which has been a challenging, but fascinating and rewarding, experience.

We are delighted to welcome Alan Bowman as Director. This is the first time Alan has directed for CMP and he has brought a wealth of valuable experience. Our 'in-house' team of Nick Austin, Musical Director, and Debbie Mann, Choreographer, have also responded magnificently to the challenges of this show and our thanks go to them, and all the other people onstage and off, including the many new members who have joined us this year, who have made this production possible. I hope that you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed preparing and presenting it for you.

Tragically, there is one name missing from the cast list. Angela Cheadle, who was to have taken part in the show, passed away on Good Friday. She is sadly missed and fondly remembered by us all.

John Caley

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Crowthorne Musical Players, *Die Fledermaus*, 2002

Synopsis

Evening in the Eisenstein's apartment. Amidst the hustle and bustle, Alfred, an Italian tenor, attempts to serenade Rosalinda Eisenstein from the street. Adele, Rosalinda's maid, is surprised by the arrival of her sister, Ida, who brings her an invitation to Prince Orlofsky's Ball which is to be held that night. In order to get the evening off, she concocts a story that her aunt is seriously ill. Rosalinda arrives and dismisses both the plea and the maid as Alfred climbs into the room to woo her, only to quickly flee as her husband, Gabriel Eisenstein arrives home with his bumbling lawyer, Blint. Gabriel has been to court to appeal against a 5-day prison sentence for assaulting a police officer, but has succeeded only in having the sentence increased to 8 days, starting that night. As he dismisses Blint, his friend, Doctor Falke, arrives. They reminisce about a previous fancy-dress party when Gabriel, dressed as a butterfly, pushed Falke, dressed as a bat, into a fountain, since when he has been nicknamed 'Die Fledermaus'. Falke persuades Gabriel to postpone his trip to jail until the following morning so that he may attend Prince Orlofsky's Ball in the guise of a French count, the Marquis de Renard. He needs little persuading and after a mock-sad farewell, departs in full evening dress. Adele is also going to the ball, since Rosalinda has now allowed her to visit her 'sick aunt' so that she may enjoy an intimate supper with Alfred. This cosy scene is interrupted when Frank, the Prison Governor, (also on his way to the Ball) arrives with his men to arrest Gabriel Eisenstein. Rosalinda persuades Alfred to save her reputation by going to jail in Gabriel's place.

Prince Orlofsky's ball is in full swing and the young, bored Prince explains that he likes his guests to behave exactly as they please (Chacun a son gout). Adele arrives, posing as an actress named Olga, as does Gabriel/Marquis de Renard who immediately recognises Adele. Frank then arrives, pretending to be another French nobleman, the Chevalier de Chagrin. Finally, Falke explains to the Prince that as part of his cunning plot, he has also invited Rosalinda, who will pretend to be a masked Hungarian countess. Gabriel attempts to seduce the mysterious countess by using his intricate pocket watch as bait, but she steals it. The champagne flows and the guests dance all night. As the clock strikes 6 a.m., Eisenstein realises he must leave to keep his appointment in jail.

At the jail, Alfred and the warders - led by the drunken Sergeant Frosch - are having their own all-night party, until Frank arrives back in a rather dishevelled state. He is joined by Ida and Adele/Olga, who confesses her deception and asks Frank to sponsor her through drama school. Gabriel arrives to serve his sentence, much to Frank's confusion who believes he has already locked up Eisenstein. Blint, the lawyer has also been summoned, but Gabriel assumes his identity in order to find out the truth from Alfred and Rosalinda. As the trio discover each others' various identities, Orlofsky and his guests arrive to reveal that the whole night's entertainment was the result of Falke's devious scheme. The 'Bat's Revenge' is complete, all are reconciled and celebrate with a final toast to 'His Majesty, King Champagne!'

About this production of *Die Fledermaus*...

Known as the 'Queen of Operettas', composed by the 'Waltz King' and centred around a Prince's Ball, what more appropriate show for this month of Royal celebration than one of the most successful musical comedies ever written!

