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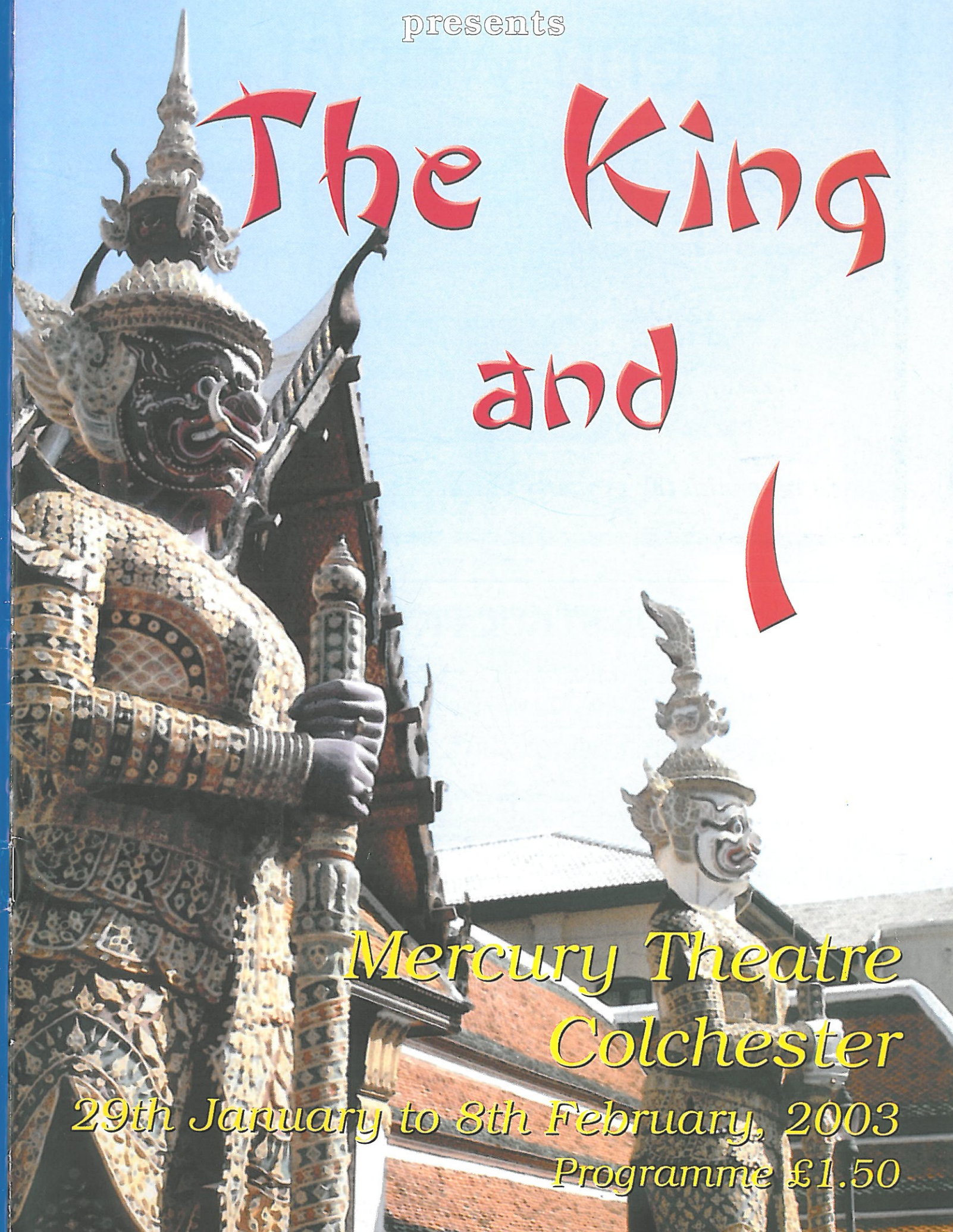
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Sexton Construction Ltd wishes Colchester Operatic Society every success for its production of "The King and I"

