

BROS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE KIDS *LEFT*. THE DOG *DIED*. NOW *WHAT?*

Book, music and lyrics by
Carole Caplan-Lonner

OSO ARTS CENTRE

13-16 FEBRUARY 2025



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the OSO Arts Centre and our production of *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What?* BROS Theatre Company is delighted to be back at the OSO with this musical about those facing a host of midlife challenges.

We thank Ian, James, Sian and Becky who have been our Production Team and led this small ensemble cast with enthusiasm over the last few months and we welcome Megan for

her first production with BROS. The cast and production team have all worked extremely hard, as have a brilliant team of behind the scenes superstars.

I thank our members and friends who have helped and/or are helping us behind the scenes or front-of-house this week. We couldn't do our shows without you!

Our next production will be at Hampton Hill Theatre in July - Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's *Company*. 2026 will start with Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at Richmond Theatre in February followed by a visit to the the Minack Theatre, Cornwall in August.

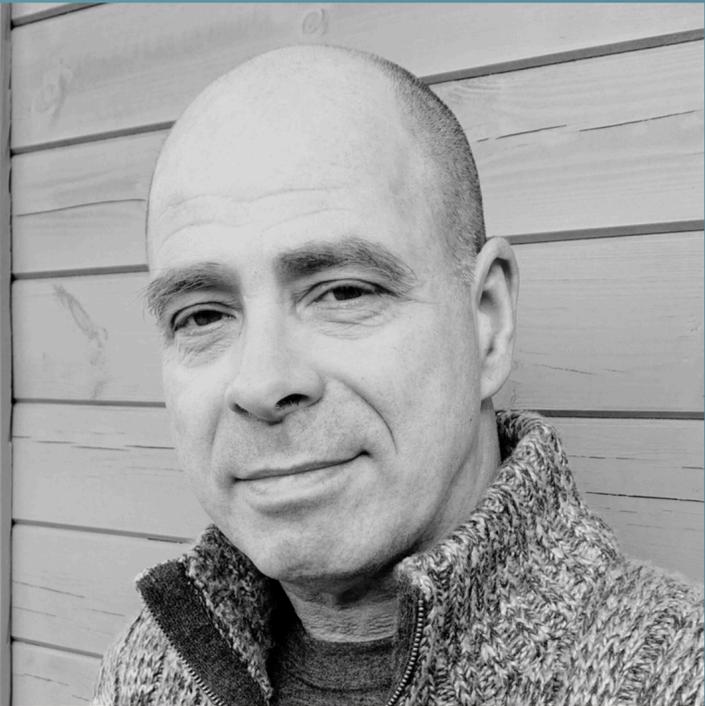
Perhaps you've been inspired to join us on stage or behind the scenes with future productions? Follow us on our social media platforms for all our news and updates.

I continue to be so very proud of what we do at BROS and whether this is your first BROS production or you're a long-time supporter, thank you for being here and I hope you enjoy the show.

Martin Wilcox
Chair, BROS Theatre Company



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I looked at many small-scale musicals whilst searching for a piece which would suit the intimate nature of the OSO. None spoke to me or entertained me until I came across Carole Caplan-Lonner's, *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What?* The opening number was fun, happy and energetic and it wasn't far in before I was also shedding tears. The show touched me on an emotional level. I ordered a script and hired the perusal material. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What? is presented over 24 scenes looking at the challenges experienced by the over 50s empty nest generation, the heart of middle life represented in theatre. It is a time of life which should be easier and more free but as we see, the truth is often not as advertised. We come across new life experiences, and just as we did when we were younger, we struggle to navigate and make sense of them.

Caplan-Lonner's superbly written dialogue and heartfelt lyrics are congruent to the characters they represent and although written in a traditional and fun American musical style, she still manages to stay true to characters whose struggles are representative to us all.

Carole Caplan-Lonner is sadly no longer with us but we have enjoyed exploring the emotional palette of the piece and hope she would be pleased with what we have produced.

I am proud to be able to offer her work for your enjoyment with this dedicated and talented cast. Sit back, relax and enjoy. I am sure there will be something that resonates with you.

Ian



SONG & SCENE LIST

ACT 1

Now What?

