

SPOTLIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP PRESENT

# IRVING BERLIN'S

# White Christmas

Based Upon the Paramount Pictures Film  
Written For the Screen by Norman Krasna, Norman Panama and Melvin Frank

Music and Lyrics by  
**IRVING BERLIN**

Original stage production directed by **WALTER BOBBIE**

Orchestrations **Larry Blank**

Vocal and Dance Arrangements **Bruce Pomahac**

Book by  
**DAVID IVES &  
PAUL BLAKE**

**5<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> December 2017**  
**PUBLIC HALL, BECCLES**

An amateur production by arrangement with R&H Theatricals Europe





*Stage Adaptation by*  
Michael Gyngell and Mark Haddigan  
*Based on the film SUMMER HOLIDAY*  
*Directed by Peter Yates*  
*Screenplay by Peter Myers and Ronald Cass*  
*By special arrangement with Studio Canal*

**Show  
Preview  
Evening**  
**Summer**

**Holiday**

**THE MUSICAL**

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Quaker Hall, Beccles**

**7.30pm**

**Come and see what this fantastically fun show is  
all about.**

**We need actors, singers, dancers, backstage crew  
so come along.**

**For more information please email:  
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**Show week: 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

*Happy Holidays...*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this performance of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. This is a show within a show, a love story with lots of twists and turns along the way, angles and percentages and a little bit of larceny, but of course love wins through in the end.



We are taking you on a train journey across America to Pinetree, Vermont, "should be beautiful up there, all that snow" – "lots of skiing and schushing" I hope you've got your warm clothes with you!

Sit back, relax and enjoy the show, and I guarantee as you leave the theatre you will be singing those familiar, and unforgettable, songs all the way home and beyond.

On behalf of the cast, production team and crew of *White Christmas*, I would like to wish Richard Smith a speedy recovery. He was due to play the part of General Henry Waverly, but hasn't been at all well over the last few weeks and has reluctantly had to pull out of the show.

If you are interested in joining Spotlight to tread the boards, help back stage or front of house, please come along to the preview evening of our next production, *Summer Holiday* on **Tuesday 9th January 2018** at **Quaker Hall, Beccles 7.30pm.**

*Merry Christmas* to everyone,  
*on with the show!"*

"or as they say in the theatre:

Barbara Warren  
CHAIRMAN

# All about *noda*

National Operatic and Dramatic Association Headquarters:

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, PE2 7UH

Telephone: 01733 374790 Email: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

Website: [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of approximately 2000 amateur theatre groups and approximately 800 individual members staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Covering a broad spectrum of age ranges NODA member societies meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic, dance or musical, and those involved backstage, front of house or in society administration.

## **NODA AIMS:**

- ◆ To give a shared voice to amateur theatre
- ◆ To help 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

◆ To achieve these aims NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the national council (ruling body of the Association), and supported by a network of regional representatives and officials. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association; the amateur theatre groups themselves and their members

◆ To provide support and assistance to these volunteers the Association is administered from its office in Peterborough by a knowledgeable and friendly staff who can deal with any enquiry about amateur theatre

Membership of NODA provides theatre groups and individuals with a wide range of benefits including access to NODA's advice service at national and regional level, as well as representation to government, access to funding agencies, direct access to rights

holders and the media as well as access to regional and national conferences, workshops and seminars to help share information on best practice. NODA holds an annual residential Summer School (with bursaries available) offering training from professional tutors in a wide range of both performance and technical courses.

NODA also holds an annual, national and regional programme and poster competition to encourage high standards in design.

Through its trading arm, NODA Limited members have access to a varied range of products and services including insurance for both societies and individuals, long service awards that recognise the dedication made by individuals to amateur theatre, discounts on plays, vocal scores, libretti and technical books and a range of NODA branded merchandise. As a rights holder NODA Limited has 150 pantomimes by leading authors as well as a growing catalogue of plays and musicals.

*noda*

Be inspired by amateur theatre

# Synopsis

The curtain rises on a 1944 WWII Army Camp, on Christmas Eve. Captain Bob Wallace and Private Phil Davis are putting on a show for the troops.

Ten years later: Bob and Phil are Broadway stars performing on the Ed Sullivan Show. In their dressing room after the show, Bob looks forward to their upcoming holiday in Miami. However before they leave Phil persuades him to drop into a nightclub, where the Haynes Sisters happen to be doing an act. It seems Phil has an ulterior motive: romance is clearly in the air. Bob smells a rat.

