

The Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts, Inc.
presents:

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

Book by:

Jay Thompson, Marshall Barer and Dean Fuller

Lyrics by:

Marshall Barer

Music by:

Mary Rodgers

Based on the story "The Princess and the Pea" by Hans Christian Andersen

Director

Lisa Astbury

Music Director

Alexandre Abdoulaev

Choreographer

Mandy Mitchell

Producers:

Guy Dillaway and Betsy Soule

Weston Town Hall
Weston, Massachusetts
March 28 & 29 and April 3 & 4, 2009

Production is given with the express written permission of the
R&H Theater Library
229 West 28th Street, 11th floor
New York, New York 10001

Company

Princess Winnifred
Queen Aggravain
King Sextimus
Prince Dauntless
Sir Harry
Lady Larkin
Minstel
Jester
Wizard
Nightingale
Sir Studley

Heather Darrow
Beth Martin
Lance Dillaway
Kirk Hornberger
Paul Murphy
Jenny Gratz
Chas Kircher
Caroline N. Kurman
Jim Kopycinski
Jennifer Barrett
Kevin Morin

Knights & Ladies: Bethany Aiken, Janice Elinoff, Kristin Freedman, Bevie Lord, Victoria Powell, Nick Raponi, Doug Stiles, Meg Winikates, and Michael Zimmer

Scenes and Musical Numbers

Act I:

Prologue

Many Moons Ago
Minstrel

The Throne Room

Opening for a Princess
Lady Larkin, Prince Dauntless, Knights & Ladies

In a Little While
Sir Harry & Lady Larkin

A Corridor

In a Little While (*Reprise*)
Sir Harry & Lady Larkin

The Courtyard

Shy
Winnifred, Knights & Ladies

The Minstrel, The Jester & I
Minstrel & Jester

Princess Winnifred's Dressing
Chamber

Sensitivity
Queen Aggravain & the Wizard

A Corridor

Swamps of Home
Winnifred, Prince Dauntless & Ladies

The Courtyard

A Corridor

Normandy
Minstrel, Jester & Lady Larkin

The Great Hall

Song of Love
Prince Dauntless, Winnifred, Knights & Ladies

INTERMISSION

Act II:

The Castle

Princess Winnifred's Dressing
Chamber

Happily Ever After
Winnifred

A Corridor

Man to Man Talk
Prince Dauntless

Wizard's Chamber

A Corridor

Very Soft Shoes
Jester

Another Corridor

Yesterday I Loved You
Sir Harry & Lady Larkin

Princess Winnifred's Dressing
Chamber

A Corridor

Banquet Hall

Finale
Company

Production Staff

Stage Managers	Jean MacFarland & Guy Dillaway
Set Design	Guy Dillaway & Lisa Astbury
Set Construction & Painting	Will McFarland, Guy Dillaway, Lisa Astbury
Program	Cathy Merlo & Betsy Soule
Program Cover	John Cooperrider, Suzanne Singer & R&H Theatricals
Publicity	Jack Agnew & Maria Wardwell
Tickets	Kirk Hornberger
Props	Lisa Astbury, Jean MacFarland, & Betsy Soule
Costumer	Caroline Mede
Costume Assistant	Amy Bettencourt
Lighting Design & Operation	Michael Bromberg
Sound Design & Operation	Dean Miller
Front of House	Beverly Dillaway
Advertising	Guy Dillaway, Will McFarland, Betsy Soule, Cathy Merlo & Maria Wardwell
Webmaster	Ken Gagne

Weston Friendly Society Board of Directors

President: Betsy Soule
Secretary: Kirk Hornberger
Treasurer: Maria Wardwell

Board of Directors: Jack Agnew, Flora Booth, Guy Dillaway, Dick Leonhardt,
Will McFarland, Caroline Mede and Sue Ryan

Acknowledgments

John Cooperrider	Crown Linen
Hingham Civic Theater	Jean MacFarland
Weston Board of Selectmen	Weston Golf Club
Donna S. VanderClock, Town Manager	Margaret Lindsay Foundation

And ~

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Weston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Orchestra

Conductor and Piano
Bass
Guitar
Trumpet
Percussion

Alexandre Abdoulaev
Benjamin Reynolds
Mike Lecuyer
Lauren Strobel
Charlie Vaughn

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

The Crew:

