

Welcome to Oliver! Presented by The Performing Arts Club of St Johns.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming along to the show and supporting us tonight, and sincerely hope that you enjoy our interpretation of this classic tale.

Below we've broken down the story of Oliver as you will see it tonight.
A classic tale told in Drama and in Music set in late Victorian England.

Act I

The show opens with the birth of Oliver and his Mothers subsequent passing, making Oliver one of the many half-starved orphan boys destined for the workhouse. They enter the enormous lunchroom for dinner. (*Food Glorious Food*) and are fed only on gruel.

Nine year old Oliver Twist gathers up the courage to ask for more. He is immediately apprehended and is told to gather his belongings by Mr Bumble and the Widow Corney, the heartless and greedy caretakers of the workhouse (*Oliver!*).

Oliver escapes and runs away to London. On his first day there, he meets the Artful Dodger, a boy wearing an oversize coat and a top hat. He and the company then welcome him with (*Consider Yourself*).

Dodger is, unknown to Oliver, a boy pickpocket, and he invites Oliver to come and live in Fagin's lair. Fagin is a criminal, and he is in the business of teaching young boys to pick pockets. Oliver, however, is completely unaware of any criminality, and believes that the boys make handkerchiefs rather than steal them. Oliver is introduced to Fagin and all the other boy pickpockets, and is taught their ways in (*You've got to Pick a Pocket or Two*).

Oliver also meets Nancy, the live-in girlfriend of the evil, terrifying Bill Sikes, a burglar whose abuse she endures because she loves him. Bill is also in Fagins' Den. Nancy and Oliver take an instant liking to each other, and Nancy shows motherly affection toward him. Bet, Nancy's younger sister, is also with her.

During this meeting Dodger, along with Fagin, Oliver, Nancy, Bet, and the boys begin to mock high society and sing (*I'd Do Anything*). Nancy and Bet leave and Oliver is sent out with the other boys on his first pickpocketing job, though he still believes that they are going to teach him how to make handkerchiefs.

The Dodger, another boy pickpocket named Charley Bates, and Oliver decide to stick together, and when Dodger and Charley rob Mr. Brownlow, a wealthy old man, they run off, leaving the shocked Oliver, who now realizes that his new friends are pickpockets, to be blamed for looking guilty. Brownlow thinks that Oliver is the thief, Oliver is placed in Court, where Magistrate Fang presides, but is cleared of Guilt, through the intervention of Mr Brownlow and his Niece, Rose.

To make up for his error, the wealthy Brownlow takes Oliver to live with him, noticing something vaguely familiar about him.

This Ends Act 1

(There now follows an Interval of around 15 to 20 minutes)

Act II begins with Oliver awakening at Brownlows' the next morning and noticing the Market traders outside..prompting the opening song "Who Will Buy".

(Quite a challenge for our group this act as we had to plan so many scene changes)!

Act II

The next morning, at Mr. Brownlow's house, As Oliver he wakes up he takes notice of the street vendors outside in the song (*Who Will Buy?*).

Dodger tells Fagin about Oliver being captured. Fagin and Bill decide that they have to kidnap Oliver to keep him from revealing their whereabouts and secrets. Nancy is asked to participate, but feeling sorry for the boy and wishing him to have a better life if he has the chance - refuses, until Bill slaps her around. She tries to convince herself that he really loves her and expresses her feeling for him in (*As Long As He Needs Me*).

Oliver now settling in to his stay with Mr. Brownlow is asked to return some books to the bookseller for Mr. Brownlow. Whilst returning these books, Nancy and Bill show up and grab Oliver. They bring him back to Fagin's, where Nancy saves Oliver from a beating from Sikes after the boy tries to flee but is stopped. Nancy angrily and remorsefully reviews what their fine life has come to. Sikes and Nancy leave.

Fagin ponders his future in the humorous song (*Reviewing the Situation*), in which, every time he thinks of a good reason for going straight, he reconsiders and decides to remain a criminal.

Nancy, terrified for Oliver and feeling guilty, visits Brownlow and promises to deliver Oliver to him safely that night at midnight on London Bridge - if Brownlow does not bring the police or ask any questions.

