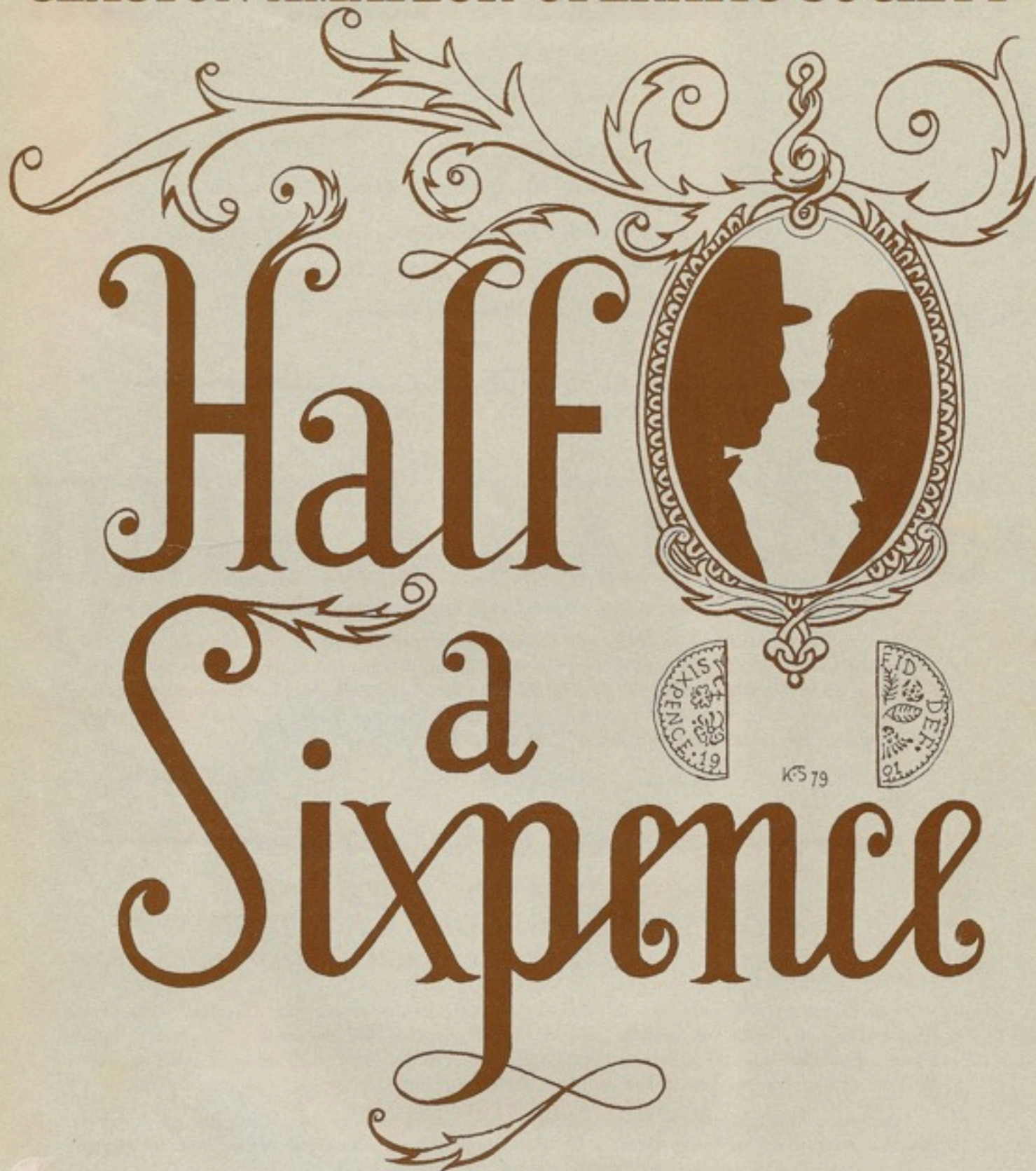


CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



Golden Jubilee Production
1979

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

President: W. H. TIMMENS, Esq.

Executive Committee 1978-79:

Mrs. C. M. BAKER (Chairman)

Mesdames B. BEALES, D. COWDELL

Messrs. M. A. FREEMAN, A. C. KING, J. B. PLUMTREE, A. ROBINSON, M. SPURGEON

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. OSBORN

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. B. BALLS, 38 Southcliff Park, Clacton-on-Sea

Hon. Auditors: R. H. BROWN and COMPANY

A Special Message from our President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I joined the Clacton Operatic Society in 1929 and sang as a tenor in the chorus, in rehearsal at St. Osyth Road Primary School, I little realised that 50 years later I should be privileged to be their President. Since then many hundreds of members have enjoyed singing, dancing and sharing their talents with the public.