Based on a French play of 1872, *Le Reveillon*, the story so inspired Johann Strauss that he locked himself away, hardly eating or drinking, and composed the entire score in just 42 days.

And yet, after the first performance in Vienna on 5th April 1874, conducted by the composer himself and immediately recognised as a masterpiece, the show closed after only sixteen performances. The reason? A disastrous economic slump in Austria which left the audience, devoted as they were to their hero Strauss, in no mood to enjoy a story based on decadence, worshipping King Champagne and portraying intoxication more realistically than it had ever been seen on stage before.

This was a temporary setback. The show was rapturously received in Berlin and this success was echoed worldwide, with the first London performance in 1876 and New York in 1879. In its original German form, the show has become a guaranteed crowd-puller in the repertoire of all the leading opera companies in the world and even the overture has become one of the most popular pieces of classical music in its own right.

For amateur companies, however, this original version presents certain difficulties. Strauss wrote his work as a showcase for the virtuoso opera stars of his day. Not only are the vocal parts technically complex and at the top end of a professional's range, but there is little scope for the chorus work and ensemble singing which is so rewarding and enjoyable for amateur societies and their audiences.

In 1959 Phil Park and Ronald Hanmer, who were responsible for innumerable amateur shows and adaptations ranging from *The Merry Widow* to *Calamity Jane* and *Viva Mexico!*, produced a version of the show with a modern English translation and a musical arrangement which retains the wonderful, original Strauss melodies, but adapted for 'normal' voices, and adds extra opportunities for chorus involvement. Whilst this did require some very minor changes to the plot, the original crazy and exuberant storyline is not affected.

This show which you are seeing and hearing tonight is basically the Park and Hanmer version, with a couple of exceptions. The overture, as performed by our orchestra, is an arrangement of Strauss's original version, in the original keys. And whereas Park and Hanmer rewrote the part of Prince Orlofsky so that it could be played as a blasé millionaire by a man, we have favoured the treatment of the original version where he is portrayed as a bored, youthful prince and upheld the longstanding Strauss tradition of the part being played by a woman.

Coming soon from CMP...

Many thanks to those of you who supported last year's very successful Autumn concert at Crowthorne's Morgan Centre. A couple of years ago, we put on a Christmas show, which was also very popular with both cast and audience. So, this year, we have decided to do both! But with a difference...

From Friday 8th to Sunday 10th November we shall be transforming Our Lady's Prep School, The Avenue, Crowthorne, into the Black Cat Club and presenting a Cabaret Night. The school has a comfortable hall, with excellent acoustics, and has recently built new facilities. We have been busy choosing suitable music and can promise an atmospheric night-out not to be missed! (Note to the cast and new members: rehearsals start next week!!)

Meanwhile, back at the Morgan Centre, on the weekend before Christmas, Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd December (the Sunday show will be an afternoon family event), we shall be performing a traditional 'olde worlde' Carol Concert featuring all your yuletide favourites - and a mince pie or two!

Our next main show, back here at the Wilde Theatre from June 3rd - 7th 2003, is the very popular Me And My Girl.

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



Crowthorne Musical Players
present

Cabaret Night

at



**The Black
Cat Club**

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th November 2002

Our Lady's Prep School, The Avenue, Crowthorne

www.crowthornemusicalplayers.org.uk

The Cast

ROSALINDA EISENSTEIN	<i>Sandra Lewis</i>
GABRIEL EISENSTEIN, her husband	<i>Gary Maslen</i>
ADELE, the Eisensteins' maid	<i>Liz Sharp</i>
DOCTOR FALKE, "the Bat" of the story	<i>Peter del Nevo</i>
ALFRED, an Italian opera singer	<i>Robin Anderson</i>
FRANK, the prison Governor	<i>John Caley</i>
PRINCE ORLOFSKY, a Russian millionaire	<i>Michelle Worthington</i>
IDA, Adele's sister	<i>Danusia Maleczek</i>
DOCTOR BLINT, a lawyer	<i>Barrie Theobald</i>
FROSCH, the prison Sergeant	<i>John Taylor</i>
MITZI, one of Rosalinda's maids	<i>Shirley Twist</i>
IVAN, Orlofsky's Major-Domo	<i>Robin Anderson</i>
DANCERS:	<i>Debbie Mann</i>
	<i>Terri Chopping</i>
	<i>Anne Darsley</i>
	<i>Yvete McCann</i>
	<i>Shirley Twist</i>