Lisa Astbury (Director): Lisa is absolutely delighted to be directing Weston's *Once Upon A Mattress*. She has idolized this show since she first heard the soundtrack years and years ago with the infamous Carol Burnett. A native of Ellsworth Maine, Lisa has had a wonderful opportunity to work and train with outstanding Directors in the New England area as well as be on stage with some of the most talented people on earth! Some of her favorite roles on stage have been Joy AND Portia in *Cinderella*, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Karen in *Plaza Suite*, and Mae in *Pajama Game*. Her real passion is directing and she has been quite busy with over 9 shows including *The Odd Couple* (Concord Players), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Carlisle Savoyard Light Opera Company), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lancaster), *Rumors* (The Grand Theater), and of course, *Mattress* here at WFS. She would like to dedicate this show to her cousin Heather who made the role of Winnie look so easy!!! Love to all her family and friends.

Alexandre Abdoulaev (Music Director): Alexandre holds a B.M. in Piano Performance and a M.A. in Musicology from the Catholic University of America and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Boston University. Having studied with such renowned instructors as Radoslav Kvapil, Boaz Sharon, Thomas Mastroianni, Michael Maher, and Lewis Porter, Mr. Abdoulaev received his training in both classical and jazz piano, and has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe at such venues as the Krieger Museum in Washington, D.C., the Amalfi Coast Festival in Salerno, Italy, and the Gina Bachauer Competition in Salt Lake City, UT. Previous musical theater work includes Dana Hall School's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2008), Summer Dinner Theatre's production of *Damn Yankees* (2007), and Sweet Apple Theatre Company's production of *Joe!* (2008).

Mandy Mitchell (Choreographer): Mandy is pleased to be working with such a fun loving cast and crew for this production of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Mandy's past choreography credits include *Guys and Dolls*, *Chicago*, and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (DASH winner). Mandy enjoys her time onstage as well and will be performing in Newton Country Players production of *A Murder is Announced* in April. Mandy would like to thank everyone who's feet she's stepped on and her Mom and Dad for their support and love!

The Cast:

Bethany Aiken (Lady Merrill) – Bethany is pleasantly surprised to find herself onstage again; her theatrical involvement more often consists of music directing and playing the piano, most recently at the Weathervane Theatre in northern New Hampshire., where she was the music director for the intern program and AMD for Equity mainstage productions including *Rent*, *Violet*, & *Oklahoma!*. She is excited to return there this summer. Bethany is employed in the off-season as a piano teacher and accompanist; she also recently completed an MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College.

Jennifer Barrett (Nightingale) – Jennifer is thrilled to make her Weston Friendly debut. She has thoroughly enjoyed the experience with the wonderful cast and crew. Jennifer has performed in musicals and cabarets. She belonged to her university's Choral Union and Ballroom Dance groups. Jennifer has studied theater in London and California. Jennifer would like to thank her husband, Nick, for his loving support and kindness. She would also like to thank her Mom, Dad, brother and friends for their love and encouragement. Jennifer is very grateful to her mother, who spent many hours helping her prepare for this role.

Heather Darrow (Winnifred) – Heather was last seen as Kate Mullins in *Titanic: The Musical* with the Needham Community Theater. She is very happy to be sharing the stage with so many talented friends from that production. A graduate in performing arts from Bradford College, her recent productions include *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Brigadoon*, *Beauty & the Beast*, and *Assassins*. Favorite roles include Bella in *Lost in Yonkers*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Heather sends all her love to family and friends for their unending support and, of course, her very own prince, Todd.

Lance Dillaway (King Sextimus) – Since his first Weston Friendly show in 1977, Lance has enjoyed a variety of roles from orchestra, usher, set construction, and front of house to singing and dancing. His favorite roles include Will Parker in *Oklahoma*, the Tinman in *Wizard of Oz*, Harry Beaton in *Brigadoon*, Sir Harry in *Once Upon a Mattress*, D'Arque in *Beauty & the Beast*, and one of the gangsters in *Kiss Me, Kate*. Lance would like to thank his wife, Beverly and daughters Becky and Molly for their patience and support.

