

# Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor



## The Merry Wives of Windsor

Cambridge University Opera Society Mainshow 2026

### **What is the story of the opera?**

Set during the reign of Henry V, *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor* (The Merry Wives of Windsor) is Otto Nicolai's wonderful adaptation of Shakespeare's play of the same name. The opera premiered in 1849 at the Königliches Opernhaus in Berlin. The story follows two noble ladies – Frau Fluth and Frau Reich – as they hatch a plan to outwit and prank the pompous John Falstaff, who is trying to woo both of them simultaneously. Meanwhile, a secondary romantic subplot unfolds as the young lovers Anna Reich (daughter of Frau Reich) and Fenton attempt to continue their love affair, while Anna's parents have different suitors in mind for her (Spärlich and Cajus).

### **Our Vision for the opera:**

We are setting the opera in the 1950s (think of all the 1950s farce comedy) and the opera will be performed in German. The opera is witty, romantic and comic, and we need you to bring it to life!

### **Dates and venue of the performances:**

20:00, Thu 26th, Fri 27th, Sat 28th February 2026 at West Road Concert Hall

With a matinee at 14:00, Sat 28th February 2026 at West Road Concert Hall

## **What prod team roles are we looking for?\***

Technical Director

Lighting Designer

Costume Designer

Makeup Artist

Set Designer

Choreographer

Assistant Producer

Publicity Officer

Poster Designer

German Language Coach

Surtitle Translator

Photographer

Welfare Officer

\*You're welcome to apply for multiple roles. Many of these roles can be combined. If you would like to get involved in the production in any capacity, even if what you have in mind doesn't fit into any of these roles, please get in touch.

## **Do I need any prior experience in opera to apply?**

Absolutely no experience in opera is required! All we look for is enthusiasm – whether you are interested in designing and making 1950s-style costumes, or keen on sharing your knowledge of German pronunciation with the cast, we'd love to hear from you. We know that trying out opera for the first time can feel intimidating, and we are here to help should you need it.

## **How do I apply?**

Please email Jiayi Li, [jl2403@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jl2403@cam.ac.uk), telling us about:

1. Why are you interested in being involved?
2. Any relevant experience for the role you're applying for (it doesn't have to be opera or even music related – it can be societies you've been involved in, or sports teams you've led).

We look forward to hearing from you!