CHORUS OF SERVANTS, GUESTS, WARDERS, ETC. :

*Alan Bowman, Christine Charlton, Sue Dyer,
Sue Ford, Ro Gorell, Ryszard Gorell,
Roger Lansdown, Tom McCann, Diana Mears,
Sue Minshall, Emma Mosley, Dave Oxberry,
Stella Pearmain, Rachel Roberts, Clare Sherwood,
Laura Stock, Michael Sturdy*

Scenes and Musical Numbers

The story is set in an Austrian town in the early 1900s.

ACT ONE

The Eisenstein's Apartment. Evening

Overture

Life is a Song

Never Go to Law

What a Night

How Sad We Are

Here's to Love

Adele, Alfred & Chorus

Gabriel, Rosalinda, Blint

Falke, Gabriel

Rosalinda, Gabriel, Adele

*Alfred, Rosalinda, Frank &
Chorus*

A Married Couple, a Home Serene

Rosalinda & Chorus

Finale Act One

*Frank, Rosalinda, Alfred &
Chorus*

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

ACT TWO

A Salon in Prince Orlofsky's Villa. Later that night

What a Feast

Chacun a Son Gout

The Laughing Song

Homeland

The Tick-Tock Polka

Champagne

Merci, Merci, Merci

Chorus

Orlofsky & Chorus

*Adele, Orlofsky, Falke,
Gabriel & Chorus*

Rosalinda & Chorus

Gabriel, Rosalinda

Principals & Chorus

*Gabriel, Frank, Falke &
Chorus*

Brother Mine

Falke, Principals & Chorus

Finale Act Two

Ensemble

ACT THREE

The Prison Governor's Office. The next morning

Opening Act Three

Alfred & Warders

After the Ball

Frank

How can you be so Ungallant

Adele & Chorus

The Legal Profession

Rosalinda, Alfred, Gabriel

Finale Act Three

Ensemble

Cast Profiles

Sandra Lewis - *Rosalinda Eisenstein*

Sandra hails from Glasgow, but has lived in Berkshire for many years during which she has sung leading roles with many local operatic groups. Previous CMP parts include Magnolia in *Showboat*, Calamity in *Calamity Jane* and Madame Glavari in *The Merry Widow*. She has also played Adele in *Die Fledermaus*. Her most recent productions were Irene in *Crazy for You* with Masquerade and as a "Celebrated Diva" in an "Old Time Music Hall" for Wokingham Theatre. As well as all that she has appeared throughout the region in cabaret and a variety of concerts for local charities. She is also available to sing at weddings or anything else for that matter !!



Gary Maslen - *Gabriel Eisenstein*

This is Gary's first appearance with CMP - and hopefully not his last! Gary's previous principal roles include Marco in *The Gondoliers*, Camille in *The Merry Widow* and Ludwig in *The Grand Duke*. In the last year, Gary has been involved with the successful world premieres of two musicals - *November the Fifth* and *Trafalgar*. He has also conducted performances of *Trial by Jury* and *The Sorcerer* in Guildford. Gary grew up in Australia and has travelled extensively all his life. After three years working in Jordan and Kuwait, Gary is currently an



animal trainer by day - more commonly known as a teacher! His next lead role is Jim in *Strike Up The Band* with Savoy Singers, Camberley.

