

Charlton Kings Community Players

present

Oliver!

26th - 28th October 2006

7.30pm Balcarras School, Charlton Kings



Directed by
Peter Grainger

Musical Direction by
Cynthia Birks

Music, Lyrics and Book by
Lionel Bart

Raising money in aid of:

Design & Artwork by
80-20
Creative Design & Marketing
www.80-20.co.uk

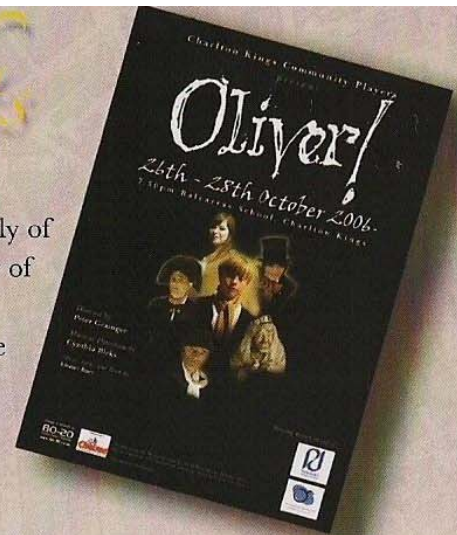


Produced for the Broadway stage by David Merrick and Donald Albery.
By arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Ltd of New York.
An amateur production.

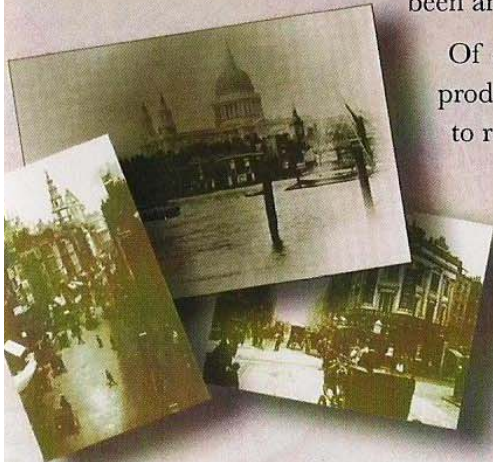


Director's Thoughts

In directing a production of 'Oliver!' one is very aware not only of the film of the musical but also the films made of Dickens' story of 'Oliver Twist'. Having been at school with the first Oliver and living in the same town as the second, I was delighted to find the latest Roman Polanski version a timely inspiration! But I've just noticed 'The perfect family DVD' attached to its box, which revives our dilemma of how far should this musical production be just a happy 'family' show.

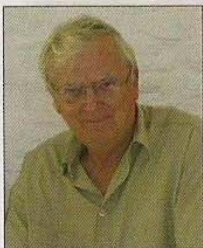


We have tried to resolve this dilemma by emphasising the contrasts of the story, its lights and shades, the lively welcome Oliver receives in London with 'Consider Yourself' set against the irony and violence of the later 'Fine Life' quartet. It was interesting to find Fagin's light-hearted play-acting in 'Pick a Pocket' reflected in the monochrome starkness of David Lean's classic. Ensuring that the levity of Ron Moody is merged with the menace of Alec Guinness has been an absorbing challenge for our own talented 'Jew'!



Of course one of the additional pleasures of Players' amateur productions is the scale of our choruses. We decided early on not to reject anyone who came to our 'community' auditions, and 'Oliver!' gives a wide range of opportunities for chorus acting and singing, in the Workhouse for the youngest, in Fagin's Gang for older youngsters, and in the London crowd for all ages to come together in numerous mass movements! By a stroke of pure serendipity we are fortunate that Helen Lewis has rejoined us as choreographer, and her contribution has added a wonderful extra dimension to the large chorus numbers.

It has been a delight to be able to cast so many familiar and talented characters from past productions in this show, 'John The Baptist' as 'Sowerberry', 'Haig' as 'Bumble', 'Jesus' as 'Fagin', 'Becket' as 'Brownlow'! But it is the new and younger members of the cast - some of them with ages you wouldn't believe - who are likely to steal the show. We are so grateful for all the support we have had, particularly from sympathetic parents who have helped to maintain a longer than usual rehearsal schedule.



On behalf of Cynthia and all the production team we wish you all a wonderful evening, and thank you for your support for the two important charities that we - unusually - are identifying ahead of the performance.

