

NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH



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Public Hall, Beccles



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Olivia!

by Malcolm
Sircom



Olivia the musical follows the journey of Olivia from
orphan to star of the stage

PREVIEW EVENING
TUESDAY 9th JULY 2019

Quaker Hall, Beccles 7.30pm

Show week 3rd to 7th Dec 2019

www.spotlightbeccles.org.uk @SpotlightBeccles



Welcome from the Chairman

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this evening's performance of ***No Sex Please, We're British***.

Spotlight have always been a Group to try something new, push the boundaries, choosing shows with a controversial element to them, so why change the habit of a lifetime.

When the Committee were asked by members of the Group if we would consider producing a play instead of a musical, we said why not, and this is the result.

Peter and Frances Hunter, a newly married couple, live in a flat above the Bank where Peter works. Frances orders some China and Glassware from a Scandanavian Company thinking she can sell it from the flat, but a mistake is made with the order and what arrives is pornographic photographs. How to get rid of them is the subject of the whole play with Brian Runnicles, a Bank cashier getting very involved. Add into the mix, Mother-in-law, Bank Manager and other Bank staff, a Police Superintendent and two Prostitutes and the result is a 'laugh out loud' show.

It has been a very different process, no music, no dancing, just lots of words, words, words. Quite a big challenge for a small cast, but I am very proud of them all.

Our December show is a musical called ***Olivia***, a female version of ***Oliver*** where you will meet many other characters along the way.

Preview evening for this production is on Tuesday 9th July 2019 at Quaker Hall, Beccles at 7.30pm where new members will be given a warm welcome.

I thank you for your continued support and hope you enjoy this performance.

Barbara Warren
Chairman



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Spotlight Musical Theatre Group Beccles



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Directors Notes

Andy Osborne



During a Spotlight committee meeting last year, following the AGM, we wracked our brains about what our first non-musical production would be and who would direct it. Never one to shy away from a challenge, I presented a number of options to the Committee and we whittled it down to two shows... but as I had the passion to direct **No Sex Please, We're British**, and no other interested Directors coming forward, we had settled on this production... though there was still some doubt to its suitability... but as always, "have faith in Andy" allayed some of the worries.

During the fantastic auditions, I recruited Mary Snow as my Assistant Director. Mary, a person of the Group held in high regard and with a lot of experience. On our journey Mary has been fantastic to work with and it's always great to have another pair of eyes on your vision... I could not have done this without her so "thank you Mary"

Tonight you will see a great production with some great local talent, each bringing their own twist to their character (I never micro-direct a show... let them loose with their own interpretation and fine-tune where necessary). I am immensely proud of each of them. Thanks to, to Clare Warren and Lee Peck for Tech and Stage Management during show week.

So... sit back, transition back to 1971 (if you can), think Fawlty Towers meets Benny Hill Show and enjoy the comedy that Scandinavian Glassware can bring to your life. Oh, and in Act 2 make sure your drink is not full... you may spill it laughing!

noda

THE NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION



NODA was founded in 1989 and has a membership of 2500 amateur theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK. These groups and enthusiasts are staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls.

NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the National Council (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of regional representatives and officers. These 190 volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre groups themselves.

NODA Aims:

To give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector.

To help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.

To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

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**NO SEX PLEASE,
WE'RE BRITISH**



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Show Synopsis

Set in 1971, a young bride who lives above a bank with her husband, who is the Assistant Manager, innocently sends a mail order off for some Scandinavian glassware. What comes is Scandinavian pornography. The plot revolves around what is to be done with the veritable floods of illicit materials, photographs, books, films and eventually girls, that threaten to engulf this happy couple. The matter is considerably complicated by the man's Mother, his boss, a visiting bank inspector, a police superintendent and a muddled friend who does everything wrong in his reluctant efforts to set everything right, all of which works up to a hilarious ending.



The Shows... who's who...

Peter Hunter Newly married and the Manager of a sub-branch of the National United Bank.

Frances Hunter Peter's newlywed wife. Wants to be the local seller of Scandinavian Glassware.

Brian Runnicles The Chief Cashier. Nervous, geeky and slightly put upon.

Eleanor Hunter Peter's Mother. She is an elegant and snobby character, and clearly resents Frances for marrying her son.

Leslie Bromhead Bank's district manager, Peter's boss. Appears at first to be an ogre, but we see him mellow a lot. He has an eye for the ladies and takes no time to start chatting up Peter's mother.

