

Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim A Musical Fable, Book by Arthur Laurents Suggested by memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee

20-24 JUNE 2023

OUR PRODUCTION TEAM

KEIRAN WHELAN-NEWBY (Director/Producer)



When I was very young, some weekends we would visit the 'Video Box' on Saffron Lane. If you are old enough to remember them (cough), we would be allowed to hire one video cassette and have to manually rewind it before returning it two days later. The good old days. One day I took a punt on hiring the 1993 version of 'Gypsy' starring Bette Midler. Well, needless to say, it sparked my passion for musical theatre. Every time we visited the 'Video Box', I would always hire 'Gypsy' and replay and rewind it on repeat. 'Gypsy' has been on the top of my wish list of shows to produce for years – but it always petrified me.

Bringing 'Gypsy' to the stage has really been a labour of love. I have carefully walked a fine line between bringing my own flare to the show whilst

carrying a heavy weight of responsibility to traditionally present this iconic show. In my opinion, 'Gypsy' is one of the greatest musicals every crafted for the stage – it has perfectly written songs, a gripping and moving story and a central leading lady who is one of very few complex and powerful characters written for musical theatre. Madame Rose – my idol - you love her, you hate her - you are totally invested in her story until its tragic conclusion. 'Gypsy' is, without a doubt, musical theatre's unlikely answer to King Lear.

I am beyond proud of my exceptionally talented cast and company of friends who have helped bring my vision of 'Gypsy' to life. In particular, it takes two very special kinds of actresses to play Louise and Madame Rose. Rose Bale embodies the character of Louise with just the right amount of awkwardness and vulnerability. Working with her closely on her transformation into Gypsy Rose Lee has been quite remarkable and special - I am very proud of her. Debbie Longley-Brown as Rose is quite sensational in every sense of the word, a unique performer of great depth and natural talent – she deserves every accolade coming to her. If you see a young lad with a video cassette of 'Gypsy' in his hands, please pinch him.

Directing Credits include: The Rise and Fall of Little Voice (Kirby Players) and as co director for three LDS pantomimes; Robin Hood, Cinderella and Aladdin. As Producer/ Director for KW Productions: A Slice of Saturday Night, Company, Into The Woods, The Sound of Music, The Last Five Years and the 2022 NODA Award Winning Production of Calendar Girls: The Musical

My special gimmick...... producing and directing a musical whilst playing the lead role in another. Some say gimmick, some say insanity.

JOHN BALE (Assistant Director)



This is my fourth venture with KW Productions. After taking a role in Company. A few years later I directed The Sound of Music and was assistant Director for Calendar Girls: The Musical. I'm delighted to be back working with the Production Team again this year. Rehearsals have been amazing and I can't wait for you to see our talent cast strutting their stuff, in this iconic musical. Favourite directing credits include: Oklahoma!, Made in Dagenham and Jekyll & Hyde (WAOS) Blithe Spirit, The Importance of Being Earnest, Black Coffee and many pantomimes (LDS)

My special gimmick......l've already got lots of gimmicks, you only have to come to the little theatre Pantomime and you'll see them all.

CAROLINE WALSH (Dance Choreography)



Hi, I'm Caroline known to most as Caz. I started my performance career as magician's assistant alongside the Little Theatre's very own Richard Cadell. I've had the pleasure of choreographing Gypsy alongside Keiran, John, Tim and Paul. Working on Gypsy has been a joy. With tears, goosebumps and lots and lots of laughter. Such a talented cast has made my job very easy and I'm thrilled and very excited to see them bring this show to life!

Choreography credits: Made in Dagenham and Jekyll and Hyde (WAOS), many pantomimes for the LDS. Caroline has been a choreographer at The Concordia, Hinckley for over 20 years.

My special gimmick..... on stage I've been sawn into pieces, made to disappear and floated in mid air!