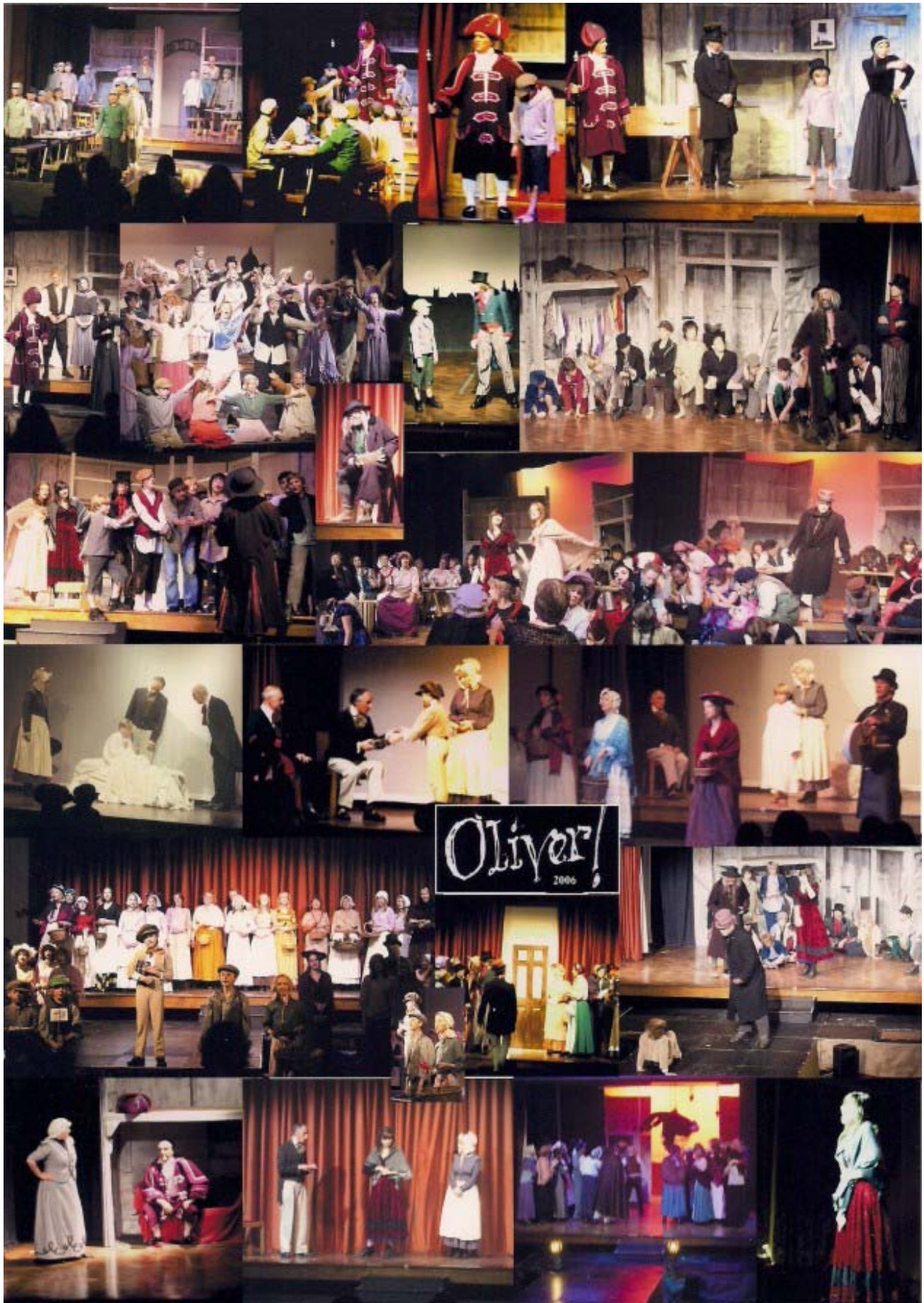
Peter Grainger

Raising money in aid of:





