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1985



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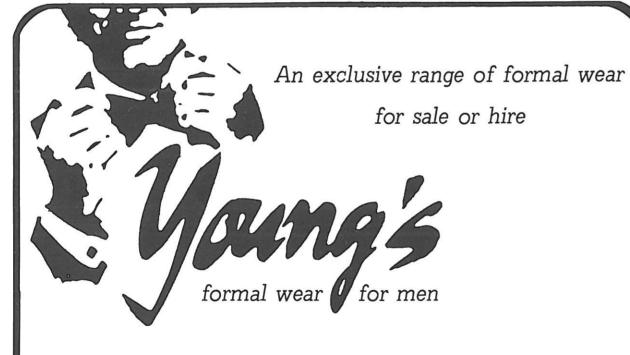


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CLARENCE HOUSE S.W. 1

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, as Patron of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, was delighted to learn that the Colchester Operatic Society is to mark its Diamond Jubilee by a presentation of "Carousel".

The Queen Mother sends her greetings to all members of the Society on this important anniversary and her best wishes for a happy and successful production at the Mercury Theatre.

PRIVATE SECRETARY

THE HISTORY OF COLCHESTER OPERATIC SOCIETY

In a small room in Colchester Town Hall in 1924 a group of business men met to form an organisation which has lasted for sixty years. It began its existence as Colchester Amateur Operatic Society, and from the beginning was an enormous success. The initial idea was to provide some entertainment during the annual County Cricket Festival, although this did not materialise.

The first production was Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" staged at the Hippodrome Theatre, High Street on 8th December, 1925. The Essex County Telegraph reported in kindly terms on its reception saying, however, that it must be remembered that it was being performed by amateurs. Those playing the leading roles, Hubert Ford (Marco), Harold Turner (Guiseppe), Connie Kent (Gianetta) and Josephine Scott (Tessa) may be unknown to current audiences, but all were to become mainstays of the Society. Ashley Cooper, himself an ex-Sayoyard, directed the Show, and Ernest Turner conducted the South Adams Orchestra of 28 musicians.

Over the next eight years the Society concentrated on Savoy Operas and it is interesting to to note that since then only one other G. and S. Opera has been staged — "The Mikado" in 1972, although in the Spring of next year a modern version of "The Pirates of Penzance" will be presented. "The Country Girl" in 1938 was the last production before the Second World War interrupted Shows, and it was another seven years before the Society returned to annual productions.

With the end of the War the Society lost no time in getting back into production with "The Beggar's Opera" in 1946, and "The Arcadians" in 1947 which was performed at the old Repertory Theatre. In 1947 "Tom Jones" was the first Show at The Playhouse in St. John's Street, where the Society stayed until 1973. Increasingly ambitious Shows were staged during this time, and several straight plays "The Wind and the Rain" (1950), "They Came to a City" (1965), and "Hay Fever" (1966).

In 1973 the Society moved its performing venue to the Mercury Theatre with "Robert and Elizabeth", where it has remained ever since. Once again the reputation of the Society was being enhanced by such Shows as "Fiddler on the Roof" (1978), "The King and I" (1979) and "Hello Dolly" (1981), with demand for tickets exceeding the number of seats available.

Like most organisations of a similar type the Society has produced its fair share of personalities; Harold Fielden who was Secretary for 23 years was minute of stature, but a giant in service to the Society; Chris Bond, wardrobe mistress and later Secretary; Horace Pearce who was Chairman for nearly 30 years, and designed every programme cover for the Society since 1925 until his death in 1978; and Alderman Piper, a generous and devoted servant of the Society, and in his latter years it Patron.

In the first 28 years there were only two Secretaries - W.W. Townsend (1925 - 1936) and Harold Fielden (1937 - 1960), and in the next 29 years only four, George Flint, Eddie Bradley, Chris Bond and Margaret Berry (1971 to the present).

Costs of staging productions have escalated enormously from something around £700 to the current level of £24,000. Standards have also risen significantly with the appointment of professional musicians, experienced professional directors and musical directors (e.g. Sir Charles Mackerras, Marcus Dods and Roy Budden).

In the early years the Society had a break between December and June, but in 1958 the concert version of "H.M.S. Pinafore" was performed in the Moot Hall for two nights. This proved a popular innovation, keeping members together between productions. All the popular G. and S. Shows followed, changing to "Songs from the Shows" in 1970. Many local Charities benefitted from these concerts, and the Society hopes to maintain its Charity Fund for the future. However, in the Spring of 1985 "Guys and Dolls" was presented as a full stage production for one week at the Mercury Theatre instead of the usual Concert.

