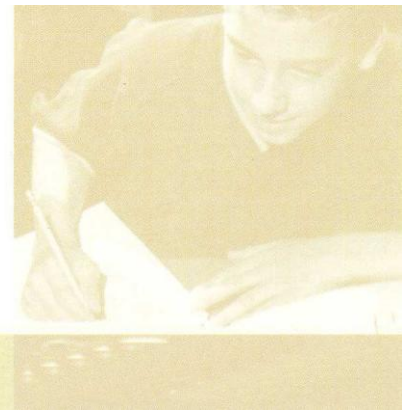




# Nuntius

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
A Foundation Business & Enterprise School for Boys

Cross Lane, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 3AQ | Tel: 0151 644 0908



## Nuntius On-line

Summer 2011 Edition

### Cabaret Review

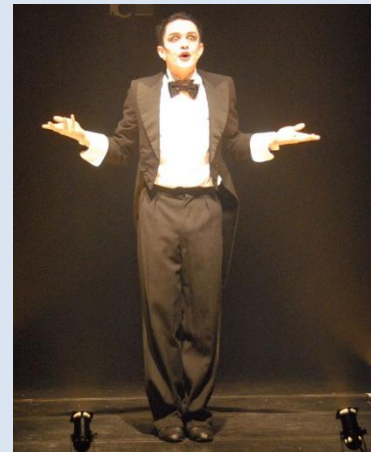
By

Andrew McEwan L66



After last year's successful production of the gruesome Sweeney Todd, the cast of the 2011 Wirral Grammar Schools' musical were always going to have a

lot to live up to, and when it was revealed that they would be taking on the classic Cabaret, their task became that little bit harder. However, having seen the finished product for myself (twice in fact), I am happy to report that they didn't disappoint.



Having never actually seen Cabaret myself, I was relying completely on the acting skills of the cast to tell me the story, and that they did brilliantly. We were greeted by our MC, played perfectly by Daniel Byrne, who, over the course of the night,



managed to squeeze into a dancing Girl's costume, perform a very suggestive routine with his "two ladies", and dance with a gorilla. We then met Cliff Bradshaw (David Field), a budding American novelist, on his way to Berlin, searching for inspiration for his new book. What he actually finds is the Kit Kat Club, Sally Bowles, and, at least so it first seems, true love. The role of Sally must have been a daunting one to play, and it was Sophie Money who was charged with portraying the fun loving, care free Miss Bowles. But how do you get even close to the performance given by the magnificent Liza Minnelli?

I certainly wouldn't have known, but clearly Sophie did, as she balanced the fast paced comedy of the character with the heartbreak of realising that she would never be able to live as a family with the man she loved.

As the story moved on, we met Fraulein Schneider, the owner of the hotel Cliff stayed in, and Herr Schultz, a fruit shop owner (Rowan Darroch and Ben Caveen), who played out a similar story to that of Cliff and Sally, but as characters who represented the older generation of the German people. Again though, there was to be no happy ending, but instead a stark reminder of the dangerous



times that were coming for Germany, particularly for people like Herr Schultz – Jews. Then there was Ernst Ludwig (Yyannis Johnson), the first person Cliff meets in Germany. A suspicious looking character from the beginning, our view of him deteriorates fast when we discover his passion for wearing a Swastika. He also seemed to become very close to Fraulein Kost, (Steph Mortimore), but then, so did most of the male characters, particularly her "cousins from Hamburg", who coincidentally all happened to be sailors, and left her room covered in lipstick and with various undergarments draped over their shoulder.





It was very much a story of two halves. Part one was representative of the image portrayed by 1930's Germany – a country recovering from the war, trying to get on with life, but most importantly, to enjoy it again. The singing and dancing of the Kit Kat Club was just one way of doing this, and we joined in with their laughter and fun. In fact, it was impossible not to laugh at the Host during the first song, or at

the way Sally seemed constantly to be living at twice the speed of sound, constantly moving, speaking and completely baffling poor Cliff. However, when we entered the School Hall for the second half to find the entire room bedecked with Nazi banners, we realised we were in for a change of atmosphere. Still, it was when things started to go wrong for the characters that we realised how we had been pulled into their stories, and we were actually saddened to realise that the impossible situation that Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz found themselves in meant that they could never be together, and that Sally and Cliff were to be denied their opportunity to have a family together.