Superintendent Paul This character is the stock policeman character, but finds himself in several awkward situations.

Mr Needham A Bank Inspector. Similar to Mr Bromhead, he appears standoffish at first but he later gets into all sorts of fun.

Susan & Barbara Susan and Barbara are prostitutes sent over by the supplier as he's heard the Hunters' are not satisfied.

Delivery person Delivers the seemingly endless supply of... erm... Scandinavian Glassware.



Peter Hunter Joe Learner

Joe has been a Spotlight member since 2012. He started out as a pirate in **Pirates of Penzance** and got such a buzz out of it he has not stopped since.

Any role he performs, whether large or small, he always gives his best to bring you the type of quality you expect from a show. **No Sex Please, We're British** is Spotlight's and Joe's first non-musical production so it has been a new adventure for both him and the Group.

He would like to thank everyone for coming to watch and hope you get lots of laughs and enjoy the show as much as he has.



Francis Hunter Natasha Bird

Natasha is thrilled to be back performing with Spotlight again and is delighted to be part of their first non-musical production. This is her third play this year having performed in

Curtains up on Murder with Pavilion Players

and **Stiff** with GTC. Natasha has been a member of

Spotlight for a few years after she returned to the area following a career as a professional dancer. She joined

the Group as a Dancer/Choreographer for **Tommy**,

Choreographer/Rachel in **Bad Girls**,

Choreographer/Steph in **Quadrophenia** and

Choreographed **Summer Holiday**. Natasha enjoys

working with such a talented company and is looking forward to being part of the upcoming productions.



Brian Runnicles Stu Precious

This is Stu's first outing with Spotlight, and he's enjoyed working with a new company. He is however no stranger to the

Public Hall, having performed the role of Bishop Waltham

Howe in **The Elephant Man** with the now retired Quaysiders.

He has a particular passion for physical theatre which is what attracted him to play Brian. He'll be building on his previous

roles as Sir Toby Belch in **Twelfth Night** and the jester Trinculo in **The Tempest**,

the crooked bookie Alf Tubbe in the Whitehall farce **Dry Rot**,

Richard Winthrop in **Ghost Train** and Seldom

Bucket in the late Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld Phantom of the Opera parody **Maskerade**.

Eleanor Hunter Emily Todd

Emily is thrilled to be appearing as Mrs Eleanor Hunter, the world's most snobbish, pretentious mother-in-law; being an exact cross between Mrs Hyacinth Bucket and Margaret Thatcher! Much like Eleanor, Emily has "always been [very] on the theatre", and has loved acting and singing all her life. Her debut with Spotlight was as the dour poverty-stricken Mrs Dilber, and the posh, attractive Mary, in **Scrooge!** She feels profoundly privileged to have been selected for this challenging production, and Spotlight's first ever non-musical show. Emily has loved transforming into Eleanor Hunter, and will doubtless never forget her, or this show!



Leslie Bromhead Steve Taylor

This will be Steve's thirteenth show with Spotlight (its a good job he isn't superstitious) starting with **The Pirates of Penzance**. This production, **No Sex Please, We're British**, is the first Non-musical production he's ever done and is so happy to be part of it as it is such a fun play, which he has liked ever since he saw it some years ago. Steve is having a great time playing Leslie Bromhead and is enjoying, very much, playing the 'love interest' to Emily Todd's Eleanor Hunter. It has been one the most enjoyable shows he has been part of and the cast have been great to work with.



Arnold Needham Ian Goddard

Ian is very much excited to be back on stage with Spotlight for his first ever farce and only his third ever show, the first being **Summer Holiday** this time last year. He has been truly bitten by the acting bug! Prior to this Ian sang in the Pit Choir for Spotlight's production of **White Christmas**. Before treading the boards, Ian has served as stage crew for a good number of Spotlight productions, the first being **The Gondoliers** way back in June 2013. He hopes you all enjoy Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's first non-musical production as much as he has enjoyed rehearsing this hilarious show and wishes his fellow cast a "break-a-leg".





Superintendent Paul David Clark

David has been involved in theatre for over 50 years, here in the UK and for many years in New Zealand. Musical theatre has always been his first love, but more recently he has turned to comedy and is delighted to be appearing in **No Sex Please We're British**, his second outing with Spotlight, after **Scrooge** last December. He has also written and directed a number of comedies that were performed in New Zealand, as well as directing and appearing in comedies for The Gorleston Theatre Company. David has played a policeman many times and is happy to have reached the rank of Superintendent in this production.