In 1984 Colchester Operatic Second Generation (C.O.2) was formed to mount Shows of greater interest to the younger Members of the Society, and in the Autumn of that year "Grease" was presented at Essex University Theatre. "The Wiz" followed this year, and both Shows were received with tremendous acclaim, proving that there is a wealth of talent amongst the younger members which bodes well for the future of the whole Society.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS AT THE MERCURY THEATRE

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE - 26th MAY - 31st MAY, 1986

THE SOUND OF MUSIC - 17th - 29th NOVEMBER, 1986



RAY JEFFERY



Director

DOREEN MATTHEWS

CAROUSEL

PRODUCTION TEAM



ANGELA RANKIN

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Director's Assistant — ANGELA RANKIN

Dancers' Choreographer—DOREEN MATTHEWS

Dialogue Coach—PHYL DEEBLE





ANDREW DENYER
Musical Director & Chorus Master



PHYL DEEBLE

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1925	Gondoliers	1950	The Wind and Rain	1967	Carousel
1926	Mikado	1750	The Desert Song	1968	Count of Luxemboug
1927	Princess Ida	1951	The Student Prince	1969	Oklahoma
1929	Iolanthe	1952	Harmony Hill	1970	Kiss Me Kate
1930	Yeoman of the Guard			1970	Die Fledermaus
		1953	Show Boat		
1931	Trial by Jury and	1954	Brigadoon	1972	Mikado
	Pirates of Penzance	1955	Pink Champagne	1973	Robert and Elizabeth
	Les Cloches de Corneville	1956	Vagabond King	1974	Orpheus in the Underworld
1932	Quaker Girl	1957	White Horse Inn	1975	The Merry Widow
1933	Mikado	1958	Summer Song	1976	My Fair Lady
1934	Gondoliers	1959	The Merry Widow	1977	The Great Waltz
1935	Merrie England	1960	Song of Norway	1978	Fiddler on the Roof
1936	Duchess of Danzig	1961	Naughty Marietta	1979	The King & I
1937	Vagabond King	1962	The Dancing Years	1980	Show Boat
1938	Country Girl	1963	Kismet	1981	Hello Dolly
1946	Beggar's Opera	1964	The Most Happy Fella	1982	Camelot
1947	Tom Jones	1965	They Came to a City	1983	Half a Sixpence
1947	The Arcadians	1965	The Student Prince	1984	Brigadoon
1948	Waltz Dream	1966	Hay Fever	1985	Guys & Dolls
1949	New Moon		La Belle Helene		5

STAGE MANAGEMENT:

For the Mercury Theatre: Christopher Snow, Jim Bowman (Chief Electrician), Chris Shaw, David Milling,

Patrick Mirams.

For Colchester Operatic Society: David Sage, John Andrews, Vic Edwards, Roger Dobson, John Kerr, Bob Ord,

Mike Spurgeon.

Prompter: Marion Spurgeon & Debbie Andrews.

Props: Sue Joyce, Beryl Balls, Susan Balls, Karen Balls, Michael England, June Harris,

Jennie Spurgeon, Emma Spurgeon.

Make-up Team: Ken Smith, Ann Dye, Juliette Enfield, John Foxall, Ann Platten, Mandy Shardlow.

Wardrobe: Mary Fletcher, Margaret Pedder, B. Sewell, Audrey Shardlow.

Programme: Katie Davey & Roger Dobson.



BILLY BIGELOW Colin Thorne

THE CAST

Carrie Pipperidge		•••	•••		•••	•••	Sally Bristow
Julie Jordan		•••				•••	Dawn King
Mrs. Mullins					•••	•••	Valerie Massey
Billy Bigelow	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	Colin Thorne
First Policeman							Andrew Jeffers
David Bascombe			•••				John Enfield
Nettie Fowler			•••				Gillian Plumtree
Enoch Snow				•••			Derek Collins
Jigger Craigin							Mick Hemstedt
Arminy	•••		•••			•••	Belinda Pedder
Second Policeman	1						Nigel Smith
Captain	•••		•••	•••	•••		Trevor Cushing
Heavenly Friend ((Brot	her J	oshua	ı) .	•••	•••	Derek Massey
Starkeeper	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	Ken Smith
Louise	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	Michelle Waters
Boy Like Billy	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	Bob Wilson
Enoch Snow, Jnr.			•••	•••	•••		Adam Woodhouse
Dr. Seldon	•••	•••	***	•••	•••		Ken Smith
Understudy for Ju	ılie	•••			•••	•••	Barbara Ryan
Understudy for L	ouise	•••			•••		Melody Mason

