



An amateur production by arrangement
with The Really Useful Group Ltd



Dunstable Musical Theatre Company
Grove Theatre - 20th - 21st October 2023





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Freed Veneers are proud to have been sponsors of DMTC for this production and would like to wish all the cast and creative team of Sunset Boulevard the best of luck!

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The Wood Veneer Hub





Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

**Book and Lyrics by Don Black
and Christopher Hampton**

Based on the Billy Wilder film

Orchestrations by David Cullen & Andrew Lloyd Webber

Original production by The Really Useful Group Ltd.

The Really Useful Group Ltd. gratefully acknowledges the role of Amy Powers in the lyric development of "Sunset Boulevard".





From Our Chair - Zoe Foster



Good evening to you all – I would like to start by thanking you all for coming to see our latest production, we really do appreciate all the support. We are delighted to be back performing at The Grove Theatre, we have missed being able to perform in such a great venue and would like to thank The Grove for all their support across the years. I can't believe that it has been 4 years since last performing on this stage with our award winning performance of *Cats* in 2019. We should have been performing one of our favourite musicals 'Me and my girl' in October of 2022 but due to licensing issues we were unable to go ahead, which has led us to our current production of *Sunset Boulevard* being our first show back at The Grove since the pandemic. It is at this point that I would like to extend our thanks to our sponsors for *Sunset Boulevard*, Freed Veneers. We are extremely grateful for your help and support.

That is not to say we haven't been busy these last few years. Last year saw us performing *Jekyll and Hyde, The Musical* at the Little Theatre and also performing a Christmas show at both The Little Theatre and in Caddington. Both of these shows were met with enthusiasm from the audiences. This year we have recently completed our production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, which was also at The Little Theatre. This was a fun filled show that had the audience laughing and singing along to the popular show tunes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends at Dunstable Rep for their continued support and allowing us to perform at the Little Theatre.

2024 is an important year for DMTC as it is our 60th Anniversary as a society. We are hoping to be able to bring you all some exciting performances that are all meaningful to us. All I can say on this is watch this space.

So now it's time to head off to *Sunset Boulevard* for a tale of love, intrigue, movies and murder.

I am ready for my close up now

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Dunstable Musical Theatre Company

Affiliated to National Operatic and Dramatic Association

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Dunstable Musical Theatre Company is a registered charity (no. 1180255) and is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

About The Show

Andrew Lloyd Webber’s award-winning masterpiece, *Sunset Boulevard*, based on Billy Wilder’s legendary film, comes to The Grove Theatre, Dunstable in a stunning Dunstable Musical Theatre Company production.

Sunset Boulevard weaves a magnificent tale of faded glory and unfulfilled ambition. Silent movie star Norma Desmond longs for a return to the big screen, having been discarded by tinsel town with the advent of “talkies.” Her glamour has faded in all but her mind. Ageing and largely forgotten for years she lives in her dilapidated mansion in Hollywood with her butler and chauffeur, Max. Impoverished screenwriter Joe Gillis, on the run from debt collectors, stumbles into her reclusive world. Persuaded to work on her ‘masterpiece’, a film script that she believes will put her back in front of the cameras, he is seduced by her and her luxurious lifestyle. Joe becomes entrapped in a claustrophobic world until his love for another woman leads him to break free with dramatic consequences.

Sunset Boulevard had its world premiere at London’s Adelphi Theatre on July 12th, 1993. The show has been staged across the world with productions in Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, and tours in the US and UK.





Director - Alan Goss



Alan has been involved with Dunstable Musical Theatre Company for more years than he can remember! He is proud to have been asked to direct this production of *Sunset Boulevard* and he cannot think of a better show to direct for his swansong!

Alan has also directed many productions for DMTC both at The Queensway Hall and The Grove Theatre, namely: *The King and I* (twice), *42nd Street*, *Crazy for you*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *A Slice of Saturday* to name but a few!

He has not only enjoyed directing but has also trodden the boards taking part in many musicals over the years such as: *West Side Story*, *Half A Sixpence*, *The Pyjama game*, *Oklahoma*, *Carmen* and *Sister Act* among others. Alan has also been a member of Dunstable Rep Theatre Club since the mid-60s, and has directed and performed in more shows than he can remember! He has also directed for numerous other local societies over the years.