Bob and Phil are clearly impressed with the sisters' talent and ask the girls to join them for a drink after the show. Phil and Judy hit it off immediately. Things don't go so well for Bob and Betty. Although initially attracted to one another the evening goes awkwardly and

ends in a row. The girls leave for Vermont where they are doing a show. Determined to smooth the path of romance, Phil books tickets to Vermont instead of Miami. The four bump into each other on the train, but the surprise meeting does not go well for Bob and Betty.

Arriving at the Columbia Inn they discover that the show has been cancelled. The Inn is in dire-straits financially, and the boys' Army Commander, General Waverly, is now the Innkeeper.

Bob and Phil decide to stage their new show in a barn at the Inn, and devise a scheme to turn the failing Inn into a paying proposition for the General.

Confusion and misunderstandings are rife along the way, but all turns out well of course - because as they say "the show must go on".

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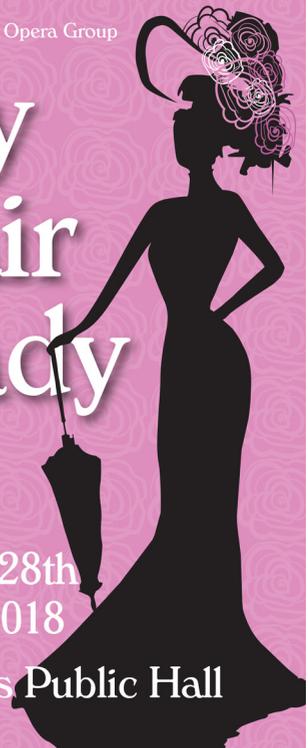
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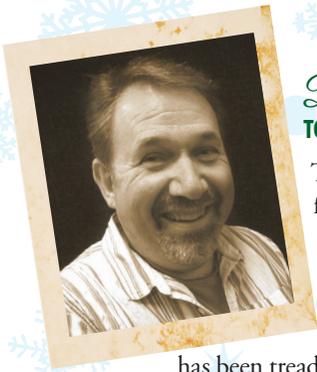
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SPOTLIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP PRESENT  
IRVING BERLIN'S

# White Christmas

IN REHEARSAL





*Bob Wallace*  
**TOMMY MCGEE**

This is Tommy's first show with Spotlight and what a show for a Christmas Fan! Tommy

has been treading the amateur boards since the early 80's where he appeared in the chorus of *Showboat* and has probably been in a show nearly every year since, taking principal parts and being in the chorus in shows like *Me & My Girl*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Chess*, *The Pajama Game* and *Sweeney Todd* to name a few! Tommy would like to thank everyone in Spotlight for their warm welcome!



*Phil Davis*  
**DANIEL HUGHES**

This is Daniel's second Christmas show with Spotlight since *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe* in 2015, only this time he's

not playing as a little boy, but in fact an army private who is quite the charmer apparently! During his time away from Spotlight Daniel has also been involved with a local dance group The Tigerlily's, with whom he was involved in their recent production of *A Night At The Musicals*, with musical numbers from *Cats* to *Mary Poppins*, and has worked really hard on his tap-dancing skills, it literally gave him blisters (just kidding).



*Betty Haynes*  
**DEBBIE LAMBERT**

Debbie is delighted to be returning to Spotlight for their production of *White Christmas* and is particularly

thrilled to be taking

on the role of Betty Haynes; which was played by Rosemary Clooney in the 1954 film. Other roles Debbie has played in previous Spotlight productions include: Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Nancy in *Oliver*, Mrs Cratchett in *Scrooge*, Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Jacqui in *Me & My Girl*, Emily Tallentire in *The Hired Man* and Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*. Debbie hopes you enjoy the show and wishes you all a very peaceful, Happy Christmas.



*Judy Haynes*  
**HELEN STEED**

Helen Steed's first stage appearance was at the age of three, when she did a song and dance routine dressed as a ladybird. She has loved singing ever

since and has performed with many local musical societies and theatre groups. This is her first production for many years, having switched to the other side of the curtain to be stage director for Rising Stars. She has loved every minute of being back on stage and would like to thank all the members of Spotlight for making her feel so welcome.



## Martha Watson

### TINA VANSTON

This is Tina's 25th show with Spotlight and in the past she has played many wonderful character roles.

Particularly

memorable are Dolly, *Hello Dolly*, and Bloody Mary, *South Pacific*. Tina has enjoyed being able to get her teeth into such a rich and diverse character. Martha, once a Broadway star, has a very dry sense of humour, is big-hearted and an irrepressible meddler in the lives of those around her - but always, she believes, for their own good.

## Susan Waverly

### EMILY STEED

Emily Steed loves singing, dancing and performing on stage and is an active member of Rising Stars youth musical theatre.