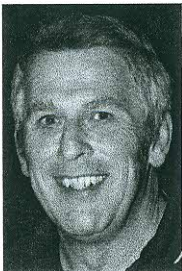
Liz Sharp - *Adele*

Liz has been a CMP member for eight years and this is her fifth main show, having taken a couple of 'baby breaks'. Previous roles include Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Edith in *Pirates of Penzance* and, most recently, Reno in *Anything Goes*. This year she is keen to avoid the 'fertility chair' in the lady's dressing room, after having her youngest son, Andrew, nine months after her last show!



Peter del Nevo - *Falke*

Peter has been involved in Drama and Operatics for many years and has appeared in Kettering, Reading and briefly with Dayton Opera in the USA. This is his second main show with CMP, having taken the part of Harry/Baptista in last year's *Kiss Me, Kate*. It is also his second appearance in *Die Fledermaus*, having previously performed the show in Kettering before some members of this cast were even born!



Cast Profiles

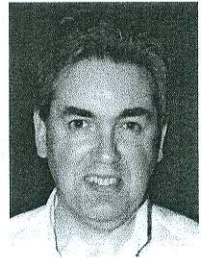


Robin Anderson - *Alfred*

This is Robin's second *Die Fledermaus*, having played Frosch in the EBOS production of 1998. He is delighted to be wooing the ladies rather than locking them up! Robin has recently been involved with a number of modern productions, *Guys and Dolls* and *Bells are Ringing* (both with Masquerade) to name but two. He is delighted to be back in costume (reminds him of his Saturday nights in Reading!) (*What?! Ed.*) and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

John Caley - *Frank*

Following recent outings as a gangster in last year's *Kiss Me, Kate* and Harry the Horse in EBOS's *Guys and Dolls*, John returns to the more unfamiliar role of a lecherous old drunk, which has necessarily involved extensive research. This is his fourth CMP show, having also played Danny in *Calamity Jane* and Eli Whitley in *Anything Goes*. John is still recovering from the shock of Manchester City FC having a successful season!



Michelle Worthington - *Prince Orlofsky*

This is Michelle's fourth CMP show and, to put it mildly, this part is a little different from her previous appearances as a dancer in fishnets and tap shoes! Michelle studied at the London College of Music and teaches at a local school. She also plays cello with the Crowthorne Orchestra. When not looking after her two children and five cats, she likes to shoot things with her bow and arrow as a member of Crowthorne Archers.

Barrie Theobald - *Blint*

Barrie says he is honoured to have been invited to perform in this show - his first with CMP and, remarkably for someone with such a long involvement in the local musical drama scene, only his second appearance on stage at the Wilde Theatre. He is a long-standing member of both Reading Operatic Society and the Shinfield Players and is the NODA representative for East Berkshire.



Profiles



Danusia Maleczek - *Ida*

This is Danusia's fourth year with CMP, during which time she has enjoyed playing the parts of Katie Brown in *Calamity Jane* and Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes*. Last year, she was a dancer in *Kiss Me, Kate*. Danusia is a primary school teacher and has one husband, two children and six cats. In her spare time she is studying music with the Open University.

John Taylor - *Frosch*

John appeared as Senator Harrison Howell in *Kiss Me, Kate* and will also be familiar to CMP audiences from his many appearances over the years as barmen, vicars, colonels, sailors and the driver of the Deadwood stage - in fact any parts in our musical shows which don't involve singing! He has been very busy recently as part of the organising team for the Crowthorne Carnival fortnight.

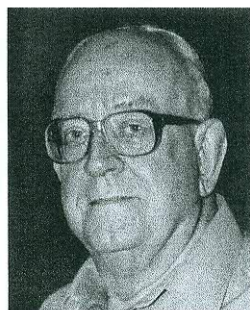


Shirley Twist - *Mitzi*

Shirley started singing at age 7 in school nativities and choirs in her native St Helens and played principal roles at High School - Maria in *West Side Story* and Elaine Scoggins in *Davy Dean's Horror Machine*. Having moved to Bracknell in 1998, she was cajoled into joining CMP for *Anything Goes* as one of the Angels (Chastity) - her first ever tap dancing performance! Shirley also occasionally sings with Thames Voyces chamber choir.

