

STORY OF THE MERRY WIDOW

In the tiny principality of Pontevedro there is a crisis situation. The court banker, Stefan Glavari, has not only married a penniless beauty, young enough to be his daughter, but also has had the audacity to die and leave her his immense fortune which, should it leave Pontevedro, would bankrupt the Country. The ruling Duke of Pontevedro has informed his Ambassador in Paris, Baron Zeta, that Glavari's widow Anna must at all costs be prevented from marrying a Frenchman, thus causing such a disaster.

A party is in progress at the French Embassy in honour of the Duke's birthday. Zeta's French wife, Valencienne, is flirting with Camille de Rosillon, who rashly writes 'I Love You' on her fan. Zeta is quite unaware of his wife's behaviour — he is anxious to find Count Danilo, the only eligible bachelor who could woo Anna and her millions. Unfortunately, Anna and Danilo were once very much in love but were prevented from marrying by the Count's Uncle forbidding him to marry a peasant girl. When they meet again Anna remarks that whenever a man tells her 'I Love You' he is thinking of her fortune more than her. Danilo declares that he will never say those words.

Anna gives a party in the garden of her Palace. She and Danilo, though deeply in love, will not admit it to each other. Zeta is under pressure to get the widow married to a compatriot. Valencienne's fan with its compromising message is causing chaos. She and Camille are nearly caught together in the summer-house. Anna, trying to turn the situation to her own advantage, upsets Danilo and he goes off in a rage to 'Maxims' where he feels at home.

Later that evening Anna's garden has been decorated to resemble 'Maxims'. Danilo arrives and is instructed to issue an ultimatum to Anna — either she marries a Pontevedrian or she bankrupts her Country. She desperately wants to marry Danilo but how to make him say 'I Love You'? She has an idea which leads to a happy ending to the relief of all concerned.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Witham Amateur Operatic Society (*Autumn Production*)
HMS PINAFORE and TRIAL BY JURY (28th — 31st October 1987)
Witham Dramatic Club
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER (18th — 21st November 1987)

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Inaugurated in 1921

President: Mr. T.J. Sheppard
Hon. Life Members: Mrs. K. Adams, Miss L. Croxall
Mrs. N. Hinchliffe, Miss K. Richards

Vice Presidents:

R.J. Adams, Esq.
Mrs. K. Amos
R.M. Balch, Esq.
G.P. Bamford, Esq.
Mrs. K. Beaven
Mrs. G. Beckett
Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Briggs
Mrs. S. Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. R. Carter
Mr. & Mrs. P. Charters
P.J.B. Church, Esq.
B. Clarke, Esq.
Lt. Col. R.L. Clarke
N.H.O. Clough, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. B. Clouting
D. Collins, Esq.
H.A. Cook, Esq.
G.H. Coverdale, Esq.
Mrs. L.K. Coverdale
T.F. Coxhead, Esq.
Miss L. Croxall
Mrs. F. Dalton
Dr. J.C. Denholm
M.C. Dewdney, Esq.
Mrs. M.L. Elsom
R. Enfield, Esq.
J. Farmer, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. K. Ferris

Mrs. D. Gann
Mrs. G. Gibbs
E.T. Gilbert, Esq.
A. Grout, Esq.
G.R. Gunson, Esq.
J.E. Gunson, Esq.
K. Hawkes, Esq.
P.E. Hawkes, Esq.
Mrs. E. Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. B. Henderson
S. Hinchliffe, Esq.
D.A. Hunt, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. K. Ibbotson
S.B. Jones, Esq.
L.E. King, Esq.
L.J. King, Esq.
M.C. Lager, Esq.
C. Lee, Esq.
Mrs. C.F. Lee
Mrs. K. Lewis
L.A. Lock, Esq.
Mrs. J. Lowe
J.N.R. Lowenhak, Esq.
Mrs. J.M. Lyon
Mr. & Mrs. E. Maltby
Miss C. Meek
Mrs. D. Mitchell
R. Munt, Esq.