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1926	Mikado	1951	The Student Prince	1970	Kiss Me Kate	1988	The Desert Song
1927	Princess Ida	1952	Harmony Hill	1971	Die Fledermaus		Annie Get Your Gun
1929	Iolanthe	1953	Show Boat	1972	Mikado	1989	Mikado
1930	Yeoman of the Guard	1954	Brigadoon	1973	Robert and Elizabeth		My Fair Lady
1931	Trial By Jury & Pirates of Penzance	1955	Pink Champagne	1974	Orpheus in the Underworld	1990	The Pajama Game
	Les Cloches de Corneville	1956	Vagabond King	1975	The Merry Widow		The Music Man
1932	Quaker Girl	1957	White Horse Inn	1976	My Fair Lady	1991	Fiddler on the Roof
1933	Mikado	1958	Summer Song	1977	The Great Waltz	1992	Oklahoma
1935	Gondoliers	1959	The Merry Widow	1978	Fiddler on the Roof	1993	Kiss Me Kate
	Merrie England	1960	Song of Norway	1979	The King & I	1994	Godspell
1936	Duchess of Danzig	1961	Naughty Marietta	1980	Show Boat		Orpheus in the Underworld
1937	Vagabond King	1962	The Dancing Years	1981	Hello Dolly	1995	Hello Dolly
1938	Country Girl	1963	Kismet	1982	Camelot	1996	Pirates of Penzance
1946	Beggar's Opera	1964	The Most Happy Fella	1983	Half a Sixpence	1998	Me & My Girl
1947	Tom Jones	1965	They Came to a City	1984	Brigadoon	1999	Singin' in the Rain
	The Arcadians		The Student Prince	1985	Guys & Dolls	2000	Sweet Charity
1948	Waltz Dream	1966	Hay Fever		Carousel	2001	Half a Sixpence
1949	New Moon	1967	La Belle Helene	1986	Pirates of Penzance	2002	Carousel
1950	The Wind and Rain	1968	Count of Luxembourg	1987	The Sound of Music		
					South Pacific		

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Welcome

Welcome to the Mercury for our main production of 2003. After several years in the 'hot' slot of summer, the opportunity arose to move into a winter position straight after the finish of the Mercury pantomime. After careful examination of the pros and cons we decided to take the plunge and so here we are, much encouraged by the positive response to the change, particularly from groups who prefer theatre outings during the dark evenings! This repositioning has led to a very busy period for both CO2 and the main Society, with rehearsals for two shows running at the same time over the summer months, often involving the same people.

Following The King & I we shall go immediately into rehearsal for our annual concert, now transferred to May. There will be two performances at the Colchester Garrison Officers Club, with a Wine and Cheese Buffet, and a further two at the Mercury (without the buffet!) from which proceeds will be donated to the St. Helena Hospice. Details appear later in this programme.

A look back over old programmes reveals that families tend to share their enjoyment of acting and involvement in amateur theatre. However this production has done it in spades, for, included in the cast are Ken Smith, his wife Simone, their daughter Caroline (Anna) plus her two children and three grandchildren of the Fusi family. Congratulations!.

Enjoy the show and tell your friends.

John Warburton, Chairman.

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Presents

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The King & I

Music by Richard Rodgers Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
Based on the novel "Anna and the King of Siam" by Margaret Landon.

**This Amateur Production is presented by arrangement with
Josef Weinberger Ltd, on behalf of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Library of New York**

PRODUCTION TEAM



From Yorkshire (and proud of it), Val Massey came to Colchester after training in Theatre Arts. For many years she taught Performance and took part in countless shows for Colchester and other local Societies. Recent years have seen Val 'on the road' and in London's West End working with various hit musicals. She now uses her experience directing shows for Amateur Theatre

Peter, then a young 'hippy', studied music under Dr Swinburne at Colchester Institute in the 70s. He has been involved with COS and CO2 for many years and has recently obtained a teaching qualification in order to expand his musical career. He is delighted to be the M/D for "The King and I" and is very pleased to see a number of current CO2 members in the production

Director
VAL MASSEY
With assistance from
Nikki Mundell-Poole

Ballet Choreography
JENNY SPURGEON

Musical Director
PETER SNELL

Lighting Design
JIM BOWMAN

Stage Director
MICHAEL SPURGEON

Sound Design
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About The King and I

