

CROWTHORNE MUSICAL PLAYERS



# CALAMITY JANE





# GOLDEN FRY



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# **CROWTHORNE MUSICAL PLAYERS**

**presents**

## **CALAMITY JANE**

Adapted by RONALD HANMER and PHIL PARK  
From the stage play by CHARLES K. FREEMAN  
after WARNER BROS. film written by JAMES O'HANLON  
Lyrics by PAUL FRANCIS WEBSTER  
Music by SAMMY FAIN  
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD.

**Director: Mark Conolly**

**Musical Director: James Manwaring**

**Choreography: Erin Hope Pharo**

**Lighting Designer: Michael Brenkley**

**Sound Designer: Tom Horrox**

**Set Designer: Victoria Spearing**

*noda*

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Crowthorne Musical Players are members of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

# Crowthorne Musical Players

Crowthorne Musical Players were formed in 1950 by members of the Parish Church. Since that time, CMP have performed many musical shows at various venues. Our first production here at the Wilde Theatre was in 1989.

## Main Shows

1950-1957 Concerts & Revues

1958	Babes In The Wood
1959	Dick Whittington
1960	Rhapsody In Blue
1961	The Sleeping Beauty
1962	Rock The Clock
1963	Princess Ju Ju
1964	Dick Whittington
1965	Bells of Bruge
1966	Paris in Spring
1967	The Geisha
1968	Gipsy Love
1969	Sweethearts
1970	Valley of Song
1971	No No Nanette
1972	Pantomime
1973	The Quaker Girl
1974	The Merry Widow
1975	The Arcadians
1976	The Gipsy Baron & Viva Mexico!
1977	Me And My Girl & The Sound of Music
1978	Orpheus in the Underworld
1979	White Horse Inn & My Fair Lady
1980	Camelot
1981	Sweeney Todd
1982	Fiddler On The Roof
1983	The Mikado
1984	Salad Days
1985	Pajama Game
1986	Viva Mexico!

1987	The Sorcerer
1988	Kiss Me, Kate
1989	Showboat
1990	Ruddigore
1991	Calamity Jane
1992	The Merry Widow
1993	Oklahoma!
1994	Half a Sixpence
1995	Carousel
1996	Fiddler on the Roof
1997	Pirates of Penzance
1998	My Fair Lady
1999	Calamity Jane
2000	Anything Goes
2001	Kiss Me, Kate
2002	Die Fledermaus
2003	Me and My Girl
2004	The Boyfriend
2005	South Pacific
2006	Annie Get Your Gun
2007	Singin' In The Rain
2008	Oklahoma!
2009	Pirates of Penzance
2010	Carousel
2011	Guys & Dolls
2012	Hello, Dolly
2013	Fiddler on the Roof
2014	Witches of Eastwick
2015	The Addams Family

## CMP Officers

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
Janet Winn	Becky Adams	Nyck Moore

## Life Members

Nick Austin, Chris Evans, Eileen Goode, Carol Hardy, Carole & Tony Kershaw, Claire Pinder, Reg & Sybil Priest, Maggie Uttley

We meet for rehearsals on Thursday nights, plus Monday nights as required at Crowthorne Parish Hall on Heath Hill Road, and we gratefully acknowledge the facilities and financial support provided by Crowthorne Parish Council.

For information about how to become involved with CMP, please contact us via our website, or just come along to any rehearsal - we guarantee you a warm welcome.



## Chairman's Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Crowthorne Musical Players 2016 production at The Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park.

After the resounding success of last years 'The Addams Family', which won us a NODA London Flame Award we have a lot to follow. CMP have returned this year to a much loved traditional musical, Calamity Jane, which is packed full of well-known songs, lots of comedy with some tender moments thrown in so hopefully something for everyone.

The show has a fantastic, talented cast and I am pleased to welcome back all the familiar faces together with our amazing new members who are ready to entertain you all at each performance.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the production of Calamity Jane. It takes a lot of unseen hard work not only from the Production Team, Cast and Committee, but everyone who works tirelessly behind the scenes, before and during the show. Most will be mentioned in the programme but for those who have not been included, please know that you are very much appreciated.

