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*Robert & Elizabeth*



*H.W. Pearce*

Presented by the Colchester Operatic & Dramatic  
Society at  
The Mercury Theatre.  
~1973~





## MERCURY THEATRE COLCHESTER

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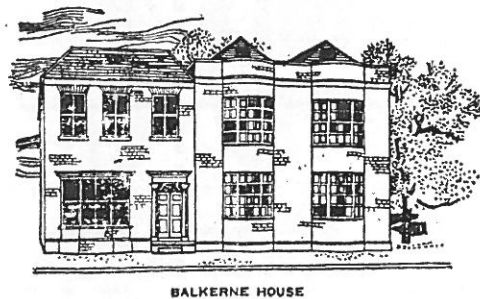
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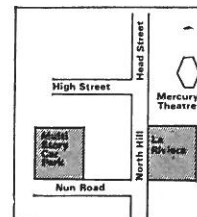
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## HISTORIC SYNOPSIS

IF the love story of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning had been serialised in some weekly magazine, one could be excused for thinking it a highly coloured romantic fiction. Yet this musical adaptation of the play "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" is historically correct.

Elizabeth Moulton Barrett was born on 6th March, 1806. Although very much a tomboy, her natural literary talents were encouraged by her father, with whom she shared a devoted relationship. At the age of 15 she became seriously ill as a result of a spinal injury. This shattering blow, later made worse by the death of her beloved elder brother, Edward, reduced her to the condition of a total invalid. Her love for her father developed into an emotional as well as a physical dependence. Her only escape was her vivid imagination and her tremendous literary output. A mutual friend drew the attention of Robert Browning to her work. He wrote his first letter to her in January 1845. In this he tells her, "I do, as I say, love these books with all my heart—and I love you too." Thus began a correspondence which resulted in an exchange of some five hundred letters during a period of almost two years. In the summer of 1845 he visited her for the first time, and this became a weekly habit, much to the evident dislike of her father. Browning was six years younger than Elizabeth, but he never doubted that he would marry her.

Her great love for Robert, over-riding her fear of the ever increasing tyrannical possessiveness of her father, finally persuaded Elizabeth to go to Italy with him. They were married on 12th September, 1846, at St. Marylebone Parish Church, leaving for Florence a week later. Although she attempted a reconciliation with her father, Edward Moulton Barrett refused to see or communicate with her. Robert and Elizabeth spent their married lives mainly in Italy until her death in 1861, leaving him a son.



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Arranged by RONALD HANMER

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1930 Yeomen of the Guard	1949 New Moon	1964 The Most Happy Fella
1931 Trial by Jury and Pirates of Penzance	1950 The Wind and Rain The Desert Song	1965 They Came to a City The Student Prince
Les Cloches de Corneville	1951 The Student Prince	1966 Hay Fever
1932 Quaker Girl	1952 Harmony Hill	La Belle Helene
1933 Mikado	1953 Show Boat	1967 Carousal
1934 Gondoliers	1954 Brigadoon	1968 Count of Luxembourg
1935 Merrie England	1955 Pink Champagne	1969 Oklahoma
1936 Duchess of Danzig	1956 Vagabond King	1970 Kiss Me Kate
1937 Vagabond King	1957 White Horse Inn	1971 Die Fledermaus
1938 Country Girl	1958 Summer Song	1972 Mikado
	1959 The Merry Widow	

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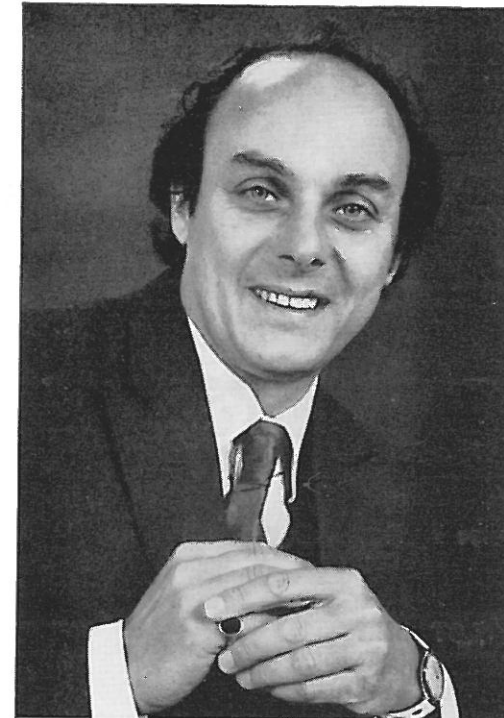