Sunset Boulevard has always been a production that Alan wanted to direct ever since he saw it in the early 90s. It has been a real honour to have worked with such a talented cast, creative team and technical crew on what will be his last production!

Musical Director - Joanna Smale

Jo has been a member of DMTC since she was 14 years old. She has performed on stage singing and dancing but these days you will mainly find her in the orchestra pit.

She considers herself very lucky to have her talented husband, Ed Smale, by her side as rehearsal pianist and member of our orchestra.



Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece is a challenging score that mixes the lush lyrical sounds of the strings with the playful jazz ensemble. Cleverly and seamlessly blending the two worlds within the script together. DMTC has invested in an orchestra for our production of *Sunset Boulevard*, covering 18 parts. Jo hopes you will agree that it was well worth it!





Choreographer - Jo Herd

Jo studied many forms of dance and musical theatre right through to a college diploma. She has also performed for professional jobs in London as a dancer in the early days of her career.



She says that it has been a joy being asked back to choreograph for DMTC again. She enjoys challenging herself and bringing her visions to stage. This show has been quite a test for Jo in many ways as it encompasses multiple styles of dance and movement. After being involved with and choreographing for a handful of local theatre societies, working with DMTC again and performing at The Grove is always rather special.

From Our Director

My first introduction to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* was in 1994 during an outing with the then DAOS, now DMTC. The production starred Betty Buckley as Norma Desmond and a very young John Barrowman as Joe Gillis.

I remember being enthralled by the music and set design, which conjured Hollywood sound stages, car chases and Norma's mansion in the flash of a lighting cue. I fell in love with the show then and it has remained one of my all time favourite musicals. Sitting in the theatre that day I could never have imagined I would one day have the honour of directing the piece.

This has been a very challenging production which has pulled together the very best of our local acting, technical and production talent and it is a real pleasure to be performing at Dunstable's Grove Theatre once again.

Sunset Boulevard is a large-scale production, with a constantly moving set, hundreds of lighting cues, projections, complex sound cues and some very quick costume changes. In all, apart from the cast there are approximately 30 people supporting this show behind the scenes! plus a wonderful 18 piece orchestra and this production has taken at least 6 months of extensive planning. My final thanks must go to Jo Smale, our MD and Jo Herd, our Choreographer!

Alan





Norma Desmond - Julia Fraser



Julia is excited to be involved with her first Dunstable Musical Theatre Company show, and what an honour it is for her to play such a prestigious and iconic role. Over the years Julia has performed in many musicals and operas, roles including both The Baker's Wife and the Witch in *Into the Woods*, Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Nancy in *Oliver* and many years ago she thoroughly enjoyed playing the role of Carmen.

Since then, directing and musical directing shows has also been a large part of Julia's life, directing many operas for Bedfordshire Youth Opera, *Whistle Down the Wind* and *Little Shop of Horrors* for The Griffin Players, and in 2022 Musical Directing *Once* for ACT at The Little Theatre in Dunstable. She is thrilled to be reunited on stage with both Elliot Bunker and Alan Clarke, who played Jesus and Pontius Pilate alongside her Mary Magdalene 25 years ago, and she is also really pleased to be in the same show as her close friend and singing partner Rachel Maloy, as they sing regularly in the local A Capella vocal group Peculi8, but have only ever trodden the boards together once.

Max von Mayerling - Alan Clarke



Alan has had a passion for theatre since the age of nine when he first took to the stage. Since then, he has either been in or directed over one hundred local productions, including the lead role of Teyve in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Simon Stride in *Jekyll & Hyde* for DMTC. Alan also runs his own local group ACT Company with his wife Megan, which celebrated twenty-five years in 2022 with the UK amateur premiere of the smash-hit musical *Once* as its twenty-fifth production.

Alan also enjoyed five years as a professional actor, working on touring productions of the contemporary hit *Art* and an adaptation of *Rebecca*, with Simon Shepherd and Nigel Havers respectively, but also fulfilling his ambition of appearing in a West End production in the spoof musical *Ducktastic!*, directed by his theatrical idol, Sir Kenneth Branagh. He is delighted to be taking the role of Max in *Sunset Boulevard* for DMTC as it's one of his favourite musicals.