Janice Elinoff (Lady) – Janice has performed in many shows with the Weston Friendly, most recently in *Joseph*. Her favorite roles include Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, the title role in *Irene*, and Marsinah in *Kismet*. She is very happy to be singing and dancing again for the second time this season. Janice lives in Weston with her husband, Bill. She is currently a second grade teacher in Stow.

Kristin Freedman (Lady) – Kristin is delighted to perform in her third Weston Friendly production. She was in this season's production of *Joseph* and in last season's production of *Wizard of Oz*. Kristin is a junior at Newton North High School. She would like to acknowledge the cast and crew's superior teamwork and the unwavering support of her family and friends. Thank you all!!

Jenny Gratz (Lady Larkin) – Jenny is happy to be making her debut in Weston with so many people she loves! She has been dancing for longer than she can remember (there are home videos to prove it), and since then she has spent her free time dancing and singing at Vassar College and

around Boston (when she is not being quiet at work at the JFK Presidential Library). Most recently she has actually been seen on stage in Needham (*Titanic* as Madeline Astor and *Beauty and the Beast*) and in Wakefield (*Seussical!*). In the area she has also choreographed and performed in SJST's *West Side Story*, *Brigadoon*, *Footloose*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Thanks to the wonderful cast for its needed support, the team (especially for Jean coming in at the last minute!), the *Titanic* cast and crew (without whom she would not be doing this show), friends, family and Nessie for their love.

Kirk Hornberger (Prince Dauntless) – Kirk is happy to be returning to the Weston Friendly stage, having played the Tin Man in *Wizard of Oz* and Tommy in *Brigadoon* last season. Most recently, he was seen as Frederick Fleet in Needham Community Theater's production of *Titanic: The Musical*, and has enjoyed working again with some of his fellow shipmates in *Mattress*. Other recent roles include Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* with the Worcester County Light Opera Company and Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods* with the Stratton Players. By day, Kirk is the Office and Quality Systems Administrator for a small medical device development firm in Framingham.

Chas Kircher (Minstrel) – This is Chas' first show with the Weston Friendly and he is very happy to be performing one of his favorite roles of all time. Chas has performed in local theaters all over Massachusetts, most recently as Frederick Barrett in Needham Community Theater's production of *Titanic: The Musical*. Some of his other roles include Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Tony in *West Side Story*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Jack in *Into the Woods*. Chas would like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support.

Jim Kopycinski (Wizard) – Jim is excited to be making his debut with the Friendly Society. Jim attended the University of Cincinnati's College – Conservatory of Music where he majored in vocal performance. By day, Jim works as a Senior Systems Engineer/Telecommunications Manager for Vantage Deluxe World Travel. Jim thanks the wonderful cast and crew for making him feel so welcome and looks forward to working with them again.

Caroline N. Kurman (Jester) – Caroline is thrilled to be returning to the Weston Friendly stage! During her time away, she performed as Little Sally in *Urinetown* where she won an EMACT award, Estelle in *The Full Monty* (both at Theater III), and Ronette in *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Wakefield Repertory Theatre. She has been a dancer all her life, so she's excited to put her talents to use as the Jester! When not on stage, Caroline is behind it at The Meadowbrook School of Weston where she is a visual arts teacher and the assistant drama director. She currently resides in Watertown with her sweetheart, Colin and her two adorable bunnies, Yoshi and Digby.

Bevie Lord (Lady) – Bevie is a retired foreign language teacher from Foxborough High School where she also directed musicals and created the French and Spanish exchange programs. She is a board member of the New England Theatre Conference (NETC) for which she adjudicates plays and musicals for the Moss Hart Award. She is Region 1 (New England) Rep to the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). She has been appointed as a delegate to the International Community Theatre Association (IATA) Festival in Monaco in August of 2009. Bevie is happy to be part of her 12th production with the Weston Friendly, although her favorite role is parenting. Her son, Captain William Lord, an 82nd Airborne Ranger, will deploy with his wife, 1Lt. Sarah Lord, an Army Airborne Nurse, in August for one year to Afghanistan.