As President of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association in 1970, my wife Nora and I enjoyed hundreds of amateur productions in the four corners of the British Isles and without prejudice we decided that the Clacton Society's productions were as good as, and very often of a far higher standard than most. We could have no success however, without the loyal support of the many thousands in our audiences over the years. I am proud and privileged to be able to thank you all on behalf of our Society.

BILL TIMMENS.

A Message from our Chairman

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Society's Golden Jubilee Production, "Half a Sixpence". This show is a great favourite of many members who recall the "magic" qualities of our 1969 production. On that occasion a great rapport developed throughout the cast and back-stage workers—this we all recall with fond memory. We sincerely hope that our present show will prove to be as happy and memorable for audience and cast alike.

Once again we are fortunate to have a delightful young dancing team on stage. These girls are all pupils of local dancing schools run by Ivy Baker and Christine Campbell-Welch. Our thanks to these ladies for passing on their expertise to our dancers.

We are always most happy to welcome new members to the Society, particularly gentlemen, and if you are interested please contact our Secretary, Beryl Balls. Being part of a Musical is hard work at times but exhilarating too!

Our thanks for your support and I hope you thoroughly enjoy "Half a Sixpence".

CYNTHIA BAKER.

It is a pleasure to announce that after this production, a donation from the Society will be made to the Salvation Army Clacton Community Care Appeal.

CLACTON AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association
presents its

Golden Jubilee Production

HALF A SIXPENCE

(By arrangement with Chappell and Co. Ltd.)

From the Novel "KIPPS" by H. G. WELLS

Music and Lyrics by DAVID HENEKER

Book by BEVERLEY CROSS

at the

PRINCES THEATRE, CLACTON

MONDAY 7th MAY to SATURDAY, 12th MAY, 1979

Nightly at 7.15 p.m. (Monday to Friday)

7.30 p.m. (Saturday)

Matinée: Saturday, 12th May, at 3.30 p.m.

FULLY LICENSED BAR available in the Essex Hall, open from 6.45 p.m. until 11 p.m.
Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

PAY A VISIT to the Exhibition in the Essex Hall tracing the Society's history.

This page has been sponsored by

Turpins Industrial Systems Ltd. Howard, Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors Newsons (Clacton) Ltd.

HALF A SIXPENCE PRODUCTION TEAM



ROY BUDDEN
Musical Director



KENNETH SMITH
Production Director



KATHRYN
HURREN
Chorus Mistress



JANE-ELIZABETH
TAYLOR, L.I.S.T.D.
Choreographer

The Capriol Orchestra of London—Leader THOMAS GERADINE

Stage Manager	Mike Spurgeon
Accompanist	Josi Cavender
Assistant Stage Managers ..	Mike Freeman, Adrian Robinson
Assisted by	Mike Adamson, John Aldous, Colin Bayliss, David Cowdell, Jack Heath, John Holliday, Carl Jones, Peter Kenning, Alan Manning, Gill Robinson, Mike Rumsey, Ted Tearle, John White
Stage Lighting	David Beales
Assisted by	Alan Larnar, Paul Shaw, Lesley Beales
Wardrobe	Cynthia Baker, Chris Bareham
Assisted by	Lesley Beales, Suzanne Cooper, Sandra Gibbons, Joan Griffin, Gillian North, Elsie Reid, Ella Rowlands, Joyce Smith, Peter Hazell
Properties	Beryl Balls
Assisted by	Karen Balls, Jean Tomlinson, Sue White
Sound and Effects	Alan King
Prompt	Rosemary Whiteman
Call Boy	Kathy Culham
Publicity and Programmes ..	John Plumtree, Alan King
Make-up by	Members of the Society
House Manager	John Plumtree
Programme Distribution ..	Jean Hutley, Enid Symes
Ice Cream Sales	Nora Timmens
Theatre Box Office	Mike Freeman
Scenery by	Stagesets (London)
Costumes by	W. A. Homberg Ltd., Leeds
Additional Lighting by ..	J.B.E. Stage Lighting, Southend-on-Sea

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Chas. H. Clemenson & Co. Edwin Watson & Son