"Elizabeth"  
BERYL ROYALL



"Edward Moulton-Barrett"  
JOHN WARBURTON



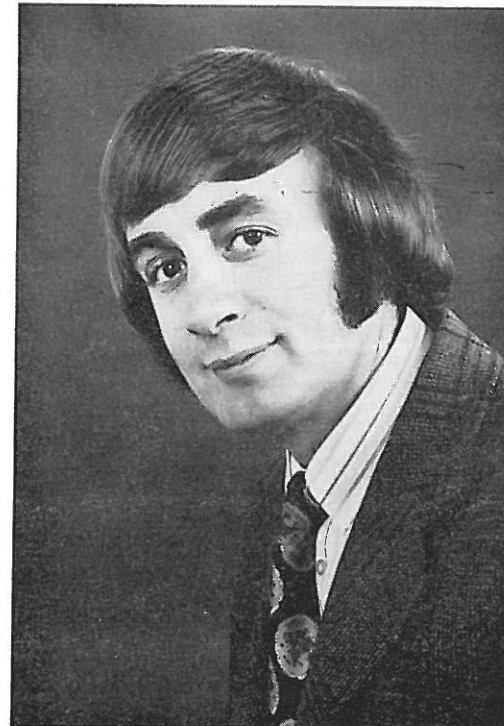
"Evans"  
RICHARD JAGO



"Arabel"  
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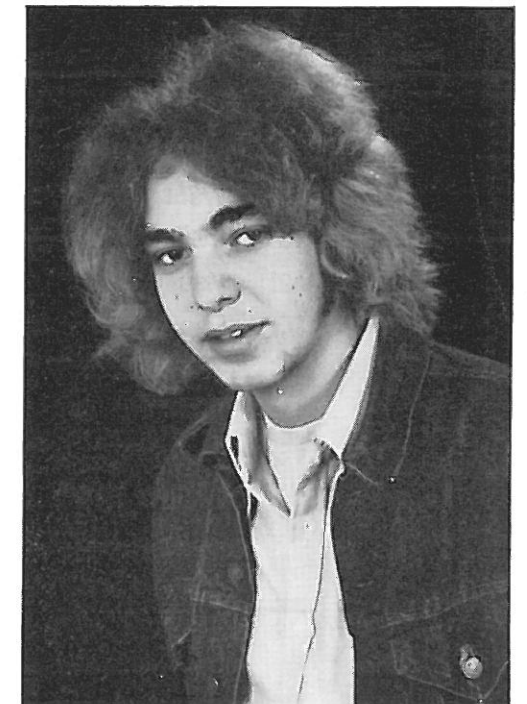
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GIL GRAY



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# *Robert and Elizabeth*

Book and Lyrics by RONALD MILLAR

Music by RON GRAINER

## ACT ONE

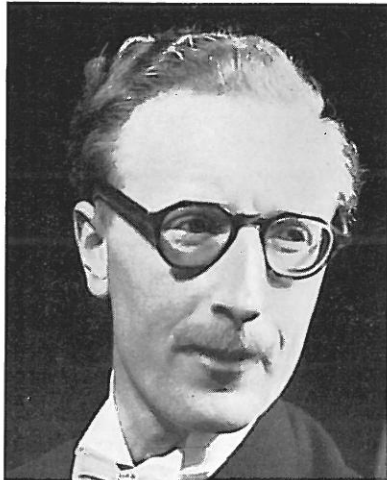
1. "Here on the corner of Wimpole Street" ..... Ensemble
2. "Love and Duty" ..... Arabel, Septimus and Octavius
3. "The Family Moulton Barrett" ..... Arabel, Henrietta and the Brothers
4. "The World Outside" ..... Elizabeth and Henrietta
5. "The Moon in My Pocket" ..... Browning and Ensemble
6. "I Said Love" ..... Browning
7. "Want to be Well" ..... Browning and Elizabeth
8. "I Said Love" (Reprise) ..... Elizabeth and Browning
9. "You Only to Love Me" ..... Henrietta
10. "The World Outside" (Reprise) ..... Doctor Chambers
11. "The Real Thing" ..... Elizabeth and Ensemble
12. BALLET
13. "In a Simple Way" ..... Elizabeth and Browning
14. "I Know Now" ..... Elizabeth and Browning