CHORUS

Jennie Broom	Sandra Moorhouse	Jim Bagley
Maggie Brush	Belinda Pedder	Chris Barrell
Janet Collins	Ann Rozier	Bob Bristow
Angela Cross	Barbara Ryan	Mark Fincham
Lin Curtis	June Sissens	Mark Frost
Margaret Dunt	Simone Smith	Andrew Jeffers
Jill Enfield	Suki Smith	Mark Leggatt
Lorraine Francis Brenda Green Nicola Massey	Beryl Taylor Samantha Torrington Maureen Yeats	Don Rose Jim Sissens Philip Spurgeon Lee Threadgold

DANCERS

Pamella Brooks	Melody Mason
Fiona Everitt	Sarah-Jane Taylor
Dani Fincham	Elena Templeman
Joanna Humphreys	Paula Warner
Georgina Lingard	
Trevor Cushing	Nigel Smith
Andy Edwards	Lee Threadgold
Nick Flower	Bob Wilson
Brian Keeble	

Scenery: Designed by Ray Jeffery and constructed by Steve Goody.

Costumes: S.B. Watts & Son Ltd., Manchester. Wigs: Dressed by Alison Gill & Jennie Spurgeon.

ACTS AND SCENES



JULIE JORDA
Dawn King

Scene 1	An Amusement Park on the New England Co	oast — May		Dawn King			
Scene 2	A tree-lined path along the shore. A few mine Mister Snow		***	Carrie and Julie			
	If I loved you	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • •	Billy and Julie			
Scene 3	Nettie Fowler's Spa on the ocean front — Jun	ne					
			• • •	Nettie, Carrie, Girls and Boys			
				Carrie and Mr. Snow			
				Billy and the Sailors			
	Hornpipe Dance			Boy Dancers			
	Soliloquy			Billy			
ACT II							
Scene 1	On an island across the bay — that night						
		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • •	Nettie, Julie, Carrie, Mr. Snow, Girls and Boys			
	Geraniums in the Winder and Stone-cutters			Mr. Snow Jigger and Singers			
	What's the use of wond'rin'			Julie and Girls			
Scene 2 Mainland waterfront — an hour later							
	You'll never walk alone			Nettie			
Scene 3	Up there and Down here. On the Beach.	Fifteen year	s later				
Scene 4	Ballet			Louise, the Carousel Folk, Urchins and the Snow Family			
Scene 5	Outside Julie's Cottage						
	I) m D			Carrie			
	T			Billy			
Scene 6	Outside the Schoolhouse — the same day						
20000	\$7			The Company			
CHILDREN:							

ACT I

CHILDREN:

Miranda Cundy, Nadine Dias, Beverley Humphreys, Gillian Humphreys, Beth Keeble, Kerry Leonard, Scott Meekings, Abigail Rankin.

Rachel Cameron, Adam Harridence, Nichole Lambert, Sarah Lambert, Amber Lorrington, Christopher Price, Katrina Price, Heidi Warner.

Reserve: Lorraine Blanking.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

How do you celebrate your Diamond Jubilee? By careful decisions, involvement and hard work if you belong to Colchester Operatic Society.

For many years the main show has been in November, this year it was decided to have two main shows, one in May and the other in late November. For contrast in style and appeal, the two selected were "Guys and Dolls" and "Carousel". The involvement and hard work in producing two main shows must, to a large extent, fall very heavily on the 'unseen heroes', I mean of course those working backstage including stage management, props, make-up, wardrobe and those directly connected with the production.

On one of those rare summer evenings of 1985, the Society members and their friends joined together in a Strawberry and Bubbly party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Weiss. Other highlights of the year will be staging this year's show under the direction of Ray Jeffery, who also designed the set (he told me to put that bit in!). After the final performance, I shall be handing over a cheque for £1,000 to Miss Helen Shapiro, who will be receiving it on behalf of The Stars Organisation for the Spastics, Wakes Colne.

Also, after the final curtain, <u>all</u> those present will be invited to toast the health of the Society, which will also give you an opportunity to view our Exhibition in the Digby Gallery.

