



Lyme Regis Operatic Society

Affiliated to The National Operatic and Dramatic Association

www.lymeopera.org.uk

President: Mr. B.F. Manners



February 3rd 2005

Ready, Steady... Anything Goes!

Rehearsals for the Lyme Regis Operatic Society's forthcoming May 18th-21st production of *Anything Goes* by Cole Porter are now literally in full swing. The Marine Theatre is bracing itself for one of the liveliest amateur productions ever seen in Lyme. A radical departure for the Operatic Society sees this ever popular musical comedy given a rendition that will be remembered for quite a while. An extravaganza of movement and dance coupled with so many of those "Oh, I know this one" tunes, all treated to Lyme Operatic's famed choral skills make this a sure fire recipe for a grand evening out. With standards such as "It's Delovely," "All through the Night," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" and "Friendship" a great deal of foot-tapping is guaranteed.

In a nutshell the story of *Anything Goes* centres around the fulfilment of unrequited relationships on the ocean liner S.S. *American* bound for Europe from New York. Billy Crocker is in love with Hope Harcourt, who is unfortunately for him, already engaged to Sir Evelyn Oakleigh. As Hope is well above his station and her mother Mrs. Wadsworth T. Harcourt completely unaware, Billy has to resort to subterfuge to be near her. He therefore connives with Moonface Martin to impersonate a far more dangerous criminal and Public Enemy Number One, Snake Eyes Johnson, who is booked on board but never actually appears, having been detained by the Feds on the gangplank. Moonface, also disguised, as a preacher, and his moll Bonnie assist Billy who works as a secretary for Elisha J. Whitney, another passenger, to get on board.

Are you following this? Good.

Meanwhile, Reno Sweeney and her "Angels" also join the passengers. Reno instantly recognises both Billy and the disguised Moonface and correctly guesses that "something is up." Billy enlists her help to vamp Sir Evelyn and compromise him so that Hope realises the mistake she is making. However, in the end this subterfuge proves unnecessary as Sir Evelyn confesses to an "indiscretion" with a Chinese girl whilst in the Orient. By an amazing coincidence and several disguises later... But that would be telling too much. You'll just have to come and see the show, won't you!

The Society is particularly pleased to welcome Tracey Dare, fresh from her success in Axminster's "Calamity Jane" as Reno and John Challis from Bridport as Sir Evelyn. Claire Frankum makes a very welcome appearance in her first lead role for the Society as Bonnie and many other new members will make this a class show, once again under the professional control of Nick Lawrence. Nick counts *Anything Goes* as one of his all-time favourites, especially in this Revised 1962 off-Broadway version, which is much less frequently staged than the 1989 version.

The full cast is as follows:

Fresh-faced All-American boy, Billy Crocker – Phil Atkins

Ivy League Debutante, Hope Harcourt – Kelly Street

Hope's domineering mother Mrs. Wadsworth T. Harcourt – Jill Chase

Broadway Entertainer and part-time Evangelist, Reno Sweeney – Tracey Dare

Thirteenth-rate Gangster and Ecclesiastical Impersonator, Moonface Martin – Mike Brooks

Moonface's Hapless Moll Bonnie – Claire Frankum

English Aristocrat and All-round Good Egg, Sir Evelyn Oakleigh – John Challis

Severely Myopic Wall Street Tycoon and Philanderer, Elisha J. Whitney – Jim Pettifer

Reno's "Angels," dancing girls and flappers – Purity – Trudi Robson, Virtue – Karen Hull,

Chastity – Nikki Moore, Charity – Jan Elliott

All-Seeing Purser of the S.S. American, the one really in charge – Brian Rattenbury

Captain of the S.S. American, really only there for show – Nick Lawrence

A Loud and Troublesome Steward of S.S. American – Nigel Sankey

Very Unlucky Cleric, Bishop Henry T. Dobson – Robin Brewer

Two Chinese Converts of Initially Uncertain Purpose – Ching – Sue Wiscombe, Ling – Joyce Pomeroy

The photograph shows Reno Sweeney (Tracy Dare) in the foreground with , left to right; Angels Karen Hull, Jan Elliott, Nikki Moore and Trudi Robson.