TIM STOKES (Musical Director)



After taking the plunge into Production Team as Assistant Musical Director, I couldn't wait to dive right back in this year, taking the full MD role this time! As terrifying as it has been at times, I couldn't be happier. I am so grateful to Keiran and John or their unwavering support and faith in me, and to Paul who has been a spectacular consultant and extra pair of ears towards the end of rehearsals. I am always enamoured by the atmosphere that we manage to create at KW, it is always a true family every year. I can't finish without thanking our cast for their commitment and hard work, it is a truly stunning line-up. Watching everyone grow more and more into their roles every week has been genuinely thrilling and heart-warming to watch. As Assistant Musical Director: Calendar Girls: The Musical

PAUL TIMMS (Assistant Musical Director)



It has been a delight to support Keiran, Tim, and the cast on this exciting production of Gypsy, and to see Tim step into the role of Musical Director. I first picked up the baton in 2012, quite by accident, and have been directing musicals ever since! I love a good challenge, and also a good laugh. I started my musical career with a series of Sondheim shows, but in recent years you'll have most-likely found me in Panto Land, where I have had the pleasure and Delight to MD the Little Theatre's annual production since 2017.

Other recent MD credits include Little Shop Of Horrors (Swing Theatre, 2022), Dick Barton – Special Agent (LDS, 2019), and Ordinary Days (Four Wheeled Theatre, 2017)

My special gimmick..... one of my many gimmicks is my ability to wiggle my eyebrows independently of each other – great for making the cast smile!

Uncle Jocko/Weber/Mr Goldstone/Cigar Georgie/L.A./Pastey/Bourgeron Cochon

Pop/Mr Kringelein/Phil

Herbie

June

Louise

Tulsa

Yonkers/Photographer

Miss Cratchitt/Mazeppa

Marjorie May/Caroline The Cow

Agnes/Waitress

Thelma/Renée

Dolores

Tessie Tura

Flectra

Andy Longley-Brown

Simon Butler

Debbie Longley-Brown

David Lovell

Tony Whitmore

Katie Proctor

Rose Bale

Tim Stokes

Joe Dickinson

Karen Gordon

Georgina Hall

Katherine Ardley

Kerry Smith

Lyd Rushton

Liz Kavanagh Knott

Victoria Price



MUSICALNUMBERS

ACT ONE

Let Me Entertain You*

Some People

Some People (Reprise)

Small World

Baby June and Her Newsboys*

Mr Goldstone

Little Lamb

You'll Never Get Away From Me

Dainty June and Her Farmboys/Broadway*

If Momma Was Married

All I Need Is The Girl*

Everything's Coming Up Roses

Baby June & Baby Louise

Rose

Rose & Boy Scouts

Rose & Herbie

Baby June & Newsboys

Rose, Herbie, June, Louise, L.A., Tulsa, Yonkers & Mr Goldstone

Louise

Rose & Herbie

June, Tulsa, L.A. & Yonkers

Louise & June

Tulsa

Rose

Please note: There will be a 20 minute interval between each act

ACT TWO

Toreadorables*

Together Wherever We Go

Together Wherever We Go (Reprise)

You Gotta Get a Gimmick*

Small World (Reprise)

Let Me Entertain You (Gypsy Strip Routine)

Rose's Turn

Louise, Agnes, Marjorie May, Thelma & Dolores

Rose, Herbie & Louise

Rose, Herbie, Louise, Agnes, Marjorie May, Thelma & Dolores

Mazeppa, Tessie Tura & Electra

Rose

Louise & Showgirls

Rose



Baby June

Baby Louise Young Tulsa

Young L.A.

Young Yonkers

Ava-Lily Creed Ella Brown Pearl Ball/Pixie Ball Aaron Kirby/Ciara Daisley Eva Barratt/Amélie Wilson-Knight

PRODUCTION TEAM

Direction and Musical Staging Assistant Director Musical Director

Dance Choreography (*) **Assistant Musical Director**

Keiran Whelan-Newby John Bale **Tim Stokes Caroline Walsh**

Paul Timms











DEBBIE LONGLEY-BROWN AS ROSE



Debbie has been performing in shows in Leicester since 2008, when she first joined Leicester Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS) in the titular role of 'Sweet Charity'. It was whilst performing as 'Charity' that it was suggested she should keep an eye out for the role of 'Mama Rose' should Gypsy ever come up. Debbie has kept herself busy in the interim with some cracking roles including 'Mrs Potts' in Beauty and the Beast, 'Mrs Lovett' in 'Sweeney Todd, 'Golde' in 'Fiddler on the Roof' and 'Velma Kelly' in Chicago. For KW Productions: 'Cora' in Calendar Girls: The Musical.