May I take this opportunity of thanking John and Lynne Lloyd, of the Arena Sports and Leisure Centre, for providing such a perfect home for our Society.

Finally, on behalf of Colchester Operatic, my sincere thanks to you, the audience, for your continued support,

JOHN ENFIELD Chairman

The Story

The play is set in New England between the years 1873 and 1888, and opens in an Amusement Park. Mullins' Carousel is one of the attractions, not least on account of the handsome Barker, Billy Bigelow. Mrs. Mullins, owner of the Carousel notices Billy is attracted to Julie Jordan, one of the girls from Mr. Bascombe's mill, and is furious about this. A row ensues and Billy is sacked; Julie also loses her job at the mill by staying to talk to Billy. Her friend, Carrie Pipperidge, is encouraged to see that the shy, retiring Julie is at last interested in a man, and feels that she can now confide her love for Enoch Snow, a fisherman with big ideas for progressing his business.

Billy and Julie marry and settle down with Julie's cousin, Nettie Fowler, who has a Spa on the Waterfront. Out of work and restless Billy makes friends with the disreputable Jigger Craigin, who is out to get money by whatever means are necessary. He formulates a plan to rob Mr. Bascombe when he comes down to the deserted quay to pay the Captain of one of his ships—all this under cover of darkness during the Clambake which is held every year on the island.

Julie tells Billy that she is to have a child. In his Soliloquy on the forthcoming child Billy realises that if he falls in with Jigger's plans he may indeed, have enough money to look after Julie and the child properly.

At the Clambake, Jigger makes overtures to the naive Carrie. They are caught by Enoch Snow, and this leads to a break in their combined happiness.

The robbery misfires, and in a fit of remorse Billy stabs himself with the knife intended for Mr. Bascombe; the party returns from the Clambake, and Billy dies in Julie's arms. While Julie and Nettie kneel by the body, the Heavenly Friend comes and takes Billy to the backyard of Heaven. He has not done enough good in his life to be allowed to enter Heaven other than by the back door, and the Starkeeper tells Billy that if he left anything unfinished he can return to earth for one day, and perhaps in this way redeem himself.

Julie catches a glimpse of Billy when he returns to earth and talks to Louise, now 15, who refuses the star he has brought her. At the Graduation Day ceremony Billy manages at last to whisper words of encouragement to Louise which make her feel one with her fellows, and gives her a new understanding of her Mother. Billy crosses to Julie and says "know that I loved you", the Heavenly Friend beckons him away, and Julie is happy at last in the knowledge of Billy's love.



CARRIE & MR. SNOW Sally Bristow & Derek Collins



NETTIE Gillian Plumtree



MRS. MULLINS Valerie Massey



LOUISE & ENOCH SNOW, JNR.
Michelle Waters & Adam Woodhouse



STARKEEPER Ken Smith



JIGGER CRAIGIN Mick Hemstedt





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society expresses grateful thanks for all who have contributed to this production, and in particular:-

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

R.B. Bacon for loan of T.V. set.

Mick Hemstedt for programme cover.

Norman Warner for design of window display.

Colin Ryan and the Nationwide Building Society for display.

The Arena Sports and Leisure Club for rehearsal facilities and scenery storage.

Steve Goody for props.

Staff and Management of the Mercury Theatre.

Roy Farthing and Douglas Studios for Photography.

Chelmsford & Brentwood Operatic Societies for loan of props.

May we draw your attention to the

SUPPORTERS GROUP

Our Supporters Group continues to expand. Members of the Group, in addition to receiving a bi-annual Newsletter, have the right to book up to four seats for our Productions, after the Society members, but before the tickets are offered for sale to the general public.

We hope and believe that the Supporters Group will ensure that Colchester Operatic Society continues to enjoy the much valued support, not only of the general public, but of those people who have been our mainstay for many years.

If you are interested in joining the Supporters Group please send a stamped addressed envelope to:-

7 Coast Road, West Mersea for further details.



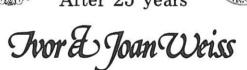
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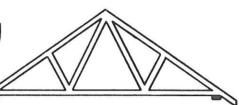
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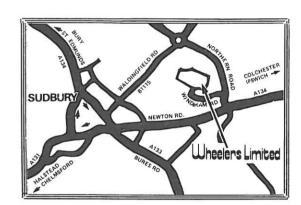
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