Background

The historical tale of the British governess Mrs Anna Leonowens and her 19th-century experiences in Siam came to notice in Margaret Landon's highly successful novel, *Anna and the King of Siam*. This was made into a Hollywood film in 1946 in which Rex Harrison starred as the King, and Irene Dunne as Mrs Leonowens. This attracted the attention of Gertrude Lawrence, who approached Rodgers and Hammerstein with the suggestion that the story be adapted into a musical play with the part of Mrs Leonowens tailored to suit her own talents. Opening in New York in March 1951 *The King and I* was an enormous success, giving Gertrude Lawrence her most outstanding musical role. It also started a career in its own right for Yul Brynner, who won the part of the King at audition, after it had been turned down by Rex Harrison. That musical career for Yul Brynner, during which he starred in the 1956 film version with Deborah Kerr, concluded at the end of a Broadway revival in 1985, shortly before he died. In the 34 years since his creation of the role he had played it over 4,600 times, and his performances continued through a period when he was receiving radiation treatment for lung cancer. London's introduction to the show was at Drury Lane in 1953, with Herbert Lom and Valerie Hobson in the title roles. Since then it has had many professional revivals and a tour is still taking place in England following the West End revival in 2000. Like its source book and the original film, stage and screen versions are banned in Thailand.

The Story

It is the early 1860's and Anna, a widow from Singapore, arrives in Bangkok, with Louis, her son, having been appointed governess to the children of the King of Siam. She is a strong willed lady, but apprehensive as she steps into a society where the King has absolute power and still rules in the manner of his ancestors. However, he is aware that there needs to be change, seeking to explore and bring the best of Western culture to his kingdom. Anna is enchanted with the King's numerous children and her western teaching begins to bring new ideas into the Palace. The question of her accommodation is a major disagreement however, she having been employed on terms giving her a house of her own whilst the King is now dictating that she must live in the Palace. Anna threatens to leave if her contract is not honoured, but Lady Thiang, the King's chief wife, persuades her to stay, explaining that the King needs her, but cannot be seen to say so. The King, of course, may never be questioned, but nevertheless, he allows himself to be tactfully guided by Anna, with inevitable clashes, though with a growing bond arising between them. Festivities are planned and the efforts being made by the King towards embracing some aspects of western culture are successfully demonstrated to British guests. During this a play is presented, 'The Small House of Uncle Thomas', narrated by Tuptim, a recently arrived concubine brought from Burma by Lun Tha, an Emissary from that country. These two have fallen in love and plan to run away after the play, despite Lady Thiang's advice not to do so. They are discovered and caught, Lun Tha being killed and Tuptim brought before the King to be whipped as a traitor. This is too much for Anna and after a furious disagreement with the King she vows to leave Siam. The King is taken seriously ill and Anna, though packed and about to embark, goes to him and is persuaded that she must remain by the side of his son and heir, Prince Chululongkorn.

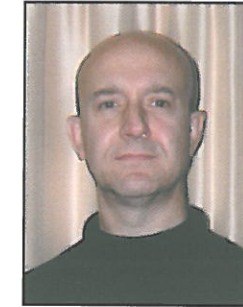


Members of the Company

Introducing some of our cast

Graham Bowden - The King

This is Graham's third show with the company, having played Pearce in *Half a Sixpence* and Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, both in hot summers and both needing wigs. Natural assets are ideal for this latest role, ironically being played in the winter, when added warmth would have been appreciated.



Caroline Fritz - Anna Leonowens

Caroline's involvement with C.O.S. began 25 years ago with *Fiddler on the Roof*. She spent 10 years as a professional actress, at venues including the West End and here at the Mercury. She was choreographer for *Half a Sixpence* for us in 2001 and played Julie in *Carousel* last year.



Barbara Ryan - Lady Thiang



Since joining the Society in 1974, Barbara has performed in most of the C.O.S Productions, playing many roles. Her favourites have been Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Ann in *Half a Sixpence*, Nellie in *South Pacific* and Laurie in *Oklahoma*. She also performs with other small groups and teaches music at a local school.

Brian Moore - The Kralahome

Brian has acted with several local companies and won a number of Essex T.G. Awards. He says he is delighted to be in his third show with C.O.S. at the Mercury and much appreciates the backstage harmony between Society and Mercury people.



Sam Perren - Lun Tha

Sam was in the 1995 production of CO2's *West Side Story* and has played in a number of shows since for Culford School and Bury St. Edmunds Operatic Society. He is looking forward to gaining a place in Drama School, before embarking on an acting career.



