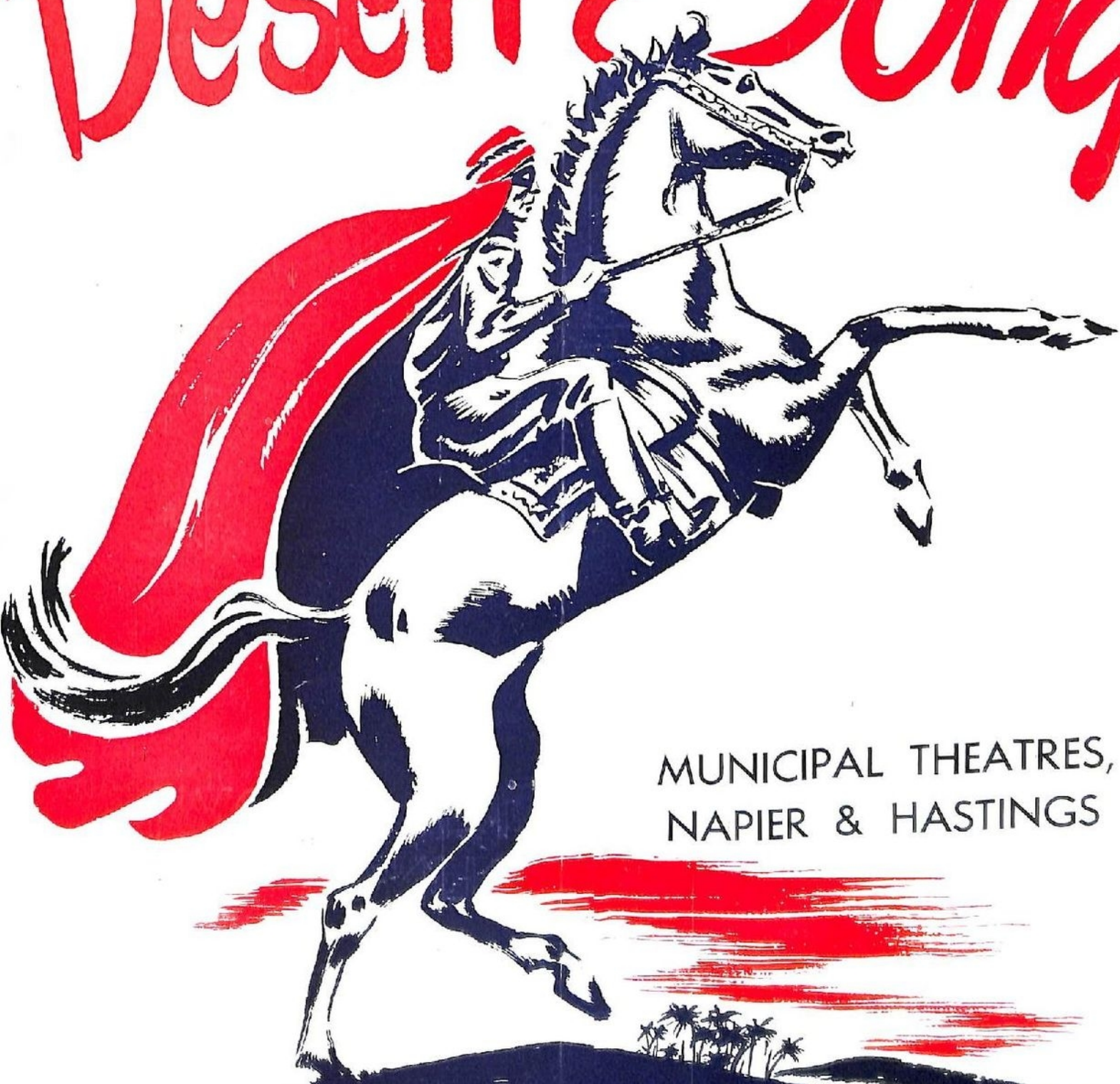


NAPIER OPERATIC SOCIETY INC.

presents

212

Desert Song



MUNICIPAL THEATRES,
NAPIER & HASTINGS

Dress Piece-Goods — Manchester — Mantles — Underwear — Woollens — Corsetry, etc.,

So Easy to Pay —

On Our

“EASY-PAYMENT” PLAN

Note These Advantages—

- Easy payments spread over 20 weeks
- You receive goods on first payment
- Purchases may be made in any or all departments

Total Value	Deposit	Over 20 Weeks
£5/-/-	5/-	5/- weekly
£7/10/-	7/6	7/6 weekly
£10/-/-	10/-	10/- weekly
£12/10/-	12/6	12/6 weekly
£15/-/-	15/-	15/- weekly
£20/-/-	20/-	20/- weekly

For Better Buying —



Open Your Easy-Payment Account To-morrow

PLANT NOW

Anderson's

BETTER GROWN SEEDLINGS

J. N. Anderson & Son Ltd. P.O. Box 106 Napier
Phone 2016 Napier

NAPIER OPERATIC SOCIETY (INC.)

1955 OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Patron: J. HARRIS, Esq.

President: K. DOUGLAS, Esq.

Vice-President: G. HOUSTON, Esq.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

R. H. WIMSETT, Esq.

Hon. Assistant Secretary:

B. GROSSMAN, Esq.

Hon. Auditor: I. L. PRIME, Esq.

Hon. Solicitor: W. WILLIS, Esq.