Although a special thank you I must give is to Victoria Spearing from South Hill Park who has again designed our brilliant set which I hope you will agree truly creates the feeling of the American Frontier!

With so many exciting things on the horizon for CMP, not least next year's production of 'Made in Dagenham', I look forward to seeing you all again in the future.

Enjoy! Janet Winn – Chairman

## Crowthorne Musical Players presents

# made in Dagenham

THE MUSICAL



March 2017, Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell





© TIM BASTOCK 2016

**(Dave Bennett and Laura Thain)**

**Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane**





# From Left to Right

Mark Conolly, Erin Hope Pharo, Debbie Mann, Ellen Kilvington, Amy Williams, Denise Pooler, Dave Bennett, Tasha Eden, Pat Chidgey, Damian Thomas, Janet Winn, Caroline Smee, Kate Light, Christine Charlton, Nick Williams, Amanda Whewell, Laura Thain, Sue Dyer, Angie Chitty, Lizzy Hendy, Alison Trice, Keith Sullivan, Matt Thompson, Ashleigh Wells, Becky Adams, Nyck Moore, Malcolm Winslade, Chris Wood, Peter Winn, Simon Light, James Manwaring

# Not Pictured

Chrissy Pask, Tony Collins, Justin Ferrington

## Production Team

Director	Mark Conolly
Musical Director	James Manwaring
Choreographer	Erin Hope Pharo
Stage Manager	Ian Robertson
Deputy Stage Manager	Duncan Bruce
Lighting Design	Michael Brenkley
Lighting Operator	Steve Davies
Sound	Tom Horrox
Production Manager	Janet Winn
Stage Crew	Andy Springfield, Chris Evans, Dave Collier, John Caley
Photography	Tim Bastock
Properties	Peter Winn
Stage Design	Victoria Spearing
Costume Design and Wardrobe	Janet Winn
Makeup	Linda Peacock
Show Week Props Assistant	Maxine Robinson
Front of House Organiser	Janet Winn
Flyer, Poster and Banner Design	John Caley, Simon Light
Publicity	Nyck Moore, Alison Trice
Programme	Simon Light
Administration/Bookings	Becky Adams

The CMP cast and committee would also like to thank EBOS, Harlequin Costume Hire, Sara Dillon and Lisa, from Civil War Sutlers, and Syngenta for their help in putting this show together.

## Orchestra

Violin	Penny Gee, Sarah Slade, Benjamin Slade
Viola	Fiona Richardson
Cello	Lorraine Deacon
Bass	Sam Matthews
Reed 1	Chris Hart
Reed 2	Stevie Creasy
Reed 3	Pete Ripper
Reed 4	Ken Poole
Trumpet	Matthew Tickle
Horn	Grant Sewell-Jones
Trombone	Lewis Martin
Drums	Jacob Slade
Percussion	Thomas Bennett



# Synopsis

At the start of the show, everyone's waiting for Calamity or "Calam" as she's known, to show up with the stagecoach, which brings in everything that the Deadwood residents need. The stage today brings an extra special cargo – a glamorous actress whom Miller has booked for tonight's show at the Golden Garter.

Calam arrives but no sign of the actress, Frances Fryer. There is however an actor with a very similar name – Francis Fryer! Miller decides there's nothing else for it but to let "him" take to the stage as "Frances" with disastrous results! Only Calamity can calm down the audience and keep the peace. She says she'll go to Chicago to get the one girl that all the men in Deadwood are crazy about – the biggest star of Chicago Vaudeville, Adelaide Adams.

In Chicago, Calamity mistakes Adelaide's maid, Katie Brown, for the star and brings her back to Deadwood. Katie's more than a little nervous when she takes to the stage and there's another riot for Calamity to sort out. Katie breaks down and admits that she isn't Adelaide Adams but Calamity manages to persuade the locals to give her a chance in her own right. Second time round, she charms everyone including Wild Bill and the man, whom Calamity herself has set her heart on – the dashing Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin.

