



# THE ABBEY WAY

ABBAY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS...



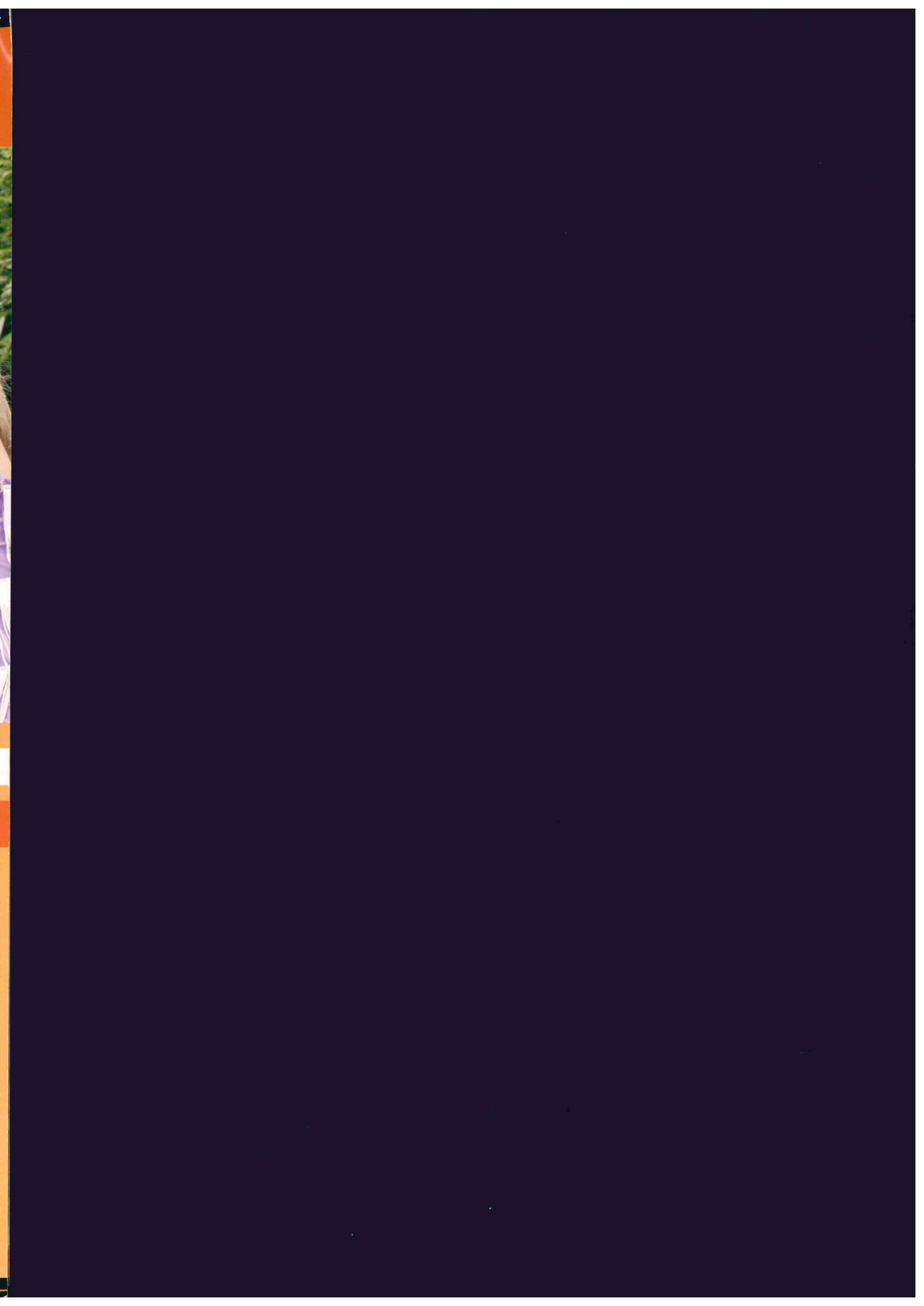
Our four leads: David McEntegart, Roisin Magee, Barry Sands and Naiomh Murphy.

## WHEN YOU SEE A GUY REACH FOR STARS IN THE SKY...

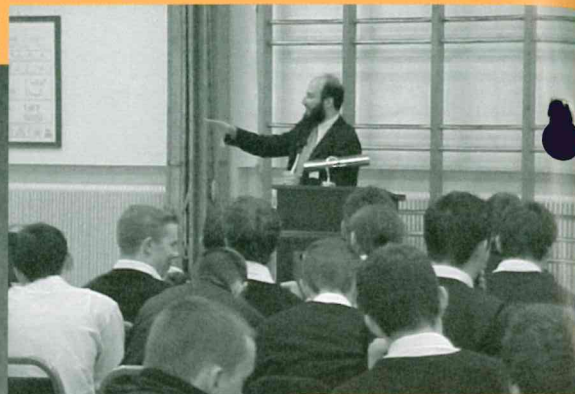
GUYS AND DOLLS OPENS AND CLOSSES TO WIDESPREAD ACCLAIM.

