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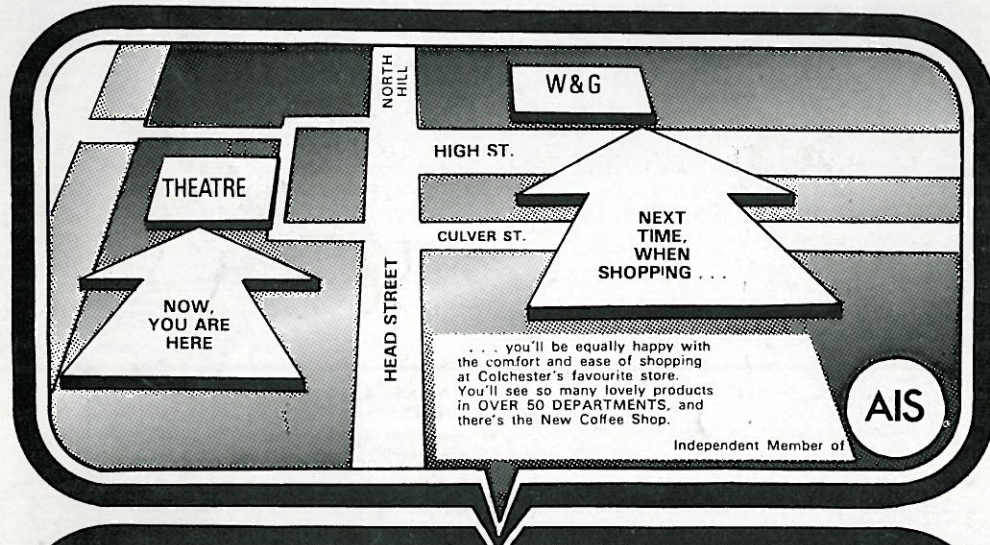


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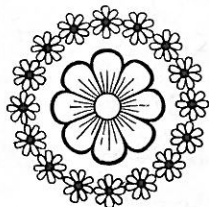
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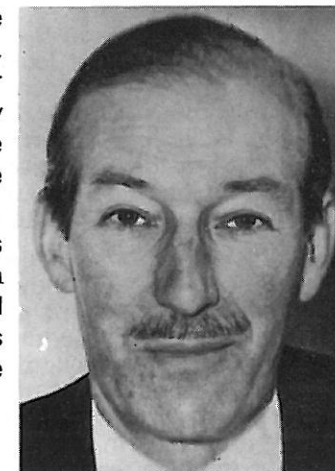
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It is with deep regret that I have to record the sudden death in August of Ken Oxborrow, M.B.E., a Life Member of the Colchester Operatic Society, and its valued Honorary Treasurer for 24 years. Ken was an active member of the Society for many years in the Chorus, and he also played lead parts.

Such a record of service does not pass unnoticed, and Ken's family may take comfort in the knowledge that he will be long remembered with the greatest affection in the Society, as well as in the many other spheres in which he worked.

J. M. ENFIELD  
Chairman



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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society expresses grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this production, particularly the assistance of the undermentioned:

The Society's Non-Playing Members for their loyal support in Publicity, programme sales and other essential duties.

Douglas Studios for Photographs.

Ken Smith for programme cover.

The Social Committee Green Room Refreshment Organisers.

Essex County Newspapers for permission to use photograph of Ken Oxborrow.

Lay and Wheeler Ltd., Wine Merchants.

The Mercury Theatre Management and Staff for their invaluable co-operation.

The SOCIETY'S SUPPORTERS GROUP is progressing satisfactorily with a present Membership of nearly 100. Anyone interested in joining should contact Mr. P. W. Pitt, 7 Coast Road, West Mersea.



## THE STORY

Coloured folk work on the Mississippi of the 1890's while the white folk play. But everyone is looking forward to the arrival of Captain Andy's showboat with its jolly comedies and melodramas. On this trip, though, it isn't only the showboat audience who have some surprises in store. Leading lady, Julie Laverne, has to leave the boat after the odd job man Pete, bitter at her rejection of him, discovers she is a half-caste. Mixed marriage is forbidden in Louisiana so she and her husband, leading man Stephen Baker, flee the state.

The brash and bubbly comedienne of the troop, Ellie, who is doted on by Frank, begs Captain Andy to let her take over as leading lady. But it is Magnolia, the innocent and over-protected daughter of Andy and his vitriolic wife Parthy, who gets the part. A new figure steps in to play opposite her. He is Gaylord Ravenal, a riverboat gambler, and for Magnolia it is love at first sight. She confides her feelings to Joe, the easy-going, liquor-loving husband of the boat's cook, Queenie. The only advice he can give is embodied in his song - Ol' Man River. It becomes more and more obvious that the feelings the new leading couple have for each other are more than make-believe. Despite objections from Parthy, Magnolia marries her gambler.

