Director's Notes

'This is why Broadway was born!' Newsweek. November 1950

Bringing this wonderful musical to our little theatre in Earlsdon has been a challenging and exciting experience. The sheer scale of the piece, moving from the streets of downtown New York, its nightclubs and bars, shops and missions to a café in Havana, Cuba for dinner and back to the NY sewers for an illegal game of street craps is awesome. What makes it work is the quality of the script taken from stories written by Damon Runyon, a brilliant journalist, sportswriter and author, joining Frank Loesser's superb score, crammed with memorable music, from beautiful love songs to numbers that rock the rafters with the 50's Big Band sound.

Runyonland is alive with acutely observed characters; colourful, funny, eccentric, flawed but always warm and real. We grew to love them very quickly, as my fantastic 33-strong company sang their hearts out, danced their feet off and found the humour, honesty and pathos in the story.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without a tight and talented production team working closely together for many months with rehearsals and meetings taking place in many different venues. An excellent Musical Director, a clever and inventive Choreographer, a Designer whose concept was perfect (and workable!), two experienced and supportive Assistants, amazing Wardrobe and Props teams and a Stage Manager who tied all these elements together into a professional and complete piece of Theatre. These are just a few of the people I want to thank for helping me to achieve a long-held ambition: bringing 'Guys and Dolls' to life on the Criterion stage again, something I have wanted to do since being a Mission Doll in the 1974 production.

I have loved every minute of the journey, and I hope you will love every minute of tonight's performance of what is the best entertainment in town. After all, 'It's the perfect musical comedy' Daily News.

Annie Woodward, November 2011

Criterion Lottery Fund and Draw

Funds for the theatre are raised through our Lottery Fund. Please consider buying a number (or or more than one) for the small sum of £5 per number per month. Please contact Mike Tooley on 024 7667 3789 or mike_tooley@hotmail.com for details.

Remember... you've got to be in it to win it!

If you have any comments about your experience at the Criterion Theatre, please email Louise at comments@criteriontheatre.co.uk

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk





By Alan Bennett 4th - 11th February 2012

Single Spies is a double bill comprising two plays linked by similar themes. 'An Englishman Abroad' is based on the true story of a meeting in Moscow between Coral Browne, an actress and the wife of Vincent Price, and Guy Burgess, the notorious spy who worked for the Soviet Union as a member of the 'Cambridge Five' whilst with MI6.

'A Question of Attribution' is about Anthony Blunt, another member of the Cambridge Five, and his role as personal art advisor to the Queen. It portrays his interrogation by MI5 officers, his work researching and restoring art and his relationship with Her Majesty.

These plays are about real people, the roles are intriguing, the text subtle and pithy; the whole piece is masterfully crafted by Alan Bennett with his acute powers of observation, wit and understatement.



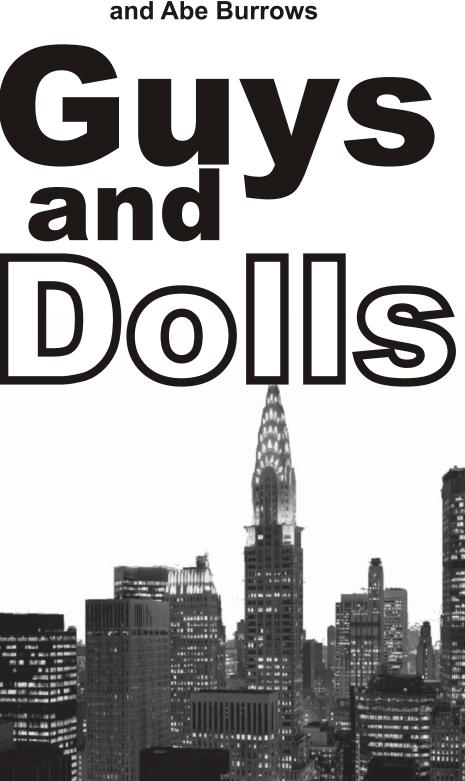
Supported by Shortland Horne



The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.

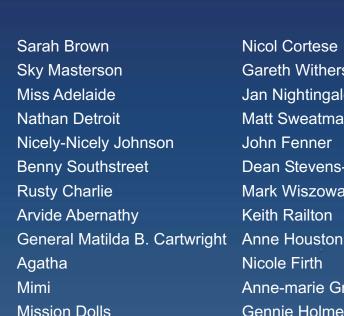
Based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon

by Frank Loesser, Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows



Programme

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.





Guys Dolls **Nicol Cortese Gareth Withers** Jan Nightingale Matt Sweatman John Fenner Dean Stevens-Mullis

Big Jule Society Max Liver Lips Louie **Brandy Bottle Bates**

Scranton Slim Joey Biltmore

Hot Box Dolls

Waiter Waiter **Cuban Dancers** Pete Brooks

Joe Fallowell

Pete Meredith

Michael Hammond

Lee Baillie

John Hathaway

Emma Withers, Anne-marie Greene Stella Gabriel, Lucy Hayton Lucy Rushton, Nicky Gabriel Sara Farmanfarmai, Susie Murphy

Ben Lancashire

Matt Waters

Emma Withers, Joe Fallowell Sara Farmanfarmai, Pete Meredith Lucy Rushton, Lee Baillie



Director: Musical Director: Stage Manager: **Director's Assistants:**

Choreographer: Set Design: **Lighting Design: Lighting Operators:** Sound:

Annie Woodward Bill Bosworth Ben Woodward Helen Withers, Liz Thompson **Robin Stokoe Karl Stafford** Karl Stafford Bill Butler, Hannah Barton Dave Cornish, Richard Taylor

TIREM

Mark Wiszowaty

Anne-marie Greene

Keith Railton

Nicole Firth

The Band **Keyboard:** Reed I: Reed II: **Trumpet:** Trombone: Bass: **Drums:**

Rehearsal Pianists:

Robin Parish Dick Stafford Mike Starr **Lesley Howarth Mark Howarth** Roger Key **Robin Payne**

Richard Hastie, Roger Haygreen, Gill Cahill, Lynne Adams

Set Build: **Set Paint:**

Wardrobe:

Props:

Ben Woodward, Karl Stafford, Pete Bagley Ben Woodward, Mike Tooley, Judy Talbot Pete Bagley Maureen Liggins, Pam Coleman Jan Ali, Kim West Les Rahilly, Erica Young, Bill Young **Steph Othen**

TERRITO

Thanks to Red Corner Gym