Katie moves in with Calamity and tries to spruce up her cabin and to turn her into a more "feminine" female! But does she succeed? Which of the two handsome heroes wins the heart of Katie Brown? And who takes Calamity to the Ball at Fort Scully? Sit back, relax, enjoy all those wonderful songs and watch what happens under the stars in the Black Hills of Dakota!

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## The Cast (in order of appearance)

Henry Miller  
Susan  
Joe  
"Doc" Pierce  
Wild Bill Hickok  
Calamity Jane  
Rattlesnake  
Francis Fryer  
Hank  
Lt. Danny Gilmartin  
Adelaide Adams  
Katie Brown  
Colonel, Fort Scully

Keith Sullivan  
Kate Light  
Peter Winn  
Justin Ferrington  
David Bennett  
Laura Thain  
Tony Collins  
Damian Thomas  
Ashleigh Wells  
Nick Williams  
Debbie Mann  
Caroline Smee  
Simon Light

## Can-Can Girls

Tasha Eden, Erin Hope Pharo, Ellen Kilvington, Denise Pooler,  
Amanda Whewell, Amy Williams

## Stage Door Johnnies

Simon Light, Matt Thompson, Ashleigh Wells, Chris Wood

## Ensemble

Becky Adams, Christine Charlton, Pat Chidgey, Angie Chitty, Sue Dyer,  
Lizzy Hendy, Nyck Moore, Chrissy Pask, Alison Trice, Janet Winn,  
Malcolm Winslade

### Make mine a Sarsaparilla!

*Sarsaparilla was popular in the United States in the 19th century. According to advertisements for patent medicines of the period, it was considered to be a remedy for skin and blood problems. In Hollywood westerns from the 1930s to the 1950s, ordering sarsaparilla in a saloon (instead of whiskey) is often met with mockery by the manly cowboys nearby. Sarsaparilla drinks feature widely in American popular culture, particularly in works related to the American West.*





# Scenes and Musical Numbers

## Act One

### Scene 1 **The Golden Garter Deadwood City, Dakota Territory**

"The Deadwood Stage"  
(Calamity and Ensemble)

"Careless With The Truth"  
(Calamity, Bill and Ensemble)

"Adelaide"  
(Bill and Men)

"Ev'ryone Complains About the  
Weather"  
(Fryer)

"Men!"  
(Calamity)

Can-Can Dancers

"Hive full of Honey"  
(Fryer)

"I Can Do Without You"  
(Calamity and Bill)

### Scene 2 **The Star Dressing Room Bijou Theatre, Chicago**

"It's Harry I'm Planning To Marry"  
(Adelaide and Stage-Door-Johnnies)

"It's Harry I'm Planning To Marry  
(reprise)"  
(Katie)

### Scene 3 **The Golden Garter**

"Adelaide (reprise)"  
(Men)

"Windy City"  
(Calamity and Ensemble)

"Keep It Under Your Hat"  
(Katie)

"Keep It Under Your Hat (reprise)"  
(Katie and Ensemble)

"Careless With The Truth (reprise)"  
(Company)

## Act Two

### Scene 1 **Calamity Jane's Cabin**

"A Woman's Touch"  
(Calamity, Katie)

"Higher Than a Hawk"  
(Bill)

### Scene 2 **A Trail, through a Pass in the Black Hills**

"The Black Hills of Dakota"  
(Company)

### Scene 3 **Fort Scully**

"Love You Dearly"  
(Katie and Danny)

"Men! (reprise)"  
(Calamity and Bill)

### Scene 4 **The Trail**

"My Secret Love"  
(Calamity)

### Scene 5 **The Golden Garter**

"Windy City (reprise)"  
(Ensemble)

"Finale"  
(Company)





## Calamity Jane

Laura Thain

Laura returns to her Home Society with a warm fuzzy feeling as it was where she landed her first leading role back in 2003 as Sally Smith in *Me and My Girl*. Since then Laura has been lucky enough to add a few more notches to her musical belt, managed to get married and grow a little person. In preparation for this role she has hung out with the lads down the local boozer, ditched the skirts and stopped shaving! Laura dedicates this performance to her hero (and the only person who took the time to help her nail this tongue twisting dialogue!) her mum, Lynn.

