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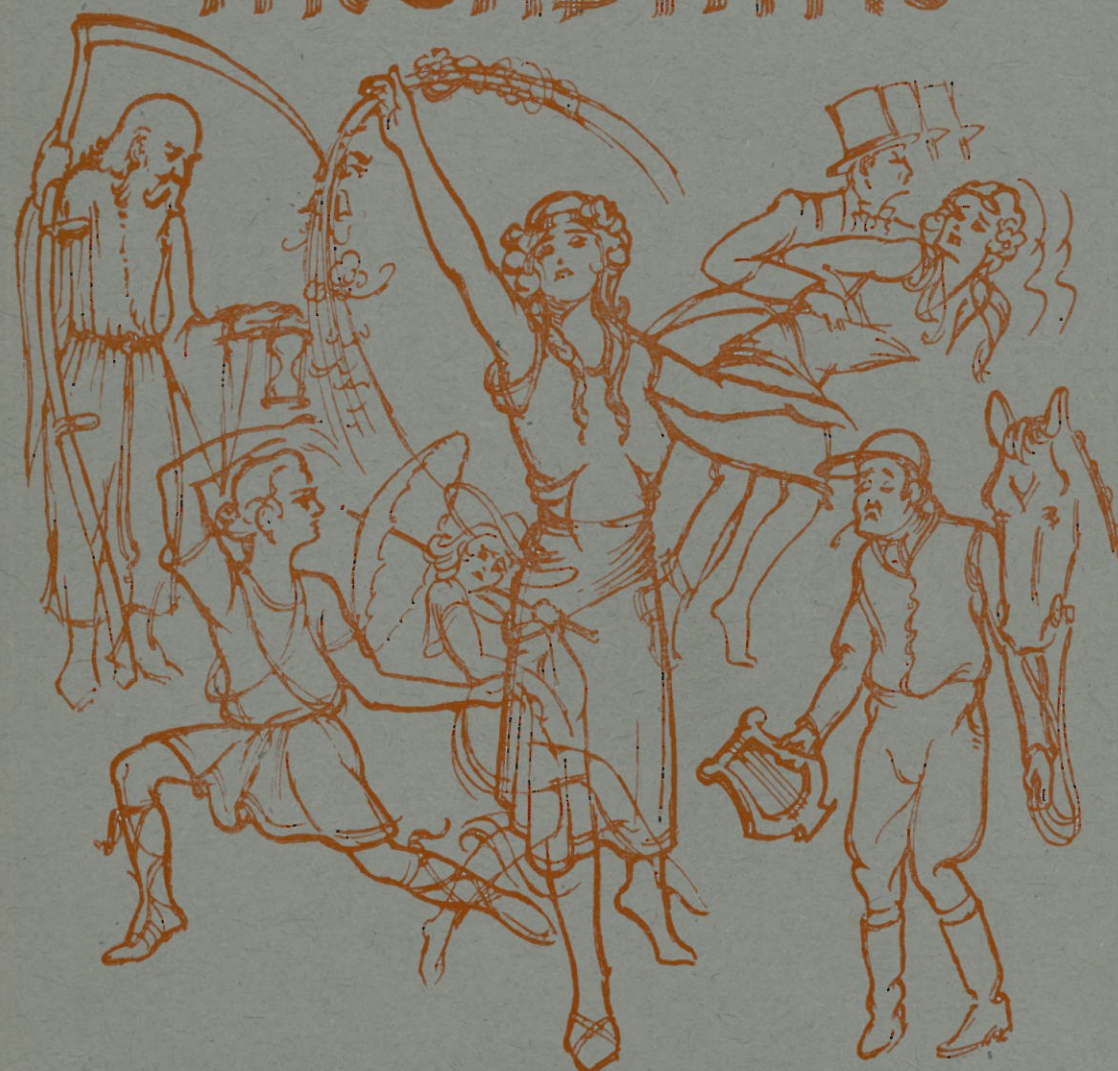
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# THE ARCADIANS