The Abbey Grammar School Production of Guys and Dolls had an incredibly successful run at Newry City's Town Hall, with capacity houses for each of the public performances. The whole school and the wider Abbey family can be justifiably proud of what was achieved during that memorable time in October. The plaudits and praise have rained in ever since the pupils of the Abbey brought the characters of Nathan Sky, Nicely-Nicely, Benny, Rusty and Harry the Horse into our lives. Director Mr. Smyth has been overwhelmed with messages of

congratulation and admiration for the quality of the professional work displayed by everyone associated with the show, but in particular for the students who created so many magical moments to cherish for a long time. This issue of The Abbey Way will cover many images of the show, from the early stages of production to the final performance, both on-stage and off-stage. Again, The Abbey Way wishes to congratulate all concerned with such a magnificent endeavour.







President of the Islamic League Jahamal Iwada addressing a captive audience.

## SOCIAL SPIRITUALITY AND ISLAM

All Seventh Year groups attended a highly engaging workshop presented by the President of the Islamic League in Northern Ireland. This was the first time at the Abbey for Jahamal Iwada and he informed The Abbey Way of how impressed he was by the contribution made by our students. For many in the audience this

was the first opportunity to meet someone from the Muslim community, and indeed, we all discovered that both our faiths have much in common.

Abbey 7th. Year students engaged in the discussion on Islam and the war in Iraq.





## YOUNG CONSUMER COMPETITION



Mr. Markey (Head of Business Studies) and the successful Abbey team on receiving their award for winning the Mid-Ulster Young Consumer Competition.

## FOUR-IN-A ROW FOR THE ABBEY

On the 28th November, in the Armagh City Hotel, the Abbey successfully defended its title of Mid-Ulster champions in the Young Consumer Competition. The team of Steven Rice, Paul O'Hare, Colm O'Grady and Paul Henning had to come from behind to defeat the stiff competition provided by the Sacred Heart and Banbridge Academy, who finished 3rd and 2nd respectively. Indeed a nail-biting final few moments were assured when the Abbey and Banbridge Academy were level at the end of the nine rounds, but the Abbey prevailed in the tie-break. This is the fourth year in succession the Abbey has triumphed in the Mid-Ulster heat, a remarkable achievement. The team now goes forward to the Northern Ireland finals, which will take place on the 5th March in Lisburn, where their opponents will include Methodist College Belfast, Thornhill College Derry and Ballymena Academy.

## FIRST AID AT THE ABBEY



Congratulations to the eight 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils who successfully completed their First Aid Stage One Exam on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The eight pupils took an intense course under the instruction of Mrs. McKeever prior to their exam. The examination instructor was Mr. Gareth Duffy, from the Orchard Leisure Centre, Armagh. All eight pupils hope to further their interest in 'First Aid' by pursuing additional courses in the near future.

The eight pupils pictured with Mrs McKeever are: Mark Kenny, Robert Ryan, Seamus Toner, Fergal Garvey, Patrick Woods, Jonathan Brannigan, Ciaran Browne, and Christopher Carr.

## LOVE FOR LIFE

## YEAR 10 GROUPS AT 'ICEBERGS AND BABIES'



Donard 3 pupils enjoying a break from normal classroom teaching.

On Tuesday, 25th November, all five third year classes attended an engaging and thought-provoking workshop on Love for Life entitled 'Icebergs and Babies.' The programme was presented by Dr. Barr and was organised by Sister Lyng and Mr. Smyth as part of Pastoral Care and to support the programmes of study in PSHE. The pupils were very enthusiastic about the delivery of the presentation as all the issues raised and discussed were of great relevance and value to their lives.

Below are just some of the pupils who attended the presentation.



Darren McGovern, Vincent O'Rourke and Christopher Turley enjoying a break from regular classes.



# CAREERS CONVENTION 2003

## THE ABBEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL CAREERS CONVENTION 2003

Tuesday, September 20th, 2003 was the second bi-annual Careers Convention event offering the opportunity for all students in years 10 – 14 at the Abbey to take time away from their academic commitments in order to examine their career options/choices.

This event plays a very important role in each student's Personal Career Planning whilst, at the same time, they are dealing with the pressure of external examinations. Commenting on the social event, Miss O' Hare (Teacher in Charge of Careers) stated: "at the Abbey, we believe that students must make Informed Career Choices and, to do this they must understand the whole picture about the occupational areas that interest them. In order to illustrate this we provided at the convention a number of

professional and occupational exhibitors ( local, regional and national ) alongside a number of Higher Education Institutions.

In total, over forty exhibitors offered their services and the students availed of the services of these specialists to further enhance their own understanding of the qualifications, skills, and personal attributes necessary for their long-term career plans and lifelong employability.

Thanks again to all those local, regional and national organizations who gave of their time and effort at this event!!



Occupational Therapists from Daisy Hill Hospital with students Johnathan Sands and Ronan Digney.



Dr. Tom Field from the Queen's Physics Department, Belfast, with Jonathan McAleenan, Aidan Holsgrove and Kevin Malone.

## ABBAY DEBATING 2003

The Abbey Debating Team have been participating in the annual Amnesty International Debating Competition.

The team, Daniel-Patrick Heatley, Sean McClory, Christopher Donnelly and Eamonn Donnelly have spent a lot of time and effort in preparing, researching and practising for each debate, all of which has paid dividends.