**Musical Credits include:** With CMP: Sgt. Sarah Browne (*Guys and Dolls*); Sally Smith (*Me and My Girl*); Polly Browne (*The Boyfriend*); Nellie Forbush (*South Pacific*); Annie Oakley (*Annie Get Your Gun*) and Laurey Williams (*Oklahoma!*). With local group EBOS: Laurey Williams (*Oklahoma!*); Mrs Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*); Charity (*Sweet Charity*); Ulla (*The Producers*); Millie Dill Mount (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); Lola (*Copacabana*); Tuptim (*The King and I*); Eliza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*); Young Viv (*Spend Spend Spend*); and Fiona McKeith (*Brigadoon*).

## Wild Bill Hickok

Dave Bennett

*Calamity Jane* is a show Dave has wanted to do for a long time. Its catchy tunes and heart-warmingly funny libretto always brings a smile to his face whenever he watches the movie. This, together with the wonderful members of CMP, has made his return to the society (after a 3-year break) a fantastically enjoyable experience. He hopes you get as much enjoyment out of the show as he does and leave the theatre with a big grin on your face!

Dave's previous principal credits for CMP include: Cornelius Hackl (*Hello Dolly!*); Sky Masterson (*Guys & Dolls*); The Pirate King (*Broadway Pirates of Penzance*); Curly McClain (*Oklahoma*); Frank Butler (*Annie Get Your Gun*); Lt Joe Cable (*South Pacific*); Bobby Van Husen (*The Boy Friend*). Dave has also appeared as Sam Jenkins (*Of Thee I Sing*) for Savoy Singers, and Bill Calhoun (*Kiss Me Kate*), Stephen/Tony (*Copacabana*), Tommy Albright (*Brigadoon*), Billy Lawlor (*42<sup>nd</sup> Street*), Bobby Child (*Crazy For You*), Benny Southstreet (*Guys & Dolls*), and Daniel Pontipee (*Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*) for EBOS.



## Katie Brown

### Caroline Smee

Feeling a certain affinity with the role of Katie Brown – who dreams of becoming a stage singer – Caroline was thrilled to be invited back to perform with CMP at the Wilde. *Calamity Jane*'s catchy and exuberant songs caught her imagination even before she was old enough to talk – when the sum of her talent was singing just the last syllable of every line... Her ability to 'sing out' has come a long way since then!

Caroline's passion for performing was kindled at The Nomad Theatre, in East Horsely, with the rather bawdy *Canterbury Tales* and the sweet, yet saucy, misadventures of love in *Sweet Charity*. Courting Lt. Danny Gilmartin in the gun-toting, whip-cracking, rip-roaring Wild West seems positively wholesome in comparison!

More recently, with the exception of *Calam*, Caroline's favorite role while treading the boards of the Wilde Stage has been Florinda in the twisted musical journey of *Into the Woods* – a wonderfully dark take on some of the Grimm Brothers fairytales. Other appearances include an Ancestor in CMP's *The Addams Family*, a Paramedic/Santa Girl in an unusual interpretation of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, a Keystone Cop in *Mack & Mabel*, and part of the ensemble in *Crazy for You*.



## Lt. Danny Gilmartin

### Nick Williams

Nick has been a theatre enthusiast since he was actually small (hard to believe, I know!), having performed in various shows, sketches and variety performances during his academic life. Since graduating from the University of Surrey in 2011, the best ways to describe Nick's Am Dram journey since that point would be both "busy" and "nomadic", with *Calamity Jane* being his 12th show with his 8th society since that point! He does intend to take something of a break later this year, though, with a plan for a 2-year working holiday in Canada very much in the pipeline.