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1947

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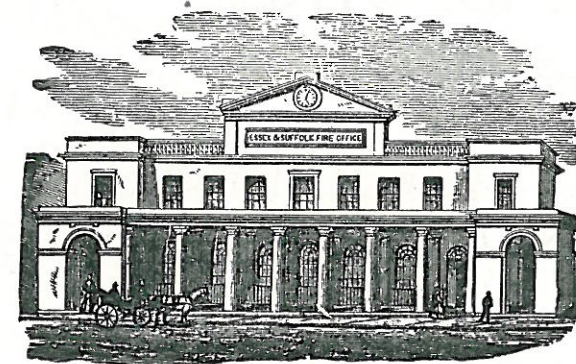
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# THE ARCADIAN

## SYNOPSIS

"The shadow dappled mead  
Is sweet with scent of thyme,  
The shepherd tunes his reed  
To rippling, rhythmic rhyme,  
The swallows swoop and fly,  
The grass grows rich and rife,  
The brook goes babbling by,  
Alit with laughing life."

THUS sing the Arcadians of their romantic glade, presenting to the onlooker a pastoral paradise where "all nature smiles," as nymphs and shepherds revel in the "Joy of Life." This idyllic state is interrupted by the approach and subsequent crash of an aeroplane, from which emerges James Smith, a London restaurant proprietor who promptly succumbs to the charms of the bewitching Arcadians and proceeds to beguile the adorable Sombra. In the course of his advances Smith resorts to the not uncommon worldly practice, "the telling of that impious thing, a lie."

This breach of principle is not to be tolerated by the simple Arcadians who condemn Smith to be purged in the Well of Truth. The resulting, purifying effect of the sentence miraculously transforms Smith into an Arcadian, with the added blessing of perpetual youth. Overjoyed by the success of this act of reformation, the Arcadians resolve upon a mission to "transform England and forever banish the lie." Smith, now renamed Simplicitas, accompanied by Sombra and Chrysaea, set forth on the wings of time.

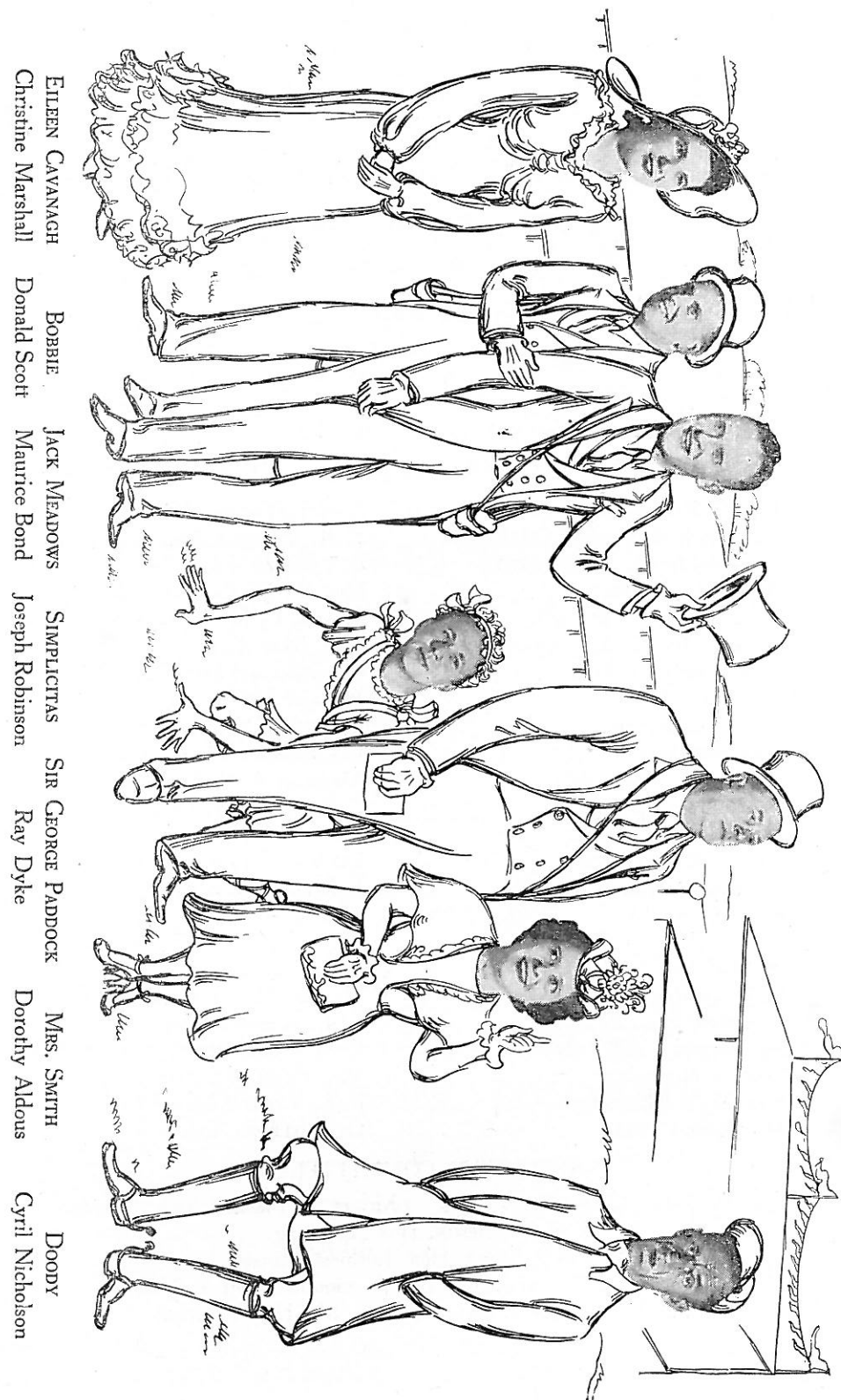
Act II introduces the Askwood race meeting with its fashionable patrons of the turf, including the popular sportsman, Jack Meadows, who is attracted by the presence of the captivating Eileen Cavanagh ("a girl with a brogue"), Mrs. Smith's niece. Jack's elation is not shared by his friend Bobbie, nor is it reflected in the doleful appearance of the jockey, Peter Doody, after being savaged by Jack's horse the "Deuce," and moreover, Doody's recognition of Mrs. Smith as the cause of his "blighted young heart," only adds to his burden of woe.