The opening debate's motion against Our Lady's, was:

"This house believes small arms are the real weapons of mass destruction"

The debate was a very close encounter but the Abbey students emerged victorious with a unanimous decision delivered by the adjudicators.

The second debate:

"This house believes that there should not be an age of consent for alcohol"

produced a hard fought debate but once again the Abbey were successful, this time with a two to one score line.

The final debate took place on December 1st, against St. Patrick's, Downpatrick. The motion for discussion on this occasion was, "This house believes that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a White Elephant."

For a third successive debate the Abbey emerged victorious and now go forward to the quarter – final stage. Congratulations.



Sean McClory and Christopher Donnelly who represented the Abbey in the successful Debating Competition.



## CAST OF GUYS & DOLLS

## A REVIEW BY MR PAT MOONEY

SKY MASTERSON:

BARRY SANDS

NATHAN DETROIT:

DAVID Mc ENTERTAGT

NICELY-NICELY JOHNSTON:

MARK HUGHES

BENNY SOUTHWEST:

MATTHEW JOHNSTON

RUSTY CHARLIE:

MARTIN HEARTY

LT. BRANNIGAN:

RUAIRI MURPHY

ARVIDE ABERNATHY:

CHRISTOPHER CULL

BIG JULIE:

TURLOUGH TRAINOR

HARRY THE HORSE:

EAMONN DONNELLY

JOEY BILTMOE:

CONOR RODGERS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

JOSEPH MURPHY



The dancing girls strut their stuff: what a pretty bevy!

Let's be honest, at most amateur musicals and school shows we have our moments when we shuffle the old feet, become acutely aware of the uncomfortable nature of the Town Hall chairs, and think of what to buy the cat for dinner the next day: tedium sets in. Not so with this show! Guys and Dolls 2003 comes the closest yet to undoubtedly the greatest Abbey Show of all time: Oliver in 1971 produced by the very talented Mr Ray Spallen.

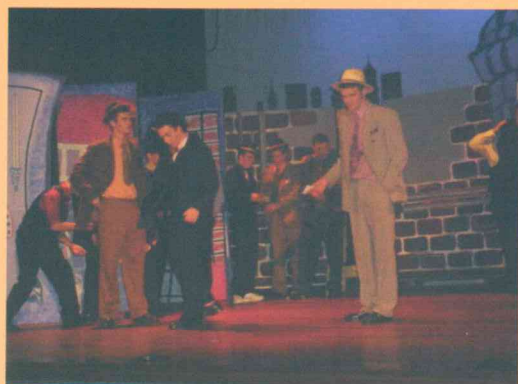
Any parent following the obligation to come to Guys and Dolls cannot but have been thoroughly entertained by such a wonderfully vibrant and slick night of theatre – a night to be remembered. Indeed a number of the audience on the last night had returned to the show for a second time.

Guys and Dolls follows in the tradition set by the first Abbey Musical, the Gypsy Baron, produced by the very

talented Mrs Kathleen Bell in 1969 (interestingly her grandchildren Kevin, Brendan and Conor Bell were dancers in the show). Having seen the quality of Guys and Dolls, it is a tradition which should carry on successfully into the future.

The success of the show was in its all round balanced effectiveness. The main characters, though brilliant in themselves, did not dominate the minor roles: in fact the all round talent of the cast was quite incredible, not a weak character on stage. Barry Sands and Roisin Magee played their roles with brilliance, genuine honesty and a moving intensity – and the kiss when it did come, whether acted or real, was totally credible (thank God that the days of boys playing girls are gone for ever). David McEntegart (what a dedicated actor he is) and Naiomh Murphy as Nathan and Adelaide were not only hilarious in their comic roles but convinced me that they were much older than their youthful years: two highly talented youngsters with a big future. The three gamblers Nicky, Benny and Rusty were effectively sleazy and yet very appealing. The clarity and effectiveness of Mark Hughes' voice is to be commended. Christopher Cull as Arvide Abernathy gave me one of the most sensitive and moving moments of the night as he sang his song to Sarah. All the other characters were perfectly in role and every member of the chorus contributed to the sense of reality on stage.

All the chorus members were alive and entertaining but the two which stand out for me were the rolling dice number: Luck be a Lady and Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat.



Turlough Trainor (Big Julie) in menacing isolation.



The leading men pose on stage.



## GUYS & DOLLS

The music under the direction of Mr Dominic Wadsworth, making his debut in an Abbey Show, was nothing short of brilliant – catchy and entertaining and remained with me for days after. And what about the scintillating drummer Gerard Morgan, a very talented member of a very professional orchestra.

Never have I seen boys dance better in any school show than in this one and combined with the magic of the girls dancing, the visual effect on stage was at times stunning. Numbers were choreographed with an imagination, originality and ingenuity which made one ask for more – Mrs Anne-Marie Morgan (Choreographer) must be the best! And I say this as one who has two left feet or in musicals is usually hidden in the back row behind a large flower pot



Barry Sands (Sky) and Naiomh Murphy (Adelaide) anticipate a great show.

never to be seen. But in Guys and Dolls I especially wanted that absolutely brilliant piece of choreography in the Boat number to go on and on for ever.