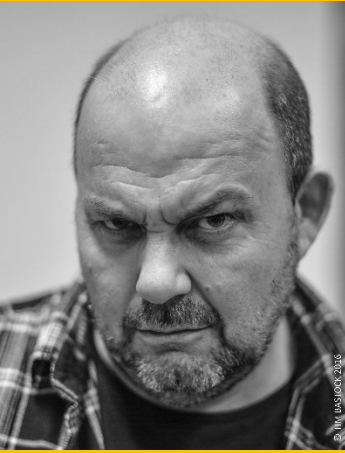
This is Nick's first show with CMP and he has found it to be a wonderful experience to be doing this show again for the first time in 11 years (just about remembering the songs!), to be playing an enjoyable principal role and to be performing among some incredibly talented people.

Other notable credits include Bud Frump in *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* (Haslemere Players), Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (Cody), Sky Masterson in *Guys & Dolls*, Curly in *Oklahoma!* (both CAMUS) and Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q* (Lost for Words).



## Henry Miller

### Keith Sullivan



This is Keith's first major show with CMP. Having joined our society in July he appeared in the autumn concert and loved the vibe within CMP. He has previously worked with various groups around the Reading area and made his debut at the Wilde Theatre last November in the EBOS production of *Crazy for You*.

"This is a totally different show for me", he stated. "*Calamity Jane* being a classic musical and I've had to age up for the part I play!! It's been good fun working with some familiar faces and meeting new people within CMP". He hopes you enjoy the show.

## Susan

### Kate Light

Kate is currently in her final year of A Levels and is happy to be back with CMP for her fourth main show having previously played Little Girl in '*The Witches of Eastwick*' and an ancestor in '*The Addams Family*'. She also dances with Allied School of Dance and is looking forward to their bi-annual show in May. In September, Kate is planning to study Sport and Exercise Science at university.



## Francis Fryer

### Damian Thomas



This is Damian's sixth production with CMP, having played Barnaby in *Hello, Dolly!* and taken part in *The Addams Family*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Guys and Dolls*. Other roles include: Young Buddy (*Follies*), Jon (*Tick, Tick... BOOM*), Max Detweiler (*The Sound of Music*), Mark (*Rent*), Anatoly (*Chess*), Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*) and Michal (*The Pillowman*). Damian has loved rehearsing with a cast full of so many talented friends and hopes you enjoy the show.

## Adelaide Adams

### Debbie Mann

Debbie has been a member of CMP for more years than she cares to mention. This is the third time she has performed in *Calamity Jane* with them, firstly as a Can-Can Dancer, then as Susan and now as Adelaide. You could say that she has grown up with CMP in more ways than one!

Other roles with CMP include: Chava & Fruma-Sarah (*Fiddler on the Roof*); Dulcie (*The Boyfriend*); Mrs Molloy (*Hello Dolly!*).

Also a long standing member of EBOS, she has played: Flo (*Half a Sixpence*); Gianetta (*Gondoliers*); Gertie (*Oklahoma!*); Margie (*Follies*); Irene Roth (*Crazy for You*).





**Rattlesnake:** Tony Collins

**Joe:** Peter Winn

**“Doc” Pierce:** Justin Ferrington



### **Can-Can Girls**

(L to R) Erin Hope Pharo,  
Amy Williams, Amanda  
Whewell, Tasha Eden, Ellen  
Kilvington,  
Denise Pooler



### **Stage Door Johnnies**

(L to R) Matt Thompson, Simon  
Light,  
Chris Wood, Ashleigh Wells



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## Let's Face the Music and Dance 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

The dust will not have settled on Calamity Jane before Crowthorne Musical Players get back to rehearsing for our Autumn Concert in September.

The theme is all things involving music, song and dance. Surely, another show not to be missed.

If you wish to join us, rehearsals start on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March in The Parish Hall, Crowthorne at 8.00pm, otherwise please make a date in your diary and we will see you in September.





