

**THE MAIDSTONE SCOUT
DISTRICTS
Present**

GANG SHOW

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MAIDSTONE**

18 to 22 July 1995



50p

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THE MAIDSTONE SCOUT DISTRICTS

present

Gang Show '95

at

The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

Commencing

Evenings: 7.30pm, doors open 7.00pm

Matinée: 2.30pm, doors open 2.00pm

Based on the original idea of the late Ralph Reader, C.B.E.



The Gang of 1995 thank the following:

Andy Brodie - Gill Simes

Alan Liversey - The Royal Eltham Gang Show

The Edinburgh Gang Show, and Ralph Reader

for their permission to use material in this year's show, in addition to the composers and song-writers too many to mention

PRODUCER'S FOREWARD

Welcome to this the Twelfth Maidstone Gang Show. Tonight we are inviting you to join in our celebration of the first 25 years of the Maidstone Show.

Back in 1969 a number of Scout Groups in the area approached the then District Commissioner, Clifford Vanstone, to stage a Gang Show. The District agreed for a preview to be run at that year's Annual General Meeting, which proved such a success that the go-ahead was given for a full show to be performed at this very theatre at Easter 1970. For the first two shows the cast was all male, but from 1974 we have invited members of the Guides to take part, as well as female members of the Scout Association.

From its inception, the show has always been about giving young people the chance to improve their self-confidence, and having fun along the way. In all over 1,000 youngsters have been part of the Gang Shows over the years, with many growing up with the Show.

I, myself was one of those Gang Show babies, having appeared in my first show back in 1974, as a young Scout and went on to perform in two more in '76 and '78. Even now I still remember the fun and sense of achievement the Gang felt on the last night.

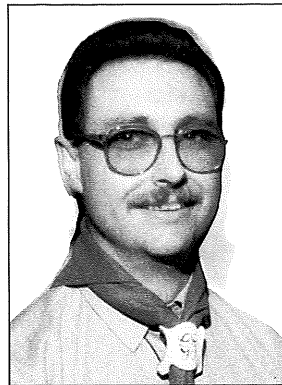
Over the years the show has had the backing of very many people, and tonight's show is a tribute to them. Without their hard work and dedication, none of us would be here tonight. I would also like to pay tribute to all the parents who have supported us, again without their help the show would never have happened.

The items you will see tonight are my personal favourites, and span all the shows from 1970 up to 1992. I hope those of you who have seen the earlier productions will feel we have been faithful to their original zest and vitality.

This is my final year in the Producer's hot seat, and although I now have a few grey hairs, not as much puff as I once had, the last 8 years have been rewarding and enjoyable.

It only remains for me to say, up with the lights, let the music play

It's show time again.....



Andy Brodie
Producer



Scouts and Guides

Front row

Joseph Pamphlett, Alistair McLean, Elizabeth Pepper, Andrew Goad, Simon Morris

Back row

Mark Hooper, David Morris, John Brinklow, Daniel Morris

The Gang Show Board

Honorary President: **Jack Harris**

Chairman: **Eric Wood**

Secretary: **Valerie Williams**

Treasurer: **Ken Nicholls**

Board Members:

**Andy Brodie, Malcolm Dickerson, Chris Hall,
Carol Smith, Madeline Martin, Terry Williams**

**THE GANG OF 1995 THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR
THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE SHOW**

**P.W. Enterprises, Leonard Gould,
17th Tonbridge Scout and Guide Band**



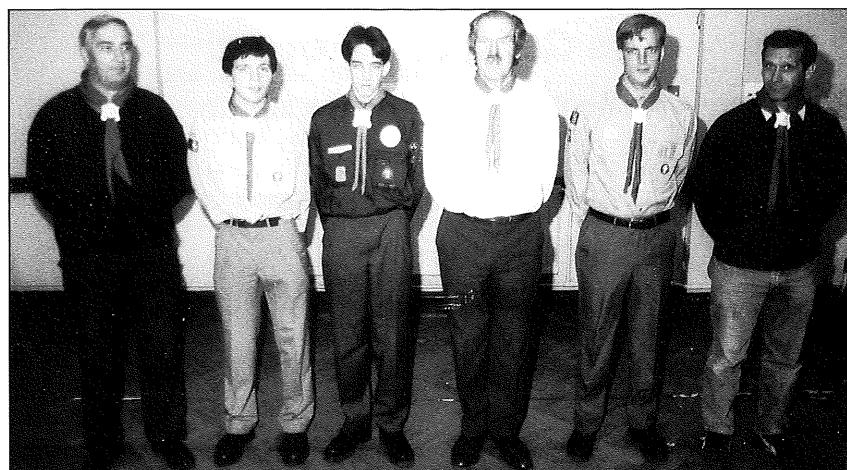
Ventures

Front row

Kathryn Earls, Claire Pepper, Gillian Salvage, Karen Hooper, Helen Thwaite

Back row

Abigail Davies, Stuart Ridout, Richard Townsend, James Goad, Emma Wicks



Backstage

Geoff Brinklow, Ian Hope, Duncan Ford, Stuart Brown, Adrian Brinklow, Roger Baker.