The second half of the show opens at Chicago's World Fair. Ravenal is riding high on his luck, and Magnolia and her new daughter, Kim, have all the trappings of wealth. But fortune changes swiftly and when Ravenal's luck runs out he abandons his family. They are found living in poverty by Frank and Ellie, who are now married and enjoying success on the stage. Frank persuades Magnolia to audition as a singer at the Trocadero Restaurant.

The restaurant's resident singer is Julie. She has been abandoned by Steve, and finds her solace in drink. When she hears Magnolia sing she slips away. Once again it is Julie who sacrifices her career so that Magnolia may be given a chance.

More than thirty years elapse and Magnolia has become a star. It is the ever-forgiving Andy who meets Ravenal by chance and suggests a reconciliation with Magnolia and Kim. Times and fortunes have changed for all the characters of the showboat - the only permanence in life is "Ol' Man River - he jes' keeps rollin' along".

## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1925 Gondoliers	1947 The Arcadians	1964 The Most Happy Fella
1926 Mikado	1948 Waltz Dream	1965 They Came to a City
1927 Princess Ida	1949 New Moon	The Student Prince
1929 Iolanthe	1950 The Wind and Rain	1966 Hay Fever
1930 Yeoman of the Guard	The Desert Song	La Belle Helene
1931 Trial by Jury and	1951 The Student Prince	1967 Carousel
Pirates of Penzance	1952 Harmony Hill	1968 Count of Luxembourg
Les Cloches de	1953 Show Boat	1969 Oklahoma
Corneville	1954 Brigadoon	<del>1970 Kiss Me Kate</del>
1932 Quaker Girl	1955 Pink Champagne	1971 Die Fledermaus
1933 Mikado	1956 Vagabond King	1972 Mikado
1934 Gondoliers	1957 White Horse Inn	1973 Robert and Elizabeth
1935 Merrie England	<del>1958 Summer Song</del>	1974 Orpheus in the
1936 Duchess of Danzig	1959 The Merry Widow	Underworld
1937 Vagabond King	1960 Song of Norway	1975 The Merry Widow
1938 Country Girl	<del>1961 Naughty Marietta</del>	1976 My Fair Lady
1946 Beggars' Opera	<del>1962 The Dancing Years</del>	1977 The Great Waltz
1947 Tom Jones	1963 Kismet	1978 Fiddler on the Roof
		1979 The King & I



Magnolia  
DEBBIE GIFFORD

Ravenal  
VIC EDWARDS



Captain Andy Hawks  
JOHN ENFIELD

Parthy Ann Hawks  
PHYL DEEBLE



**KEN SMITH**

# SHOWBOAT

Production directed by  
**KEN SMITH**

Choreographer **DOREEN MATTHEWS**

Musical Direction by **ROY BUDDEN**

Hon. Chorus Mistress  
**VALERIE MASSEY**

Hon. Accompanist **KEITH ROGERS**

Hon. Accompanists for Dancing  
**FIONA HUNT**  
**CATHERINE FIRMIN**



**ROY BUDDEN**

## CAST

STEVE .....	<b>GEORGE FLINT</b>
PETE .....	<b>JIM SISSENS</b>
QUEENIE .....	<b>CHRIS MARSHALL</b>
PARTHY ANN HAWKS .....	<b>PHYL DEEBLE</b>
CAPTAIN ANDY HAWKS .....	<b>JOHN ENFIELD</b>
ELLIE MAY SHIPLEY .....	<b>ANGELA RANKIN</b>
FRANK SCHULZ .....	<b>ALAN MOTSON</b>
JULIE .....	<b>GILLIAN PLUMTREE</b>
GAYLORD RAVENAL .....	<b>VIC EDWARDS</b>
VALLON .....	<b>JOHN Warburton</b>
MAGNOLIA .....	<b>DEBBIE GIFFORD</b>
JOE .....	<b>ROGER DOBSON</b>
LANDLADY .....	<b>URSULA BORGES</b>
MAX .....	<b>MARK WEISS</b>
JAKE .....	<b>KEITH ROGERS</b>
JEB .....	<b>JIM SISSENS</b>
KIM .....	<b>BELINDA PEDDER</b>
FIRST BARKER .....	<b>KEITH CUMMINGS</b>
SECOND BARKER .....	<b>DEREK MASSEY</b>
WINDY .....	<b>MAURICE BOND</b>
BACKWOODSMAN .....	<b>DAVID KING</b>
LOTTIE .....	<b>DEBBIE TOOKE</b>