Soophia Foroughi - Tuptim

Soophia, 17, has been with CO2 for the past 3 years, playing Grace in *Annie* last year. This is her first show with C.O.S. She sang a solo in London's Trafalgar Square for the Queen's Golden Jubilee and was a finalist for Colchester Musician of the year 2002. She is studying Performing Arts at the Institute.



Joseph Howell - Louis (Burma)



Joseph was a 'Snow' child in *Carousel* last year and also appeared in *Annie*. He acts in plays at Philip Morant school, and is interested in music and rugby.

Daniel Howell - Prince Chululongkorn



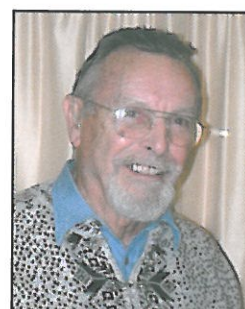
A small part in *Fame* was followed by chorus in *Guys and Dolls*, the 'Snow Junior' in *Carousel* plus the butler in *Annie*. Dan also finds time for plays at C.R.G.S. and learning piano and clarinet. Current ambitions lie toward media studies.

Daniel Kerr - Louis (Siam)



Daniel's first show was *Guys and Dolls* in 2001, followed by *Carousel* and *Annie* last year. He has also appeared in two school shows and is keen on sport.

Ken Smith - Captain Orton



Ken has been in love with the theatre since the late 1940's, having directed and/or appeared in well over 100 plays and musicals. He is delighted to appear in this production in company with seven members of his family.

John Warburton - Sir Edward Ramsay



John has been involved in theatre for many years, directing, acting and organising. He joined C.O.S. on moving to Colchester in 1969 and played Mr Barrett in the first C.O.S. production at the Mercury in 1973, *Robert & Elizabeth*. He is currently Society Chairman and also the local NODA Rep.

The King and I

CAST

(In order of Appearance)

Captain Orton	Ken Smith	Phra Alack	Philip Hawkins
Louis	Joseph Howell (Burma)	Lun Tha	Sam Perren
	Daniel Kerr (Siam)	Tuptim	Soophia Foroughi
The Interpreter	Philip Hawkins	Lady Thiang	Barbara Ryan
Anna	Caroline Fritz	Prince Chululongkorn	Daniel Howell
The Kralahome	Brian Moore	Sir Edward Ramsay	John Warburton
The King	Graham Bowden	Prince Ying Yaowlak	Victoria Leung (Burma)
			Jenna Saiz (Siam)

The Children

The Burma team will perform on 29th, 31st Jan., 1st (Eve.), 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th (Mat.) Feb.
The Siam team will perform on 30th Jan., 1st (Mat.), 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th (Eve.) Feb.

Burma Team

Siam Team

Lewis Aleta	Timothy Howell	Charlotte Beardsell	Jodie Innes
Bethany Bugg	Victoria Leung	Barney Fritz	Rosie McDonnell
Jodie Carter	Sasha Nicely	Lily Fritz	James Mugford
Zoe Carter	Bethany Pike	Alessandra Fusi	Rachel Mugford
Pheobe Day	Sophie Pike	Gabriella Fusi	Lily Powell
Corinne Gladwell	Pimai Stones	Joseph Fusi	Jenna Saiz
Joanna Haley	Harry Tweddell	Justine Garnes	Will Tamblyn

Cast of "The Small House of Uncle Thomas"

(In order of appearance)

Uncle Thomas	Stuart Edgar	Eliza	Beverley Humphreys
Little Eva	Justine Garnes (Siam)	Angel George	Valentine Cavanagh-White
	Victoria Leung (Burma)	Simon of Legree	Rosanna White
Topsy	Kerry Fairchild	Buddha	Simone Smith

Chorus of Wives, Amazons, Dancers, Priests etc.

Paula Baker	Philip Hawkins	Claire Jones	Barbara Pears
Valentine Cavanagh-White	Maria Hinton	Sally Leung	Colin Thorne
Lydia Clough	Ken Houghton	Penny Mole	John Warburton
Stuart Edgar	Beverley Humphreys	Sandra Moorhouse	Rosanna White
Kerry Fairchild	Helen Johnson	David Moye	Teresa White
			Shane Wignall

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

The action passes in and around the King's palace, Bangkok, Siam during the early eighteen sixties