Leaders

Front row

Helen Andrews, Carol Nicholls, Karen Haywood, Jeanette Reid-Mar, Diane Humphreys
Angela Hawkins, Kerry Kearney.

Second row

Valerie Williams, Margaret Brown, Madeline Martin, Alison Jenner, Polly Bailey, Kevin Jenner
Michael O'Kill, Sarah Hobbs.

Third row

Steve James, Terry Williams, David Brown, Donella Haywood, Kevin Hawkins, Stephanie Davies
Neil Porter, Ray Collett, Dot Mannering.

Back row

Gill Simes, Simon Wade, Chris Cook, Simon Davies, Stuart Cole, Ken Nicholls, Mark Culer.

Absent - Sarah Wright, Eric Miller, Jack Harris.

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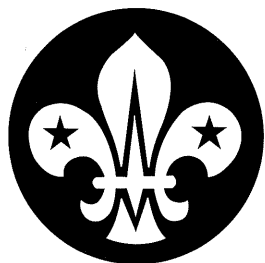
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ALL UNDER ONE ROOF



Maidstone

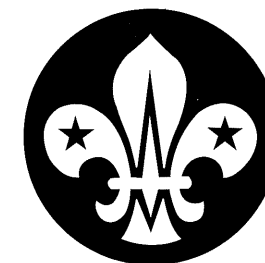
Act One

1. The Opening
2. The Mermaids
3. Little Boy Scout
4. Dickens London
5. I Look Up to Him
6. Maidstone Wanderers
7. Barnum



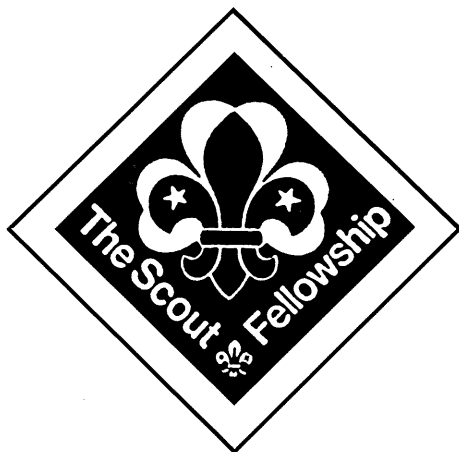
1995

Act Two



1. Money and friends
2. Officer Krupke
3. Thriller
4. Wren's Surprise
5. 42nd Street
6. Das Stein
7. The Haggis
8. Finale

Between the acts there will be an interval of 15 minutes.



The Scout Fellowship welcomes men and women of all ages, interests and backgrounds. There is no need to have been a Scout or a Guide. All that is required from you is a willingness to give Scouting some of your time. In return, you will make friends and enjoy supporting a leading youth movement in your community.

All the necessary support for Scouting in over one thousand Scout Districts in the United Kingdom is brought together in the Scout Fellowship. The Fellowship offers a job of work within a family of friends whilst supporting Scouting and enjoying doing so to the full. The Fellowship also has its own social and activity programme.

To find out more about the Scout Fellowship and how to join

CONTACT

A. Nash or T. Williams
01622-741856 01622-758181

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The Kent Air Ambulance Trust relies on its country-wide system of volunteers who responsible for co-ordinating fundraising in towns and villages.

If you would like to join them, please contact us in the Trust office.

GANG SHOW HISTORY

Over the years many members of the audience and Gang alike have asked how did Gang Shows start, to remedy this we include a potted history of the early days of the "Gang"

Everyone has heard of the name Ralph Reader, and his name is synonymous with that of the Gang Shows and Scout entertainment in general, however, that was not the case back in 1932. Ralph was connected with a group of Rover scouts based in Holborn, London. As he worked in the professional theatre producing production numbers for West End Shows, he was a natural choice to ask if he would produce a one night show in 1932, which was performed at the London Central YMCA

This first show was described as a "Scout Concert", the name Gang Show still had to be born. Such was the success of this trial, that it was decided to put on a second concert at the end of the year. This time there was to be a series of previews in several towns just outside London, before a three night run in the capital itself. This show was the catalyst for what you see tonight, and all the other Gang Shows that run up and down the country. Yet we still did not have the name, in fact it wasn't until the third show that by accident a small Scout gave Ralph the idea by shouting the "the Gang's all here" during one of the rehearsals and it stuck.

