Programme notes Act 2 Bugsy Malone Sat 22nd October 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Welcome back for Act 2 of this production of Bugsy Malone.

Fat Sam is very upset at having lost most of his gang in the ambush by Dandy Dan’s mob. He is wearing his double breasted pin striped suit, a red carnation in his buttonhole. Knuckles is wearing a dark suit and a trilby hat. The rival mobsters turf wars are hotting up. Sam knows he risks losing his entire empire unless he can improve his fire power of hand thrown weapons, to succeed against Dandy Dan’s splurge guns.

Act 2 scene 1 opens with Tallulah centre stage in front of a tall microphone singing ‘My name is Tallulah’ She is wearing a grey ostrich feather stole over a slinky cream satin knee length dress. Circling her head is a diamante headband, a single ostrich feather pointing upwards tucked into the back. She is joined by four of the showgirls, who are dancing and singing, each of their faces lit within a square picture frame surrounded by lightbulbs.

Scene 2 takes us to the girls dressing room after a show, to the right a clothes rail hung with many costumes. In the centre a dressing table with mirror surrounded by lightbulbs. There are two bentwood upright chairs and a tailors dummy. The girls tease Bangles on her new outfit before the girls leave. Fat Sam comes in and Knuckles bursts out from his hiding place under the clothes rail.

Scene 3 From behind the clothes rail, Knuckles wheels out a repeat firing machine gun that looks like a large period era aluminium cine camera on a tripod. It has a funnel on the top and a winding handle on the side. Knuckles aims the contraption at the tailors dummy, winds the handle, fires and after a puff of smoke, staggers and collapses into a chair. Fat Sam beats the tailors dummy and curses as he clears the dressing room by himself.

As narrator, Tallulah sums up Fat Sam’s dicey predicament.

Scene 4 finds Bugsy and Blousey on a date eating hotdogs. She wears her brown coat over her dress. He gives her a gift in a box and she dreams of a life as a Hollywood star, before rushing off with her carpet bag.

Scene 5 at the rear of the Speakeasy. A pile of rubbish and dustbins hides a down and out moaning – attracting Bugsy’s attention. Bugsy goes to investigate, and is then jumped on, beaten and mugged by a bunch of hoodlums before being rescued by Leroy Smith who is a large, strong but gentle man. Leroy is wearing a brown suit with matching waistcoat

Scene 6 Lit by a large overhead sign announcing Sluggers Gym, Bugsy introduces Leroy to the boxing coach Cagey Joe. The Gym is filled with aspiring boxers in white satin shorts and white vest tops exercising, throwing punches at each other, skipping and hitting long leather punchbags, while Cagey Joe sings ‘So you want to be a boxer’ . Cagey Joe wears a pair of brown boxing gloves and a dark red satin jacket over brown trousers.

Scene 7 we are back at the Speakeasy. Bugsy is pacing waiting to meet Blousey, although Tallulah has a message for Bugsy that Fat Sam wants to meet him with an offer he can’t refuse. Joe the bartender clears the tables while Fizzy mops the floor.

Scene 8 & 9 and Blousey finds Bugsy at the Speakeasy having been waiting for him at the train station. She stands and sadly sings ‘Ordinary Fool’ before being joined by the showdancers.

Scene 10 in the street at the back of the Speakeasy Bugsy calls Leroy with a proposition. He’s had a tip off about the location of Dandy Dan’s weapons cache. The Dockside lockup is well defended by Dan’s baseball bat wielding security guards. They are wearing baseball outfits including protective helmets. Bugsy knows that he and Leroy are outnumbered, but he has a plan for recruiting ‘down and outs’ for his army, and they use the smallest – Babyface, as the decoy.

Scene 11 and Dandy Dan plots his revenge for this audacious theft and plans to take the fight right into the Speakeasy for the

Finale – The ‘no holds barred’ splurge gunfight is a mass slaughter. Cream covered Dandy Dan and Fat Sam shake hands and all the splattered corpses gradually rise to sing the final rousing number ‘You give a little love’