ACT I

Scene 1	The deck of the Chow Phya, sailing into Bangkok		
Scene 2	The King's Library	<i>I whistle a Happy Tune</i>	Anna & Louis
		<i>My Lord and Master</i>	Tuptim
		<i>Hello, Young Lovers</i>	Anna
		<i>March of the Siamese Children</i>	
Scene 3	The King's Library	<i>A Puzzlement</i>	The King
		<i>Home sweet Home</i>	Children and Priests
Scene 4	The Schoolroom	<i>The Royal Bangkok Academy</i>	Royal Wives and Children
		<i>Getting to Know You</i>	Anna, Royal Wives and Children
		<i>We Kiss in a Shadow</i>	Lun Tha and Tuptim
		<i>A Puzzlement</i>	Prince Chululongkorn & Louis
Scene 5	Anna's Bedroom	<i>Shall I Tell You What I Think of You</i>	Anna
		<i>Something Wonderful</i>	Lady Thiang
Scene 6	The King's Library	<i>Finale to Act I</i>	The King, Anna and Company

ACT II

Scene 1	A Reception Room	<i>Western People Funny</i>	Lady Thiang and Royal Wives
Scene 2	In the Palace Grounds	<i>I Have Dreamed</i>	Lun Tha and Tuptim
		<i>Hello, Young Lovers (Repr.)</i>	Anna
Scene 3	The Theatre Pavilion	<i>The Small House of Uncle Thomas (Ballet)</i>	Tuptim & Chorus Narrate
Scene 4	The Kings Library	<i>Song of the King</i>	The King
		<i>Shall we Dance</i>	Anna and the King
Scene 4a	A Street		
Scene 5	A Room in Anna's House		
Scene 5a	A Palace Corridor		
Scene 6	The King's Library	<i>I Whistle a Happy Tune (Repr.)</i>	Anna
		<i>Finale Ultimo</i>	The Company

Please turn off all mobile phones and other bleep making devices

Please note that the videoing, photographing or sound recording of any part of this performance is not permitted.

The Children

Burma Team

Joanna Haley Jodie Carter Victoria Leung Pheobe Day



Corinne Gladwell Timothy Howell Lewis Aleta Bethany Pike Zoe Carter
Pimai Stones Sasha Nicely Bethany Bugg Sophie Pike

Missing
Harry Tweddell

Siam Team

Jodie Innes Jenna Saiz Charlotte Beardsell James Mugford Gabriella Fusi Rachel Mugford



Lily Fritz Joseph Fusi Will Tambllyn Lily Powell
Barney Fritz Alessandra Fusi

Missing
Rosie McDonnell
Justine Garnes

House of Uncle Thomas Cast



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The committee and members of Colchester Operatic Society would like to express their grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this production of 'The King and I', and with particular thanks to:

Dee Evans, Zoe Curnow, Andy Franks and all their staff at the Mercury Theatre Colchester Garrison Officers' Club, the Arena Sports & Leisure Club and The Headgate Theatre, for their rehearsal facilities.

The Hervey Benham Trust for its much valued previous support.

David Clarke and Social Committee members for Green Room hospitality.

David London for Publicity and Front of House photographs.

John Warburton for Programme design/editing and **David Moye** for Poster design.

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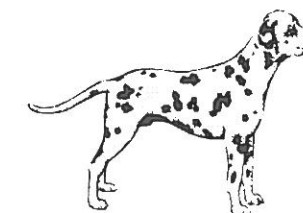
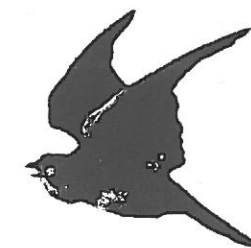
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And Finally

We hope you have enjoyed the show as much as we have in presenting it to you.

Are you interested in becoming involved in the fascinating business of putting on a show such as you have seen this evening? Have you an interest in singing, acting, organising, costume, stage properties (i.e. the ability to beg, borrow, make or otherwise obtain all those things that are needed to set the scene and allow the action to proceed)? If so give us a call.

New members are always welcome, particularly men, and a good opportunity to start will be when the concert rehearsals start on Thur. 13th February at the Officers Club.

For more detail about us

visit our web site at www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk.
or call our membership Secretary, Colin Thorne on 01206 262664
or for our Youth Group CO2
call Emma Spurgeon on 01206 768524

Have a safe journey home and don't forget to book your tickets for
SING AROUND THE WORLD in May
42nd STREET (CO2) in October
OLIVER! in January 2004



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