

WOKING AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

presents



THE

GIPSY



PRINCESS

RHODA McGAW THEATRE
CENTRE HALLS, WOKING

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CENTRE HALLS, WOKING

Director of Leisure Services
F. L. Hogg A.I.M.Ent.

Centre Halls Manager
J. Ricks, A.I.M.Ent.

Woking Borough Council

present

Woking Amateur Operatic Society's

The Gipsy Princess

Music by EMMERICH KALMAN, Lyrics by PHIL PARK

Book by CONRAD CARTER

Adapted and arranged by RONALD HANMER

By arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD.

FRIDAY 6th APRIL 1984

until

SATURDAY 14th APRIL 1984

Evening 7.45 p.m.

Matinee 14th April 2.30 p.m.

THE STORY

At the exclusive Orpheum Cabaret Sylva Varescu is giving her farewell performance before leaving to fulfil engagements in America. Prince Peter who is deeply in love with her, begs her to stay. Although she returns his love, Sylva knows that his parents would oppose their marriage. The Prince has planned the marriage of Peter to his cousin Stasi and has printed cards announcing the betrothal. Eugen gives one of the cards to Count Boni, Sylva's friend and self-appointed impresario. Peter is infuriated by his father's high-handed method and retaliates by sending for a lawyer to whom he dictates and signs a solemn promise to make Sylva his wife within three months. And so they take a fond farewell and part.

Boni is perplexed by these events so shows Sylva the card announcing the betrothal of Peter and Stasi. Sylva feels that she has been fooled and humiliated. She firmly resolves now to break with Peter and sets out with Boni for America.

They return to Vienna some three months later and discover that Prince Leopold is giving a party to celebrate the oft-postponed and delayed betrothal of his son. Peter, despondent at Sylva's desertion, has at last come to an understanding with Stasi that they will marry to please the parents and ensure the line.

Consumed with curiosity to see her rival and to impress Peter that she no longer cares for him, Sylva persuades Boni to take her to the party and to pretend that they are on honeymoon having married that very morning. Peter is aghast and upbraids Boni for his disloyalty in stealing his bride. Fortunately, Boni and Stasi have fallen in love on sight so that Boni finds it convenient to be magnanimous by promising Peter that he will set Sylva free at once. All seems set for happiness for the two pairs of lovers until Peter indiscreetly remarks that his parents will not object to him marrying the ex-Countess Bonifaska. Sylva's pride is wounded - she thinks Peter must be as class-conscious as his parents. She tries to escape but is intercepted by Leopold to whom she confesses her identity and the bogus marriage to Boni. She produces the contract that Peter signed at the Orpheum and tears it into tiny fragments.

At the Hotel Holzberg that evening Sylva meets Feri and her old friends from the Orpheum. She tells them that she is going to marry Boni but he stoutly denies it as he has proposed to Stasi and been accepted. Feri realises that Sylva is breaking her heart for Peter, so he goes out of his way to disclose to the proud Leopold that his wife, Princess Karen, was herself a cabaret singer before she became the widowed Countess he married. This knowledge overcomes his objection to Sylva as a daughter-in-law. But Peter has now to contend with Sylva's injured pride. In that Boni comes to his aid by carrying on a fake conversation on the telephone in Sylva's hearing, Boni is excitedly imploring Peter not to shoot himself. The effect on Sylva is dynamic; she implores Boni to tell Peter she cannot live without him. The Peter steps out of hiding and takes her into a long embrace.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I

The Orpheum Cabaret and Winter Gardens, Königradz. Night.

Act II

The Gardens of Prince Leopold's Residence outside Vienna. Afternoon some time later.

Act III

The main Salon of the Holzberg Hotel, Vienna. The same evening.

Period: About 1910

The Composer

Emmerich Kalman was born in Hungary in 1882.

Starting out as a serious composition student at Budapest's Academy of Music (where his fellow students were the famous Hungarian composers Bartok and Kodaly), he gained some distinction in the classical field. But he also excelled in the lighter side of music, especially in composing humorous cabaret songs.