## Director – Mark Conolly



Mark joined CMP in 1992, and since then has played a number of principal roles including Professor Higgins (*My Fair Lady*), Emile De Becque (*South Pacific*) and, more recently, Tevye (*Fiddler on the Roof*).

His “directorial debut” was for CMP’s 2006 production of *Annie Get Your Gun*, and it is a return to the Wild(ish) West for this, his 9<sup>th</sup>, *Calamity Jane*.

He hopes you thoroughly enjoy the show!

## Musical Director – James Manwaring

This is James’s first show with CMP as Musical Director.

James Manwaring is Director of Music for the Windsor Upper Schools and works across The Windsor Boys’ School & Windsor Girls’ School. James conducts a number of ensembles including an Orchestra & Big Band. He runs three school choirs, a First Schools Choir and two choirs for adults. He has conducted a number of shows both in and out of school and these include - *The Boy Friend*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Pajama Game*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Carmen*, *Les Miserables*, *Joseph* & most recently *Sweeney Todd*. James has conducted choirs for Her Majesty the Queen on two occasions and is this year nominated for a National Music Teaching Award. His work has seen him lead 3 international music tours to China, Prague & France and he has led an ensemble to the Schools Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. He leads a thriving and outstanding music department and has a passion for musical theatre and seeing young people get all the joy they can out of music. His work in school keeps his life full and he loves working with young people and seeing them get all the joy they can out of music. James is married to Amy and is father to Aidan & Fletcher. James is also a keen runner and last year took part in his first London Marathon - this year he is hoping to better his time and raise even more money for charity.



## Choreographer – Erin Hope Pharo



Erin started dancing when she was 6 years old at Jayne A Coleman’s Academy of Dance. When she left dance school Erin needed an outlet for her energy and so joined 2 local Am Dram groups - EBOS and CMP!

With EBOS Erin has performed in 14 shows including *Sweet Charity* as a dance hall hostess, *Sweeney Todd* as the young Lucy Barker, Taddy Jo in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, representing Greece in *Eurobeat*, and most recently as Patsy in *Crazy for You*.

After taking part in 2 shows with CMP, Erin was asked to choreograph her first full musical which was *Guys and Dolls*. 6 shows later (including *Hello, Dolly!*, *The Witches of Eastwick* and the award winning *The Addams Family*), she is still here and loving every second of choreographing *Calamity Jane*.

### **Lighting Designer – Michael Brenkley**

Michael's recent work as lighting designer includes: *The Fully Monty* (Basement Bodies Theatre Company), *The Pajama Game* (Spotlight Musical theatre), *Crazy for You*, *Follies* and *Oklahoma* (EBOS), *Sweeney Todd*, *The Addams Family Musical* and *West Side Story* (Ocean Youth Theatre), *The Witches of Eastwick* and *The Addams Family Musical* (CMP), *Much ado about Nothing* (Reading between the lines Tour) and was the programmer for the Reading date. Michael also works with local theatres and dance schools.

### **Sound Designer – Tom Horrox**

Tom started in theatre aged 15, helping backstage with CMP's *"Pirates of Penzance"* in 1997. This led to him working for lots of local companies in the years to come. He moved into sound in 2004 and went on to work professionally on touring shows and pantomimes over the next decade. In 2012, Tom co-founded Mayan Productions, a production company geared towards performing different and original shows. He is currently co-directing *"At Your Services"* a comedy documentary set in a service station which he has co-written and will have its world premiere next week at South Hill Park. Tom enjoys staying true to his roots working for CMP, and knows you're in for a real treat with the talent on display for *"Calamity Jane"*.

## **COSTUME AND WARDROBE DESIGN & PROPS**

As you will have read in the programme, Calamity Jane certainly was quite a character in real life and her pictures do not give us quite the attractive image portrayed in the movie. This year's challenge was to try and blend the two styles to give a truer image, but still create a tableau suitable for the stage.

Research shows that in the timeframe of the show uniforms fell into 'the great uniform fiasco' as the American Government had passed a design that was never used. The Can-Can dance originated in Paris in the 1840's, the costumes were considered very risqué at the time, with the full circle calf length ruffled black skirts (coloured versions being a more modern interpretation), deliberately made to show off the white petticoats, stockings and drawers below.