Joe Gillis - Elliott Bunker

Some years back Elliott was a regular on local stage, but since moving to Hitchin has spent most of his time at The Queen Mother Theatre, where he acts, directs and is currently the Chairman of The Bancroft Players. With Hitchin he has directed *Cabaret*, *The Rise & Fall of Little Voice*, *The Lady In The Van*, *Quartet*, *Shirley Valentine* and *Bette & Joan*. He has appeared in several shows including *Avenue Q*, *Grease*, *The Lady Killers*, *Hamlet*, and last year played Kenneth Williams in *Cleo*, *Camping*, *Emmanuelle & Dick*. Most recently he directed Stephen Sondheim's *Company*.



It was while directing this last musical that he got a serious bout of FOMO and heard about the auditions for *Sunset Boulevard*. He has performed twice with what was Dunstable Amateur Operatic Society over 25 years ago, first in *Chess* as Frederick Trumper and lastly as Bill Snibson in *Me & My Girl*, in the last production at the old Queensway Hall. He was also a regular at the Dunstable Rep, playing the Emcee in *Cabaret* and in many Alistair Brown productions, including *Tartuffe*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *The Anastasia Files*. Elliott has very much enjoyed his time back at DMTC; reconnecting with old theatre friends, making a few new ones and being directed by Alan Goss for the first time despite knowing him for several decades. He is really excited about performing at The Grove Theatre, which he has never done before, and with an amazing 19-piece orchestra.

Betty Schaefer - Rachel Maloy

Having grown up in Dunstable, Rachel is thrilled to finally tick performing at The Grove Theatre off her bucket list! Rachel is an advocate for mental health, and is on a mission to help people find their singing voice and in the process improve their wellbeing. The myth that individuals cannot sing needs to be busted (and bustin' makes her feel good!) She currently leads both the Glee Club and Singing Mamas Choirs in Leighton Buzzard, is an accredited Vocal Balance Singing Teacher and a qualified Vocal Health and Mental Health First Aider. She is a wedding ceremony singer, and has performed with local a cappella vocal group, Peculi8, since its inception in 2005.



Rachel is delighted to be returning to the stage with DMTC, having previously performed in recent productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Nonsense*, and not-so-recent productions of *The Sound of Music* and *42nd Street!* She is incredibly excited to have been given the opportunity to play Betty Schaefer alongside such huge local talent, which includes one of her best friends (even though they have no actual on-stage interaction!)

When Rachel is not singing, conducting, teaching or performing, she is wife and best friend to Toby, Mummy to Ted and Heidi, and can usually be found eating copious amounts of Cadbury's Marvellous Creations.





Artie Green - James Allen

Immediately after the thrill of playing Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, James has returned to DMTC to play Artie Green.

After appearing in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* 17 Years ago, James caught the theatre bug and is yet to recover. Since appearing in that show, his other theatre credits include Barnaby Tucker in *Hello Dolly*, Benny Southstreet in *Guys and Dolls*, Hugh in *Acorn Antiques the Musical*, Gremio in *Kiss me Kate*, Little Jake in *Annie get your Gun* and as member of the Chorus in *The Sound of Music*, *Calamity Jane*, *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Chicago*. James is excited to return to The Grove for this production of **Sunset Boulevard**.



Cecil B. DeMille - David Hillman

Dave Hillman is delighted to be appearing in his first show with DMTC and his first at The Grove.

Recent performances with other groups include *Phantom of the Opera*, *And Then There Were None*, *Jeeves and Wooster*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Othello* & *A Christmas Carol*.



Sheldrake - Chris Young

Chris was our MD for *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Grease*, *Return to the Forbidden Plant*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Legally Blonde* and *Slice of Saturday Night*. He has directed many shows for us including *My Fair Lady*, *Sister Act*, both *Forbidden Broadways* and *Avenue Q*. He is married to fellow DMTC member Susan and together they have two sons. Chris is also a member of Dunstable Rep and is music director for Cantata, a ladies choir based in Luton which performs concerts for charities and local churches.

Sunset Boulevard is one of Chris' favourite Lloyd-Webber musicals and so he's delighted to be able to last perform in it on stage.