All of this must be put together in creative, sensitive and imaginative production and this is what we got from Mr Joe Smyth. Better known to Newry audiences for his acting, this was Joe's first big venture into the production of a school musical for The Abbey. But what a debut! Joe put together one of the best shows I have seen in Newry City's Town Hall in over a decade. The casting, the movement and pictures on stage, the rhythm and pace of the show was of a professional standard. The characterisation for such young actors certainly reflected the touch of Joe's many years of experience on stage. From the



Ruairi Burns 'loading' his dice.

moment the curtain opened till it fell at the end I was swept up in the story and the reality of New York – and what about those brilliant New York accents from all on stage!.. Joe kept control of a very energetic show: it was superb production – the moulding of a superb team of talented people, not always an easy task. This was Joe's achievement.

One of the other features of the show that was stunningly professional was costuming: colourful, theatrical and exhilarating and probably expensive, but well worth it. Scenery was suitably minimalist and thus effective. Stage management was very slick and went unnoticed as it should be: particularly effective was the moving of the benches on and off for the boat number. Sound was the best I have ever heard in a school show: clear and easy on the ear. Lighting was effective and did its job but I felt that it could have been more adventurous, especially in the big numbers.

It was obvious that this was a big team effort by all involved and a team they truly were – a credit to the Abbey. Congratulations to all.

Stairs and their eyes....



In this respect Mrs Mary MacGinty, Head of Drama and co-ordinator of the show is to be congratulated for all her time, effort and administration. However her greatest achievement was undoubtedly in bringing together three highly artistic and immensely talented people who brought the show to such a superb level, Mrs Anne-Marie Morgan, Mr Dominic Wadsworth and, of course, Mr Joe Smyth.

John Keats, the poet, was always quick to point out that at the moment of greatest success in any human endeavour, we need to be wary for the downward spiral may be already setting in. I humbly suggest that we do not take the talents that we now have for granted. They must not be lost. They must be recognised and nurtured carefully for the future. Rich artistic talent does not come to us every day. Let us care for it and look after it for the next generation of students in the Abbey: they deserve it. Let us please make sure we take this talent with us to our new school. The tradition must be continued. We look forward to 2005-2006.



The mission band before the show opens



As I'm sure all of the pupils and parents in the school are aware, October 2003 saw the Abbey's memorable adaptation of 'Guys and Dolls' the musical performed at Newry City's Town Hall and proved to be an indubitably massive success. This account, however, deals not with what happened on stage, but what happened off it. Throughout the duration of the show's run at the Town Hall I, along with several others, was involved in 'stage management', which basically consisted of standing round for two hours and occasionally switching a couple of pieces of set!

Though incredibly demanding and challenging, we managed to successfully complete our most menial of tasks with on average only two mistakes per performance – pretty impressive I think! Although I can be held responsible for the majority of errors I will lay the blame on two anonymous English teachers and a stage



Early days for the dancing girls.



Joseph Murphy in rehearsal for his role as 'M.C.'

hand known merely as 'Jeff,' who was with stage management for about two weeks before the opening of the play and then only appeared at three shows as the stress took its toll, and subsequently retired from the team due to illness!

Although there were two teachers to assist us in our plight, the leader of the 'backstage crew' was Kieran Black: his real name must remain undisclosed for legal reasons which I won't divulge. Anyway, he successfully harnessed his psychopathic tendencies to create a real sense of camaraderie, fraternity and fear amongst the cast and crew. And so, as the magic unfolded on stage the infamous 'boss man', as he became known, was busy shouting at First Years and generally anyone who came within five feet of his presence.

Inexorably, his 'passion' for the show led to him upsetting some cast members who crossed him and then suffered his 'terrible' wrath ..... oooh! Because of his 'Phil Mitchell' way with people, he was made the subject of an ingenious prank devised by several people to encourage him to attend a 'Cast Party' which was non-existent and was 'supposedly' taking place in the back

bar of the Exchange nightclub on a Friday night – need I continue! In saying all this, he did do his job immaculately and didn't make one mistake, so I can't say too much! The experience of back stage was really interesting and one which I found very insightful and emotive, although I never actually got to see the play in its entirety as I only could see what was happening from the wings!

One thing that did surprise me was the concentration of all the characters, especially those with minor roles who, as it turned out, were just as essential as the principal cast were to the success of the play. The junior school boys' decorum before going on or when in fact leaving the stage was very impressive and revealed to me at least the collective dedication of all associated with the play in attempting to make it as good as possible.

In concluding, I would like to congratulate the cast and production team on their huge success and suggest that anyone even remotely interested in stage work should get involved without hesitation as it's certainly a fulfilling experience.

Matthew serenades Mark.



Mrs McAreavey and her talented Art team.