The third show was backed by the then County of London to raise funds for a swimming pool, and it was under their patronage that the pre-war shows operated. Each successive year became more popular than the previous, the theatrical world was taken by storm. To keep his anonymity, Ralph used the name of "A Holborn Rover" for describing himself in the programmes, in this way he hoped to keep his professional career and colleagues in Show Biz ignorant of his new hobby. This was not to last, and as a direct result of the news breaking that the Holborn Rover was Ralph Reader, he almost became unemployed, as no theatrical producers were willing to use him due to his connection with the Gang.

1937 was a golden year for the show, with the Gang not only appearing in their very own feature film but also in their first Royal Variety Command Performance. Not bad in five years.

In the same period of time, other shows have sprung up all over the country, in large cities and small towns and villages. To give all Gangs easy access to his material, Ralph gave the whole lot to the Scout movement free of charge, and to this day we can make use of his material, at no cost.

One of these pre-war shows took place in Maidstone in 1939, and was held in the Corn Exchange, next door to this theatre.

During the war, the Scout show went into hibernation, the Gang Show lived on under the patronage of the RAF, as its form of concert party.

It was during the war that Ralph Reader was sent a small brown parcel containing a red Gang Show scarf which had been found on the body of a soldier killed in action. Such was the affinity of those Gang members, that many of them carried their scarves as mascots, and good luck tokens.

Times have changed since those early days, however, one thing remains constant, the experience of actually taking part in a Gang Show. The pride of wearing the red scarf, and the urge to do our best to entertain you, the audience. It is difficult to explain in words the atmosphere backstage, its like nothing else on earth, and in the end its all due to the dedication and vision of Ralph Reader and his early comrades.

ADB

FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Although Scouting in Maidstone is divided into three Districts the Gang Show is an ideal chance to join together as one. I am pleased that Maidstone East District is well represented by all ages in this the 25th Anniversary show. Gang Shows are a excellent way of showing that Scouting is both fun and serious. Knowing those involved, I am sure they will all enjoy themselves. Thank you for supporting this show and please support Scouting whenever you can – young people thrive with support.

Jim Martin

District Commissioner - Maidstone East.

We in Maidstone South are delighted to support the 25th Anniversary Gang Show. I am pleased to see a good number of the cast are Scouts and Leaders from Maidstone South District.

The Gang Show provides an opportunity to raise the profile of scouting in the area. and to show the people of Maidstone what young people can achieve, and how much enjoyment they can have working as a team.

Not only the Gang Show, but also the vast range of other scouting activities are helping young people get the most out of groups all over Maidstone. Long may the Gang Show and Scouting in Maidstone continue

David Dalton

District Commissioner - Maidstone South.

Congratulations to the Maidstone Gang Show on their 25th Anniversary. Tonight's show is a look at the best of the past 25 years performed by young people and adults from Maidstone Scouting. Gang Shows have a special magic that affects cast and audience alike. This show has been put together after a lot of hard work by cast, musicians, 'front of house' and backstage crews and many more, all whilst carrying out their normal Scouting activities. Thank you for supporting the Maidstone Gang Show, enjoy your evening.

John Gurnett

District Commissioner - Maidstone West

TIME MARCHES ON....

....It was in the far off days of 1939 - that other world long ago - that Maidstone Scouts made their first attempt to stage a Gang Show. The 'Kentish Cobs' performance was held at the Corn Exchange, and a look at their programme shows that although things may have changed, others like that 'babbling brook' go on. The 1939 show comprised 29 items and the programme was liberally sprinkled with drawings of the 'old style' Scout, complete with shorts, staves and the B.P. pattern hat. B.P. himself was still 'The Chief' with Lord Somers as his deputy. Changes have indeed come along since then. BUT Ralph Reader was the king-pin of Gang Shows everywhere, and he still is, and the numbers presented by the 'Cobs', "Four Little Fellers", "We've a lot to be Thankful for" and (of course) "Crest of the Wave" have weathered the years well enough to be included in our Show. 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose' as somebody or other said. Ralph was kind enough to write a letter for the 1939 programme and we have great pleasure in printing on the adjoining page his message for this year's show.

Well, enough of the past – up with the curtain and let us see what the Scouts of 1970 can do.....

.....ON WITH THE SHOW

FROM RALPH READER

Hello Maidstone!

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you about a Show. Nearly thirty years, and through all those years one name stands out, a name I shall never forget because it belongs to one of the great men of Scouting and no man has better earned the title of 'Scouter', Glad Bincham.