So take yourselves back to the Black Hills and enjoy the scene as the show unfolds.

*Janet Winn, Costume Design and Wardrobe*

Sourcing props can be an issue in any show, but it is slightly simplified for historical, western based ones due to the popularity of line-dancing. This helps to find common items such as hats, spurs etc. Guns, holsters and belts are more difficult, but still possible. More difficult was a realistic, old doctor's bag.

Research into cigarettes and their picture cards showed a need to get creative and make packs, labels and cards. Labels for liquor and beer bottles proved easy to find and print, Sarsaparilla less so.

American flags of the era proved to be an interesting problem. There were 31 different versions of the US flag shown in Wikipedia from 1775 to today, plus a number of proposed ones for an increase in the number of states above 50, the highest being 96! Research into local wild flowers (Danny's posy and the brides' bouquets) revealed many familiar flowers such as poppies, clover, lupins, daisies and the renowned Morning Glory of Windy City fame.

So, maybe overall, sourcing props wasn't really as difficult as it might have been.

Now, has anyone got a late 1960s Ford Cortina they can let me have?

*Peter Winn, Props*



## Who was Calamity Jane?

Calamity Jane was born Martha Jane Cannary, around May 1, 1852, in Princeton, Missouri. By the age of 12, her parents had died and she had to make a living by any means necessary.

In 1870, she joined General George Armstrong Custer as a scout at Fort Russell, Wyoming, donning the uniform of a soldier. This was the beginning of Calamity Jane's habit of dressing like a man. Heading south, the campaign travelled to Arizona in their zest to put Indians on reservations. In her own words, Calamity would later say of this time, that she was the most reckless and daring rider and one of the best shots in the West.

In 1875, Calamity Jane travelled with a U.S. Army troop into the Black Hills of South Dakota and soon drifted to the lawless town of Deadwood. At this point the legends surrounding her life become abundant and the facts harder to find. She is said to have had numerous affairs with some of the most notorious desperados of the time. One such story was her relationship with Western legend Wild Bill Hickok, whom she probably did meet in Deadwood. Their alleged dalliance launched her name into the annals of Western folklore. Even Jane herself, in her autobiography, spun a wild tale of capturing Jack McCall, after he murdered Wild Bill. Nearly all historians discount any intimate relationship between the two and Deadwood's own newspaper accounts report that McCall was captured by town's people soon after he killed Hickok.

Calamity Jane was also known for her softer side. In her autobiography, she takes credit for rescuing a runaway stagecoach fleeing from a Cheyenne Indian war party by bravely driving the coach to Deadwood with six passengers and a wounded driver. There are also accounts from several sources of her helping nurse patients during a smallpox epidemic in Deadwood. The accounts have several versions and documentation of her role in the events is suspect, but the stories are plausible because the events did occur.

Calamity Jane's private life is even more fabled. In addition to her alleged relationship with Hickok, there were saucy tales, creatively recorded by Western dime novel authors, of wild sex, a child born, and even marriage to Hickok. There are numerous stories, with varying levels of credibility, that Jane was a wife and mother one time. Around 1885, she supposedly married a man named Burke (Edward or Clinton) and gave birth to a daughter in 1887. There are numerous accounts of her seen with a young girl in several small towns throughout the West in the 1880s and 1890s, but no marriage license or birth certificate exists. In 1941, a woman claimed to be Calamity Jane's and Wild Bill Hickok's daughter, but was later proved to be a fraud.



Calamity Jane's fame grew even more in 1895 when she joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show performing sharpshooting skills astride a horse. For several years, she toured the Midwest, bringing a commercialized version of the rip-roaring west to American audiences. The work was never steady, as she reputedly got drunk and disorderly throughout the tours. Wherever she performed, she brought copies of her greatly exaggerated autobiography, which she sold to fans for pennies.

