

SURREY YOUTH THEATRE MUSICAL 2008

MOBY DICK **A Whale of a Tale**



Book and lyrics by Robert Longden.
Music by Hereward Kaye and Robert Longden.

The marriage of St. Trinian's style anarchic schoolgirls and Herman Melville's dark masterpiece would seem to be a most unholy alliance but it makes a highly entertaining and funny show. The 1950's meet the 1850's in an extraordinary way, in this jolly, fast-moving romp of a musical. We hope that adults in the audience will be inspired to read the dramatic story of the hunt for MOBY DICK in its full and original form, but meanwhile, this home-made version, using girls as well as boys to play the male characters and a male actor to play the Headmistress, will supply the gist of the story.

The humour lies in the fact that the whole thing is written and acted by the girls and seen through their eyes. In their way, they tell the tale, with the help of the Head, who gives 'herself' the leading role of the obsessive Captain Ahab. A funny book and strong music and lyrics, in a variety of styles, serve the story well. A hornpipe and a native dance might be expected, but there is also 1950's doo-wop, gospel, and 80's pop in the rich mix.

In our last production, the 18th century comedy WILD OATS, the majority of parts were for the boys, but in MOBY DICK The Musical, where Melville's weird and wonderful characters come and go with bewildering speed, for once, the girls get a look-in! The fourth and sixth forms of St. Godley's Academy for (rather unladylike) Young Ladies have written and produced this extravaganza and they are jolly well going to play the best parts. The boyfriends (and Security Guards!) are pressed into service for the rest.

We look forward to welcoming, and entertaining you at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre in July 2008 – with MOBY DICK.

Angela Hardcastle
Director