

## TOP NOTES SPRING 2018 (9 TO 5 EDITION)

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### FROM GILLIAN

Greetings to all! What a successful year this has been for WAOS, with our last two productions receiving awards from Noda. A small group of us battled our way through the snowdrifts to the award ceremony at Whitstable, and our perseverance was well rewarded. Huge congratulations are due to Martine and everyone involved with Kiss Me Kate, for receiving an Accolade of Excellence is a rare and wonderful thing, and we should all feel very proud of ourselves. We knew in advance that we had been awarded this, but it was a surprise and additional pleasure to find that Carousel! had also won an award as the runner up musical in our area! So congratulations also are due to Lorraine and everyone involved in this as well.

Both shows featured the handiwork of Mike Bartlett, who does such a wonderful job in designing and making our sets, ably assisted by Mike Griffiths and his other merry men and

women. We should not lose sight of how lucky we are to have such a talented and committed person in our team, as I am sure that the fabulous sets for both shows made a very positive contribution to Noda's decision making. Both shows also had fantastic musical direction, great choreography and very talented casts, both in the chorus and principals.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels but need to look ahead to the future, and I am really looking forward to seeing 9 to 5 very soon, as I have heard great things about how well rehearsals have been going. I know that the process has involved a lot of hard work from everyone, but have also learnt that rehearsals have been fun, which is great to hear. I hope that our new members will all join us for our fundraiser in August, and our November production of Little Shop of Horrors. Now you've joined the family, stay! We need you!

Finally, at the AGM this July, we will be looking forward to welcoming several new committee members, as some of our hardworking team feel it is time for them to rest up a bit. I don't include myself amongst those who are hard-working, but I do feel that it is time for WAOS to have a change of chair/man/woman/person (after two years I am still unsure what to call myself!) I have been a WAOS member for the past 19 years, and have been on the committee for more than half of that time, but I am beginning to feel that my time on stage in musical theatre is drawing to a close. They don't write enough parts for short, plump women in their 60s who lack elegance (according to my last Noda review) and as I cannot dance for toffee, I am of limited use in the chorus unless I stand at

the back where I can't be seen anyway. So I have been gravitating towards straight plays instead, and as a result feel that I am too detached from WAOS now to make a good chairperson. Although I will still be a member, I am leaving the committee. I would like to assure my successor that chairing the committee is not as scary as it sounds. You can leave the other members to do all the work and they don't seem to mind at all! If you fancy the job, I'm very happy to have a chat and you promise not to twist your arm too hard!

Gillian Freeman

### **TOP NOTES NOW AND THEN**

This edition of Top Notes which has been put together by a guest editor as our regular editor Mel has had slightly more important matters to deal with but more about that later. I have edited Top Notes in the distant past actually very close to the time that 9 to 5 is set. In those days production was quite a process. Firstly you needed special paper to make a master to print which was loaded into a typewriter. Manual ones were best as the typing was done without a ribbon in so that the type heads actually cut through the top layer of the paper. There was a self-carbonating sheet underneath so the typist could actually check what had been typed. Mistakes were corrected using special fluid that effectively sealed the holes. Once each page had been typed up then you had to go and find someone with a Banda machine. WAOS were fortunate that one of our non-acting members had one in his spare room. The top sheet of the Banda master was removed and loaded onto a drum and then someone had to wind the handle to get a single copy of the page. Now repeat that for however many copies you needed and for

each page doing the same. Finally you were in a position to walk round a table with piles of each page to take one of each and staple them together. My typing has always been one-finger stuff but conveniently I was managing a shipping office and had my own typist Sally, left in the picture below, so it was much easier than trying to get the typing pool to do it.



This was the shipping office in the early 1980's but..

### **WORKING NINE TO FIVE, WHAT A WAY TO MAKE A LIVING...**

I'm sure most of you will know the classic Dolly Parton tune and you might even have started singing it, like me (sorry neighbours!). And I'm sure that some of you have seen the film or Broadway show? Well if not, then now is your chance! And if yes, then now is your chance to see it again in all its glory, as Woking Amateur Operatics present their take on this brilliantly successful show, based on the original film starring Dolly Parton. Set at the end of the 1970s, the themes of the show are ever-relevant today, as we follow the journey of 3 ladies who decide that #TimesUp for sexist, egotistical, hypocritical, bigot bosses and lying cheating husbands, as they say #MeToo and turn the tables on a backwards looking society.