Manfred - Matthew Allen

After a happy return to musical theatre as Utterson in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Matthew is excited to perform in the Grove Theatre for the first time in one of Lord Lloyd Webber's greatest hits! As Manfred, it's a part totally different to any that he's done before. A small role but one with a guaranteed feel-good song, and he can't wait to share it with you all!





Musical Numbers

Act 1

The house on Sunset

1. Overture / Prologue.....Joe

Paramount

2. Let's Have Lunch Joe, Betty, Artie, Sheldrake, Ensemble

The house on Sunset

3. Surrender..... Norma

4. With One Look..... Norma

5. Salome Norma, Joe

6. The Greatest Star of All Max

Schwab's Drug Store

7. Every Movie's a CircusJoe, Betty Arty, Ensemble

8. Girl Meets BoyJoe, Betty

The house on Sunset

9. New Ways to Dream..... Norma, Joe

10. The Lady's Paying..... Norma, Manfred, Joe, Salesmen

11. The Perfect Year..... Norma, Joe

Artie's apartment and the house on Sunset

12. This Time Next Year.....Joe, Betty, Artie, Ensemble

Act 2

The house on Sunset

1. Sunset Boulevard.....Joe

2. There's Been a Call Norma, Joe

Paramount

3. As if We Never Said Goodbye..... Norma

4. Surrender (Reprise)Cecil B. DeMile

Betty's office

5. Girl Meets Boy (Reprise).....Joe, Betty

The house on Sunset

6. A Little Suffering..... Norma, Astrologer, Beauticians

Betty's office and the back lot at Paramount

7. Too Much in Love to Care Betty, Joe

The house on Sunset

8. New Ways to Dream (Reprise) Max

9. The Final SceneJoe, Betty, Norma, Max





Cast

Norma Desmond	JULIA FRASER
Joe Gillis	ELLIOTT BUNKER
Max von Mayerling	ALAN CLARKE
Betty Schaefer	RACHEL MALOY
Artie Green	JAMES ALLEN
Cecil B. DeMille	DAVID HILLMAN
Sheldrake	CHRIS YOUNG
Manfred.....	MATTHEW ALLEN

The Ensemble

(Actors, Actresses, Astrologer, Beauticians, Finance Men, Scriptwriters, Shop Salesmen)

CAMILLA ALEXANDER-WHITE, ELEANOR FOSTER, ZOE FOSTER, KENDRA GILES, JO HERD, MANDA ISIEKWE, PAULINE KNOWLES, HEATHER MCGEACHY-IRWIN, JAYDA MOYSE, SARAH PAYNE, CHRISTINE RAYMENT, HELEN RUDDERHAM, DENISE RYAN, VICTORIA WELLS, FIONA WHITESIDE, NICOLA WILLIAMSON, VERONICA YATES

JAMES ALLEN, MATTHEW ALLEN, DAVE HILLMAN, OSCAR ISIEKWE, GRAHAM READ, CHRIS YOUNG



The Orchestra

Reed 1.....	LAURA BOOKBINDER	Keyboard 1.....	SIMON TABERT
Reed 2.....	LESLEY BRAZEL	Keyboard 2.....	GRAHAM THOMSON
Reed 3.....	ANDY STEWART	Keyboard 3/4.....	EDWARD SMALE
Trumpet	KATIE ARNOLD	Guitar.....	NED MAY
Horns.....	JOHN LAVELLE	Percussion	LES ARNOLD
	CHRIS HOWLINGS	Viola	KAYLEIGH TIR
Violins	ALISON CROSSLEY	Double Bass.....	HELEN BOYEA
	PAUL COSTIN		
Cello.....	JAMES JARVIS		

