**The Glenn Miller Story – Act 2**

**Programme Notes**

**Friday 9th September 2016 @ 7:30 pm**

**Denise Reeves – Audio Describer**

Welcome back everyone to this dazzling new musical of the Glenn Miller story. I am Denise your audio describer for Act 2 which runs for 52 minutes.

There are a couple of new characters to introduce you to. Colonel Chambers a veteran US Army man of strong character who appears dressed in full military uniform and General Hawk, also a long serving US officer who unlike Colonel Chambers, is much in favour of Glenn Miller.

We hear the strains of String of Pearls as it leads us into Act 2. The curtain rises to reveal the spotlight on Tommy Steele, dressed in a black overcoat tied at the waist. Tommy is himself listening to the music. He introduces us to this piece and tells us of Glenn Miller’s following success that took him into the hallowed halls of Hollywood.

The main set is the same with the arcs that frame the stage lit up in blue and red, as is the back wall.

As music changes to Chattanooga Choo Choo, the back wall rises to reveal the orchestra playing at the back. In front is a film set showing the Chattanooga Railway Station. It is a colourful raised platform with steps either side. A group of passengers face a film camera on a tripod to the right with a man holding a sound boom.

Tommy appears now as Glenn carrying a couple of suit cases. He is dressed in cream trousers, red and cream striped jacket over a white shirt and red tie. He wears a straw boater with a striped band. The passengers dance along the platform to welcome him. The three girls each wear dresses of green, blue and yellow, edged in white with matching white brimmed hats, short white gloves and white shoes. The three boys compliment and partner the girls in the same colourful trousers and waistcoats over a white shirt and matching tie. We hear the sound of the train whistle as it announces its arrival. But only a hand pumped jigger ( a railway car) appears allowing Glenn and passengers to jump aboard.

We move then to the living room of the Miller house. A fully decorated Christmas tree with wrapped presents beneath it is on the left. To the right is a comfortable low backed red sofa with a small box of tree decorations on it and a radio behind. Alongside is a small side table with silver tray, glasses and an ice bucket. Helen wears a purple long sleeved dress as she continues to decorate the tree in preparation for a party. She is joined by Glenn, Cy and Chummy who bring presents. Glenn wears a navy blazer over grey trousers. Chummy wears a grey suit and Cy wears an overcoat and hat. As they place presents under the tree a radio announcement is made by the President of the United States, Franklin D Roosevelt which changes the future for them all.

The striking sound of a kettle drum leads us into the sounds of a military band. The back screen lifts to reveal the orchestra truck with plain red fronted music stands. A full military brass band gets into full swing with the Washington Post March. The bandsmen are dressed in American Air Force uniforms. A line of male and female soldiers in military uniform with rifles on their shoulders, attempt a somewhat lazy ceremonial parade. That is until Glenn appears, now dressed in an American Air Force uniform of a Captain he takes over and shakes it up a bit.

Next we see Helen and Glenn share a tender moment as he prepares for the challenge ahead.

As in the opening scene we are then transported to the hanger of RAF Twinwood where Glenn and his orchestra are entertaining the troops. The band is at the back of the stage in military uniform. The back wall is lit up in lights with five big red, white and blue rosettes hanging down above them as bunting. As Glenn welcomes everyone, the band plays In the Mood. A group of service men and women dance in time to the music. Be prepared to hear the sound of an airraid siren and distant aircraft approaching, the sound of bombs dropping and an explosion as the dust flies.

Now dressed in full military uniform, Captain Chummy Macgregor and the Modernaires (six singers) take us into a wonderful rendition of Perfidia.

It is nearly Christmas and now back in the original opening scene of RAF Twinwood hanger, there is a small table to the left with a telephone on it. Glenn attempts to take a call from Helen back in the States but they have a problem hearing each other and the line is broken. Once again we hear the throb of the aeroplane engine as Glenn goes to board the plane. Then it reverberates around the auditorium as it takes off.

We then move to Helen at home in the US sitting on the sofa as she listens to the radio and a BBC announcer introduces a special and tragic announcement from Paris.

As the curtain then rises on the Finale, the orchestra truck with its Glenn Miller musicians glides on stage. Their music stands now have the GM monochrome emblazoned on them. A glittering ballroom ball comes down from above. The orchestra crashes into a medley of Miller tunes.

Tommy on behalf of the Glenn Miller Admiration Society invites the audience to participate in Sing, Sing, Sing and swing along with them.