



Downside School

presents

SALAD DAYS

Book and Lyrics by Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade
Music by Julian Slade

Programme

Downside School



This amateur production of Salad Days is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

Director's Note

I saw a production of *Salad Days* as a child and the memory never left me. Although this show has been a new discovery for the pupils, there is still a generation of people for whom this show is a firm favourite. There is something so delightfully bright and optimistic about it that it deserves a regular airing and I have relished the chance to direct it.

Salad Days originally premiered in the UK at the Theatre Royal, Bristol in June 1954, and transferred to the Vaudeville Theatre in London on 5 August 1954. It ran for 2,283 performances and became the longest-running show in musical theatre history. Although now a nostalgic show for many of us, at the time *Salad Days* was written, Britain was still just recovering from the drabness and austerity of war, so the crazy world of magic, song and dance, that so enchants the characters in this story was a wonderfully escapist and even revolutionary idea.

Of course, the storyline of young people graduating from University into a new and unexplored world, the social pressures they feel, and their idea of what they need to do to rebel without actually offending their parents, may sound rather familiar. Despite this sense of normality, the show allows us to enter a delightfully fictitious world where magic happens. Nevertheless, somehow through this slightly crazy story, it is a timeless message of hope that comes through.

I am sure you will agree with me that the pupils should be congratulated for all their hard work, since we have put this show on amidst so many other pressures of school life. Enormous thanks go to Mr McNamara for the tireless support of his musical direction and working magic even without a magic piano. Also a huge thank you to Mrs Roberts for her amazing choreography and her ability to know immediately what a Greek dance should look like and many, many thanks also go to Gordon Robertson and his technical team without whom I would never have believed in flying saucers.

Production Team

Director:	Nicola Whitehead
Musical Director:	Julian McNamara
Choreographer:	Sarah Roberts
Stage Manager:	Gordon Robertson
Lighting Manager:	Stuart Comley
Sound Manager:	Isaac Cowlard

Band

Julian McNamara (keyboards), Steve Jobbins (percussion) Tracy Hansford (bass)

Synopsis

Jane and Timothy have just graduated from Oxford University and are deciding which path to take next. Jane's mother is adamant that she should find a reputable husband quickly, whilst Timothy's parents want him to find a good job. Jane and Timothy, however, decide to cut corners by marrying each other and taking the first job which is offered. The first job offer, though, comes from a tramp in the park, who asks them to look after his piano for £7 a week. As the tramp begins to play the piano, they realise that the piano possesses a magic power and makes everybody dance as soon as they hear it played.

Despite Timothy's attempts to find a job in the foreign office, the piano has begun to have a huge impact on crowds of people in the park. Everyone is becoming fed-up with the effects of the piano which has exhausted them by urging them to dance.

In the meantime, Nigel, who rather admires Jane, invites her to a nightclub, unaware that she is already married. They try to hatch a plot to prevent the stuffy Minister of Pleasure and Pastime from putting a stop to the piano music, but instead are shocked to find that their precious piano has now disappeared. The mysterious tramp reappears to help Jane and Timothy look for the piano, but the month they have been given in which to look after it is almost up. How are they going to find it on time.....?

Scenes

Act 1

Scene 1.....	The University
Scene 2.....	The Breakfast-room
Scene 3.....	The Park
Scene 4.....	The Beauty Parlour
Scene 5.....	The Park
Scene 6.....	The Foreign Office
Scene 7.....	The Inspectors' Office
Scene 8.....	The Park

Act 2

Scene 1.....	The Cleopatra Nightclub
Scene 2.....	The Park
Scene 3.....	The Park
Scene 4.....	The Park
Scene 5.....	The Dress Shop
Scene 6.....	The Park
Scene 7.....	The Park
Scene 8.....	The Park
Scene 9.....	The Flying Saucer
Scene 10.....	The Park
Scene 11.....	The Park

Cast

Mildred Maybury.....Jane	Oscar Healy.....Timothy
Digby Barrowcliff (Nigel)	Madeleine Jones (Child)
Charlotte Bertram (Don, Press)	Lucy McKechnie (Lady Raeburn)
William Brooke (Augustine Williams/Don)	Ruby McNulty (Arms Dancer, Waitress, Model)
Imogen Buckley (Don, Press)	Maria Ortueta (Press)
Julian Chan (Tim's father and Uncle Clam, Diplomat, Don)	
Sol Corchado (Manicurist)	Harry Ross (Tramp, Nightclub Manager)
Clara de Rambures (Don)	Cordelia Sheridan (Fiona, Don)
Maria Dolman (Troppo)	Chessie Siese (Rowena)
Alex Harwood (Tom Smith, Press)	Paula Sparrow (Waitress, Arms Dancer)
Celestine Healy (Child)	Charlotte Walker (Piano Player, Press)
Pearse Hegarty (Ambrose, Press)	Peter Welinkar (Police inspector, Don)
Felix Hobbs (Fosdyke, Don)	Ellie Wells (Don, Aunt Prue, Bishop)
Tilly Hogan (Nightclub Singer, Lady, Don)	Antonia Wright-Morris (Electrode)
Stephanie Jedy Agba (Heloise)	Maria Zielinska (Don, Model)

Backstage and Support

Backstage assistants:	Sarah Roberts, Damaris Hobbs, Sue Moody
Technical and backstage assistants:	Constantine Lubec, Gonzalo Lares, Michael Kealey, Owain Daley, Mallou Hollerbach, Anna Bowman
Publicity:	Merille Ryder (photography), Claire Wass and Sarah Kerr (publicity), Tricia Rees-Jones (programme)
Magic Piano supplied by:	Mark Doman and Abbey Pianos, Chilcompton

With many thanks to all the staff who have supported this production but with an especial thanks to Angie Hurlle and the Domestic Services Department, Sarah Kieck and her catering team and Francis Pugsley and the Works Department.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.