He first brought me to a Maidstone Show and now, here you are presenting a new Gang Show, and from all the London boys and girls we send you our best and happiest wishes for a tremendous success.

A good Gang Show can be a fine shop-window for the Movement. It can show the spirit, the enthusiasm and the real types we have in Scouting. It can bring us new friends and also recruits and this is the very time we need just these important things.

So go to it, all of you. Every member of a Gang Show in any part of the world will be wishing you as we are, GOOD LUCK.

RALPH
(‘Mr. Gang Show’)

SCOUTING

Scouting is a worldwide Movement helping young people to play their full part in the community. The Scout Association is a multi-cultural, multi-faith organisation that also caters for young people and adults with special needs.

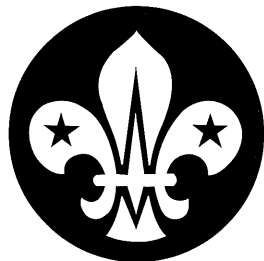
If you are a young person between 6 and 20 years who thinks that Scouting may be for you, please contact one of us to find details of your nearest Scout Group.

Such a Movement depends upon adults who, in their spare time, offer leadership to young people. These Leaders are supported by administrators, instructors, and advisors in a whole range of indoor and outdoor activities. Everybody has some skill or experience they can offer; if you would like to discuss what you can do to help, either as a Leader or in some other way, please contact one of us:

Dave Dalton (01622) 842135

Jim Martin (01622) 729479

John Gurnett (01622) 672688



THE GANG BEHIND THE GANG

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Producer | Andy Brodie |
| <i>Assisted by</i> | Stephanie Davies |
| Choreography | Stephanie Davies and Sarah Wright |
| Director of music | |
| Keyboards | Zoe Thomas |
| Stage Director | Malcolm Dickerson |
| Stage Manager | Paul Morton |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Martin Brinklow |
| Stage Crew | Alison Dickerson Adrian Brinklow, Darren Watson, Trevor Fever, David Fitzpatrick, Phillip Gurnett and Rebecca Duffy |
| Design | Andy Brodie |
| Carpenter | Anthony Scammell |
| Lighting | Duncan Ford |
| <i>Assisted by</i> | Elizabeth Hall |
| <i>Follow Spot Operators</i> | Caroline Allardyce and Graham Eastman |
| Sound | Chris Hall and Ian Hope |
| Costumes | Carol Smith, Maureen Curtis, |
| <i>Assisted by</i> | Trevor Fever, Angie Henry and Paula Shaw |
| Make up | Friends of 'The Gang' |
| Props | Geoff Brinklow and Rodger Baker |
| <i>Assisted by</i> | Pauline Brinklow |
| Front of house | Ken Nicholls |
| <i>Assisted by</i> | Members of the District |
| Catering | Stuart and Margaret Brown |
| Cast Secretary | Madeline Martin |
| Programme | Terry Williams |

MAIDSTONE GANG SHOW ROLL OF HONOUR

| | PRODUCER | MUSICAL DIRECTOR | COSTUMIER | ASSISTANT PRODUCER(S) | CHAIRMAN |
|------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1970 | Tony Palmer | Mike Gadd | Nancy Orrell | Jim Osborn | Dave Foster |
| 1972 | Tony Palmer | Mike Gadd | Nancy Orrell | Jim Osborn | Dave Foster |
| 1974 | Chris Hall | Mike Gadd | Nancy Orrell | Jim Osborn | Dave Foster |
| 1976 | Chris Hall Ian Cradock | Mike Gadd | Nancy Orrell | | Denis Dawson |
| 1978 | Ron Cattell | Mike Gadd | Angela Henry | Malcolm Dickerson Jack Harris | Denis Dawson |
| 1981 | Sue Pepper | Mike Gadd | Angela Henry | Malcolm Dickerson Jack Harris | Eric Wood |
| 1985 | Sue Pepper | Ian Gibbons | Angela Henry | Jack Harris | Eric Wood |
| 1988 | Andy Brodie | Ian Gibbons | Angela Henry | Sue Pepper Jack Harris | Eric wood |
| 1990 | Andy Brodie | | Angela Henry | Steph Davies Alan Livesey | Eric Wood |
| 1992 | Andy Brodie | Jonathan Overall | Angela Henry | Steph Davies Alan Livesey Matt Caney Jill Simes | Eric Wood |
| 1994 | Andy Brodie | Jonathan Overall | Carol Smith | Alan Livesey (Director) Steph Davies Matt Caney Jill Simes | Eric Wood |
| 1995 | Andy Brodie | | Carol Smith | Steph Davies | Eric Wood |

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