Turning his hand to operetta, he achieved an enormous success with his first effort in this field. **THE GAY HUSSARS**, produced in 1908. This encouraged him to continue in this type of production and to settle in Vienna, the centre of operetta. **THE GYPSY PRINCESS** was produced there in 1915, as was his equally famous and popular **COUNTESS MARITZA** in 1924.

When the Germans moved into Austria in 1938 Kalman decided to move, first to Paris and then to the United States, where he became an American citizen. He died in Paris in 1953.

His great quality as a composer was the ability to fuse the elements of Hungarian and Viennese popular styles and to give an important role to the chorus. One critic wrote that 'his music hits the mark every time'. We hope that you will find that this is still true tonight.

THE GIPSY PRINCESS

Producer
VALERIE HITCHCOCK

Choreographer
DOROTHY DAVIES

Musical Director
GRACE WRIGHT

CHARACTERS

SYLVA VARESCU (A SINGER)		Maggie Wilson
COUNT FERENCZ ("FERI")		Harry Hitch
ANDREY	} HER FRIENDS	John Davenport
COUNT BONIFASKA		John Tilley
MIKSA	MANAGER OF ORPHEUM CABARET	Brian Lee
PRINCE PETER VON LEYDERSHEIM		David Oulds
ARANKA	} CABARET ARTISTES	Cathy Reynolds
RIZZI		Chris Oulds
JULISKA		Margaret Hawkins
CAPTAIN EUGEN VON ROHNSDORFF		John Elcock
KISCH	A NOTARY	Ron Ireland
PRINCE LEOPOLD VON LEYDERSHEIM	} PETER'S	Terry Reed
PRINCESS KAREN VON LEYDERSHEIM		JOAN'S
COUNTESS ANASTASIA ("STASI")	THEIR COUSIN	Ann Mitchell
SENATOR BLAND	AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT	Eric Burrows
MRS BLAND		Pam Simmons
A FLUNKEY		Brian Lee
A WAITER		Peter Martin

Patrons, Guests, Cabaret Girls, Dancers:

Eric Babbs	Adele Jones
David Ball	Iris Jones
Lorraine Bates	Ellen Martin
Jackie Bell	Peter Martin
Jan Carpenter	Jim Murphy
Mervyn Duthie	Jacqui Robinson
Doreen Edwards	Gill Saville
Judith Hall	Michael Simmons
Yvonne Hawkins	Pam Simmons
Merna Harrison	Vicky Stoner
Trevor Hyland	Nigel Thomas
Ron Ireland	Martine Young

Musicians

1st Violin	Joanna Parker
	Ann Garlick
2nd Violin	Miranda Rogers
Cello	Patricia Naisby
Flute	Cherry Reeves
Clarinet	Michelle Ronayne
Trumpet	Lindsay Marrs
	Robert Jones
Piano	Grace Wright
Rehearsal Accompanists	Grace Wright
	Sheila Mansfield

Behind the Scenes

Stage Manager (for W.A.O.S.)	Alan Wellstead
Theatre Technician (for W.B.C.)	Derrick Chappel
Wardrobe	Stella Thacker
	Assisted by Avril Clark, Jane Wellstead, Freda Martin
Set Designed by	Mike Thacker, Peter Lewis
Scenery Painted by	Peter Lewis
	Assisted by Des Hullin
Set Construction	Mike Thacker, Denis Thompson, Iain Scott,
	Alan Wellstead, John Hitchcock, Adrian Smith, Geoff Cooper
Properties	Margaret Prosser, Carol Ewert
	Mavis Bird, Hazel Fulford, Brenda Reeve, Peggy Phelan
Lighting	Nigel Longley, John Waters,
	Assisted by Brian Pearce, Denis Longley
Prompt	Muriel Elmes and Sheila Gaff
Make-up	Patricia and Trevor Wooderson, Clare Trevelyan
Calls	Joyce Robinson
Stage Crew	Peter Lewis, Geoff Cooper, Mike Thacker,
	Denis Thompson, Zoe Bradley, David Hewitt,
	Iain Scott, Adrian and Dorothy Smith, Des Hullin
Front of House	Peter Streeck
Ticket Secretary	Cynthia Norfolk