She has performed in most of their productions, even if this meant appearing in cameo roles when she was too young to be an official member. Her favourite production was *Les Misérables*, when she played the role of Gavroche. This is her first show with Spotlight but she hopes there will be many more.



## General Henry Waverly

### JOHN KINGSTON

John originally joined Spotlight in 2000 for their production of *Me and My Girl* and has appeared in many shows since. He has also been a regular

member of other local societies

WLOG and The Lowestoft Players, performing in numerous plays, musicals and pantomimes. After spending much of the last 5 years working abroad in Hong Kong John is looking forward to treading the boards at the Public Hall again. He would like to thank his family for all their support.



## Cast

<b>Bob Wallace</b> .....	Tommy McGee
<b>Phil Davis</b> .....	Daniel Hughes
<b>Betty Haynes</b> .....	Debbie Lambert
<b>Judy Haynes</b> .....	Helen Steed
<b>General Henry Waverly</b> .....	John Kingston
<b>Martha Watson</b> .....	Tina Vanston
<b>Susan Waverly</b> .....	Emily Steed
<b>Ralph Sheldrake</b> .....	Joe Learner
<b>Rita</b> .....	Heidi Rix
<b>Rhoda</b> .....	Sorrel Adams
<b>Ezekiel Foster</b> .....	Lee Peck
<b>Mike</b> .....	Mike Catling

## Ensemble

Sorrel Adams \* Mike Catling  
Lorraine George \* Helen Hart \* Kate Jackson  
Joe Learner \* James Morrison \* Clare Osborne  
Lee Peck \* Linda Smith \* Stephen Taylor  
Barbara Warren \* Chloe Williams

## Pit Choir

Graham Bradford \* Stephanie Clarke  
Bev Gilbey \* Ian Goddard \* Hannah Guntrip  
Maureen Haynes \* Derek Monument \* Sue Moore  
Chris Steed \* Mary Snow \* Derek Watson

## The Band

**Musical Directors** ..... Jon Gibbs & Vivien Saunders  
**Piano** ..... Jon Gibbs  
**Drums** ..... Robert Lockwood  
**Bass** ..... Chloe McEwen  
**Reeds** ..... Tara Scott  
**Reeds** ..... Deborah Walden  
**Trumpet** ..... Neil McEwen  
**Trombone** ..... Carl Harrison

SPOTLIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE  
**IRVING BERLIN**

**On  
Christmas**

THEATRE GROUP PRESENT  
BERLIN'S

# White Christmas



## *Act One*

Happy Holidays

White Christmas

Happy Holiday/Let Yourself Go

Love and the Weather

Sisters

The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing

Snow

What Can You Do With a General?

Let Me Sing and I'm Happy

Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep

Blue Skies

## *Act Two*

I Love a Piano

Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun

Sisters (reprise)

Love You Didn't Do Right By Me /

How Deep is the Ocean

The Old Man

Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (reprise)

How Deep is the Ocean (reprise)

The Old Man (reprise)

White Christmas

I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm

# White Christmas

## The film before a show

Originally intended as a sequel to the 1942 Crosby & Astaire film *Holiday Inn*,

*White Christmas* was set to be the third Berlin film Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire were to star in. However, after reading the script, and disliking it, Astaire departed the project, as did Crosby soon after to spend more time with his sons after the death of his wife.

1953 saw Crosby return to the project, Donald O'Connor was signed to star opposite him. Due to ill health, however, O'Connor had to depart the picture before principal photography had begun. Danny Kaye was then signed to replace O'Connor. With Rosemary Clooney signed on, (having been a recent signing to Paramount Pictures), and adding Vera-Ellen, the main cast was complete and principal photography began.

### Count Your Blessings

Released with a premiere at Radio City Music Hall, in October 1954, *White Christmas* opened to a few mixed reviews. The New York Times was not impressed stating: "...the use of VistaVision, which is another process of projecting on a wide, flat screen, has made it possible to endow *White Christmas* with a fine pictorial quality. The colors on the big screen are rich



and luminous, the images are clear and sharp, and rapid movements are got without blurring—or very little—such as sometimes is seen on other large screens. Director Michael Curtiz has made his picture look good. It is too bad that it doesn't hit the eardrums and the funny bone with equal force."

Whereas Variety liked it writing: "*White Christmas* should be a natural at the box office, introducing as it does Paramount's new VistaVision (VV) system with such a hot combination as Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and an Irving Berlin score...Crosby and Kaye, along with VV, keep the entertainment going in this fancifully staged Robert Emmett Dolan production, clicking so well the teaming should call for a repeat...Certainly he (Crosby) has never had a more facile partner than Kaye against whom to bounce his misleading nonchalance."