**DOREEN MATTHEWS**

## White Chorus:

MONICA ALLEN, ANGELA CROSS, MAUREEN MANN, BELINDA PEDDER, ANN ROZIER, JUNE SISSENS, DEBBIE TOOKE, SUE WILCOX

## Black Chorus:

LINDSAY DOW, PAM GIBSON, SYLVIA HAWKINS, MARGARET NORFOLK, RITA ORD, PAM WHALEY, MAUREEN YEATS

## Men' Chorus:

KEITH CUMMINGS, TREVOR CUSHING, REG DOW, DAVID KING, DEREK MASSEY, NIGEL SMITH, DENNIS RAINBIRD

## DANCERS

Sally Cook  
Elaine Cooper  
Jane Cawdell  
Lucy Dutton  
Carolyn Green

Jennie Overton  
Tracey Potter  
Amanda Rickett  
Caroline Smith  
Stephanie Thorne

Gianantonio Fusi  
Norberto Fusi  
Jimmy Huntsman  
Brian Keeble  
Gerard Oxford

## ORCHESTRA

Keith Rogers—Piano  
Graham Snelling—1st Violin  
T. Ratcliff—2nd Violin  
Noel Britton—Viola  
Barbara Waugh—Cello  
Robin Harris—Bass  
Peter Clayton—Flute

Stephen Marlow—Clarinet  
Max Sainsbury—Oboe  
Marian Hellen—Horn  
John Malam—1st Trumpet  
Bill Tollman—2nd Trumpet  
Mark Walters—Trombone  
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Props

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MARY FLETCHER, NORMA DOW, MARGARET PEDDER, CONNIE SMITH



## ACT ONE

### 1. The Levee at Natchez, late 1880's

Cotton Blossom ..... Ensemble  
Only Make Believe ..... Ravenal and Magnolia  
'Ol' Man River ..... Joe and Mississippi Singers

### 2. Kitchen pantry of the Cotton Blossom

Can't help loving that man ..... Julie, Queenie, Magnolia,  
Joe and Windy

### 3. Outside Waterfront Gambling Saloon

Life on the wicked stage ..... Ellie and Girls  
Till good luck comes my way ... Ravenal and Male Chorus

### 4. Auditorium and stage of the Cotton Blossom

### 5. Box-Office on fore-deck of the Cotton Blossom

I might fall back on you ..... Ellie and Girls  
C'mon Folks ..... Queenie and Mississippi Singers

### 6. Auditorium and stage of the Cotton Blossom

### 7. The upper deck of the Cotton Blossom

You are love ..... Ravenal and Magnolia

### 8. The Levee next morning ..... Ensemble

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## FUTURE PROGRAMME

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## ACT TWO

### 1. Chicago World Fair, 1893

World's Fair ..... Barkers and Chorus  
Why do I love you ..... Magnolia, Ravenal, Andy,  
Parthy and Chorus

### 2. A room on Ontario Street, 1904

### 3. Trocadero Music Hall rehearsal room

Bill ..... Julie

### 4. Trocadero Music Hall, New Year's Eve, 1904

How'd you like to spoon with me? ..... Ellie and Frank  
After the Ball ..... Magnolia

### 5. Street corner outside the office of the Natchez Evening Mail

Reprise - Ol' Man River ..... Joe

### 6. On board the New Cotton Blossom, 1927

### 7. The Levee at Natchez, next day

Dance the night away ..... Kim and Ensemble  
Finale ..... Ensemble

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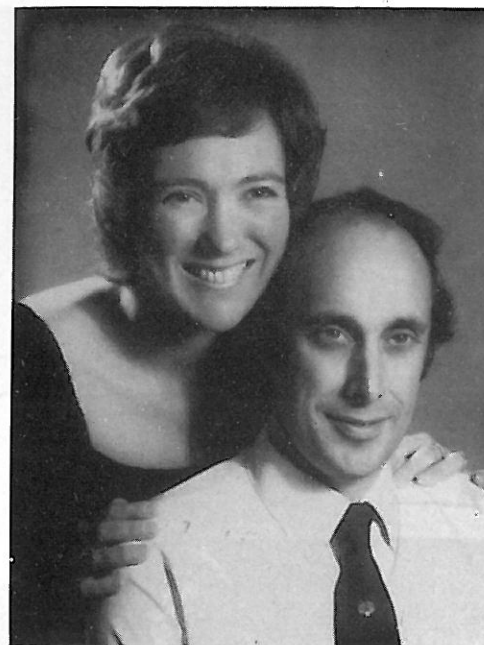


