

EMPIRE THEATRE

WISBECH.



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By permission of the Exors. of the late Sir GEORGE DANCE.

Presented by

The Wisbech Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society.

THE WISBECH AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association, present

“A COUNTRY GIRL”

(By permission of the Exors. of Sir George Dance)

By J. T. Tanner. Lyrics by Adrian Ross. Music by Lionel Monckton.

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From the North Cambs. Hospital by kind permission of the Matron (Miss E. M. Hopkins : Sisters Voisin, Robinson, Jones, Handley, Smith; Nurses Brabben, Rutishauser, Rayment, Ramm, Ward, Norval, John, Haylock, Kemp, Wright).

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THE STORY OF THE PLAY.

THE little Devonshire village in which the scene of Act I is laid, is in the preliminary stages of a parliamentary election. Into this excitement comes Commander Geoffrey Challoner, R.N., accompanied by his man Barry, both recently returned from abroad. The resourceful Barry, ever ready to promote his master's fallen fortunes, soon gets him adopted as a candidate, and then raises the necessary money by selling a worn-out tin mine to Sir Joseph Verity, the father of the other candidate. Now Geoffrey was in love with a little friend of his childhood, one Marjorie Joy, who during his absence, and quite unknown to him has become a popular London singer under the name of Miss Montague. But Marjorie, on hearing that her former sweetheart is to be engaged to a wealthy Indian Princess, speedily gives up hope and returns to London. Meanwhile, Barry himself carries on a flirtation with his own little sweetheart, one Sophie, a milliner, who is astute enough to promote her own welfare through a customer unable to pay her bills, Mrs. Quinton Baikes. It falls to the lot of Marjorie's old friend Nan, a heezy Devonshire lass to straighten matters out between Marjorie and Geoffrey, and she sets about her task by giving the Princess some sound advice in best Devonshire dialect. In due course the election takes place and Geoffrey is returned to Parliament: we next meet him at the Ministry of Fine Arts as the guest of Lord Anchester. Into this august assembly arrives a lady of uncertain age, manners and appearance, in reality our old friend Barry disguised, in order to watch the goings on of Sophie with a certain Lord Grassmere. In this disguise he poses as a lady of great wealth, and Sir Joseph Verity promptly proposes marriage, only to be disillusioned when he discovers the deception. Amongst the other guests is "Miss Montague," and Geoffrey not recognizing her, but struck with the great resemblance which she bears to his simple little country girl Marjorie, pours out his soul to her with such fervour that she sings him the little song of their youth, which he instantly recognizes. And so her secret is disclosed, and as the story books tell us, they all lived happily ever after.

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PROGRAMME OF MUSIC.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Opening Chorus
"When the birds begin to sing" | 13 Opening Chorus
"From Seventeen Ninety-five" |
| 2 Song (Mummy)
"Young Jan he were a harvester" | Dance Militaire |
| 3 Song (Barry and Chorus)
"Yo ho! little girls, Yo ho!" | 14 Song (Geoffrey and Chorus)
"The sailor man" |
| Dance—Nautical Nonsense | 15 Song (Barry and Girls)
"Mc and Mrs. Brown" |
| 4 Song (Nan and Chorus)
"Try again, Johnnie" | 16 Song (Geoffrey) "My own little girl" |
| 5 Song (Marjorie) "Coo" | 17 Duet (Sophie and Barry) "Quarrelling" |
| 6 Duet (Marjorie and Geoffrey)
"Boy and girl" | 18 Song (Nan) "Come to Devonshire" |
| 7 Song Scena with Chorus (Rajah and Princess)... "The Rajah of Bhong" | 19 Sextet (Nan, Marjorie, Sophie, Rajah, Douglas, Grassmere)
"Take your pretty partner" |
| 8 Song (Nan)... "Molly the Marchioness" | 20 Song and Chorus (Rajah)
"Peace, peace" |
| 9 Song Scena with Chorus
"The Arcadians" | 21 Finale |
| 10 Duet (Sophie and Barry)
"Two little chicks" | |
| 11 Song (Princess) "Under the Deodar" | |
| 12 Finale | |

ORCHESTRA—

CONDUCTOR—

Mr. J. Edis Tidman,
Mus. Rec., Oxon.,
F.R.C.O., F.T.C.L.

1st VIOLINS—

Mr. J. Hobbs (Leader)
Miss A. B. Thompson
Mrs. G. Holmes
Miss E. Blazby
Mr. C. Coates
Mr. R. Stevens

2nd VIOLINS—

Mr. Rogers (Leader)
Mrs. A. W. Collett
Miss I. Colson
Mr. C. Snowdon
Mr. W. Gosbed
Mr. E. Gaster
Mr. C. Attewill

VIOLA—

Miss M. Cornaby

CELLOS—

Mr. L. Walker
Mr. E. Andrews

DOUBLE BASSES—

Mr. F. G. Turner
Mr. J. Beecroft

TRUMPETS—

Mr. A. Gaby
Mr. Simmonds

TROMBONE—

Mr. W. H. Smith

CLARINET—

Mr. A. Haigh

FLUTE—

Mr. P. Wright

BASSOON—

De. G. H. Lucas

DRUMS, ETC.—

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THE SOCIETY.