A rash gamble on the big race between the "Deuce" and Sir George Paddock's "Bella," threatens to place Jack in an awkward position. A characteristic midsummer shower also threatens the proceedings, but the arrival of the Arcadian mission provides a welcome diversion. Simplicitas, seeing his wife, immediately abandons Sombra and Chrysaea to the astonished crowd.

Doody's mishap and Jack's dilemma prompt Sombra's sympathy and through her Arcadian power of speech with animals arranges for Simplicitas to ride and win the race on the "Deuce." Jack's indiscreet reward to Sombra creates a misunderstanding with Eileen.

Smith's White Elephant Hotel (now the "Arcadian Restaurant") becomes the rage with its novel Arcadian atmosphere. At this rendezvous of gaiety the "Pick of Piccadilly" are attracted by the charm of the reforming Arcadians, who also for a time appear to enjoy their mission. The veneer of insincerity and fashionable make-believe is soon recognised, and the exposure by Doody of the pleasure-loving Simplicitas, causes him once again to resort to telling a lie. The failure of the Arcadian mission is now apparent and the disillusioned Arcadians return to Arcady. Sombra arranges a happy reconciliation between Jack and Eileen.

Again disappearing down the well, this time accidentally, Simplicitas reappears as Smith, and after a brief scene exchanging spirited accusations of indiscretion, both husband and wife are resigned to their former state of happy domesticity.



EILEEN CAVANAGH    BOBBIE    JACK MEADOWS    SIMPLICITAS    SIR GEORGE PADDOCK    MRS. SMITH    DOODY  
Christine Marshall    Donald Scott    Maurice Bond    Joseph Robinson    Ray Dyke    Dorothy Aldous    Cyril Nicholson



# THE COLCHESTER OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

PRESENTS

## THE ARCADIAN

(By arrangement with Messrs. SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.)

Book by MARK AMBIERTO and A. M. THOMPSON

Lyrics by ARTHUR WIMPERIS

Music by LIONEL MONCKTON and HOWARD TALBOT

### ACT ONE. ARCADIA

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Introduction and Opening Chorus .. .. .                                       | Arcadians are we                   |
| 2. Song (TIME and CHORUS) .. .. . "I quite forgot Arcadia" .. .. .               | Since the days before the Flood    |
| 3. Quartet (SOMBRA, CHRYSAEA, STREPHON, and ASTROPHEL) "The Joy of Life" .. .. . | The shadow dappled mead is sweet   |
| 4. Chorus of Fear .. .. .  | Look what hovers there above us    |
| 5. Song (SOMBRA) .. .. . "The Pipes of Pan are calling" .. .. .                  | With melody enthralling            |
| 6. Chorus .. .. . "All a Lie!" .. .. .   | All a lie! All a lie!              |
| 7. Song (SIMPLICITAS and CHORUS) .. .. . "Sweet Simplicitas" .. .. .             | I'm a case of complete reformation |
| 8. Finale .. .. .  | To all and each, where sin is rife |