## MARK RODGERS S2A

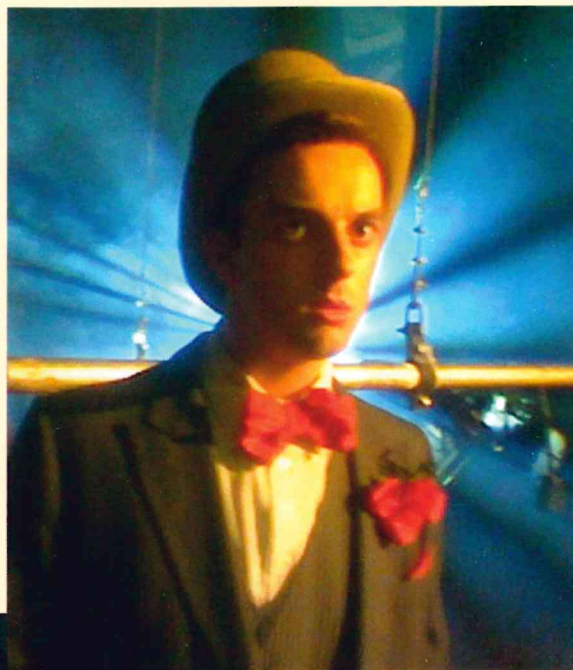
I joined the school production of 'Guys and Dolls' in April 2003 because I would like to pursue a career in acting and, although it started off as just another credit to put on my C.V, I can honestly say I enjoyed every minute of it!

I was cast as a singer and mover and from May onwards there was no looking back, as I was jumping, singing and dancing to the well known hits of the musical such as, 'Luck be a Lady' and 'Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat'.

As the weeks rolled on and the show's premiere drew closer, I realised how special the show would be and how well everyone; cast, crew and teachers had done. There was a great atmosphere and a strong team spirit, everyone really got on well. I made many new friends from 1st to 7th year through the show too. The girls who starred in the show were very nice and I know I'll do my best to keep in contact with them!

After hours of rigorous dance routines and hard work perfecting those final singing notes, it was time for our first performance in Newry City's Town Hall. The costumes looked superb and the set looked so realistic I almost forgot where I was! Everyone was really excited and nervous, but ready for lights, camera, action! I had butterflies in my stomach, but on stage the nerves disappeared and the whole cast, including myself, enjoyed every minute of being up on stage in front of a packed audience. My favourite scenes in the play were the raid scenes and hot box scenes: what boy wouldn't love a good looking girl sitting on his lap?

After the show was finished everyone was really pleased with the reception we had received, but we were also somewhat saddened that our characters would no longer come to life for even one more crap game. But we all remembered the fantastic time we had making the show. I made lots of new friends and had lots of fun, and it wouldn't have been possible without Mr. Smyth who directed the play. It's great that Abbey students are offered the chance to produce their own theatre show and despite the fact "Guys and Dolls" has finished I'm desperately waiting for the next school show.



A chorus of approval.



David Mc Entegart looking suitably theatrical.

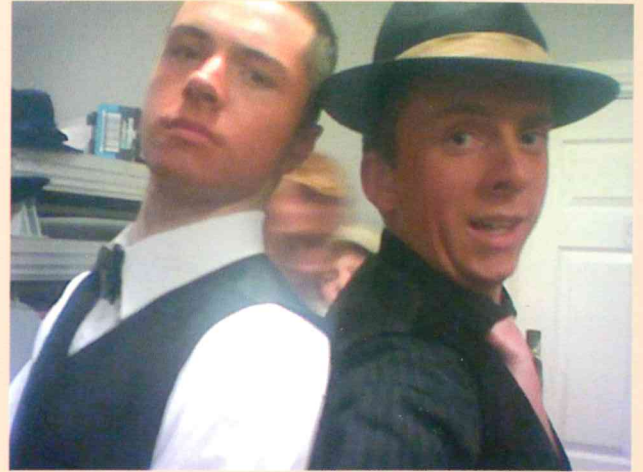






Junior chorus in high spirits.

Steven Kavanagh and Ruairi Burns pose.

**JOSEPH MURPHY 62A**

Life may be seen as a collection of memories: a constant thread of events that form our past, shape our present, and will influence our future. There are certain incidents and occasions in our lives that will always be ingrained in memory. Whatever we become in the future, wherever we go in our lives, the cast and crew of *Guys and Dolls* will recollect the experience throughout their lives with great fondness. Our show is over, and all that remains is a video archive that does little to capture the magic of theatre. So, what is left, but memory?

My earliest recollection of the show is sitting in Mr. Smyth's drama room early in April. I was surrounded by a cohort of eager thespians, who would become the gifted cast of *Guys and Dolls*. We sat, nervously, auditioning for roles. We read scenes that all would soon know word-for-word, sang songs that would be hummed and chanted for months to come, and chatted with students who would become fast friends.

Roles were cast, and so we became principals, semi-principals, dancers, movers, and chorus: each with an integral function to perform.

And, so we came to the menial task of learning lines and lyrics over the summer holidays. Summer ended, and we were, for the first time, immersed intensively in the school show.

For me, one of the most memorable processes was learning the dance numbers with choreographer Ann-Marie Morgan. Most of us, myself in particular, had never worked on any dance moves before, so the experience was both thrilling and absurd. And then the girls came along. Semi-professional female dancers with years of experience, all watching us flailing ourselves ridiculously around the school hall. Talk about humiliating!

Mr. Smyth reminded us at most rehearsals that we weren't aiming to perform an excellent school show, but rather an excellent show performed by a school. What is the difference? Commitment. Commitment is more than simply showing up to rehearsals. It involves not only concentration, but remaining quiet while others are performing. Fortunately, we were blessed with a highly-disciplined group, and this was certainly one of the most significant contributions to the success of the show.