THE Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society was formed in 1922, and are now in their 13th year of production. By careful economy during that period the sum of £901 has been contributed to the North Cambs. Hospital and other local Charities.

Last year, owing to the generous support of the public and with the improved facilities and comfort offered by the new Empire Theatre, the record sum of £138 was distributed in this way, and the Society extend their sincere thanks for the help they have received which has enabled them to do this.

This year it is hoped to bring this total to over £1000 and we ask the help of our many friends to achieve this object.

Every effort is made to maintain and improve the standard of production. The Society are always looking for "new blood" and every opportunity will be given to those who can prove themselves capable of taking principal parts. A hearty welcome is extended to new members with histrionic ability or good voices.

During the past year the Society have asked for Patrons, and are extremely grateful to the ladies and gentlemen who have come forward in this capacity. The qualification is a minimum subscription of 10.6 and the money so obtained is set aside to form a reserve fund, which will only be used in the event of an emergency arising. As practically the whole of the profits are each year devoted to charity, leaving the Society with only a small balance, the wisdom of this will be appreciated. We shall be very pleased to welcome Patrons, and all those who would like to give us their support without taking an active part are asked to communicate with the Patronage Secretary, Mr. R. V. Haddock, Clarston Avenue, Wisbech, or the Business Manager, Mr. Francis J. Smith, "Lancewood," Leverington, Wisbech.

The sincere thanks of the Society are due to the following ladies and gentlemen who have given special help in the present production:—Mrs. Dorothy Lyde for her untiring work in arranging and producing all the dances and designing and making the dancers' costumes; Mr. Turner of Messrs. R. J. Glass for arranging the decoration in Act 2; Mr. H. B. Heath and Mr. Jack Bancroft for lighting effects; Mr. C. P. Rees for providing the cyder from Messrs. Gaymers; Mr. J. R. Dawbarn for additional lyrics; Messrs. W. G. Henry, B. V. Smith and J. Lyde for their valuable help behind the scenes; Mr. L. Gore for the supply of game in Act 1; Mr. E. S. Clarke for the loan of the radio gramophone; Mr. S. Price for his help with the programmes; Mr. J. L. Miller for making props; The Matron, Sisters and Nurses of the North Cambs. Hospital, and the Commandant and Members of the Wisbech Branch of the V.A.D. for selling Programmes; all our friends in the Wisbech District for displaying Bills; the many friends, too numerous to mention, who have helped us to make the show a success we say sincerely—THANK YOU ALL.



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PYCHL

PROGRAMME
"A COUNTRY GIRL"

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Geoffrey Challoner, R.N. A. W. Collett
 The Rajah of Bhong Fred Kitchen
 Sir Joseph Verity George Deacon
 Douglas Verity Norman Badcock
 Granter Mummery H. H. Farrow
 Captain Grassmere R. S. Free
 Lord Anchester R. V. Maddow
 Major Vicat G. R. Stevens
 Rubie Fairway Kenneth C. Sharp
 Barry George A. Holbert
 Marjorie Joy (A Country Girl)
 Princess Melchane of Bhong Ivy Miller
 Madame Sophie Gwen Thompson
 Mrs. Quinton Raikes Marjorie Lock
 Nurse Violet Long
 Lady Anchester Nona West
 Lady Arnott Mary Holbert
 Miss Poysscourt Nellie Cornaby
 Miss Courtlands Jessie Holmes

Indian Attendants Gladys Marshall
 Nan Ellen Bellamy
 Harry Norton
 Douglas C. Peck
 Muriel Kitchen

LADIES OF THE CHORUS:

Joan Bush, Belle Bagley, Dolly Barber, Grace Bailey,
 Betty Daws, Ada Deacon, Audrey French, Doris
 Garner, Iris Drawmer, Mildred Littlechild, Ruth
 Lowclay, Mary Pierce, Hilda Pollard, Freda Rawling,
 Pansy Swann, Eileen Woodman, Catherine Waugh,
 Ivy Smith, Madge Waling, Lottie Ward.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS:

Raymond G. Aistrup, H. R. Cattell, C. W. Dann,
 John D. King, Sydney W. Norton, J. Leslie Preece,
 W. J. Fletcher, Chas. F. Rager.

DANCERS:

Grace Bielby, Gladys Gent, Dorothy Lyde, Joyce
 Mill, Brenda Parker, Peggy Rawling, Marian Smith,
 Marjorie Sharp.

ACT 1. A DEVONSHIRE LANDSCAPE.

All the Dances arranged and produced by Dorothy Lyde.
 Costumes by B. J. Simmons & Co., Ltd.
 Dancers' Costumes by Dorothy Lyde.
 Scenery by G. M. Bridges & Son, Ltd.
 Lighting Effects by H. B. Heath, Esq., Jack
 Bancroft, Esq., and the Empire Theatre Staff.

ACT 2. INTERIOR OF MINISTRY OF FINE ARTS.

Furniture and Decorations in Act 2 kindly arranged
 and loaned by F. Turner, Esq., and R. J. Glass, Esq.
 Cylar in Act 1 kindly supplied by Messrs. Gaymers,
 Ltd., by the courtesy of C. P. Rees, Esq.
 Game in Act 1 kindly supplied by L. Gore, Esq.
 Gramophone kindly lent by E. S. Clarke, Esq.

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Love from Barry.