### White Christmas

Released: 1954,

Paramount Pictures

#### Starring:

Bing Crosby - Bob Wallace

Danny Kaye - Phil Davis

Rosemary Clooney - Betty Haynes

Vera-Ellen - Judy Haynes

### Let me sing and I'm Happy

There was no full soundtrack released for the film. Decca Records owned the rights to the music, but Rosemary Clooney was signed, exclusively, to Columbia Records. Both record labels released a *White Christmas* album. Decca a full record, replacing Clooney with Peggy Lee. Columbia released a 'selection of songs' from the film. Clooney would sing all songs on this selection, and duet 'Sisters' with her actual sister, and former professional singing partner, Betty Clooney. The only place to hear Clooney and Crosby singing together is on screen in the film.

Vera-Ellen, who played Judy Haynes, was a phenomenal dancer, dancing on Broadway and as a Rockette before being signed to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, (MGM). Clooney would later say of her *White Christmas* co-star, that she was the "...best dancer on the MGM lot". Ellen however was not a singer and her vocals were dubbed by Trudy Stevens, a common occurrence for musical films during the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Ellen would make one more film after *White Christmas*; *Let's Be Happy* (1957), before retiring.

*White Christmas* is now considered a family festive favourite and a classic.

# Fun film facts!

Watch the scene where Crosby and Kaye reprise the Sisters routine closely, you will notice the amount of fun and laughter they were having. The laughter was real! Danny Kaye was quite the joker on set, making everyone laugh. The director noticed Kaye and Bing goofing around with the Sisters routine and laughed so much he wrote it into the script. The take in the film is the best they could get because they were all laughing so much!

The fictional Columbia Inn featured on screen a decade earlier in *Holiday Inn*, Paramount recycled the set for *White Christmas*.

Clooney who played older sister Betty, was actually 7 years younger than Vera-Ellen.

Yes, the late Rosemary Clooney is related to Hollywood actor George Clooney – she was his aunt!

The song *White Christmas* was written in 1940. Berlin was signed by Paramount Pictures to write a song for each season. He found Christmas hard due to his Jewish upbringing. He

started writing it by the side of a swimming pool in Los Angeles, which explains the rarely sung opening verse. *'The sun is shining; the grass is green the orange and palm trees sway. There's*

*never been such a day in Beverly Hills LA. ...* The song would also appear in *Holiday Inn*. It is also the most covered song in recording history, although it will forever be connected to Bing Crosby.

The entire ending was re-shot – without film! The King and Queen of Greece were visiting the set and so they performed the ending over again, all except that is for Bing Crosby. He escaped to the golf course!

Bob Fosse was an uncredited choreographer for the film. He would later go on to direct and choreograph such Broadway shows and films, such as *Cabaret*, *Chicago* and *All That Jazz*.

*White Christmas* Director, Michael Curtiz, also directed *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), *Casablanca* (1942) and *Mildred Pierce* (1945). *White Christmas* would be the most successful.

*Starring*  
Tommy Alford  
Debbie Lambert  
Daniel Hughes  
Helen Stieb

Look closely at the dancers surrounding Clooney in her number 'Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me' and you may spot dancer/actor George Chakiris who would go on to win the Oscar for best supporting actor in *West Side Story* as Bernardo.

Kingston  
with  
Una Dan

Spotlight Musical  
Theatre Group Presents

*White Christmas*



*Director*  
**TINA VANSTON**

While determined to stay retired from 'Showbiz', I was persuaded to direct my fifteenth Spotlight show.

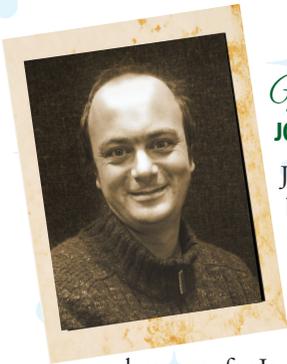
Had I stuck to my belief that one can never go back, I would have missed working with this phenomenally inspiring, hard-working cast. Thank you.

Huge thanks for Clare and Barbara's remarkable endeavour in getting us up and running; for the production team's herculean efforts, and the technical team's generous professionalism and stunning scene changes - 'hitting surprise pink' and making us all look young again.