THE ARTISTES



The Shop Boys and Girls

EMMA
Tracey Spong

SID
Keith Redfern

BUGGINS
Eric Tipple

FLO
Caroline Smith

KATE
Chriss Campbell-Welch
with Edwin (Tigger)

VICTORIA
Vicky Haines



YOUNG WALSINGHAM
David Colebeck

HARRY CHITTERLOW
Ken Rowlands

MR. SHALFORD
Peter Edwards

CARSHOT
Ron Austin

HELEN
June Wenn

MRS. BOTTING
Betty Beales

MRS. WALSINGHAM
Beryl Taylor

Characters



KIPPS
Alan Motson

ARTHUR KIPPS, an apprentice shopman, an orphan	ALAN MOTSON
SID PORNIC, also an apprentice, a Socialist	KEITH REDFERN
BUGGINS, another apprentice, a pessimist	ERIC TIPPLE
PEARCE, the fourth apprentice, a dandy	VIC EDWARDS
FLO BATES, a shopgirl	CAROLINE SMITH
VICTORIA, a shopgirl	VICKY HAINES
KATE, a shopgirl	CHRISS CAMPBELL-WELCH
EMMA, a shopgirl	TRACEY SPONG
Mr. SHALFORD, the owner of the Emporium	PETER EDWARDS
Mr. CARSHOT	RON AUSTIN
Mrs. WALSINGHAM, Helen's mother	BERYL TAYLOR
Mrs. BOTTING, a customer	BETTY BEALES
ANN, Sid's sister	ANGELA RANKIN
HARRY CHITTERLOW, an actor playwright	KEN ROWLANDS
LAURA, a barmaid	MARGARET ADAMSON
HELEN WALSINGHAM	JUNE WENN
YOUNG WALSINGHAM	DAVID COLEBECK
PHOTOGRAPHER	GEORGE OSBORN
PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT	PETER KENNING
REPORTERS	ALAN HOWARD, RICHARD MOODEY
GWENDOLIN	SUE TITCOMBE
STUDENTS	RICHARD MOODEY, SUKI SMITH
EDWIN, the cat	"TIGGER" WHITE



ANN
Angela Rankin

The Children

Debra Ely, Antje Harrison, Verinia Harrison, Alison Towse.

The Ladies of the Chorus

Doris Cowdell, Elizabeth Dack, Barbara Heath, Kathryn Murren, Judy Jones, Marion Manning, Doreen Potter, Carol Rayner, Janet Ross, Edna Thomas.

The Gentlemen of the Chorus

Brian Dack, Alan Howard, Peter Kenning, Eric Lynn, Richard Moodey, George Osborn, Tony Titcombe, Alan Tomlinson.

The Dancers

Tracy Baker, Elizabeth Cawdell, Jane Cawdell, Michelle Gleeson, Sarah Hanslip, Margaret Mantripp, Suki Smith, Sarah-Jane Taylor, Alan Howard.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action takes place in Folkestone in the year 1900

ACT 1

Scene 1	Mr. Shalford's Emporium
Scene 2	The Promenade
Scene 3	The Emporium
Scene 3a	The Street
Scene 4	The Bar of "The Hope and Anchor"
Scene 5	The Street
Scene 6	The classroom of the Young Workers' Association
Scene 7	The Emporium
Scene 8	The Promenade
Scene 9	The Old Lighthouse
Scene 10	The Old Military Canal Regatta

ACT 2

Scene 1	The Promenade
Scene 2	Mrs. Botting's Solarium
Scene 3	The Basement Kitchen
Scene 4	Outside the Church
Scene 5	The Rented House
Scene 6	The Promenade
Scene 7	The Building Site
Scene 8	The Promenade
Scene 9	The Bookshop, a year later

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

<i>Shop Ballet</i>	.. .. .	Kipps, Apprentices, Shopgirls and Chorus
<i>All in the Cause of Economy</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps and Apprentices
<i>Half a Sixpence</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps and Ann
<i>Money to Burn</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps and Company
<i>I Don't Believe a Word of It</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Ann and Shopgirls
<i>A Proper Gentleman</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps, Apprentices, Shopgirls and Chorus
<i>She's Too Far Above Me</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps
<i>If the Rain's Got to Fall</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps and Chorus
<i>The Old Military Canal</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. Botting, Helen, Mrs. Walsingham, Young Walsingham and Company