By the turn of the century, her hard life was catching up with her. She suffered from severe alcoholism and poor health. In July 1903, she arrived at the Calloway Hotel in Terry, near Deadwood, where she died on August 1 or 2 at age 51. She was buried next to Wild Bill Hickok at Mount Moriah Cemetery in South Dakota. <http://www.biography.com/>



Fun and Games at Rehearsals





## WILDE THEATRE: IMPORTANT NOTICE

- NO SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM
- PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING OF PERFORMANCES ARE FORBIDDEN
- PLEASE SWITCH OFF ALL MOBILE PHONES AND WATCH ALARMS

The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and all the doors at the time must be open. All gangways, corridors and external passageways intended for exit must be kept entirely free from obstruction whether permanent or temporary. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any of the other gangways, other than those designated for standing room.

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) were founded in 1899 to “protect and advance the interests of operatic and



dramatic art, and societies engaged therein”. It has a membership of some 2300 amateur societies and 2500 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK. Staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a variety of performing venues, ranging from the country’s leading professional theatres to tiny village halls.

For further information, contact:

01733 374 390

NODA, 15 The Metro Centre, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7UH

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



Crowthorne Musical Players production of ***The Addams Family*** in March 2015 was not only well received by audiences, it was also recognised by NODA (National Operatic and Drama Association). CMP received a nomination for the Joe Putnam Best Musical, and were awarded the Region 14 Flame Award. Simon Light and Janet Winn collected the award on behalf of CMP from the President of NODA, Mr John Barnes and his wife Judith.



# KABIRS

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# The Crooked Billet

Public House and Restaurant

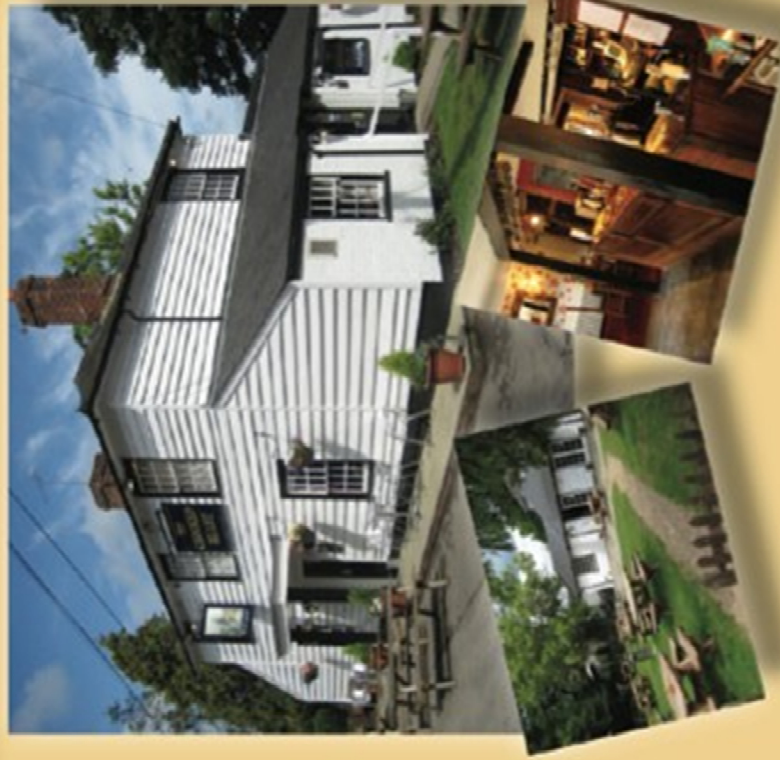


Come and enjoy

some hearty fayre from our fresh cooked, traditional English menu.

We focus on seasonal ingredients, sourced mostly from local producers and suppliers. In the Spring and Summer, plenty of fresh fish, salads and lamb dishes adorn our menu

making way for an abundance of warming pies, sausages, stews and feathered and furred game as those long winter nights draw in. With our award winning cheese board, sumptuous desserts and Chef's daily specials also on offer you are sure to find something to tempt your palette...



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