## ACT TWO

15. "Soliloquy" ..... Elizabeth
16. "Pass the Eau-de-Cologne" ..... The Brothers
17. "What's Natural" ..... Bella
18. "I'm the Master Here" ..... Barrett and Brothers
19. "Escape Me Never" ..... Browning and Chorus
20. "Hate Me Please" ..... Henrietta and Captain Cook
21. "Under a Spell" ..... Robert, Captain Cook and Ensemble
22. "The Girls that Boys Dream About" ..... Henrietta, Arabel, the Brothers and Wilson
23. "Woman and Man" ..... Elizabeth
24. "Frustration" ..... Browning
25. "Frustration" (Reprise) ..... Wilson and Captain Cook
26. "I Know Now" (Reprise) ..... Elizabeth, Browning and Ensemble

---

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# ROBERT and ELIZABETH

Production Directed  
by  
**JOHN D. FOXALL**

Choreography by LIZ CLEMENTS

JOHN D. FOXALL

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Edward Moulton Barrett	<b>John Warburton</b>
Henrietta	<b>Ann Platten</b>
Arabel	<b>Fiona Hunt</b>
George	<b>Dennis Bowen</b>
Charles	<b>Peter Thomas</b>
Henry	<b>Chum Borges</b>
Alfred	<b>David King</b>
Septimus	<b>Paul Abbott</b>
Octavius	<b>John Abbott</b>
Bella Hedley	<b>Judy Harrison</b>
Henry Bevan	<b>Michael Spurgeon</b>
Captain Surtees Cook	<b>John Enfield</b>
A Fellow Officer	<b>Nigel Chapman</b>
Wilson	<b>Christine Marshall</b>
Doctor Chambers	<b>Maurice Bond</b>
Elizabeth	<b>Beryl Royall</b>
Mr. Macready	<b>Mervyn Harridence</b>
Mr. Langton	<b>Harry Pope</b>
Evans	<b>Richard Jago</b>
Robert Browning	<b>Gil Gray</b>
Travers	<b>Harry Pope</b>

Lighting by Dave Lovett

Scenery designed, built and painted by  
the Mercury Staff in the Theatre Workshops

## Musical Direction

by

**ROY BUDDEN**



ROY BUDDEN

Hon. Chorus Mistress **MARGARET NOTLEY**

Hon. Accompanist **CATHERINE FIRMIN**

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	Dennis Rainbird	Geoffrey Whittaker	Geoffrey Wibberley
<b>LADIES</b>	Iris Bones	Jane Bromwich	Sheila Catt
	Pat Corbett	Ann Coverdale	Katey Davey
	Ann Dye	Pam Gibson	Janet Goody
	Meg Lambert	Margaret Norfolk	Jill Palmer
	Doris Redhouse	Ann Fozier	Edna Scottow
	Marion Spurgeon	Doreen Tubby	Iris Winter

## DANCERS

Teresa Arnold Denise Robson Marj Green Sheila Kerr Frances White

## ORCHESTRA

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Laurence Davis—Viola	Marjory Gosling—Cello
David Lamb—Bass	S. Marlow—Clarinet
Humphrey Taylor—Flute	G. H. Churchill—Horn
Nigel Carver—Trombone	Lionel Ford—Percussion

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## For Colchester Mercury Theatre Limited

Stage Director : Christopher Snow	Chief Electrician : Dave Lovett
Stage Manager : Stephen Allen	Assistant Electrician : Chris Ward
Stage Management : Emma B. Lloyd,	
Tim Spence-Brown, Sue Templar	

## For the Colchester Operatic & Dramatic Society

Stage Management : Tony Hunt, assisted by Bernard Pulley and Michael Barwood  
Electricians : Martin Dye, assisted by Colin Tracey, Paul Hunter and Douglas Benham  
Additional scenery constructed by Stephen Goodey  
Properties : Sue Joyce, Nichola Rees  
Prompters : Audrey Davis, Shirley Greville and Phil Blane