ACT 2

<i>The One Who's Run Away</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps and Chitterlow
<i>Solarium Dance</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Dancers and Singers
<i>Long Ago</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Ann and Kipps
<i>Flash, Bang, Wallop</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps, Ann, Chitterlow, Shalford, Apprentices, Shopgirls and Company
<i>I Know What I Am</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Ann
<i>The Party's on the House</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps, Apprentices, Shopgirls and Chorus
<i>Half a Sixpence (Reprise)</i>	.. .. .	.. .. . Kipps and Ann
<i>Carol Sequence</i>	.. .. .	.. .. .
<i>All in the Cause of Economy (Reprise)</i> Apprentices and Flo
<i>Finale</i> Full Company

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

IT ALL BEGAN on an Autumn evening fifty years ago, when on 21st October, 1929, a meeting was held in Clacton to "discuss the advisability of the formation of an Amateur Operatic Society for Clacton-on-Sea". The membership fee was settled at 7s. 6d. and "there was to be no social bar to membership".

The first show, produced in 1930, was "The Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan, and the seat prices were 1s. 2d., 2s. 4d. and 3s. 6d. (6p., 11p. and 17½p.)—fairly "up market" in those days when the best seats at the local cinema cost only 1s. 0d.



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE 1936

Since that time—there was, of course, a break during the period of the Second World War—the Society has undertaken the production of sixty-two shows, "Half a Sixpence" being our sixty-third.

Up to the outbreak of the war, the productions were mainly by Gilbert and Sullivan, the last pre-war effort in 1939 being, perhaps significantly, "Good Night Vienna". Like every other similar organisation the fortunes of the Society have fluctuated over the years, the heaviest financial disaster being a production of "The Rose of Persia" in 1933, which was staged at the old Ocean Theatre on Clacton Pier, following which utter penury stared us in the face.

When the war ended the Society resumed its activities, the first post-war production in 1947 being "Merrie England" which, despite very heavy snowfalls during the week of production resulted in a profit of £9.

Perhaps the most significant change of policy came in 1956, when we staged our first production of "Oklahoma!" This early Rogers and Hammerstein show marked a new departure in the field of Musical Comedy worldwide, and our production, directed by the late and very talented Edgar Fitt, proved to be a great success, both artistically and financially. Subsequently, the Society continued to explore the field of the modern American musical, and some memorable and rewarding productions were staged here at the Princes Theatre, most of them in the very capable hands of Edgar's successor and our present Director, Kenneth Smith.



CAROUSEL 1958

Looking back over the years, perhaps the most noteworthy change has been the escalation in the cost of production. For example, the 1930 production of "Pirates of Penzance" referred to earlier cost a total of about £170, and there was an orchestra of thirty musicians, all amateur, which cost precisely nothing! For this production of "Half a Sixpence" we are likely to be faced with a bill of something approaching £5,000. *Autres temps, autres moeurs!*

K.W.R.

MAY WE INTRODUCE—Number Eight

Some of our Long-serving Members



Nora Timmens, our President's Lady and herself a long-serving member, recalls some fond memories.

KEN COLLITT. Ken joined the Society in 1932, and since then has played in 44 productions, portraying such varied rôles as Stephen in "Iolanthe" to a Baron in Pantomime. He was secretary for 17 years and showed untiring energy in many other ways such as with Publicity and in engaging the orchestra. What a record! He was made a Life Member in 1976, and justly so. I always felt that Ken should have been a scriptwriter, his humorous, witty remarks and quick repartee are amazing. However, his sense of direction is not his strong point! On our returning from an amateur production in South London in torrential rain, he drove us into Piccadilly Circus instead of Blackwall Tunnel, but his sense of humour still asserted itself—I just wish I could remember his witty remark!



BETTY BEALES. In 1952, Betty joined our Society, since which time she has had many important rôles including one outstanding performance as Ellie in "Show Boat". However varied the parts, she has always given them an intelligent, studied characterisation. Her comedy and timing are a gift. Many elderly citizens in their various clubs have been entertained by her amusing comedy songs. When not on the stage Betty has helped with Properties in which field she too has much talent. Some of the "Props" she has made have been truly amazing. She now serves as a useful Committee member.



DORIS COWDELL. It was in "The Arcadians" that Doris first appeared. She has played many performances, her best I think, in the leading rôle of Marjorie in "The Country Girl" and as Helen Chao in "Flower Drum Song". I feel she has the secret of eternal youth and I've always admired her deportment on stage and, with her pleasant, tuneful voice has long been an asset to the Society. She has given untiring entertainment to many organisations and clubs and is a member of the "Sharps and Flats Singers". From 1969, she was our Secretary for three years, and is at present a Committee member.