Who Says Progress Is Good?

Doctors

Firsts

Headlights/Tail Lights

I Got A Case

Emiy Goes to Armani

Doctors (Reprise 1)

Everybody's Got a Cheap Spot

Computer Dating

Sandwich Generation

It's Not a Date

ACT 2

Now What? (Reprise)

If You Want to Stay Married

Things I Wish I Could Forget

Doctors (Reprise 2)

Perfect Bliss

His Girl Thursday

Computer Chat

Casserole Stroll

Marvin

New Firsts

Finale: Now What? (Reprise 2)



REHEARSAL PHOTOS



CAST



LIZZIE BRIGNALL
WOMAN

Lizzie joined BROS in 1996 for a production of Chicago and has performed in over 30 BROS shows over these many years. Favourite roles have included Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes at the Minack Theatre, Dolly Levi in Hello Dolly at Richmond Theatre, Connie Riley in Made in Dagenham; Zoe in When Midnight Strikes; various roles in I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; Charlotte in Flora the Red Menace; and various in Tomfoolery, she was cast as Georgette in It Shoulda Been You and most recently played Mrs Walsingham in Kipps at the Minack. Outside of BROS, roles have included Muzzy Van Hossmere in Thoroughly Modern Millie and Conchita in Copacabana. Lizzie has made many lovely life long friends through BROS, and is delighted to be involved in this production – she hopes that you enjoy the show!



HELEN DONALD
WOMAN

Helen first joined BROS in 1994, playing a broad range of chorus and principal roles and even serving on the committee for several years, before life with work, kids and pets got too busy. However with the last child newly settled at university, the attractions of life meets art presented by 'The Kids Left...' have finally lured Helen back to the stage. She is thoroughly enjoying the transition to 'old bat' roles, even though it's much harder remembering lines these days, and she can never find her glasses to read the script anyway.



KERRY MAGEE
WOMAN

Kerry has been a member of BROS for fifteen plus years, performing in a variety of small scale revue style shows and larger productions. Favourite roles include Cora, Calendar Girls; Beryl, Made in Dagenham; Charlotte, A Little Night Music. Her roles in this review acknowledge her realisation that it's time for embracing and celebrating new chapters and beginnings.



TRACY SORGIOVANNI
WOMAN

Tracy has been a member of BROS for 15 years and is grateful to have played a variety of lead, supporting and ensemble roles. Personal highlights include Annie in Calendar Girls, Sister Mary Robert in Sister Act, Carla/Alaura in City of Angels, Georgia Hendrix in Curtains and The Ingenue in The Musical of Musicals The Musical (which enjoyed a repeat performance in Alan Titchmarsh's garden). She has just about accepted the fact she is now old enough to do a show about the over 50s.

CAST



CARL SMITH
MAN

Carl has been a member of BROS TC since the 1980's and has contributed to many productions both onstage and as Musical Director, most notably 'Hot Mikado' (Koko - Hampton Hill Theatre), 'Crazy For You' (MD - Richmond Theatre), 'Guys & Dolls' (Nicely-Nicely Johnson - Minack Theatre, Porthcurno) and 'The Addams Family' (Uncle Fester - Richmond Theatre). He was last seen at Hampton Hill Theatre in BROS TC's production of 'Calendar Girls' where he played the role of Rod. He hopes audiences of 'The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What?' can relax and either imagine what might lie ahead for those who may not yet be of an age to fully appreciate some of the topics covered or be reminded of what life has been like these past years!



JASON THOMAS
MAN

This is Jason's fifth outing with BROS after two turns at the Minack, one at Richmond and a cabaret show here at the OSO. Jason turned 50 last year and although he has never had kids or a dog, he likes both and does have a cat therefore feels just about qualified to take part.



MARTIN WILCOX
MAN

It's 39 years since Martin first performed with BROS, when he worked at the Riverside Club Chiswick with rehearsals upstairs at Ye White Hart. He's been involved with almost forty BROS productions as performer, Musical Director, musician and working back-stage. Amongst his favourite roles with companies across West London he lists, Jesus (Jesus Christ Superstar), Seymour (Little Shop of Horrors), Lord Farquaad (Shrek), Georges (La Cage aux Folles), Bernadette (Priscilla, QotD), Harry (Company), Eddie (Made in Dagenham), The American (Chess), Christopher (When Midnight Strikes), Kipps (Half a Sixpence) and Edward Bloom (Big Fish) and he's thrilled to be performing alongside some hugely talented BROS chums in this show.