But the atmosphere was never tense or stressful (well,

perhaps the last dress rehearsal, where nothing seemed to go right). Mapping out stage directions for some of the more populated scenes was exceptionally enjoyable. The 'Raid Scene', where Lieutenant Brannigan finds the crap shooters playing in the Mission Hall, lasted for a total of around thirty seconds, but required hours upon hours of choreography and rehearsal to get it just right. So was it worth it? It's a difficult sensation to describe, how rewarding the sound of laughter and applause can be, but for me, and all the cast, it happened for us that first night. And the next night, and indeed at all the shows. It's something special: an inner

feeling of satisfaction, a feeling that you've produced something and that something is great. And that, one might argue, is what it's all about.

And so, we are left with little but a memory. But why is that memory so great? Why will it stand up against others? Because the show was magnificent. If it had not been, it would not be worth remembering. All the hours of intense learning, rehearsal and performance, they all culminate in what has become one of the most significant and pleasing memories for all those involved in *Guys and Dolls*. What more can you ask for?

Christopher Cull wears his uniform with pride.





## POETRY

### DOCTOR DAD

"Five fruits a day  
help you work rest and play"  
or  
"Your health is your wealth"  
I've heard him say.

My dad's a doctor-  
He's worked hard to be,  
So he advises us for free you see.

"Eat your greens-  
Including broad beans"  
(They've more vitamins  
or so it seems!)

As I tuck into meat  
(Including the fat)  
He'll say, "Leave that son, you're not a cat!"

"Let's go for a swim  
or maybe a run?  
Or a walk in the park would be such fun!"

We leave the pool  
(barely alive)  
To hear that he had been for a drive!

"Early to bed early to rise"  
Such healthy tips  
Come as no surprise.

To keep us right  
And show us he cares  
To his medical journals  
He continuously refers.

But

As into the cross-country mud  
I sink  
I cannot  
help but think-just for once  
Wouldn't it be nice  
If dad would follow his own advice!

Vikash Kanjee - Slemish 1

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Abbey Way has been  
awarded second place in  
the SELB School  
Magazine Competition.

The award was presented at the  
SELB headquarters in Armagh  
City and is a recognition of the  
tremendous endeavour of many  
of the staff and pupils in our  
school. Well Done!!!

## DESIGN YOUR NEW SCHOOL ENTRANCE HALL

Plans are well under way for the building of our new school and Mr McGovern has requested that there should be as much student input as possible in the formulation of ideas and in the actual design for certain aspects of the school. One area that we have identified is the entrance to the school. How would you like to be greeted on arrival into the main entrance? What would you like visitors to see on entering the school? Is there anything particularly symbolic that you feel would reflect the ethos and spirituality of the Abbey Grammar in a meaningful way?

Create your own image of what the entrance/foyer should be and accompany this with a paragraph telling us how and why you have come up with your design. Pay particular attention to the following:

- Pictures/images.
- Atmosphere.
- Features (e.g. water ).
- Seating.
- The old Abbey Grammar.
- Shape/Size of the space.
- Texture/Colour/Fabric.
- The Past/Present/Future.

Mr McGovern has agreed to provide generous prizes for the most effective and the most imaginative work offered to The Abbey Way.

## SWIMMING

### ULSTER SWIMMING SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Venue: Waves Centre Lurgan  
Date: Saturday 4th October 2003

Students involved:  
Niall O' Neill Do1  
Kevin Hegarty Or1  
Feilim O'Connor Or 1  
David Burns Or 1  
Fergal Boyle Br 2

All students were involved in freestyle and medley relay.

Breaststroke: David Burns 2nd. in S.E.L.B.  
Butterfly: David Burns 2nd. in S.E.L.B.  
Backstroke: Niall O' Neill

David was selected to represent our school in the Ulster Finals on November 1st in both Breaststroke and Butterfly.

## MUSIC

### MUSICAL NOTES

This last term has been a hectic, yet industrious time, for the musicians of the Abbey. Many hours were spent rehearsing for "Guys and Dolls"; the band, chorus, and leads, culminating in an outstanding production performed to packed houses. No sooner had the dust settled on the boards when another demanding rehearsal schedule was in place with the Jazz Band performing some new numbers, as well as old favourites, at the Senior Prize-giving, and the Choir and Brass Group also ventured on many outings, performing two carol services in Newry Cathedral and taking part in a Newry Business Charity event in the Canal Court Hotel. Further events this term will involve a Spring Concert on Thursday 25th March '04 in the School Hall. Ensembles will include: The Abbey Orchestra, Jazz Band, Choir, Traditional Group and many more: a night not to be missed!!



## ESAT-BT YOUNG SCIENTIST &amp; TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

List of pupils invited to participate.