Beth Martin (Queen Aggravain) – This is Beth’s third production with Weston Friendly Society, having played the Step Mother in *Cinderella* and Vera in *Mame*. Beth would like to thank her friends and family for their continued love and support while she “plays” on stage, especially JP, PW, SC, CH, DR, CK, MQ, AMcS, PMcD, KSC-W. Did I forget anyone? Jim after the show closes, can we get a puppy? Please? Please? Please?

Paul Murphy (Sir Harry) – Paul is excited to join so many of his Titanic shipmates along with his good friend Lisa, for this production of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Paul was last seen at Weston as the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. Other favorite roles include Etches in *Titanic*, Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, Nathan in *Guys & Dolls*, Will Roger in the *Will Rogers’ Follies*, Inspector Trotter in *Mousetrap*, Count Gregor in *Fools*, Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Drake in *Honk!*, and Richard Henry Lee in *1776*. Paul has also directed a number of productions at community theaters in the area.

Victoria Powell (Lady) – Victoria is thrilled to be making her second appearance with the Weston Friendly having just finished *Joseph* in December. Some of her past favorite roles include Blanche Dubois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Mrs. Paroo in *The Music Man*, Tansy in *The Nerd*, and Ruth Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*. Victoria thanks Lisa, Mandy, and Alex for making the show a joy to be in, and sends high fives out to her stage buddies Janice, Kristin, and Lance (aka Sim the Dress Buyer). She would like to thank her wonderful husband, Jeff and her two beautiful girls, Angie and Hilary for always being so supportive. She sends love and appreciation to her friends who make the drive, buy the tickets, and see the shows whether they feel like it or not.

Nick Raponi (Knight) – Nick is excited to be making his WFS debut. Nick has been seen as Johnny Casino in *Grease*, The Pharaoh and Ruben in *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, Gladhand in *West Side Story*, The Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*, Sister Hubert in *Nunsense A-men*, and General Genghis Kahn Schmitz (Horton the Elephant understudy) in *Seussical* with Winthrop Playmakers. Other credits include the role(s) of Officer Pitman, The Major and Joseph Bell in *Titanic* with Needham Community Theater, Major Holmes in *The Secret Garden*, the Voice of Audrey II (plant) in *Little Shop of Horrors* with Wakefield Repertory Theater, Joe Josephson in *Merrily We Roll Along*, Snoopy in *You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown*, and Pappé Ge in *Once on this Island* with F.U.D.G.E. Theater Company. Nick would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him on and off the stage.

Doug Stiles (Knight)– Doug is a longstanding Weston resident and veteran of Friendly Society shows since 1983. His vocal and theater experience goes back to his undergraduate years at Williams College where Doug participated in Williams Theater productions including musicals by the now famous playwright and classmate William Finn, along with singing roles in Williams Ephlats, Choral Society and subsequent work as a soloist in a Russian chorus. Doug has participated in recent years in various local choral groups including our own Friendly Society Chorale. Doug maintains a brisk MetroWest design-build-development architecture firm. His education also includes a master’s degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, and a graduate degree in architectural history from the University of Paris – Sorbonne. Doug’s children attend Wayland Middle School and Wayland High School.

Meg Winikates (Lady) – Meg is thrilled to be making her theatrical debut in *Mattress*. When not singing and dancing, she works as the Associate Education Director at the Discovery Museums in Acton where she enjoys the opportunity to work with the public as well as develop and present programs like ‘Superhero Science,’ ‘Make Your Own Magnetic Poetry,’ and ‘Smart Gals: Women Inventors.’ After years of princess Halloween costumes, Meg is grateful to the Weston Friendly for giving her the perfect excuse to put on airs and long skirts.

Michael Zimmer (Knight) – Michael thanks his son Jonathan for getting him back on stage 12 ½ years ago after a 35 year hiatus. This is Michael’s 26th production since then. Favorite shows include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Sound of Music*, *The King & I*, *My Fair Lady*, *Urinetown*, and *Oklahoma!*. Michael most recently performed in *Utopia, Limited* with the Sudbury Savoyards and in the concert version of *The Mikado* in Concord.

Become a Member of the Weston Friendly Society!

The Weston Friendly Society would like to thank our 2009-2010 members, angels and benefactors whose generosity helps us continue to play an important creative role in the Weston community.