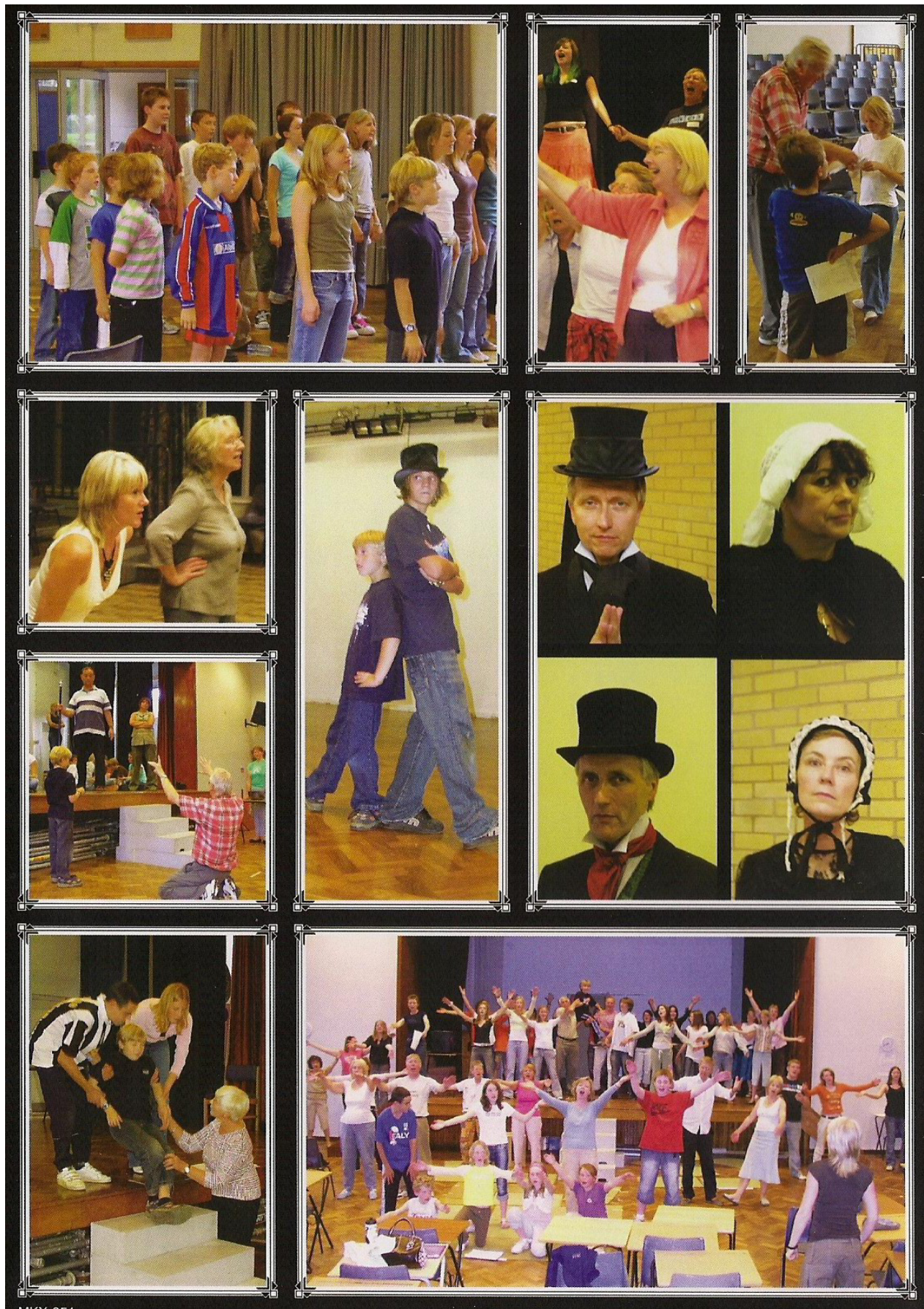










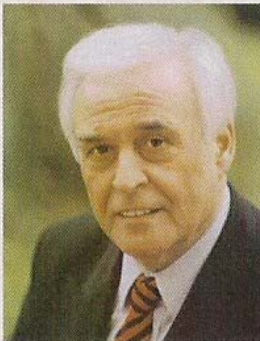


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The Charities



*The Gloucestershire Prostate Cancer
(Brachytherapy Unit) Trust*



May I thank Charlton Kings Community Players for their first class production of '**OLIVER!**' and your support for my two chosen charities during my year as **Mayor of Cheltenham**.

The charities which will benefit are:

The Gloucestershire Prostate Cancer (Brachytherapy Unit) Trust which I founded in July 2001. Since the establishment of a unit in Cheltenham General Hospital some 18 months later, over 50 men's lives have been saved.

The Parkinson's Disease Society I became aware of the problems associated with Parkinson's disease when a well-known Cheltenham business colleague became a victim of this progressive illness, for which there is no cure. Your support this evening will contribute to funding a respite care facility for sufferers in Cheltenham.

Have a wonderful evening.

Brian Chaplin
Honorary Alderman