My special gimmick......I had to cartwheel over a chair when I was playing 'Velma Kelly', so if I've got to get a gimmick, then I'll pull that one out of the bag again!

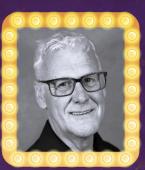
ROSE BALE AS LOUISE



Rose loves to escape through theatre - be it watching or performing in shows. A Wigston Amateur Operatic Society (WAOS) member since she was 16, Rose has been afforded many opportunities, highlights being playing 'Clare' in Made in Dagenham and 'Emma' in Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical. The Little Theatre is very close to her heart, her favourite time being Christmas, where she has performed in five LDS Pantomimes, most recently playing the title role of 'Aladdin'. This season, Rose also played 'Barbara' in Agatha Christie's Black Coffee. Rose relishes the challenge of different roles: vocally, mentally and physically. Louise has manifested her vulnerability and goofiness, but also a sophisticated and sultry side. Most of all, Rose cherishes the lifelong memories and friendships theatre creates. This is Rose's first show with KW Productions.

My special gimmick..... no matter how long I have to get ready, I'm always running late!

TONY WHITMORE AS HERBIE



A few years after starting as a semi-pro musician Tony made the move into musical theatre. Since then he has had the privilege of playing some iconic parts such as 'Fagin' in Oliver!, 'The King' in The King and I, 'Mack' in Mack and Mabel and 'Harold Hill' in The Music Man. However, one of his favourite parts was, without doubt, 'Judge Turpin' in Sweeney Todd. "There is something special about portraying the villain". Playing 'Herbie' in Gypsy, one of Tony's favourite musicals, puts another tick on his list. For KW Productions: 'Narrator/Mysterious Man' in Into The Woods, 'Max Detweiller' in The Sound of Music and 'Rod' in Calendar Girls: The Musical.

My special gimmick..... do I have a gimmick? Not sure I do.... so perhaps my gimmick is that I don't have a gimmick

TIM STOKES AS TULSA



If you ask his parents, Tim has been performing since before he could walk! He has been in many productions at the Little Theatre since 2015, performing in several Pantomimes and many other musicals and plays. "Keiran and I took turns fanboying over each other and have worked together ever since! I am always overjoyed and honoured to work with KW every time". Tim has worked in Education and Youth work for the past eight years and is now studying to become a Music Therapist. For KW Productions: 'Jack/Steward' in Into The Woods, 'Rolf' in The Sound of Music and Assistant MD/ 'Tommo' in Calendar Girls: The Musical.

My special gimmick.....I'm unnaturally good at Dad jokes... like really good... it's not healthy...

KATIE PROCTOR AS JUNE



Katie says "Gypsy is a fantastic show full of ups and downs, incredible music and lots of different characters. I can't wait to be part of it". Katie enjoys playing gutsy, thrilling and emotional characters. Favourite roles have included: 'Swallow' in Whistle Down The Wind, 'Eliza Dolittle' in My Fair Lady, 'Hodel' in Fiddler on the Roof and most recently as 'Little Voice' in The Rise and Fall of Little Voice. Katie has also taken the role of principal girl in two LDS pantomimes as 'Maid Marion' in Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood and the title role in Cinderella.

For KW Productions: 'Bridget' in A Slice of Saturday Night, 'Kathy' in Company, 'Little Red Riding Hood/Rapunzel' in Into The Woods and 'Sister Sophia' in The Sound of Music.

My special gimmick......I tend to have very blonde moments without actually being blonde. My blonde wig will suit my personality!







KAREN GORDON AS MISS CRATCHITT/ MAZEPPA



Karen has enjoyed a long and varied amateur career, mostly with the Leicester Drama Society. Iconic roles include: 'Maggie Hobson', 'Mrs Robinson', 'Judith Bliss' (twice!) and 'Titania' and parts in Panto ranging from 'Fairy Godmother' to 'The Empress of China'. Most recently she played 'Delia' in Bedroom Farce, continuing her partnership with her frequent (and favourite) onstage husband, Adam Jones. A memorable offstage role was sharing responsibility for looking after acts booked by The Little as part of the Leicester Comedy Festival. For KW Productions: 'Joanne' in Company, 'The Witch' in Into the Woods and 'Marie' in Calendar Girls: The Musical

My special gimmick.....using my own leg as reference, I can guess anyone's inside-leg measurement, a skill I developed working in costume hire!