Angels

Philippa & Peter Condakes
Dr. Guy & Barbara Dillaway

Benefactors

Mark Anderson
David & Joanne Charpie
Bette Crowell
Joan Hunt
Dr. Will & Sue McFarland
Maura Murphy &
Michael Racette
Dr. Daniel & Gail Nozik
Carolyn Savary
The Wardwell Family

Friends

Charles Hrbek
Daniel & Betty Ann Miller
Tare & Sue Newbury
Victoria Powell

Message from the President

Welcome to the 124th season of the Weston Friendly Society. We welcome Lisa Astbury, Alex Abdoulaev and Mandy Mitchell in their directorial debuts with our talented troupe of performers.

As the second oldest community theater in the country, our mission continues to be to donate money from our productions to local charitable causes. I am pleased to announce that this season's beneficiaries will be Weston Cub Scout Pack 222 (a Cub Scout Pack especially designated for boys with special needs in Weston and the surrounding towns), Children's Charter Trauma Clinic: Waltham, The Evangeline & John Condakes and The John Barclay Memorial Scholarships that support the Weston Drama Workshop, and the WFS Drama Award for a graduating senior girl and boy from Weston High School.

This fall marks the beginning of our 125th Season which is a cause for celebration and reminiscence. We have an exciting slate of shows planned including *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*, *The Musical of Musicals – The Musical*, and *Carousel*. Please join us for all of these amazing shows as well as a big celebration planned for January 2010 in conjunction with *The Musical of Musicals – The Musical*.

The Weston Friendly is always in need of volunteers. I invite you to become involved in any way you choose. Become a member, benefactor or angel, try out for one of our shows, volunteer to paint sets, help with costumes, sell refreshments, solicit ads or help out in some other way. We are so pleased to be part of the Weston community and hope to foster our ties with its many wonderful and talented inhabitants. If you want more information about the Weston Friendly, please visit our website at www.westonfriendly.org.

Last but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge the passing of Bill Allsbrook, a member of the WFS Board as well as Director and actor at WFS, and Connie Cullinane, a long-time supporter and volunteer set painter and usher. We will miss both of them greatly.

Thank you for choosing to spend some time with us today. Please sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Betsy Soule
President

Past Productions on the Weston Friendly Stage

1981	The Unsinkable Molly Brown		
1982	Fiorello!		
1983	Irene		
1984	Hello, Dolly!		
1985	Kismet	Vintage Years	
1986	The Pajama Game		
1987	The Boys from Syracuse		
1988	My Fair Lady	The Fantasticks	
1989	The Music Man	Perfectly Frank	
1990	Once Upon a Mattress		
1991	Follies	Guys & Dolls	Jerry's Girls
1992	Camelot	The King & I	
1993	Mame	Side by Side by Sondheim	
1994	Annie Get Your Gun	Singin' in the Rain	
1995	Gypsy	Brigadoon	
1996	South Pacific	My Fair Lady	
1997	She Loves Me	Love Letters	Wizard of Oz
1998	How to Succeed	Grand Night	Hello, Dolly!
1999	Fiddler on the Roof	The Music Man	
2000	The Secret Garden	Don't Dress for Dinner	
2001	Oliver!		
2002	The Sound of Music	Oklahoma!	
2003	Cabaret	Meet Me in St. Louis	
2004	Forum	Cinderella	
2005	Mame	Beauty & the Beast	
2006	The King & I	Annie	
2007	Kiss Me, Kate	Wizard of Oz	
2008	Brigadoon	Joseph & the Amazing Dreamcoat	
2009	Once Upon a Mattress	Anne of Green Gables	

*The Board of Directors of the Weston Friendly Society of the
Performing Arts, Inc.*

Proudly Announces its 125th Anniversary Season ~

Fall 2009:

Anne of Green Gables: A Musical

Adapted by Donald Herron

Music by Norman Campbell

From the novel by L.M. Montgomery

Performances scheduled for November 28, 29 & December 5 & 6, 2009

January 2010: a special fundraising event:

The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)

By Joanne Bogart and Erick Rothwell

An event to celebrate the Weston Friendly's 125th Birthday on January 23, 2010

Spring 2010:

Carousel

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Performances scheduled for April 10, 11, 16 & 17, 2010