

‘One hell of a *show*’

For the past few months, in a small hall in Mead Vale, WODS Musical Theatre Company has been tackling its latest project.

The group is preparing to stage a production of the modern classic, *Oh! What a lovely War* – perfectly timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of World War One.

Worle Operatic and Dramatic Society (WODS) hopes to deliver a truly original piece of theatre at The Blakehay Theatre this November.

With a cast of more than thirty players, this is very much a company

show with members of the cast playing multiple roles.

There is a risk factor in choosing a show like this, equally in 1963 when the now legendary director Joan Littlewood devised and produced this show there was also a great risk.

The ending of World War Two was still fresh in the minds of the nation and yet this ground-breaking production dared to push boundaries

and challenge the establishment.

For WODS the risk is choosing a show that is very different to the norm – the fact they dare to be different and do not shy away from hard-hitting and socially aware productions is something the society takes great pride in.

In the past 12 months, WODS has produced a sell-out run of *Made in Dagenham* – the key theme being women’s rights for equality – *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* – a bright and camp musical that also had the depth to tackle homophobia and equality for everyone no matter what your sexual orientation may be.

Most recently WODS took a gamble on bringing Shakespeare to a Weston audience with the critically-acclaimed production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Tropicana, challenging people’s perceptions of the bard’s work.

So, what can you expect from their latest offering? Director Blair Ruddick said: “It will certainly be an evening of laughter and tears.

“This has been one of the most complex shows we have tackled. There is a fine balancing act between artistic interpretation and respectfully telling the story on behalf of the millions who died during the great war.

“The men, boys and women who fought and died for this country is a privileged story to tell. These people fought for king, country and our freedom.

“I truly believe it will be a piece of theatre that audiences will be talking about for a long time to come. It’s one hell of a show!”

Full of period songs it’s a show for all generations and it’s a story that still needs telling.

Lest we forget.

Oh! What a Lovely War is on at The Blakehay Theatre from November 1-3 at 7.30pm, with an afternoon performance at 2.30pm on November 3. ■

Tickets are available from worleoperatic.co.uk/tickets