*Choreographer*  
**CLARE OSBORNE**

Clare joined Spotlight in 1994 after studying GCSE Drama and Performing Arts 'A' Level. She has appeared in 18 musicals with Spotlight over the years and is delighted to be back, especially working with the hugely talented Tina Vanston. The choreography for *White Christmas* has been a challenge, with many long dance breaks to perfect. Clare would like to thank the cast for working so hard during the dance rehearsals with special thanks to her Mum, Barbara and to Tina for keeping her sane when *Skies were Blue!*



*Musical Director*  
**JON GIBBS**

Jon is very pleased to be back working with Spotlight again on this heartwarming festive production. 2017 has been a

busy year for Jon, highlights include musically directing WLOGs production of *Drowsy Chaperone* here at the Public Hall, and making a rare stage appearance as an angry Frenchman in Ipswich Operatic and Dramatic Society's staging of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at Ipswich New Wolsey Theatre. Jon would like to extend his thanks to everyone in the group for their hard work and hopes everyone has a great show.



*Musical Director*  
**VIVIEN SAUNDERS**

Vivien is a music and instrumental teacher based in Lowestoft. She studied music at Lancaster University where she led the ULMS Orchestra, founded the ULMS String Orchestra and was the accompanist for the LU Gospel Choir. Since returning to Suffolk she founded the bi-yearly CALM concerts, showcasing local talent to raise money for mental health awareness. She is delighted to be involved with *White Christmas*, and wishes all of the best to the cast and crew!

# Acknowledgements

SPOTLIGHT OFFER THEIR SINCERE THANKS TO.....

## **Beccles Public Hall Management Team**

**Robert Yeatman** for show and publicity photography

**Sue Taylor** (Beccles Sewing & Handicraft) for costume items

**Waveney Light Opera Group** for loan/hire of some costume items

**Debbie Lambert** for her help in making some costume items

**Ann Lumley** for assistance with quick changes

**Cast, crew and members** for set construction with special thanks

to **Craige Wilson** for making the mini grand piano

**Marion Billington** for sourcing props

**John Gallagher** for loan of props

**Harleston Engineering** for loan of WW2 Fatigues, Helmets and other military items

**Jenni Newman** for programme and poster design and compiling the programme

**St. John Ambulance** for First Aid cover

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# Backstage crew

<b>Stage Manager</b> .....	Sam Chenery Morris
<b>Stage Crew</b> .....	Bryan Roscoe, Jenni Newman, Paul Morton
<b>Lighting</b> .....	Brian Barr
<b>Assisted by</b> .....	Theresa Gallagher & Peter Simmen
<b>Sound</b> .....	John Gallagher
<b>Technical Assistant</b> .....	Stephen Brown
<b>Chaperone</b> .....	Sue Taylor
<b>Set design</b> .....	Tina Vanston
<b>Set construction</b> .....	Members & friends of Spotlight, with special thanks to Craig Wilson
<b>Wardrobe Mistress</b> .....	Sue Taylor
<b>Assisted by</b> .....	Debbie Lambert & Ann Lumley
<b>Props</b> .....	Marion Billington, members & friends of Spotlight
<b>Front of House Manager</b> .....	Sophie Cannell
<b>Front of House Team</b> .....	Friends and members of the Group
<b>Poster &amp; Programme Design</b> .....	Jenni Newman

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# Past Productions

<b>1994</b> - Gigi / Half a Sixpence	<b>2002</b> - Annie / Cabaret	<b>2010</b> - Heavens Below / Sinbad
<b>1995</b> - Hello, Dolly! Humpty Dumpty	<b>2003</b> - Broadway Bandwagon Jack & the Beanstalk	<b>2011</b> - Oklahoma! Beauty & the Beast
<b>1996</b> - South Pacific / Oklahoma!	<b>2004</b> - South Pacific The Wizard of Oz	<b>2012</b> - The Pirates of Penzance Honk!
<b>1997</b> - The Boyfriend Guys & Dolls	<b>2005</b> - Broadway Bandwagon II Scrooge the Musical	<b>2013</b> - The Gondoliers / Grease
<b>1998</b> - Anything Goes / Oliver	<b>2006</b> - A Funny Thing Happened... The Hired Man	<b>2014</b> - Thoroughly Modern Millie Peter Pan
<b>1999</b> - Salad Days / Where Do We Go From Here	<b>2007</b> - The Full Monty / Oliver!	<b>2015</b> - Tommy / The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
<b>2000</b> - My Fair Lady Me & My Girl	<b>2008</b> - Buddy-The Buddy Holly Story / Oh! What a Lovely War	<b>2016</b> - Bad Girls / RnH Cinderella
<b>2001</b> - Fiddler on the Roof Cinderella (pantomime)	<b>2009</b> - Sweeney Todd The Wind in the Willows	<b>2017</b> - Quadrophenia / White Christmas



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White  
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