Mr. & Mrs. D.G. Munting
M.R. Murton, Esq.
Mrs. R. Nemes
C.W.O. Parker, Esq.
Mrs. M Parvin
J. Phillips, Esq.
Mrs. P.O. Player
Mrs. J.M. Pluthero
J.R. Pullen, Esq.
Mrs. F.A. Redman
Miss K. Richards
Mrs. P.L. Roberts
Miss G. Rose
P. Ryland, Esq.
Mrs. M.E. Sadd
R.L. Seldon, Esq.
Mrs. T.J. Sheppard
N.E.C. Sherwood, Esq.
Mrs. P. Slugocki
Mr. & Mrs. P. Sparkhall
Mrs. T. Steed
Mr. & Mrs. P. Swann
Mrs. N. Taylor
Miss J.B. Thompson
C. Turner, Esq.
D. Willetts, Esq.
Mrs. O. Williams
Dr. A.M. Wood

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. Smith, 6 Pryor Close, Witham, Essex
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. K.M. Adams, "Granton", 85 Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex
Hon. Business Manager: Miss K. Richards, "Litmans", 14 Avenue Road, Witham, Essex
Hon. Social Secretary: Mrs. K. Adkins, "Rivendell", 26A Avenue Road, Witham, Essex
Hon. Auditor: Mr. M.C. Dewdney
Hon. Publicity Manager: Mrs. R. Page, 75 Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Chairman: Mr. J.E. Gunson
Mr. E.R. Maltby, Mrs. E. Miller, Mrs. A. King, Mrs. P. Doy

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
present

The Merry Widow



Victor Leon and Leo Stein
Music by
Franz Lehár
New Book and Lyrics by
Phil Park
Music Adapted and Arranged by
Ronald Hanmer
by arrangement with
Glocken-Verlag Ltd.
Produced by
Betty Blower
Musical Director
John James
Choreographer
Cynthia Stead

27th April — 2nd May 1987

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

present

THE MERRY WIDOW

Original Book and Lyrics by: VICTOR LEON & LEO STEIN
English Lyrics and Book by: PHIL PARK
Presented by arrangement with: GLOCKEN VERLAG LTD
Music by: FRANZ LEHAR
Adapted and arranged by: RONALD HANMER

CAST (in order of appearance)

CASCADA (Diplomatic Guest)
BARON ZETA (Pontevdrian Ambassador in Paris)
VALENCIENNE (His Wife)
NJEGUS (The Baron's Factotum)
ST. BRIOCHE (Diplomatic Guest)
KROMOV (An Attache)
OLGA (His Wife)
COUNT CAMILLE DE ROSILLON
BOGDANOVITSCH (Attache)
PRITSCH (Attache)
SYLVIA (Lady Guest)
PRASKOVIA (Lady Guest)
ANNA (Madame Glavari)
COUNT DANILO DANILOVITCH (An Attache)

Tony Court
Tim Sheppard
Pat Briggs
Peter Green
Stewart Adkins
Geoff Coverdale
Helene Jones
Simon Mitchell
Edward Maltby
Tim Clark
Alison Brewer
Ann Marsden
Patsy Doy
Howard Brooks

THE GRISETTES AT MAXIM'S:

LO-LO Cathy Swann
JOU-JOU Sue Miller
CLO-CLO Yvonne Mitchell

DO-DO Susan Page
FROU-FROU Alyson Cox
MARGOT Kathryn Adkins

LADIES CHORUS:

Katrina Brooks
Sandra Broyd
Muriel Chambers
Miranda Comerasamy
Anita Collins
Veronica Crane

Janice Hawkes
Lynette Magnone
Elizabeth Miller
Julia Reed
Connie Render
Joyce Ryder

Mary Schoeser
Anne Sheppard
Edna Starling
Carole Turner
Roberta Tyler
Jo Wood

GENTLEMENS CHORUS:

David Bebb
Brian Henderson
Ron Howe

Roger Munt

John Render
Wayne Savill
Gary Smith

ORCHESTRA

Violins — Leader Charlotte Randall
Clare Simmons
Juliette Jopling
Viola Julia Cotgreave
Cello Louise Holman
Double Bass Malcolm Green
Flute Terri Clarke
Oboe Juno O'Malley
Clarinet Andrew Cory
Lisa Wyatt
Bassoon Ginny O'Malley
Horn Marion Hellen
Trumpets Roland Morris
Steve Kenna
Trevor Davies
Richard Hubbard
Trombone
Percussion

CREDITS

Stage Manager: Audrey King
Assistant Stage Manager: Derek Hunt
Lighting: Robin Dedman
Stage Crew: Les King, David Hunt, Jim Harris, Roger Clark, Mick Adams
Props Mistress: Anne Hunt
Assisted by: Jane Kennedy, Helen Collins, Mandy Smith, Helen Clark and Natalie Hawkes
Tabs: Phillip Harris
Prompt: Elizabeth Watson
Wardrobe: Nesta Hinchliffe, Pat Voyak and Pat Briggs
Make up: June Smith, Margaret Jex
Front of House: John Gunson
Programmes: June Locke
Scenery: Stage Sets
Costumes: Theatrical Costume House (Westcliff) Ltd.
Accompanist in rehearsal: Peter Humphreys

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To all who have contributed in any way towards the successful production of this show.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

A Salon in the Pontevdrian Embassy in Paris

ACT II

The Gardens of Madame Glavari's Residence — early the following evening

ACT III

The same — a la Maxim's — later that night

PERIOD The turn of the century

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts I and II.

Previous Productions of the Society

1922 H.M.S. Pinafore	1955 Rose Marie	1973 Carousel
1923 The Pirates of Penzance	1956 Tulip Time	Iolanthe
1924 Ruddigore	1957 White Horse Inn	1974 The Pejama Game
1925 Patience	1958 Gypsy Princess	The Yeoman of the Guard
1926 The Yeoman of the Guard	1959 The Merry Widow	1975 Pink Champagne
1927 Dorothy	1960 Bless the Bride	Patience
1928 Les Cloches de Corneville	1961 The Boy Friend	1976 South Pacific
1929 The Mikado	1962 Grab me a Gondola	Ruddigore
1930 The Gondoliers	1963 The Quaker Girl	1977 Guys & Dolls
1931 Falsa	1964 The New Moon	Utopia Ltd.
1932 H.M.S. Pinafore	The Mikado (CV)	1978 White Horse Inn
1933 Merrie England	1965 The Maid of the Mountains	Mikado
1934 Tom Jones	The Pirates of Penzance (CV)	1979 Brigadoon
1935 The Geisha	1966 Gypsy Love	Princess Ida
1936 Dorothy	H.M.S. Pinafore (CV)	1980 Orpheus in the Underworld
1937 The Maid of the Mountains	1967 Call Me Madam	Iolanthe
1938 The Street Singer	Iolanthe (CV)	1981 Summer Song
1939 Goodnight Vienna	1968 The Desert Song	The Quaker Girl
1940 The Mikado	Patience (CV)	1982 Desert Song
1941 Holland	1969 Rose Marie	Cox & Box & Sorcerer
1942 Maritza	The Mikado	1983 Oklahoma!
1943 Katinka	1970 Free as Air	The Pirates of Penzance
1944 The Lilac Domino	The Pirates of Penzance	1984 My Fair Lady
1945 Rio Rita	1971 Trial by Jury	Free as Air
1946 Wild Violets	H.M.S. Pinafore	1985 Showboat
1947 Magyar Melody	1972 The Merry Widow	La Vie Parisienne
1948 Carissima	The Gondoliers	1986 The Yeoman of the Guard
		The Sound of Music