### ACT TWO. ASKWOOD RACECOURSE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 9. Opening Chorus .. .. .   | That's all over, bar the shouting       |
| 10. Song (BOBBIE and CHORUS) .. .. . "Back Your Fancy" .. .. .        | I've tried every sort and kind of sport |
| 11. Song (EILEEN and CHORUS) .. .. . "The Girl with a Brogue" .. .. . | Erin's a spot famous for greenery       |
| 12. Shower Chorus .. .. .   | This is really altogether too provoking |
| 13. Song (SOMBRA and CHORUS) .. .. . "Arcady is ever young" .. .. .   | Far away in Arcady                      |
| 14. Song (SIMPLICITAS) .. .. . "Somewhere" .. .. .                    | Dearest, let us hie away together       |
| 15. Duet (EILEEN and JACK) .. .. . "Charming Weather" .. .. .         | You're taking such good care of me      |
| 16. Finale .. .. .  | The horses are out                      |

### ACT THREE. THE ARCADIAN RESTAURANT

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 17. Opening Chorus .. .. .   | Plant your posies, rue and roses    |
| 18. Song (CHRYSAEA) .. .. . "I like London" .. .. .                                | When first I came to London Town    |
| 19. Duet (EILEEN and JACK) .. .. . "Half past two" .. .. .                         | Tell me when you've got an hour     |
| 20. Chorus of Belgrovians .. .. . "Cheer for Simplicitas" .. .. .                  | Cheer for Simplicitas, cheer!       |
| 21. Song (SIMPLICITAS and CHORUS) .. .. . "All down Piccadilly" .. .. .            | You've heard of me, of course       |
| 22. Quintet (SIMPLICITAS, JACK, BOBBIE, etc.) .. .. . "Truth is beautiful" .. .. . | The truth is not in great demand    |
| 23. Song (DOODY) .. .. . "My Motter" .. .. .                                       | I've always been, since quite a lad |
| 24. Valse Song (SOMBRA) .. .. . "My heart flies homing" .. .. .                    | Here amid the city's clamour        |

### FINALE



DOODY  
Cyril Nicholson



SIMPLICITAS  
Joseph Robinson

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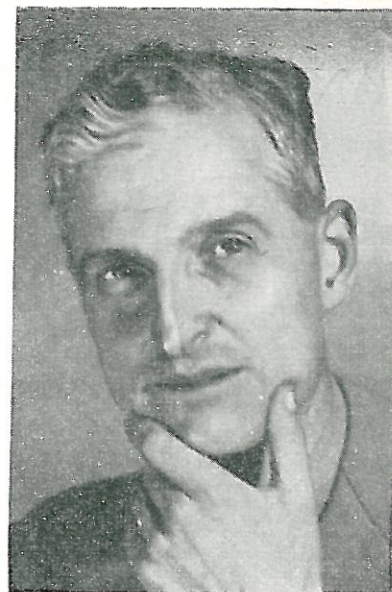