DEREK SIMCOX. The most important word which comes to my mind regarding Derek is enthusiasm. He joined the Society in 1947 and for many years was an excellent dancer and talented member of the chorus. His 'forté' was persuading the public to become Patrons of the Society. This he did so successfully, at one time we had 250! Retiring from the stage he became our genial House Manager for many years and a very useful Committee member. I remember in one production he was not satisfied with the perfection of a dance routine and on his own initiative, hired a hall so that the men could rehearse diligently on their own. Just one small example of Derek's enthusiasm!



BARBARA HEATH. Barbara's whole life has been given to singing. A soprano with some lovely rich notes, she has been a tremendous help in the chorus and has also played several minor roles. She has sung in her church choir and is a long-serving member of The Clacton Choral Society. Barbara too has entertained hundreds of local people with her solo performances. When I think of her, the word loyalty comes to my mind, for that she has always shown.



DOREEN POTTER. To the many hundreds of Darby and Joans' she has entertained, Doreen is known as "Smiler". For us she has played many parts, always very sympathetically. But when not successful at auditions she has returned, still smiling, to enhance the chorus with her natural soprano voice. No task has been too much trouble for her, ironing costumes, baking cakes for bazaars or baby-sitting for the Director's children! The success of any society depends on members like Doreen.



These members have shown true loyalty for over 25 years. We are grateful to them all.

PATRONS

Hon. Life Members: Mr. K. COLLITT, Mrs. N. TIMMENS

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If you would like to become a Patron of the Society which, for £2.50 a year, entitles you to pre-box office booking concessions for all our shows, get in touch with Mike Freeman, 2 Albany Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6QW.

PAST PRODUCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

1930 The Pirates of Penzance
Iolanthe
1931 The Gondoliers
Trial by Jury
H.M.S. Pinafore
1932 Merrie England
The Mikado
1933 The Rose of Persia
1934 Yeomen of the Guard
Monsieur Beaucaire
1935 The Vagabond King
Ruddigore
1936 The Pirates of Penzance
1937 The Rebel Maid
1938 Rose Marie
1939 Good Night Vienna
1947 Merrie England
The Gondoliers
1948 The Mikado
1949 Iolanthe
The Arcadians

1950 Trial by Jury
Pirates of Penzance
1951 Miss Hook of Holland
The Maid of the Mountains
1952 The Quaker Girl
1953 Show Boat
1954 A Country Girl
The Geisha
1955 Me and My Girl
1956 Oklahoma!
1957 Chu Chin Chow
The White Horse Inn
1958 Carousel
1959 Annie Get Your Gun
1960 Brigadoon
1961 South Pacific
1962 The Dancing Years
1963 Summer Song
1964 The King and I
1965 The Desert Song
1966 King's Rhapsody
1967 Flower Drum Song

1968 The New Moon
1969 Cinderella
Half a Sixpence
1970 Dick Whittington
The Pajama Game
1971 The Wizard of Oz
My Fair Lady
1972 Red Riding Hood
Hello Dolly
1973 Oliver!
Fiddler on the Roof
1974 Aladdin
Camelot
Pickwick
1975 Carousel
1976 The Sleeping Beauty
The Sound of Music
1977 Mother Goose
Oklahoma!
1978 The Wizard of Oz
The Merry Widow

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society wishes to acknowledge with thanks the help of the following:

Mr. G. Watton, Mr. R. Foster and staff of the Princes Theatre.
Turpins Industrial Systems Ltd., for workshop facilities.
Robin Plant Hire, for services.
Francis Golightly, for loan of lighting equipment.
Kenneth Smith, for the programme cover design.
John White, for programme photography.
Mr. W. J. McNamara, for the theatre display poster.
The Mercury Theatre, Colchester, for loan of furniture, light fittings and camera.

Mr. P. Mallows, for loan of the bicycle.
M. & G. Fashions and the Sue Ryder Shop for the loan of dummies.
C. R. Rattee Ltd., for loan of shopfittings.
St. John Ambulance Brigade
Newsons (Clacton) Ltd., for transport facilities.
Arthur Westwood, for box office facilities.
Local traders and industry for sponsoring this programme.
Stewards, programme sellers, and all others whose contributions and efforts have made this production possible.

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN!

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

the traditional pantomime

'CINDERELLA'

at the

PRINCES THEATRE, CLACTON-ON-SEA

from 31st December, 1979 till 5th January, 1980