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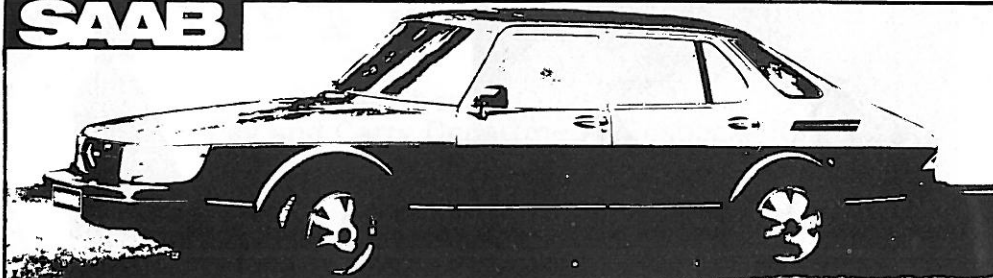
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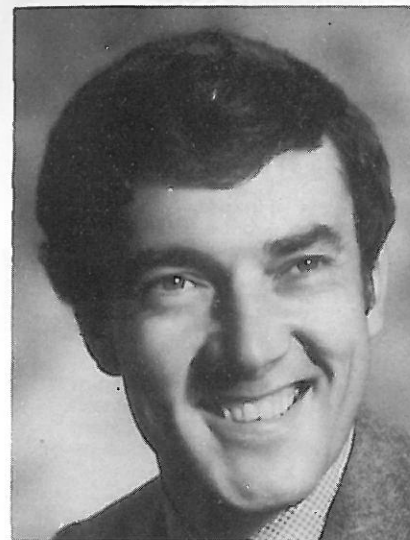
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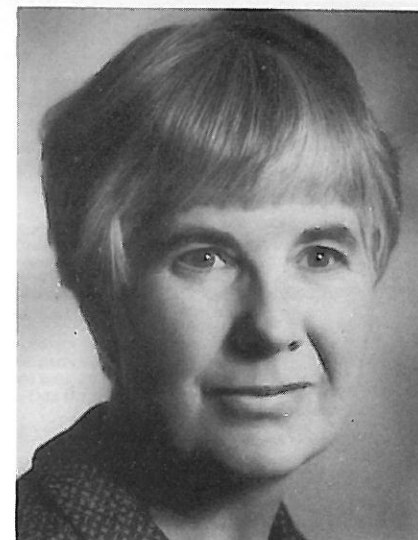
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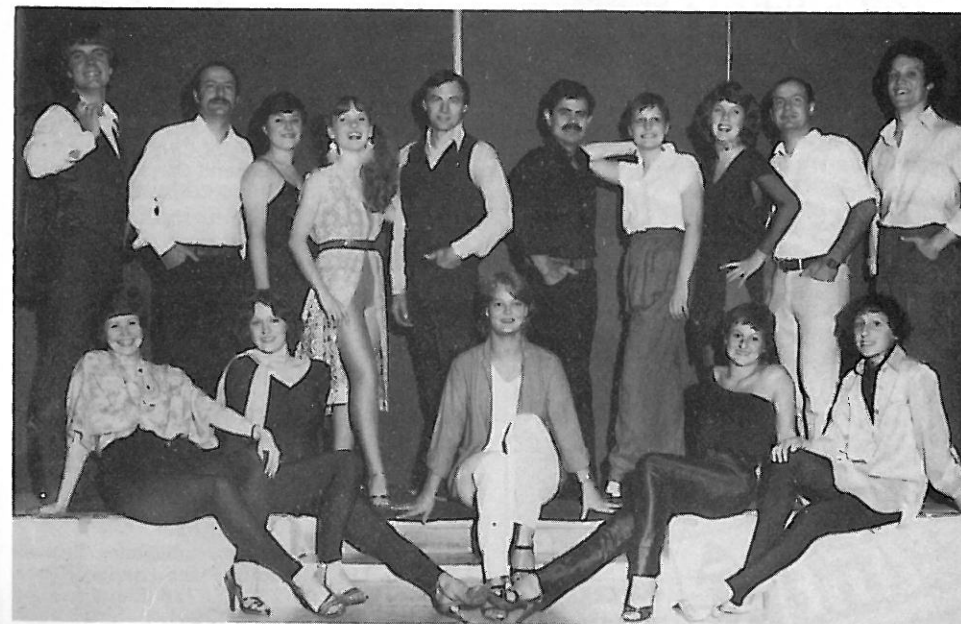
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