## -Level

Name(s)	Title	Description	Tutor
Fergus Heatley	High Voltage Detector	An electronic device which attaches to a JCB Arm. This device will detect the proximity of high-voltage cables and remotely alert the cab driver.	T.Mooney
Rory O'Rourke Donal Myles	Ladder Leveller	An electro-mechanical device to ensure the safe use of ladders	G.Savage

## KS4

Name(s)	Title	Description	Tutor
Aaron McCormack Simon Cable	'Hot-Pot'	An intelligent saucepan to assist the visually impaired determine the temperature of its contents. Cold, boil or simmer will be indicated by different pitches of sound	T.Mooney
Sean McClory	Auto-Measure	A dual purpose product which could measure the amount of rope a climber has left or the amount of cable run of a coil. This measure is displayed numerically	G.Savage
Patrick McShane Michael McNeil	Siz-o-matic	A device that accurately determines shoe size.	M.Rodgers

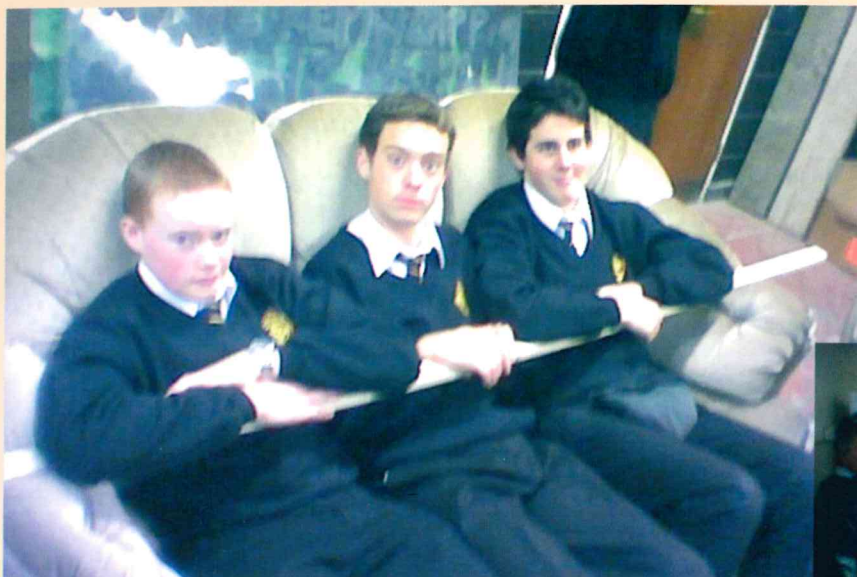
## KS3

Name(s)	Title	Description	Tutor
Jack McGovern Michael Boyle	DVT	A mechanical device to reduce the very real risk of 'deep vein thrombosis.'	M.Rodgers
Conor Sweeney	Safe-Seat	A device for use on a school bus to indicate to the driver if all occupied seats have fastened their seat belts.	S.Higgins
Aiden Quinn Vincent O'Rourke	Sleep-Safe	An automated aid to help prevent cot-death	T.Mooney
Sean Murphy	Safety Plug	A novel innovation to ensure small children don't get a nasty shock from an unused plug-socket!	G.Savage
Philip McClory (Foras Na Gaeilge)	Irish Teaching Aid	This does exactly what it says on the tin!	M.Rodgers
Keith Mooney Ethan Toner	Interactive Baby's Teething Ring	An electronic teething ring which help young babies break new teeth while also rewarding them with light and sound. This device uses fibre-optic cable.	G.Savage
Stephen McClelland	Sequential Planner	An electronic diary which helps children with learning disabilities structure their day	M.Rodgers

## REMEMBER!

Projects submitted for entry do not automatically qualify for the competition in the RDS in January. Each project is screened by a panel of judges who will shortlist the 480 projects that will compete in the finals. A well thought out and detailed One Page Proposal will give projects a greater chance for final selection





Back stage crew on a work-to- rule!



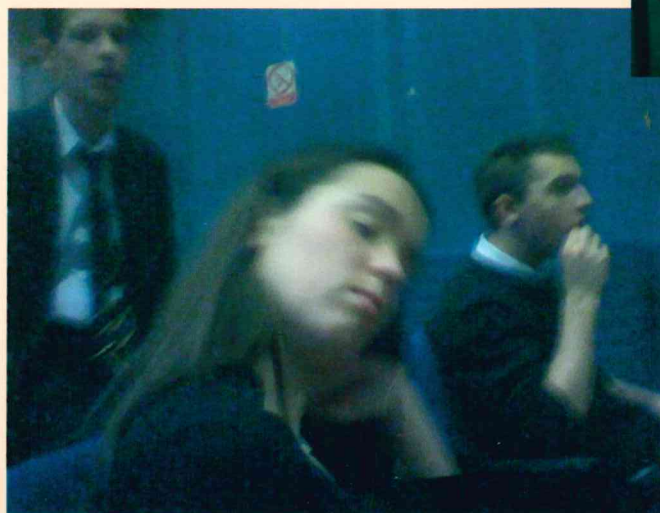
Sr. Anne and Miss Quinn 'getting stuck in'.



He's a heavy gambler!

