

DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

CRAIG ARMSTRONG

At the age of 13, Craig appeared in the City of Stoke on Trent Amateur Operatic Society's Youth Section 1982 production of CAROUSEL and regularly played principle parts in subsequent shows. He graduated to the adult section continuing his development as well as appearing in major roles for other societies in the area. In 1990 he became the Youth Section's resident choreographer and then in 2000 both directed and choreographed OKLAHOMA, which was considered by the Sentinel critic, Martin Alcock, the best show he had seen on any stage in N. Staffordshire that year. Having established his reputation as a director, Craig enhanced it with THE HIRED MAN in 2001, - which was again deemed by Martin the best he had seen that year. Craig's approach to directing musicals is simple: "they must be realistic", and with his fine eye for detail and 100% commitment, he has now established himself as one of the hottest properties in the directorial stakes in this area. The Society's award for outstanding service, the Lawrence Hancock Trophy, was awarded to Craig in 2002 and in the same year his spellbinding and successful production of WEST SIDE STORY wowed the critics. The direction of the anniversary production 25 YEARS ON in 2004 was followed by BIG - The Musical in 2006. Craig is pleased to be involved with the new company and wishes the cast and committee every success for the future, and he is delighted to have recently received the NODA Silver medal for 25 years of service to operatic and dramatic societies.

ASISTANT DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

DAVID MORREY

David's first appearance in a musical was at the age of 13 when he appeared in OLIVER! with the North Staffs Amateur Operatic Society. A few years later he was a dancer/chorus member for the same society's production of WEST SIDE STORY, followed by an appearance in GUYS AND DOLLS at Sheffield.

David became involved with the production team in 2000 as a rehearsal assistant for OKLAHOMA! and has continued in similar roles since that time. David was a valued Assistant Director for the 2005 production of BIG -The Musical in 2005 and we are grateful for his services to the new company for this production of HONK!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

LAURA BOWLER

Laura is currently in her penultimate year of study as a composer at the Royal Northern College of Music. In January the BBC Singers sang through Laura's setting of the witches chant from Macbeth at the Maida Vale studios in London and recently she has just finished a commission from the RNCM Saxophone Orchestra to be premiered next month. Laura's most recently performed work was on the 12th of this month when her 'Monte Cervin Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Tuba' was performed in Manchester. In the very same concert Laura also performed as a mezzo soprano, singing a premier of a work by fellow composer, Lucy Pankhurst. Although this is Laura's first time as musical director for Stoke Youth Musical Theatre Company, she has taken part in many of their past productions including the roles of Maria in West Side Story, Laurey in Oklahoma and Carrie in Carousel. Aside from her studies and Stoke Youth, Laura also teaches Saxophone, Piano and Voice at St. Joseph's College. In January 2007, Laura will be moving to Finland for four months to study composition at the prestigious Sibelius Academy.