LIZ KAVANAGH KNOTT AS TESSIE TURA



By day Liz is a Programme Administrator for the School of Psychology at Leicester University and has two grown up, rather wonderful sons. Liz has been performing with local amateur groups for the last 20 years. Favourite roles include: 'Peggy' in 42nd Street, 'Miss Hannigan' in Annie, 'Roz Keith' in 9 to 5, 'Babette' in Beauty and the Beast, 'Mimsie' in Summer Holiday and 'Mari Hoff' in The Rise and Fall of Little Voice. Gypsy marks Liz's fifth show with KW Productions, but she is glad not to be actually stripping this year! Those buns were never quite big enough! Roles include: 'April in Company, Jack's Mother/Cinderella's Stepmother in Into The Woods, Elsa Schraeder in The Sound of Music and of course 'Celia' in Calendar Girls: The Musical.

My special gimmick......l can speak Russian...well....a few phrases of Russian...

VICTORIA PRICE AS ELECTRA



Vics has been appearing on local stages since the tender age of 19. While specialising in playing bimbos, she's occasionally broken the mould to play alcoholics, money grabbers, neurotic brides, crazed royalty and a Nazi. When not on stage, Vics works in schools, tutors and creates digital content for CAMHS. Favourite roles include: 'Audrey' in Little Shop of Horrors, 'Brooke" in Noises Off, 'Sharon' in A Slice of Saturday Night, 'Queenie" in * Blackadder II, 'Helga' in Allo, 'Mari Hoff' in The Rise and Fall of Little Voice and 'Gail' in Teechers. For KW Productions: 'Amv' in Company.

My special gimmick......I'm a fancy dress fan. I met my husband whilst dressed as The Shop Keeper from Mr Benn. Mind you, he was The Pink Panther so I looked relatively normal!

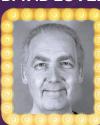
ANDY LONGLEY-BROWN AS UNCLE JOCKO/WEBER/MR GOLDSTONE/CIGAR



Andy was a radio voiceover for several years before deciding to give theatre a go in 2015. Since then he has played a number of iconic roles including 'Sweeney Todd' and 'Billy Flynn' in Chicago. For The Little Theatre has appeared as 'Dr Carelli in Black Coffee and most recently as 'Trevor' in Bedroom Farce. Andy is a tutor for an Art's Education Charity and the Youth Leader at The Little Theatre. For KW Productions: 'John' in Calendar Girls: The Musical.

My special gimmick.....l can flex each of my buttocks independently of one another...a skill which is criminally under used by choreographers"

DAVID LOVELL AS POP/MR KRINGELEIN/PHIL



David has been a regular face on the Leicester theatre scene for longer than he cares to remember, and has also been known to haunt theatres in Loughborough, Melton, Derby, Chesterfield, Buxton & Harrogate. Significant roles include 'Henry Higgins' in My Fair Lady and King Arthur' in Spamalot as well as panto Dame for four years at The Little. The current season saw him as 'Inspector Japp' in Black Coffee, 'Frank' in Educating Rita and 'The Old Gentleman' in The Railway Children. For KW Productions: 'Eric 'Rubber Legs' De Vene in A Slice of Saturday Night, 'Admiral von Schreiber' in The Sound of Music and 'Colin' in Calendar Girls: The Musical.

My special gimmick.....the ability to appear in multiple productions back-to-back without audiences shouting "Oh look! It's him again!" (At least that's what they tell me).

SIMON BUTLER AS L.A./GEORGIE/PASTEY/BOURGERON-COCHON



Simon is a playwright and actor who has produced work for the Leicester Comedy Festival (Award Nominated) and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Simon has performed all around the UK including at Leicester's Curve Theatre. Most recently, Simon was seen in Bedroom Farce, Aladdin and The Shape of Things at The Little Theatre. This is Simon's first show with KW Productions

My special gimmick...... I can make up lyrics for any song after only one play....but can listen to a song thousands of times without ever remembering the actual words!