MEGAN JENKINS
VOICEOVERS

Megan has done a small amount of acting in the past and is slowly getting back into performing. She really enjoys taking acting classes and meeting new people in the acting world. This is her first production with BROS and she is thrilled to be part of this production both on and off stage.

CREATIVE TEAM



IAN NETHERSELL
DIRECTOR

Ian has been involved in local amateur and professional theatre for over 30 years. Mostly found in a tech or stage management role in recent times he can occasionally still be found treading the boards on stages ranging from the beautiful Minack Theatre on the cliffs in Cornwall to Frank Matcham's sumptuous theatre on the green in Richmond.

Some directing credits include *What The Night Is For* by Michael Weller (The Tabard Theatre), *Elsie & Norm's Macbeth* by John Christopher-Wood (Hampton Hill Theatre), *The Pirates of Penzance* by W.S Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan (Hampton Hill Playhouse) and *Night* by Harold Pinter (Upstairs Room in St Lukes).



JAMES HALL
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

James Hall works in London and around the UK as a musical director for theatre and a technical singing teacher. He trained at Kingston University, The Institute of Education and obtained a Masters Degree in Musical Direction from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. He is the Musical Director for Blue Fire Theatre Company, Jazzish and for Vinny Coyle whilst currently teaching at Laine Theatre Arts, Bird College and Spirit Young Performers Company.

Previous credits for BROS include *Keys 2 for Carousel & Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Minack Theatre), *Keys 2 for High Society* (Richmond Theatre) and *Company MD for Miller Plays The Musicals* (Richmond Theatre)



SIAN BOWLES-BEVAN
CHOREOGRAPHER

Sian has been directing and choreographing shows for many years and is no stranger to a BROS production team, having directed and choreographed *The Addams Family* at Richmond Theatre, *Sister Act* at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall and *Soho Cinders* at Hampton Hill Theatre. She also co-directed BROS's last show at the OSO, at a time when there was genuine fear that the pandemic may have caused irreparable damage to theatre. The joy of walking into the lovely OSO, surrounded by performers, technicians, and creatives whose passion for theatre was so clearly evident, was very special. For a show like *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. What Next?* It is vital that the movement/choreography highlights the humour, resilience and complexity of the human experience; an aspect of choreography that Sian really enjoys.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Rebecca Tarry
Technical Manager	Ian Nethersell
Stage Manager	Sian Walters
Set design	Ian Nethersell
Stage crew	Megan Jenkins
Costume design	Juliet Manners
Lighting design	Rob Arundel
Lighting operation	Anna Gold
Lighting technician	Jack Williams
Sound design	Jacob Taylor
Sound operation	Ian Nethersell
Props	Jacqui Grebot
Marketing Manager	Tash Wills
Marketing & publicity team	Em Hartnett & Rebecca Tarry
Rehearsal & Production photography	Louise Ellard-Turnbull
Print & digital publicity design	Em Hartnett
Programme design	Tash Wills, Em Hartnett & Rebecca Tarry
Box Office Manager	OSO

BROS TC WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Lydia Sax and all the staff at the OSO Arts Centre; Sarah Payne at St Michaels & All Angels Church, Barnes; Marie at The Barn Church, Kew; Kate Woodhouse at Mortlake Hall; Chris Greenwood; Teddington Theatre Club

Committee members who have served during work to stage this production: Lizzie Brignall, Emma Hartnett, Caro Hayes, Kerry Magee, Alex McKinven, Jen Moorhead, Helen Shore, Enrico Volpi, Lottie Walker, Martin Wilcox



JOIN US

BROS Theatre Company is one of South West London's premier non-professional societies. We pride ourselves on creating shows that stand alongside professional productions at venues such as Richmond Theatre and The Minack Theatre in Cornwall. Our regular visits to Hampton Hill Theatre allow us to stretch our creative wings and put on shows that regularly win both Arts Richmond and NODA London awards.