Join Violet, Doralee and Judy as they epitomise Girl Power by banding together to overcome sexist ideals, judgement and wayward husbands, all whilst turning the office around and taking their boss down in the meantime. Beth Flitton



Cartoon from 1957 – the caption reads:

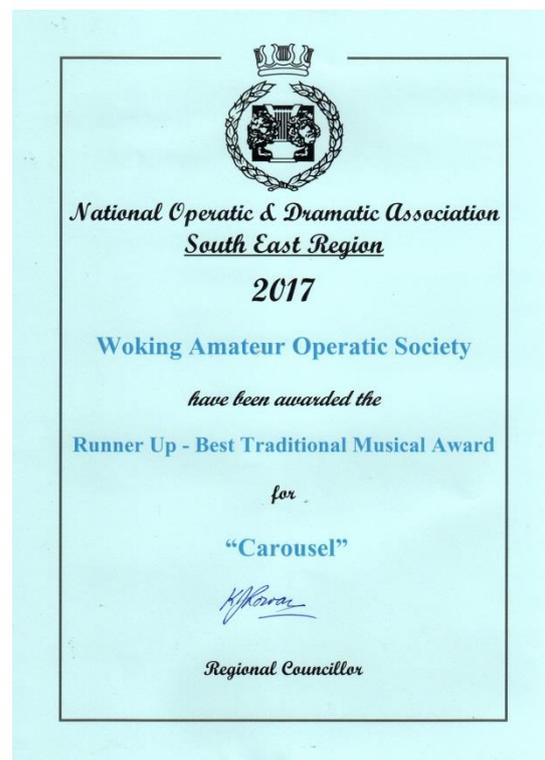
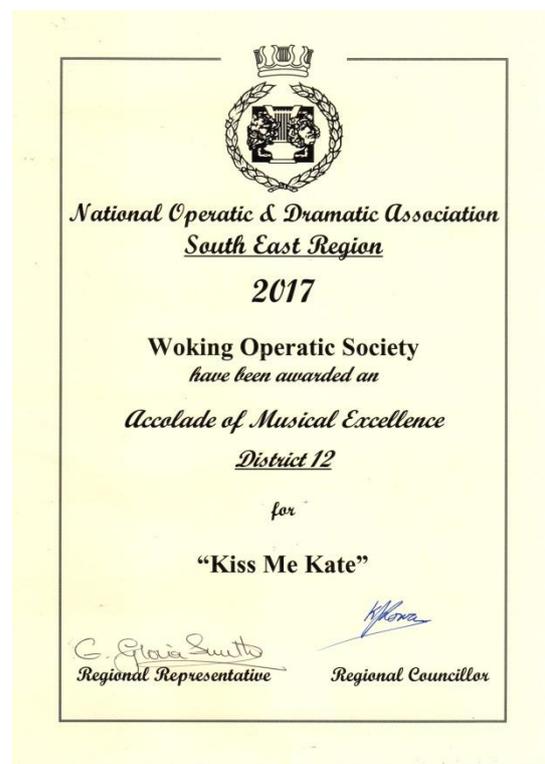
*'Ever thought of becomin' a career-woman, mother?'*

The headline on the newspaper is Men Look at Women

## **AWARD WINNING WAOS**

Back in March during one of those blizzard weekends a group of hardy explorers fought their way into Kent finally ending up by the sea in a windswept Whitstable. Two of the team had volunteered to perform Brian (Publicity) Higgs and Peter (Wizz) Howitt reprised their Brush Up Your Shakespeare from Kiss me Kate. We were there to collect an award or two. Both last year's productions had been recognised though in different ways.

Well done to all those involved in whatever capacity with these productions.





Gloria presenting the award for Kiss me Kate to Martine.



Gillian collecting the Carousel award from Kaye

Graham Kirby-Smith has penned this little piece about being new to the committee and the recently formed WAOS show selection sub-committee.

### **A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A WAOS COMMITTEE MEMBER...**

Just before the *WAOS AGM 2017*, Vicky asked me whether I'd ever considered being on Committee. I hadn't really, but I thought I'd give it a go. And **I enjoy it!** They're a good bunch - I'd never thought about the relation between the word '**commit**' and the word '**committee**', but that is definitely how I'd describe them (or us!). Different levels of commitment though.