Of course, no musical is complete without songs, and Cabaret certainly contained plenty of musical delights. Personally, I found it nearly impossible to pick out a favourite - Martin Kupilas sang "Tomorrow Belongs to Me", almost chillingly, which was enough to make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up, especially when it was later Nazi-fied and sang by Ernst, Fraulein Kost, the Host and the guests at Herr Schultz and Fraulein Schneiders' engagement party. I also particularly enjoyed

the "Two Ladies" song, if nothing else to see the facial expressions being pulled by Dan Byrne. Of course, make up had a lot to do with that, and it needs to be said that costumes, make up and props were, as ever, brilliant. However, for me, the highlight of the entire show was Sophie's rendition of the classic title song, "Cabaret". Sang note perfectly, it was still recognisable as the original from the film, but with Sophie's unique style, it was, in my opinion, even better.



So, having entered the Hall at the beginning of the evening not knowing the first thing about the show, I left it feeling as if I had known the characters all my life, and found myself singing the songs for the next couple of weeks, and I suppose that just proves that all of the hard work paid off. Of course, the unsung heroes are the backstage,



lighting and sound crews, who all did a brilliant job of keeping the show moving, and of course, the large chorus who supported the main cast excellently. As ever though, this fantastic production was made possible by Mr Geoff Hinde, who has once again taken a classic musical and produced something that many professional theatre groups would struggle to match.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



# CABARET

## THE ACTING COMPANY

*Emcee*

*Sally Bowles*

*Cliff*

*Schneider*

*Shultz*

*Ernst*

*Kost*

**Daniel Byrne**

**Sophie Money**

**David Field**

**Rowan Darroch**

**Ben Caveen**

**Yyanis Johnson**

**Steph Mortimore**

*Kit Kat Girls*

**Catherine Cassidy (2 ladies)**

**Gina Sinclair, (2 ladies)**

**Vicki Adegoke, Abby Hannah**

**Annie Field, Cara Wilson,**

**Bex Leeman, Laura Condon,**

**Hollie Jackson, Beckie Kirkby**

**Hannah Winstanley**

**Charlotte Cumming**

*Chorus of Waiters, Sailors*

*and Party Guests*

**Tom Smith, Mike Bowen,**

**Andy Arathoon, Josh Finan,**

**Joe Oxtan, Kieran France,**

**Andrew Sephton, Chris Wiles,**

**Daniel Galvin, Gareth Matthey,**

**Robert Barton, Nathan Just,**

**Martin Kupilas, Ellie Murray,**

**Hannah Barnes,**

**Emily Goodyear**

*'Gorilla'*

**Pam Pier**

# PRODUCTION TEAM

<i>Front of House</i>	<b>Danny Gibbs, Jack Yarker, Jan Greenshaw, Josh Ramsey, Jack Neil, Tom Hughes, Elliot Speed, Sarah Easdown, Jenny Watts, Amber Blease</b>
<i>Back Stage Team</i>	<b>David Lawrie, Ed Forshaw, Aaron Smith, Nick Harvey, Lewis Grant, George Turner, Clare Leadbeater, Ellen Owen, Cath Cook-Scowen, Becky Smith,</b>
<i>Poster Designed by</i>	<b>Callum Peters</b>
<i>Rehearsal Photographs</i>	<b>Joe Adamou</b>
<i>Continuity</i>	<b>Hannah Holt</b>
<i>Make-Up</i>	<b>Jess Hawe, Pip Amer, Amber Blease, Serena Deakin, Lucy Hatton, Abbie Elias Luse Mwenchenyn, Esmé Lewis</b>
<i>Costumes Co-ordination</i>	<b>Esmé Lewis (Costumes supplied by Excel Theatre Costumes Ltd)</b>
<i>Props by</i>	<b>Howorth Wrightson Ltd</b>
<i>Set Designer</i>	<b>Ronan Duffey</b>
<i>Additional Props</i>	<b>Karen Spearing</b>
<i>DVD produced by</i>	<b>Andrew McLannahan, Harry Wilson, Ben Morris</b>
<i>Sound Operators</i>	<b>Ryan Irwin, Joe Adamou, Alex Stuart</b>
<i>Lighting Designed by Assisted by</i>	<b>Cobain Schofield Jonathon Fitch, Philip Wade, Gareth Horton,</b>
<i>Marketing and Sales</i>	<b>Esmé Lewis</b>