JOE DICKINSON AS YONKERS/ PHOTOGRAPHER



Joe enjoys travelling and supporting Leicester Tigers. Favourite roles include: 'Jack' in The Importance of Being Earnest, 'Tom the Cobbler' in Robin Hood, 'Billy' in The Rise and Fall of Little Voice and 'Ralph' in Blue Stockings. For KW Productions: 'Lawrence' in Calander Girls: The Musical

My special gimmick.....considering how inflexible I am, I'm unnaturally good at the box game

KATHERINE ARDLEY AS AGNES



By day, Kat is a silversmith and owner of Stop The Moon Jewellery. In her spare time she loves to be outside exploring the UK in her campervan! Kat has performed in many shows at The Little Theatre including 'Gwendoline' in The Importance of Being Earnest, 'Priscilla' in Mother Goose and as a dancer in Robin Hood, Dick Whittington and Sleeping Beauty. For KW Productions: 'Sister Mary' in The Sound of Music.

My special gimmick.... I can play the flute and piccolo!

KERRY SMITH AS THELMA/RENÉE



Joining us for her first show with KW Productions this year, Kerry is proud to be playing one of our 'Hollywood Blondes'. Kerry played her first lead role as 'Judy' in 9 to 5: The Musical with Knighton Park Amateur Operatic Society (KPAOS) last year and has been part of the ensemble on the amateur operatic scene since 2018. By day, Kerry works for Niche Magazine and Cross Productions. "I'm over the moon to be in a KW show and have been blown away by the talent in rehearsals. This show will definitely "ENTERTAIN YOU!!!

My special gimmick......l never miss the opportunity to use movie quotes whenever and wherever possible!

GEORGINA HALL AS MARJORIE MAY/CAROLINE THE COW



Georgina first performed at The Little Theatre in the 2016/17 pantomime Sleeping Beauty while in her third year at DMU as a dance student. Since then she has also been in Cinderella and Aladdin, as well as teaching dance across Leicestershire. When not dancing, Georgina spends lots of her time outside getting muddy as a Forest School Teacher in a local primary school. This is her first show with KW Productions.

My special gimmick.....l never miss an opportunity to dance, and I am always the first on the dance floor at a party!!

LYD RUSHTON AS DOLORES



By day, Lyd works as a teaching assistant in a primary school and a teacher at Duet Academy of Dance. She has been performing at the Little Theatre since the age of 16, but is mostly known for her appearances in the annual Christmas pantomimes for the past 10 years. Most recently she choreographed Ghost for Wigston Amateur Operatic Society (WAOS) and appeared as 'So Shy' in Aladdin. This is her first show with KW Productions.

My special gimmick......l can make anything out of papier-mâché, a personal favourite being a full sized baked turkey!



Child Cast (Pictured left to right, top then bottom) Aaron Kirby (Young L.A.), Ella Brown (Baby Louise), Amélie Wilson-Knight (Young Yonkers), Eva Barratt (Young Yonkers), Pixie Ball (Young Tulsa), Pearl Ball (Young Tulsa), Ciara Daisley (Young L.A.) and Ava-Lily Creed (Baby June)

The Little Theatre, Theatre Manager & Premises Supervisor: Graham Muir

The Little Theatre is owned and operated by Leicester Drama Society Ltd., an amateur non-profit making organisation founded in 1922 for the furtherance and study of the art of drama. LDS survives without public subsidy and presents a repertoire of plays of all types throughout the year.

Access: Disabled patrons are very welcome. There is a lift to the auditorium and wheelchair spaces are available. For patrons with impaired hearing an infra red amplification system is now provided. Headsets may be borrowed from Front of House staff in the Foyer.

Safety: The safety precautions in this theatre fully satisfy official requirements. In the unlikely event of an emergency, however, we recommend patrons note the nearest emergency exits. Patrons are advised that official regulations prohibit members of the audience from standing in the aisles during a performance

It is against the law to smoke in the theatre building. The use of cameras, videos and other visual or audio recording equipment is prohibited during performances. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off.

Stage Mother from Hell: Needy, Greedy "Mama" Rose

"Here she is boys/Here she is world/Here's Rose...."

Ever since she made her first appearance in Ethel Merman in 1959, Gypsy's Mama Rose has been a touchstone of musical theatre. The only thing is, if you ask the man who because she certainly would loathe being . nobody ever thought of her as a mother! Why she's called 'Mama Rose,' I don't know.'