Bill suspects that Nancy is up to something. That night, he follows her as she sneaks Oliver out. At London Bridge, he confronts them, knocks Oliver temporarily unconscious, strangles and kills Nancy. He then grabs Oliver, who has since revived, and runs offstage with him, he takes Oliver to Fagin's hideout to ask Fagin for money.

Mr. Brownlow, who had been late keeping the appointment, arrives and discovers Nancy's body. A large crowd soon forms, among them the distraught Bet.

After they exit Fagin and his boys, terrified at the idea of being apprehended, leave their hideout in panic. Not finding Bill at the hideout, the anxious crowd, now whipped up into a thirst for justice, returns to the Thames Embankment, when suddenly Bill appears at the top of the bridge, holding Oliver as hostage and threatening to kill him if the crowd tries to take him. Unseen by Bill, two policemen sneak up on him. One of them shoots Bill to death and the other grabs Oliver as Bill releases him. Oliver is then reunited with Mr. Brownlow.

After the crowd disperses, Fagin re-enters, making sure not to be seen by anyone, and sings a reprise of *Reviewing the Situation*. All of the cast re-enter for curtain calls, singing a medley of *Food Glorious Food* and *Consider Yourself*, and then the fourth wall of drama is broken, as the actress playing the supposed-to-be dead Nancy re-enters very much alive, and Oliver, joined by the rest of the cast, once more sings to her *I'd Do Anything*.

The Cast

Jacqueline Smith - The Artful dodger

Jessica Smith – Police Constable

John Killelay - Oliver

Hannah Craig – Mr Brownlow

Emily Cowan – Strawberry Seller

Rachel Arundel – Milk Maid

Madison Jones – Rose Seller

Lindsey Chesham – Magistrate Fang

Gabrielle Chesham – Charley Bates

Amy Pettitt - Nancy

Amy Cowan – Widow Corney

Sarah Killelay - Rose

Richard Craig - Fagin

Adam Joyce - Sikes

Gang members/Supporting Cast

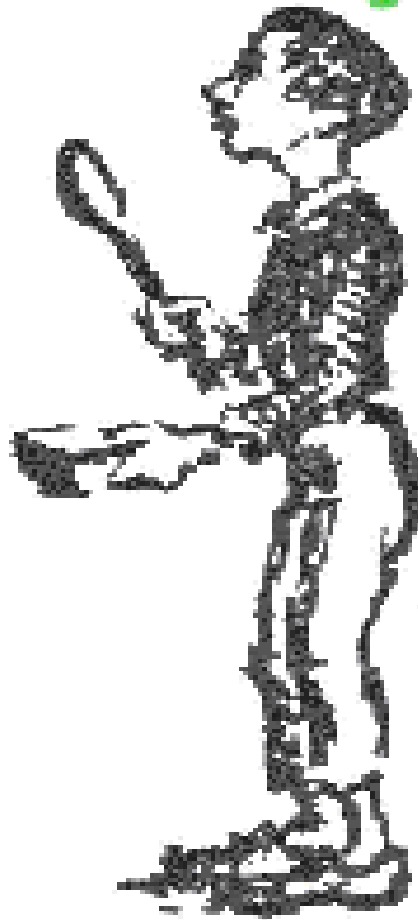
Ben Cowan

Pamela Joyce

Richard Mason

**The Performing Arts Club of St Johns
Presents**

Oliver Twist



A Dramatic and Musical Adaptation of this famous Charles Dickens Story

Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart

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Music produced by: Just For The Record in association with the
Performing Rights Society and MCPS

Our sincere thanks go to:-

All our volunteers and members both on and off stage for all their hard work and commitment to our crazy ideas!

Marcus of Bend In The River and St Johns Church
www.bendintheriver.co.uk

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Castle Hills School

Queen Elizabeths High School

Middlefield Lane School

And last but by no means least...all the parents, carers, aunts, uncles and grandparents of everyone involve in the project.

If there's anyone I've forgotten..I haven't really..I've just run out of room!

Thankyou everyone!!!!