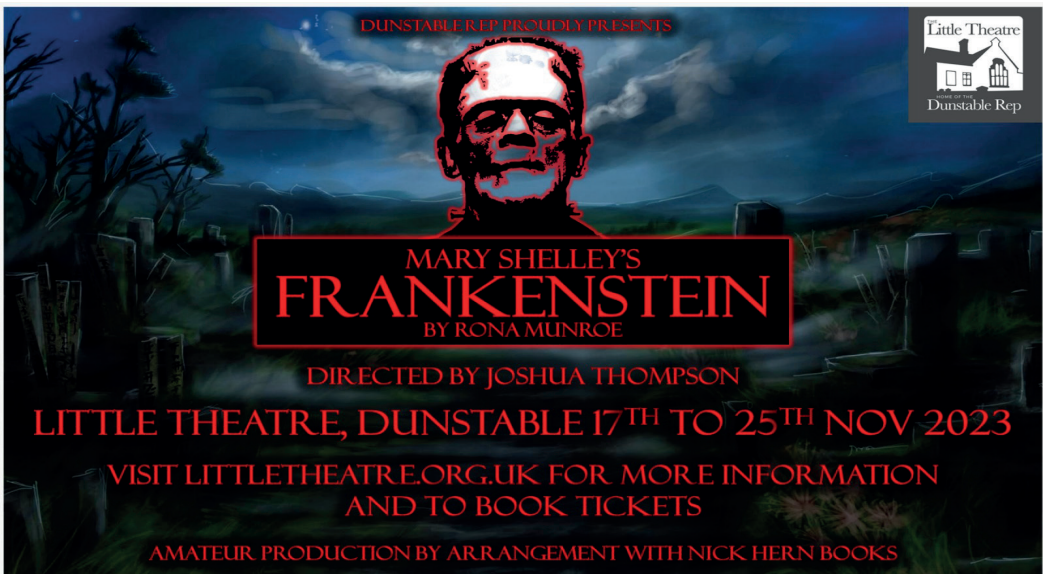




The Creative Team

DMTC would like to thank all their hard-working and talented Backstage and Production crew for their tireless work during set-up and production, who include:

PRODUCTION MANAGERLiam Whiteside
 STAGE MANAGER Katy Elliott
 DEPUTY STAGE MANAGERJohn O’Leary Fawcett
 STAGE CREW Bob Adams, Gavin Fowler, Steve Morrow
 LIGHTING DESIGNER Dave Houghton
 LIGHTING PROGRAMMER Ben Houghton
 FOLLOW SPOT Ian Garrett, Graeme Halls
 LIGHTING CREW Zack Pugh, Andrew Maxted, Fred Rayment,
 Tom Lee, Oliver Collins, Josh Mitchell, Simon Mitchell
 ADDITIONAL LIGHTING SUPPLIED BY BT Events
 VIDEO Craig Fisher, Andrew Haywood
 SOUND DESIGN Aiden Brown, Graham Elliott
 WARDROBE Rosemary O’Toole
 PROGRAMME COMPILATION Fiona Whiteside
 COSTUMES Costume Workshop, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
 SET SUPPLIED BY Scenic Projects
 PROPS Zoe Foster, Manda Isiekwe, Susan Young





Thanks and Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our grateful thanks and appreciation to:

- Freed Veneers for their sponsorship.
- Central Bedfordshire Council and Dunstable Town Council for their generous support.
- All those people who have given so generously of their time; our backstage team and our front of house team.
- Dunstable Rep Theatre Club and Katharine Brown from Dunstable Community Halls.
- NODA, which is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK, more details of which can be found on their website at www.noda.org.uk.
- The management of The Grove who, as ever, have gone out of their way to make this production as smooth as possible.
- Special thanks to DMTC member Cathy Maile for the loan of her extensive shoe collection. Every member of the female cast who wears a size 5 or 6 is very grateful.
- Thanks too to cast member James Allen's wife, Amy, who supplied some of the beautiful dresses.
- Everyone else who has helped in this production in any way.





noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

DMTC is very proud of its long association with the National Operatic & Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899 it is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of approximately 2400 amateur theatre groups and over 2000 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 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 as well as a similar residential academy to provide similar performance based training for those under 18.

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.

Contact NODA at 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, PE2 7UH

Telephone: 01733 374790

Email: info@noda.org.uk Website: www.noda.org.uk





Dunstable Musical Theatre Company Presents
 An Amateur production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd.



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Lyrics by Tim Rice,
 Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Grove Theatre, 19th & 20th July 2024

 **Dunstable Musical Theatre Company**
 Presents

A Christmas Concert!

Carols, seasonal songs, poems & readings.

Dates and times to be announced soon!

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