FRANCES DAVIS  
Producer

# THE ARCADIANS

Hon. Accompanist: MYFANWY POWELL



PETER BURGESS  
Musical Director

## CAST

JAMES SMITH (of Smith & Co., Caterers, London)	..	..	..	..	..	JOSEPH ROBINSON
SIMPLICITAS (an Arcadian)	..	..	..	..	..	CYRIL NICHOLSON
PETER DOODY (a Jockey)	..	..	..	..	..	MAURICE BOND
JACK MEADOWS	..	..	..	..	..	DONALD SCOTT
BOBBIE	..	..	..	..	..	RAY DYKE
SIR GEORGE PADDOCK	..	..	..	..	..	JACK FIELDEN
PERCY MARSH	..	..	..	..	..	KEN OXBORROW
REGGIE	..	..	..	..	..	SYDNEY CLARKSON
HARRY DESMOND	..	..	..	..	..	HAROLD FIELDEN
JOCKEY	..	..	..	..	..	HORACE PEARCE
TIME	..	..	..	..	..	DOROTHY ALDOUS
MRS. SMITH	..	..	..	..	..	JEAN COLYER
LADY BARCLAY	..	..	..	..	..	MOLLIE GOLDSMITH
LUCY SELWYN	..	..	..	..	..	HILDA COWLEY
MARION	..	..	..	..	..	CHRISTINE MARSHALL
EILEEN CAVANAGH	..	..	..	..	..	MARY NICHOLSON
CHRYSAEA	..	..	..	..	..	DORIS JONES
AMARYLLIS	..	..	..	..	..	JEAN COLYER
DAPHNE	..	..	..	..	..	EDITH BARRETT
DRYOPE	..	..	..	..	..	ROBERT GRAY
ASTROPHEL	..	..	..	..	..	FRED RICHARDS
STREPHON	..	..	..	..	..	KEN OXBORROW
DAMOETAS	..	..	..	..	..	BARBARA HOWITT
SOMBRA	..	..	..	..	..	

Arcadians

Hon. Stage Managers: Dr. and Mrs. T. M. FRIPP and Mr. A. THOMAS

Hon. Wardrobe Mistresses: Mrs. M. BOND and Miss O. BOND

CHRYSAEA  
Mary Nicholson

STREPHON  
Fred Richards

JAMES SMITH  
Joseph Robinson

SOMBRA  
Barbara Howitt

ASTROPHEL  
Robert Gray





CHORUS OF ARCADIANs, RACEGOERS, AND  
ARCADIAN WAITRESSES



SOPRANOS AND CONTRALTOS

DORA ASHERWOOD  
JOAN JENKINS  
EVA MASON  
MURIEL PEARCE  
EDWINA SHELTON

SYBIL BAYLISS  
MARY LAMBERT  
ISABELLA MELVILLE  
JUNE RATCLIFFE  
PHYLLIS SMITH  
PHYLLIS YATES

DOROTHY ECCLESTON  
INA MACRAE  
EVA PALMER  
GLADYS ROGERS  
JOYCE STANGER



DANCING GIRLS

BETTY BROWN  
BARBARA GRIMSEY  
GABRIELLE MARSHALL

PHYLLIS GANT  
JEAN LENNOX  
DOROTHY MORTLOCK

VIOLA GOODWIN  
BRONWEN MARSHALL



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SYDNEY CLARKSON  
HAROLD FIELDEN  
ROBERT GRAY  
HERBERT NEALE

SIDNEY COLCLOUGH  
JACK FIELDEN  
JOHN JENKINS  
KEN OXBORROW  
FRED RICHARDS

HUGH EVANS  
DOUGLAS GENTRY  
JACK MADDOX  
HORACE PEARCE



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TONY GARRARD JOHN WENT



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE SOCIETY express grateful thanks to all who have helped this production, and particularly acknowledge the co-operation and assistance of the under-mentioned :

MANN BROS., High Street, for use of their premises as booking office.  
Mr. A. C. RASHBROOK for providing photographic portraits.  
Mr. JOSEPH ROBINSON for caricature illustrations.  
Mr. S. ASHERWOOD for converting footwear in Act I.  
Mr. H. W. PEARCE for cover design.

THE OPERATIC SOCIETY'S NON-PLAYING MEMBERS for their loyal support and assistance with sale of programmes, booking office, publicity, and other essential duties.

To ALL PAST AND PRESENT SUPPORTERS whose patronage enables this Society to continue its productions.

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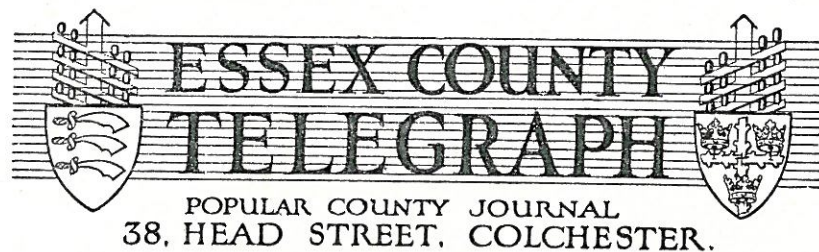
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