

WHAT'S ON

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CAODS want you to get with programme



FROM THE ARCHIVES: Jean Pinkney and David Gillett from CAODS with SOME of their old programmes

HAVE you got lots of old theatre programmes gathering dust in a cupboard? Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (CAODS) has launched an appeal to help complete their archive with a programme from every single show they've put on since they started in 1910.

The popular group has put on hundreds of shows in that time, and they are missing just nine programmes from their collection.

"It would be so lovely to have the complete archive as we have been going for more than 100 years," said president Gill Plumtree. "We are sure that there are people out there, whether they are members of the audience or former CAODS members, who have old programmes tucked away."

The missing programmes are:

1921-22: The Gondoliers, and Iolanthe

1932-33: Iolanthe

1933-34: Miss Hook of Holland

1957: Sailor Beware

1960: Something to Hide, and Revue and Pantomime

1969: Wizard of Oz

1971: The Pied Piper

While putting out a plea for help, CAODS committee is also hoping that it might entice former members to come back to the group to help out in any capacity.

"They could be people of any age who want to get back on the stage or help behind the scenes, everyone is welcome," Gill said. "CAODS is such a beautiful society. It is so friendly and over the years there have been so many marriages as a result of meeting here."

You have to be 18 plus to join CAODS but members span the generations and they have lots of active players in their 60s and 70s.

CAODS has also won lots of

awards, and this year they're up for two big ones. Two of their shows from last year - The Witches of Eastwick and Jesus Christ Superstar - are nominated in the National Operatic and Dramatic Association awards for the Eastern area.

The CAODS team is currently busy rehearsing for their next show, Guys and Dolls, which is showing at the Civic Theatre from February 24-28.

Guys and Dolls, directed by Ray Jeffery, is a classic gangster musical which centres around the high-rolling, risk-taking Sky Masterson who takes on a seemingly unwinnable bet. Nathan Detroit, owner of the 'Oldest Established Permanent Floating Crap Game in New York', bets Sky that he can't convince the straight-laced Sarah Brown from the Salvation Army to go on a date with him.

While waiting to find out if he's won his much-needed cash, Nathan also to deal with his perpetual fiancée Miss Adelaide who harbours a constant cold, claiming she's allergic to her commitment-phobe partner.

"Guys and Dolls is a very happy show," Gill said. "There is a brilliant cast, spectacular costumes and a lovely orchestra. And of course all of those brilliant songs such as Luck Be a Lady, I've Never Been in Love Before and everyone's favourite, Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat."



GUYS AND DOLLS: (left to right) Ian Gilbert as Sky Masterson, Cassie Estall as Sarah Brown, Kevin Richards as Nathan Detroit and Robyn Gowers as Adelaide

■ Guys and Dolls is at the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford from Tuesday, February 24 to Saturday, February 28. Evening performances are at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 3pm. Tickets, from £14-16, are available from www.chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres or from the box office on 01245 606505.

LEADING LADY WANTED

CAODS is looking for a leading lady for their forthcoming production of Sister Act - The Musical to play the part made famous by Whoopi Goldberg in the film.

The drama society has been chosen to present the Chelmsford premiere of the show to the Civic Theatre in September 2015, which was a hit in the West End and on Broadway.

The actress playing Deloris Van Cartier needs to be: a superb actress with a strong singing voice, have brilliant comic timing, a larger than life character with a powerful 'disco diva' voice with huge range.

Rehearsals start in late April in Chelmsford, and take place every Wednesday and Friday evenings and some Saturdays. Auditions will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015.

■ For more information about missing programmes, CAODS membership or auditions, contact caods1@googlemail.com or visit www.caods.com

Picture: Christopher Yorke-Edwards