<i>Assistant Production Manager</i>	<b>David Lawrie</b>
<i>Musical Assistant</i>	<b>Will Vick</b>
<i>Production Manager</i>	<b>Ronan Duffey</b>
<i>Choreographer</i>	<b>Philippa Amer</b>
<i>Musical Director</i>	<b>Amy Chalmers</b>
<b><i>Director</i></b>	<b>Geoff Hinde</b>

## **BAND**

<i>Flute</i>	<b>Lucy Grimshaw, Rose Jones Matthew Lochhead</b>
<i>Clarinet/Saxophone</i>	<b>Caroline Hamilton Janet Crossley Adam Shorrocks</b>
<i>Horn</i>	<b>Rob Watson</b>
<i>Trumpet</i>	<b>Paul Thomas, Jenni McClure</b>
<i>Trombone</i>	<b>Simon Evans</b>
<i>Drums</i>	<b>Tony Jennings</b>
<i>Piano</i>	<b>William Vick</b>
<i>Bass Guitar</i>	<b>Calum Redhead</b>
<b><i>Musical Director</i></b>	<b>Amy Chalmers</b>

**Our thanks for their invaluable help  
with the production to ...**

Wirral Grammar School Parents' Association

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Jack Oxtan

Peter Polycarpou

Amy Robbins

Steve Horan and Albert Hayes

Mr E J Riley, Mr J Woodham

# Comenius Exchange Trip - Spain 2011

## Glen Carvell 11CCC



**Day 1:** A 5am start to an eventful Tuesday saw us at Liverpool John Lennon airport bright and early to catch the plane to Malaga. We arrived in Malaga in high spirits. After waiting for the Dutch and Norwegian schools, we took the coach to Cordoba for the nerve wracking moment of meeting our host families. We were promptly whisked away in the welcoming hands of our Spanish Amigos and spent the rest of the evening in their company.

**Day 2:** Wednesday saw us meeting early – 8am to be precise – for our visit to Seville. We spent the day visiting all the best bits of the historic city and made it back in time for our evening meal with our families. For me, my second night in Spain was my introduction to Spanish tortilla, the most heavenly substance ever to tease my taste buds!

**Day 3:** The early night previously was much needed on the morning of day 3, as we were up at 7am sharp to get ready for school. School in Spain was rather different to school we were used to; the main difference, of course, being that every lesson was taught in SPANISH, making things rather more difficult to follow. Physics is difficult enough in English! But all in all, it was interesting to experience education in a whole new country and culture. After 3 lessons we left school to take a trip to the “Mezquita” (Mosque) of Cordoba, an astonishing building which we were lucky enough to be given a guided tour around.

**Day 4:** Our last full day in Cordoba started early at school, and once again, school ended for us after 3 lessons to give us time to practice for your performances that afternoon. The following show was spectacular, with performances on guitar from myself, Stephen "Stevo" Caraher, a presentation about our school, a short poetry reading, a tap dance that ended rather more suddenly than we imagined it would, and a memorable rendition of The Beatles' classics from Andrew Arathoon, Mark Leach and Nick Latridis-Jones. After performances from the other schools we headed onto the school roof to consume the mountains of food brought from the 3 visiting countries, plus some local Spanish cuisine. We spent the last evening shopping, socialising, and enjoying the Spanish night life.

**Day 5:** Meeting up at 6am was no easy feat, but we managed and after the long, and in some cases tearful goodbyes, we set off on the long coach journey to Malaga airport to catch the plane home - the end to a highly enjoyable and successful visit. Special thanks go to Mr Hughes and Miss Burns for all the effort and free time they put into this. MUCHAS GRACIAS!

## **STOP PRESS! Comenius Project**

**On 28th June we received news from the British Council that they had approved our application for our second Comenius Project. The project will last for three years and is entitled, "European Eco Volunteer". On this project we will again be working with Hof Skole in Hof, Norway and Emelwerda College in Emmeloord, The Netherlands as well as three new partner schools:**

**Mihai Eminescu School in Vaslui, Romania,  
Ozel Sezin Ilkogretim Okulu School in Istanbul, Turkey and  
ISE Rusadir School in Melilla, Spain**

**In short the project will promote volunteering in education with the theme of the environment and we will analyse and compare the environmental problems in the area where each school is based.**

**Further information about how you can get involved in the project will be sent out in the new school year.**

**Mr J Hughes  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages & International Co-ordinator**