There's a lot of work going on in the background of WAOS, and most of this group spend many hours trying to help WAOS be a **great society** for its members, putting on **good quality** productions that **educate** and **entertain** audiences. I say "most of this group" because I'm an example of a committee member who probably does less than others - I'd encourage anyone to consider being on committee even if you're not able to take on very much outside of our monthly meetings.

I think an important quality for a committee member is to be **discerning**. There are often strong viewpoints expressed both inside and outside of the committee, and there are sometimes challenges to work through, and our job is to try to come up with the best conclusions and solutions, by **listening**, thinking, discussing, discerning and finally **acting** on what is decided.

#### **... and a member of the 'Show Focus Group':**

One of the important tasks is **show selection**, and we now have a '**Show Focus Group**', which I am also a member of, along with

Hannah, Roger and Martine. This is separate to the committee, and open to anyone who'd like to be involved in **researching** and **short listing** potential future shows.

At the *2017 AGM*, I believe it was felt that we should continue doing **Fundraisers** (of different types) at the **end of summer** each year, and therefore we should consider picking shows that can be produced with a **smaller cast** for our **November** productions. This way, members who want a break from the main shows, or who have less to do in the November show, can still be involved with the WAOS family in a Fundraiser, and those who want to do both don't feel overwhelmed!

### So, this year...

We have a **Fundraiser** on **31st August & 1st September** based around music and drama from the world wars - very timely because it's 100 years since the end of WW1, and 50 years since the start of 'Dad's Army'! **Rehearsals** will only be during **August**.

And it's '**Little Shop of Horrors**' in **November**, with **rehearsals** starting in May. There will be a **break** in rehearsals in August, to allow for the Fundraiser rehearsals. I believe the amount of involvement for chorus will depend on the amount of interest - one of the reasons we chose it is because it is a show that works well with a **small chorus** (including several small speaking roles), but there have also been productions which have used a **large chorus**, and kept them occupied throughout the show. (Another reason we chose this show is that it had a significant number of audience votes from our surveys at last year's Fundraiser).

So please feel free to speak to me, or any of the Committee or the Show Focus Group, if you have any interest in joining either of these groups, and any further thoughts about our upcoming shows. Thanks for reading!

## **MIKE & MEL GOT MARRIED**

Mike our set designer and Mel our Kate in 'Kiss Me Kate' carefully chose the only really nice weekend in April to get married. Many members helped them out in various ways before and on the day and many more both past and present were guests at either the service or the party in the evening. You might recognise one or two!



They also had a band made up of members and friends who decided to call themselves...

## The Wedding Wingers



Hidden behind the front line is a well-known rehearsal pianist and another much younger member on an electronic drum kit.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY TREATMENTS

Have you got a pain in the rear or anywhere else for that matter? Whilst I may not be an expert in divorce or infanticide, I have many years of experience in treating pain, as a physiotherapist. I can also offer advice on managing pain problems and giving suitable exercises. I also enjoy sticking in needles as I have a post-graduate qualification in acupuncture and can treat all sorts of weird things like insomnia, hayfever or menopausal symptoms, as well as pain.

I am offering reduced price treatments at my home in Horsell, Woking. Treatment sessions (up to 1 hour) will cost only £30, with £10 donated to WAOS. Contact me on my work email [suegphysio@gmail.com](mailto:suegphysio@gmail.com) or on my mobile 07821 682956  
Sue Gastra

## COME FLY WITH ME! (AND SUPPORT WAOS FUNDRAISING)

Have you ever flown in a light aircraft?  
Would you like to experience flying in a small 4-seater Piper aircraft (PA28)?  
Mike Griffiths is offering the chance for up to 3 people to go flying with him. The total cost for approximately an hour's flight would be

£100, or more for longer flights, and he will donate 50% of this into the WAOS coffers.

Flights can be tailored to suit (some) of your wishes with the potential to have refreshments down at Goodwood – Chichester; view the South Coast from 2000 ft; or perhaps circumnavigate the Isle of Wight; or just view the M25 traffic without the hassle of sitting in the traffic jams! Arrangements are subject to weather conditions.

So, why are you waiting? Perhaps it could be a treat for somebody special? Or perhaps a birthday or early Christmas present?

If you would like to book or find out more, please contact Mike at [mikegriffiths1949@gmail.com](mailto:mikegriffiths1949@gmail.com)

## COMING NEXT

Direction will be by James Fortune who directed our award winning Sweeney Todd, Musical Director will be Brian Steele who will be new to WAOS. Introduction night Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of May, main auditions Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.