

NEXT PRODUCTION

"THE MOST HAPPY FELLA"  
(By Arrangement with Chappell & Co.)

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Music, Lyrics and Libretto  
by

Frank Loesser

based on

Sidney Howard's  
"They Knew What They Wanted"

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at the

A.B.C. Cinema, Headgate, Colchester

on

November 16th to 21st, 1964

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I O L A N T H E

or

THE PEER AND THE PERI

Written by  
W. S. GILBERT

Composed by  
ARTHUR SULLIVAN

A Performance by

COLCHESTER OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

at

THE MOOT HALL

Saturday, 21st March, 1964, at 7.30 p.m.



THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO the following note appeared in the Society's 1929 Souvenir Programme:

"The Colchester Amateur Operatic Society was founded in 1925 for the encouragement of music and drama by the production of Comic and Light Operas. Its progress has been rapid and successful and it is hoped that the present production of 'Iolanthe' will in every way equal those of previous years. New members are gladly welcomed, the subscription is a nominal one of five shillings, and carries with it the privilege of prior booking."

TODAY new membership is still "gladly welcomed", offering the same objective ideal to encourage the production of Music and Drama.

Membership is available in the following categories:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Annual Subscription</u>
(a) Singing Playing Member ...	15/-
(b) Acting Playing Member ...	15/-
(c) Dancer ...	15/-
(d) Non-Playing Member ...	15/-
(e) Vice-President ...	£1. 1. -.

Address your applications to the Hon. Secretary:

G.H. Flint,  
"Rudyards",  
Empress Avenue,  
West Mersea. Telephone: West Mersea 297

## I O L A N T H E

or

### THE PEER AND THE PERI

#### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The Lord Chancellor	...	...	...	Maurice Bond
Earl of Mountararat	...	...	...	Ken Ferris, M.A.
Earl Tolloller	...	...	...	John Evans
Private Willis (Of the Grenadier Guards)	...	...	...	Norman Joscelyne
Strephon (An Arcadian Shepherd)	...	...	...	Jack Long
Queen of the Fairies	...	...	...	Freda Evans
Iolanthe (A Fairy, Strephon's Mother)	...	...	...	Peggy Findlow
Celia )	...	...	...	Sylvia Frost
Leila ) (Fairies)	...	...	...	Anne Platten
Phyllis (An Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward in Chancery)	...	...	...	Sonia Richmond

Chorus of Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, Barons and Fairies.

#### Musical Director

Donald Scott

#### Accompanists

Dudley Brown  
and

Margaret Notley

# I O L A N T H E

## Programme of Music

### ACT 1

#### OVERTURE

OPENING CHORUS OF FAIRIES - Soli  
(Celia and Leila) ... ... Tripping hither, tripping thither

INVOCATION (Queen, Iolanthe, Celia,  
Leila and Chorus of Fairies) ... Iolanthe from thy dark exile

SOLO (Strephon and Chorus of Fairies) ... Good-morrow, good mother

SOLO (Queen and Chorus of Fairies)... Fare thee well, attractive stranger

SOLI (Phyllis and Strephon) ... ... Good-morrow, good lover

DUET (Phyllis and Strephon) ... ... None shall part us

ENTRANCE AND MARCH OF PEERS ... ... Loudly let the trumpet bray

ENTRANCE OF LORD CHANCELLOR

SONG (Lord Chancellor and  
Chorus of Peers) ... ... The law is the true embodiment

TRIO AND CHORUS OF PEERS (Phyllis,  
Lord Tolloller and Lord Mountararat) ... ... My well-loved Lord

RECIT. (Phyllis) ... ... Nay tempt me not

CHORUS OF PEERS AND SONG (Lord Tolloller) ... Spurn not the nobly born

ENSEMBLE (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller, Lord  
Mountararat, Strephon, Lord Chancellor  
and Chorus of Peers) ... ... My Lords, it may not be

SONG (Lord Chancellor) ... ... When I went to the bar

FINALE ... ... When darkly looms the day

### ACT 2

SONG (Sentry) ... ... When all night long a chap remains

CHORUS OF FAIRIES AND PEERS ... Strephon's a Member of Parliament

SONG (Lord Mountararat and Chorus).. When Britain really ruled the waves

DUET (Leila, Celia with Chorus  
of Fairies, Lord Mountararat  
and Lord Tolloller) ... ... In vain to us you plead

SONG (Queen with Chorus of Fairies) ... ... Oh foolish fay

QUARTET (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller,  
Lord Mountararat and Sentry) ... Tho' p'raps I may incur your blame

RECIT. AND SONG (Lord Chancellor)... Love unrequited robs me of my rest

TRIO (Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat  
and Lord Chancellor) ... ... He who shies at such a prize

DUET (Phyllis and Strephon) ... ... If we're weak enough to tarry

RECIT. AND BALLAD (Iolanthe) ... My Lord, a suppliant at your feet

RECIT. (Iolanthe, Queen, Lord  
Chancellor and Fairies) ... ... It may not be

FINALE ... ... Soon as we may, off and away



## THE STORY

Iolanthe, a fairy, had, five-and-twenty years ago, married a mortal, a rising young barrister, thereby involving the penalty of death. But the Fairy Queen commuted the sentence to penal servitude for life, a sentence she is working out at the bottom of a stream, so as to be near her son, Strephon. Strephon who is half-fairy and half-mortal, subsequently falls in love with Phyllis, a ward in Chancery (and therefore under the direct control of the Lord Chancellor).

Fairies, of course, never grow up, and so when Phyllis catches Strephon caressing Iolanthe, who looks so young, she cannot believe it is his mother. Moreover, all the Peers together with the Lord Chancellor, who is none other than the rising young barrister who married Iolanthe, are in love with Phyllis. They all conspire to encourage Phyllis in her disbelief until at length she renounces her lover, Strephon, who, in despair, invokes the aid of the Fairies. Phyllis now offers herself to her most persistent lovers, Mountararat and Tolloller; she does not care which. But the Fairy Queen prepares a deadly retribution. She decrees that Strephon shall enter Parliament. He is returned by a huge majority as a Liberal Conservative, and is made leader of both parties, in which position he carries every conceivable measure, much to the discomfiture of the noble Peers.

Meanwhile, all the Fairies fall in love with the Peers. The Fairy Queen herself falls a victim to the charms of Private Willis who is on sentry-go at Palace Yard, but all sorrowfully overcome their passion.

Iolanthe now discloses her identity as the wife of the somewhat myopic Lord Chancellor, thereby incurring the death penalty.

But the Lord Chancellor with that subtle instinct common to the legal profession, finds a loophole by the insertion of a single word. Thus the Fairy Code of "Death to those who marry mortals" becomes "Death to those who don't marry mortals".

All are thus happily united, fairy wings sprout from the shoulders of the Peers, and we are left with the beautiful conception of a Parliament composed of Peers and Fairies.

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