We are always looking to welcome new members and there are so many ways to get involved. Join us on stage and audition for a show or lend your skills to one of our talented production or technical teams.

Our BROS Academy sessions offer a wide range of workshops designed to hone on-stage skills of singing, dancing and acting, but also to encourage discussion and learning for creative teams and production/technical teams. They are run by some of our incredibly talented members and often by external industry professionals.

Get in touch or visit us online to find out more.
www.brostheatrecompany.org

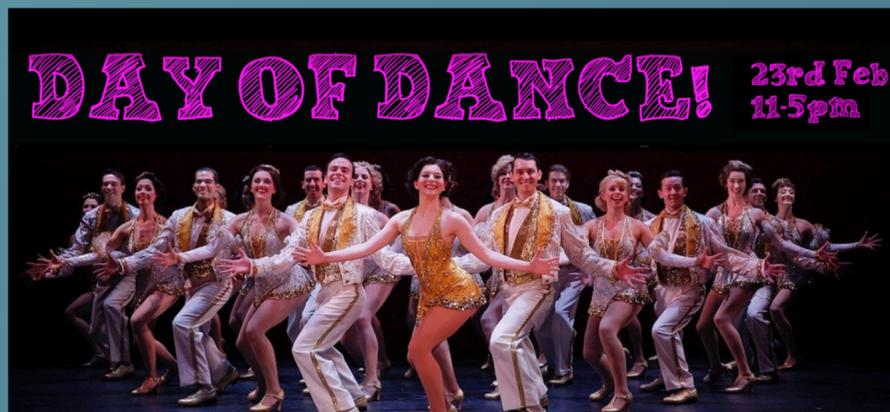
Follow us



UPCOMING BROS ACADEMY SESSIONS IN FEBRUARY

DAY OF DANCE

Sunday 23rd February, 11-5pm, The Barn Church Hall, Kew



Get your tap shoes ready, your jazz shoes pumped and your energy levels set to 11 for three brilliant sessions:

11.00-12.45pm - Tapping with Susi Pink
1.00-2.45pm - Pop/Jazz with Callum Taylor
3.15-5.00pm - Musical theatre dance with Stephanie Birtig

You can come to one or all of the sessions, it's entirely up to you!

BROS Full Members: Free
Resting/Non-members : £5 per session or £10 for the day
Register [HERE](#)

BSL IN THEATRE WITH WEDNESDAY JONES

Wednesday 26th February, 7.45-9.45pm, The Coward Room, Hampton Hill Theatre



BROS TC Academy and TTC are collaborating to bring you a much-anticipated and highly informative evening on BSL (British Sign Language) in theatre.

Wednesday Jones, a volunteer BSL translator, works with amateur theatre groups to deliver shows to Deaf audiences and we are delighted that she will be coming to give us a talk on BSL in theatre. After a chat and a general Q&A, Wednesday is happy to discuss/brainstorm any specific projects you have in mind that could be supported in this way, to give better access to live theatre.

BROS Full Members/TTC Members : Free
Resting/Non BROS/TTC Members : £5
Register [HERE](#)

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S

COMPANY

A MUSICAL COMEDY



1ST - 5TH JULY 2025

HAMPTON HILL THEATRE

BROS THEATRE COMPANY

Phone rings, door chimes, in comes company...

Perhaps the most widely accessible of the late great Stephen Sondheim's musicals, *Company* provides iconic songs, hilarious dialogue, and memorable characters, all in services of the timeless themes of commitment, loneliness, and love.

Whether you are a long-time theatregoer or have never seen a musical, *Company* provides something for everyone!

Company will be playing at the Hampton Hill Theatre 1st, - 5th July

[Visit our website for more information.](#)



BIG YELLOW STORAGE

BROS are very grateful to Big Yellow Hounslow for providing us with high quality storage space to store our costumes, props and music stands.

This storage space is a huge benefit to BROS. Costumes and props can be used from the store over again, saving time and cost in sourcing certain items for each show and allows us to maintain our high production values at an affordable cost.



THANK YOU BIG YELLOW STORAGE!

www.bigyellow.co.uk



BROS

THEATRE COMPANY