Whether you call her Madame Rose or Mama Rose, she's the stage mother from hell. In the dazzling score, by composer Jule Styne and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, and woman boiling over with her own frustrated ambition. And she channels all her energies into turning her daughters into stars -- woe be to anyone who gets in her way. She's horrifying. She's mesmerizing.

"I can't think of another part in a musical Bernadette Peters, who played the part in the 2003 revival.

Arthur Laurents created Mama Rose pretty much out of whole cloth. As he found out, delicate flower. She toured the country on the cheap with a vaudeville troupe starring her daughters. June -- who later became the famous actress June Havoc -- and Louise, who became Gypsy Rose Lee. "She had the two little girls and all the little boys in the newsboy act in one room in a hotel," Laurents recalls. "The manager came [and] window. Killed him. I didn't use that, but ... I used her pushing him around!

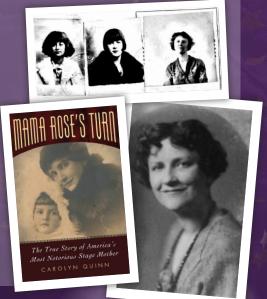
Rose, says critic Ben Brantley, is singleminded, and she takes what she needs. "She's a classic American success story

desperate chance is grabbed for -- on the one hand you shudder, on the other hand you heave a sigh of relief, because vou know vou're about to experience vet another burst of intensity -- one of the

anything written previously -- and really music. Alone onstage, Rose confronts the truth: her ambition and manipulation have made everyone leave her.

Mama Rose appeals to actresses for any number of reasons. But one of them, "She's what show business is about. She's why people go into it; it's that hunger for

Jeff Lunden -Heard on Weekend Edition Sunday April 13, 2008



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Stage Manager **Deputy Stage Managers** Backstage Team

Simon Dickens

Andy Mear and Reema Crooks

Alex Oldham, Russ Hughes, Grace Phillips, Lydia Clemence, Evie Lee, Lily Foley, John Worthy, Doug Simpson and Fraser Tew

Sound Design **Properties** Tom Brooks

Amanda Sadler, assisted by Tim Lovell and Amy Crighton

Lighting **Lighting Assistants**

Alex Crooks and Andy Crooks

Simon Entwistle, David Moore, Jackie Moore, Lin Marvin, Christopher Sarwicki and Andrew Northcote

Prompt

Costumes

Box Office

Showgirl Feathers

Rehearsal Space

Flver/ Poster and

Programme Design

& Production Photos **Additional Portraits**

Programme Printing

Special Thanks to

Cast Portraits/ Rehearsal

Sandra Brown

Child Licences and Chaperone Rota Children's Chaperones Liz Kavanagh Knott

Performance Tracks Set Pieces/ Piano Vaudeville Scenery Boards Additional Props/Set Items

Erin Williams, Louise Kirby, Marie Wilson-Knight, Helen King and Jade Afflick-Goodall

The MT Pit in collaboration with Concord Theatricals UK David Sadler and Amanda Sadler

Lynsey Reilly

Leicester Drama Society

Charades Theatrical Costume Hire and the Leicester Drama Society

Supplied by Tim Hogarth-Jones

John Hill Costumes

The Little Theatre

Hannah Colk, Robert Hall Memorial Church

Ed Geraghty Graphic Design

Dave Morris Videography

Gina Fernandes Photography, SW Photography

Our incredible backstage team, Programme Sellers, Stewards and all our Front of House Staff

Apologies to anyone who may have been missed after sending this programme to print.



Looking for a Graphic Designer? Look No Further.

Feel free to get in touch and we can have a chat about any design projects you may have in mind, whether it be branding, print, business events or digital design. I look forward to hearing from you.















PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS



A Slice of Saturday Night (Upstairs at the Western)



A Slice of Saturday Night (Little Theatre, Main Stage)



(Upstairs at the Western & The Little Theatre Studio)



Into The Woods (Little Theatre, Main Stage)



The Sound of Music (Little Theatre, Main Stage)



The Last Five Years (Live Streamed Production)

WINNER 2022 NODA Lockdown Hero Award



Calendar Girls: The Musical (Little Theatre, Main Stage)

WINNER of the 2022 NODA District 6 Award for Best Musical

Photographs by Pamela Raith, Tim Neville, Sally Evans and Gina Fernandes Photography







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KW Productions

the National Operatic & Dramatic Association.