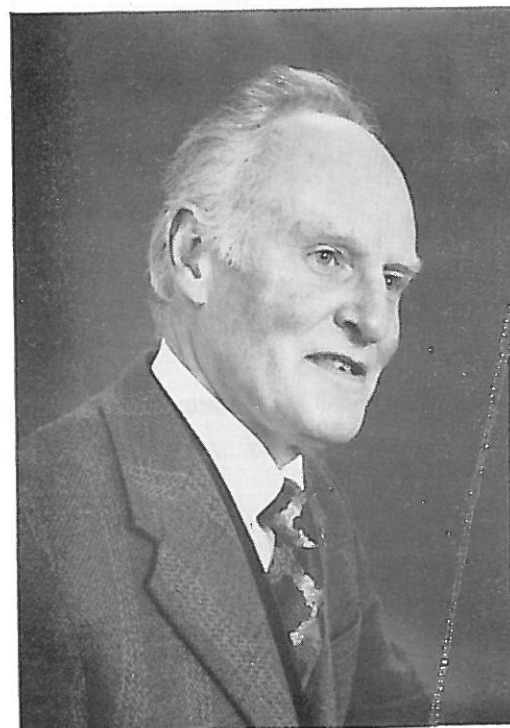




"Bella Hedley"  
JUDY HARRISON



"Henrietta"  
ANN PLATTEN



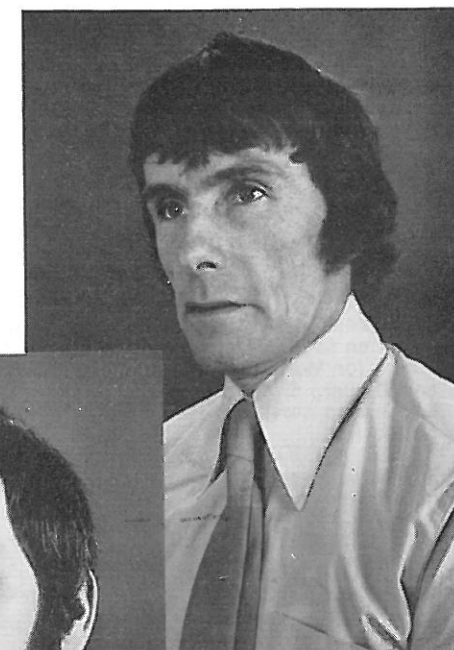
"Dr. Chambers"  
MAURICE BOND



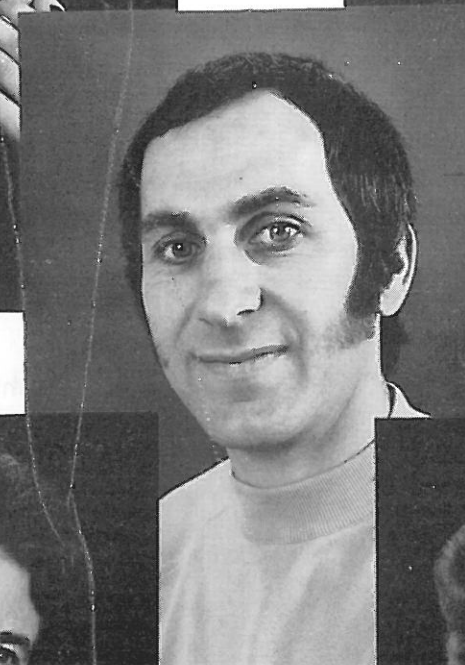
"Mr. Macready"  
MERVYN HARRIDENCE



"Alfred"  
DAVID KING



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"Henry"  
CHUM BORGES



"Wilson"  
CHRISTINE MARSHALL



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The Society expresses grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this  
Production and particularly acknowledge the co-operation and assistance  
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MR. H. W. PEARCE for the cover design.

MISS MARJORIE CHATTEY—Programme sales organiser.

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The Green Room Refreshment organisers.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barbour for scenery storage facilities.

Iris Winter for the appearance of Spot, alias "Flush" the dog.

---

The Society is especially grateful for the helpful co-operation received  
from the Management and Staff of the Mercury Theatre.

---

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ELIZABETH's HAIR by CARMEN WIGS styled by MARION LEAR, 14  
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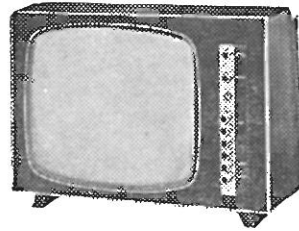


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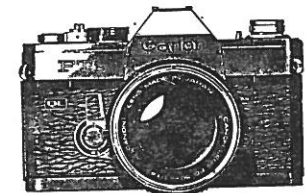
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