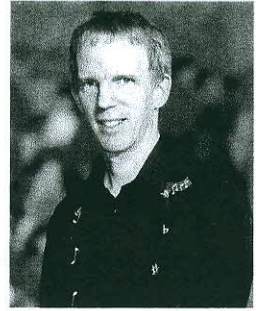
Alan Bowman - Director

Since moving to Bracknell in 1973, Alan has appeared many times with EBOS and other local companies, including CMP, playing a wide range of 'heavies'. In recent years, he has turned to directing and has been responsible for a number of successful productions with the Bracknell Drama Club. This is his first *Die Fledermaus* in the director's chair, though he has appeared in the operetta four times and it is one of his favourite works. Future theatrical plans include directing two plays for the Bracknell Drama Club.



Nick Austin - Musical Director

Nick graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1979 and then spent a year at King Alfred's College, Winchester, where he qualified as a teacher. Nick is currently Head of Music at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. He joined CMP in 1988 and this is his twelfth show as Musical Director. Nick also teaches piano and is rehearsal pianist for Bracknell Choral Society. Apparently, he has always wanted to conduct the overture to *Die Fledermaus*, in return for which, sadly, he has to listen to us trying to sing the rest of it!



Debbie Mann - Choreographer



Debbie began 'treading the boards' at the age of three and has performed in shows and national competitions involving a wide variety of dance and movement ever since. After joining CMP in 1988 she has appeared in most of their productions, playing Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Susan in *Calamity Jane* and Virtue in *Anything Goes*. Debbie has also been in EBOS since 1993, dancing in *The Boyfriend*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Guys and Dolls* to name but a few. This is Debbie's second opportunity to choreograph for CMP and *Die Fledermaus* has

been a delightful change after last year's energetic *Kiss Me, Kate*.

The Dancers



Debbie Mann, Shirley Twist, Yvete McCann, Terri Chopping, Anne Darsley

Production Team

Director	<i>Alan Bowman</i>
Musical Director	<i>Nick Austin</i>
Choreographer	<i>Debbie Mann</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Alan Smith</i>
Deputy Stage Manager	<i>Christine Tilbury</i>
Lighting Director & Crew	<i>Geoff Bamford & Matt Walford</i>
Sound	<i>Steve Harrison</i>
Stage Crew	<i>Tony Critchley, Chris Evans, Bill Fox, Stuart Humphrey, Mark Osbaldeston and Friends of the Society</i>
Rehearsal Pianist	<i>Merryl Spong</i>
Photography	<i>Brian Hardy</i>
Properties	<i>Tracey Stenning & Jill Blanchett</i>
Prompt	<i>Julie-Anne Darsley</i>
Scenery	<i>Stage Productions Ltd.</i>
Wardrobe	<i>Carol Hardy, Lesley Roberts</i>
Costume Supplier	<i>Crescendo, Reading</i>
Make Up	<i>Linda Peacock, Stella Pearmain</i>
Wigs	<i>Sally Ann Bragg</i>
Front of House Manager	<i>Anne Darsley</i>
Programme Editor	<i>John Caley</i>

Orchestra

Leader	<i>Harold Kershaw</i>
Violins	<i>John Spurgeon, Juliet Balch, Peter Thornley, Tessa Welford, Carol Gardener</i>
Violas	<i>Kathy Lambert, Mandy Garside</i>
Cellos	<i>Neil Charlton, Sally Guntrip</i>
Bass	<i>David Barnes</i>
Clarinets	<i>Chris Gillett, Martin Hayward</i>
Flute	<i>Tess Hawkin</i>
Oboe	<i>Hazel Todd</i>
Trumpets	<i>Lawrence Warburton, Marc Edwards</i>
Trombone	<i>Nick Kershaw, Robert Priestley</i>
Percussion	<i>Ray Dare</i>