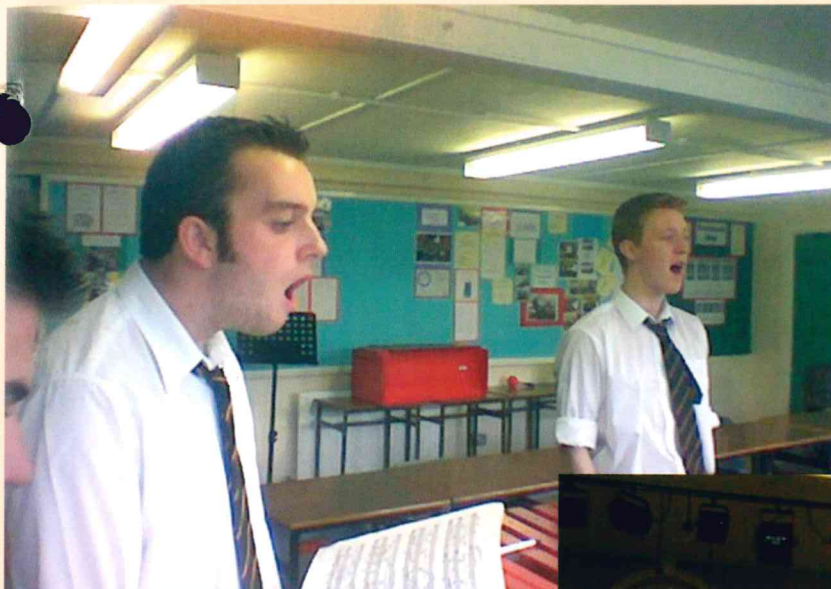


Mr Smyth and Mr Wadsworth working with the male leads, David McEntegart and Barry Sands.



Roisin needs a rest- it's tough being a lead!





'Anything you can sing I can sing higher...'



Mr Smyth joins the chorus line.



Masking in their glory!



Steven Malone makes the bench as a 'super sub'!



"This is tougher than teaching Mr Morgan".





Mark Hughes selling the show.



Did any of you guys see a rabbit...?



Conal! Just look where the others are looking!





Mr Wadsworth's reaction on being told of another production meeting.



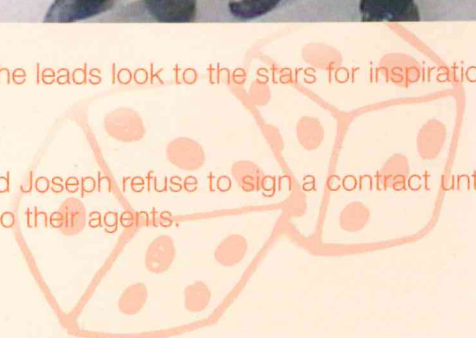
Mrs Carville putting the leads over the songs- it's early days!



The leads look to the stars for inspiration.



Conor and Joseph refuse to sign a contract until they talk to their agents.









## Order! Order! The Council is in session!

The hustings are silent, the votes are counted, the winners have been declared. No, not the Assembly Elections! The Abbey Student Representative Council, the SRC, is now in place and unlike the Assembly, has begun its work. Over the last month form classes have seen the democratic process in action. Nominations were taken and votes cast to send to the SRC two representatives from each class.

This innovation is not only an exercise in leadership, although this is a vital element. Of at least equal importance is the provision of a platform for the student voice to be heard on a host of issues and listened to carefully by the Senior Management Team. Students have debated

in their form classes two contrasting areas: How might the building and facilities, and the organisation and running of the school be improved in the short term? And, when we move to the new school in a few years what in the way we do things in the Abbey should be taken with us, and what would be better left at the present site to 'rest in peace'?

The second stage of the process has already begun with each year group's representatives meeting their designated Senior Council Mentor, drawn from Upper 6th. Word is that the ideas are many and varied! The Senior Council will meet the Senior Management Team in January to discuss the issues brought to them by the

SRC. This will represent the second occasion this academic year when students have brought issues to the management table. We hope that this will be a regular and routine feature of the life of the Abbey.

It is hoped that before the year is out, the SRC will meet as a body to develop a constitution so that the full council can assemble regularly to debate issues and make proposals to management.

If Tony Blair's plan to allow 16 year olds to vote becomes reality, the Abbey student will be ready, not only to elect someone else to represent him, but to represent himself and others!

## Track of the Foot

There are several stories about the Track of the Foot

One story suggests that St. Patrick visited the area and that the foot print is where he stood on a snake when banishing them from Ireland.

Another story is where St. Brigid stood on the stone to look at the Mass Rock for the last time and her foot print was left as a memory of the occasion.

Another story is when a man was coming home from a long day's work on the local quarry and he sat down for a rest but fell asleep on the stone. That night there was a terrible frost and the man's foot became stuck to the stone. Unable to free it he took out his hammer and chisel and chiselled around his foot until it became free. Hence the print was left in the stone.

The strangest thing about it is that anyone's foot will fit in.

Jarlath McAteer - Slemish 1

## GEOGRAPHICAL PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Enter the Geographical Photograph Competition by taking a photograph relating to any Geographical topic and write a short description (50 words).

Prizes of Gift Tokens will be awarded to Best in Year Group, Overall Junior Winner, and Overall Senior Winner. The competition is open to Geography students only. Closing date January 16th 2004 - see your Geography Teacher for further details.

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- The Golf Society
- Abbey Progress in The MacRory Cup
- The First Year London Trip
- ESAT Young Scientist Results and Photographs
- Update on our Debating Team
- Winners of New School Design Competition
- Abbey Charity in the Community
- Trip to Spain

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