Susan Zina Vaitkeviciene

Zina is extremely proud to be joining the Beccles Spotlight Theatrical Group this Summer for her first non-musical play, in the role of Susan. Zina enjoys singing and dancing and has found the challenge of a live show thrilling. Zina would like to thank the theatre family and hopes to learn more about acting in future shows.



Barbara Laura Frosdick

Laura completed her degree in Musical Theatre from UCC last year and is delighted to be involved in Spotlight's first non-musical production, having previously played, funnily enough, Barbara in last years production of **Summer Holiday**, her first show with Spotlight. Other notable productions include **Cats**, **Honk**, **Little Shop of Horrors**, and **Moulin Rouge**. Laura can occasionally be found singing 50's & 60's music in local venues. She has thoroughly enjoyed working alongside a wonderful cast.



Delivery Man Graham Bradford

This is Graham's fifth show with Spotlight, having previous small roles in **The Lion**, **The Witch And The Wardrobe**, **Quadrophenia**, **White Christmas** and **Summer Holiday**. He is happy to be taking part in Spotlight's first play. Graham's hobbies include video gaming, WW2 Re-enactment, singing and playing instruments, especially the mandolin. He has had fun taking part and working with a wonderful cast and crew, supporting him with his Aspergers Syndrome. Wishing them all the very best.



Show Director Andy Osborne

This is the fourth show Andy has directed for Spotlight, following on from directing musicals *The Who's Tommy* (NODA nomination for Best Musical and Best Technical), *Bad Girls* and *Quadrophenia* (NODA nomination for Best Musical; Winner of the NODA Standing Ovation Award). "It's been a privilege directing Spotlight's first non-musical production with a very talented and hard working cast and production team". Andy hopes you enjoy the show.



Assistant Director Mary Snow

Mary was delighted to be offered the chance to be Assistant Director to Spotlight's first play. This has been a wonderful experience for her, working with Andy Osborne and a talented and hard working cast. Rehearsals have been an interesting experience and a lot of fun. Mary has spent 16 years in Spotlight playing a variety of parts, large and small, in 18 shows. Her favourites being Aunty Em in *The Wizard of Oz*, Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* and The Storyteller (Old Wendy) in *Peter Pan*. She would like to wish Andy and everyone involved all the very best for a great show. Hopefully the first of many!



Stage Manager Lee Peck

Lee started with Spotlight in 2008 in the musical *Oh What a Lovely War*. Since that time he has appeared in various productions such as *Oklahoma*, *Peter Pan*, *Quadrophenia* and *Scrooge*. Lee enjoys working backstage and taking part in set build. He's looking forward to being part of *No Sex Please We're British...* be sure you're looking towards the hatch towards the end of the bows!



Olivia the musical follows the journey of Olivia from orphan to star of the stage

Olivia!
by Malcolm Stroud

PREVIEW
EVENING

TUESDAY 9th JULY 2019

Quaker Hall, Beccles 7.30pm



Stage & Technical Crew

Stage Manager **Lee Peck**

Prompts **Mary Snow & Andy Osborne**

Stage Crew **Cast members**

Audio & Lighting **Clare Warren**

Set Design **Andy Osborne**

Set Construction **Andy Osborne & Joe Learner with Ian Frosdick & Cast members**

Stage Construction **Cast & members of the Group**

Wardrobe Mistress **Sue Taylor**

Front of House Manager **Barbara Warren**

Front of House Team **Friends & members of the Group**

Acknowledgements

Spotlight offer their sincere thanks to...

Beccles Public Hall Management Team.

Sue & Steve Taylor (Beccles Sewing & Handicraft) for wardrobe items and props

Debbie Lambert for wigs

Andy Osborne for publicity, programme and poster design

*Andy's personal thanks to **Joe Learner** for all his hard work and dedication to pre-building the set... "thank you so much Joe"*

Sue & Steve Taylor for roadside advertising

Waveney Norse for loan of sandbags

Hammonds Van Rental, Halesworth

John Gallagher for lighting / audio training

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- 2010 Heavens Below / Sinbad
- 2011 Oklahoma! / Beauty & The Beast
- 2012 The Pirates Of Penzance / Honk!
- 2013 The Gondoliers / Grease
- 2014 Thoroughly Modern Millie / Peter Pan
- 2015 Tommy / The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
- 2016 Bad Girls / Cinderella, Enchanted Edition
- 2017 Quadrophenia / White Christmas
- 2018 Summer Holiday / Scrooge!
- 2019 No Sex Please, We're British



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