Executive Committee:

Mrs. E. MONRAD, Messrs. PETER COX, S. HENNEY, E. COLLIER,
G. HOUSTON, R. ROSS, E. HERNIMAN, R. LAVIN, C. WHITE.

THE PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

"The Gondoliers" - - - 1908	"A Country Girl" - - - 1923
"The Mikado" - - - 1909	"Floradora" - - - 1924
"The Geisha" - - - 1910	"The Arcadians" - - - 1928
"The Runaway Girl" - - - 1911	"The Sunshine Girl" - - - 1929
"A Greek Slave" - - - 1912	"Our Miss Gibbs" - - - 1930
"Toreador" - - - 1913	"Rio Rita" - - - 1938
"Miss Hook of Holland" - - 1914	"The Belle of New York" - - 1939
"The Blue Moon" - - - 1915	"Boots and All" - - - 1940
"The Geisha" - - - 1921	"Chu Chin Chow" - - - 1954

Last year's production ("Chu Chin Chow") was undoubtedly a milestone in the history of the Society. This colossal musical extravaganza had not been attempted by any society other than in the three main cities.

And the Napier Society's production was equal to, if not better than, the productions of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

It is thus with confidence that we present the difficult musicale "The Desert Song."

Early History of the Society —

The Society was formed in the 1880's and there is in the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum a Programme of the Society's production of the "Mikado" in March of 1887. The Society also possesses a programme of its production of "Madame Favvarti" in October, 1892.

Unfortunately, many of the earliest records of the Society were lost in the 1931 earthquake, but the Society can claim to be one of the oldest musical societies in New Zealand.



25

Chorus Members as French Legionnaires.



Sid El Kar (Ray Dalton) and Riff Tribesmen.

THE STORY OF "THE DESERT SONG"

The scene of this great Drury Lane success is laid in French Morocco, where the French troops are having trouble with the Riffs and where a continual guerrilla warfare is being waged.

Pierre Birabeau, son of General Birabeau, is serving under a General of a despotic and violent disposition, and some of his needless acts of cruelty to the Riffs excite the pity of Lieutenant Birabeau, who remonstrates with his chief, and his superior so far forgets himself as to strike his junior officer. This determines for Pierre his future conduct, and he decides to devote his life to the stamping out of these unnecessary atrocities, which, in his opinion, are disgracing France.

To this end he pretends that the blow struck by the General has made him stupid—almost half-witted—and he is relieved of his commission as an officer. He, however, joins the Riffs as their mysterious leader, and under his disguise quickly becomes known as the Red Shadow.

So it is that he plays a dual role—at one time "Poor Pierre" the milksop; at others the brave and dashing "Red Shadow."

Pierre carries on this chivalrous duplicity without any qualms until General Fontaine dies, and the new appointment to the Governorship turns out to be his own father, General Birabeau, whilst Captain Paul Fontaine (the son of the late General) is second in command. These two have one object in view, to wit, that of wiping out the Red Shadow.



Grace Tough as Margot Bonvalet.
Robert Houston as Pierre Birabeau (the Red Shadow).



Ngaire Porter as Azuri.
Dick Prebble as Captain Paul Fontaine.

The lady in the case is Margot Bonvalet, whom Pierre has always secretly adored, but she, tired of her life in a convent, imagines herself in love with Paul Fontaine. She therefore arrives in Morocco, and her father wires General Birabeau that as all Paris is talking of her she must marry Paul at once. In the meantime Margot's romantic aspirations have been fired by the deeds of the mysterious Red Shadow. Pierre, in his capacity of the Riff Chieftain, gives her the desired surprise of being carried off by his desert warrior and conveyed to the palace of his Arab friend, Ali Ben Ali. Ali, fearing that this action of the Red Shadow will mean trouble for him with the French, offers him other women if he will but let Margot go free, but Pierre coldly refuses the offer, and expounds on the difference between Eastern and Western love.



Dawn Wright (Clementina) and Bob Wright (Ali Ben Ali).



Bob Ross (Benjamin Kidd) and Rosemary Barton (Susan).

Azuri, a native dancing girl, has discovered Pierre's secret, and from motives of personal jealousy and with great cunning she now leads General Birabeau to the palace of Ali Ben Ali and there brings him face to face with the Red Shadow, whom he challenges to fight, but, despite the fact that refusal means the loss of his position as leader of the Riffs, Pierre surrenders his sword as he cannot, of course, fight his own father. He is branded as a coward, and, in accordance with the law of the tribe, is driven forth into the desert—without food, his only weapon "a broken sword."

Margot is taken back to the Governor's residence, with the poignant realisation now full upon her that she indeed really loves the Red Shadow.

To the Residency arrives the treacherous Azuri, intoxicated with both drink and triumph, to claim her reward. The General, now disgusted with the part she has played in the downfall of the Riff's champion, asks her why she was so sure that the

Red Shadow would not fight. To his horror the awful knowledge dawns upon him that he has given orders to his soldiers to go out and slay his own son.

The soldiers return to tell him the Red Shadow has been killed and that none other than Pierre has done the killing. On learning the news Margot confesses her love for the Red Shadow, and is overjoyed when she at last learns that the half-witted Pierre and the romantic Riff leader were one and the same individual, and that, therefore, the romance of the desert still lives.

The humour throughout the play is well sustained by one, Benjamin Kidd, who is a Paris newspaper reporter sent out as war correspondent, with his secretary, Susan; whilst the two lieutenants of the Red Shadow, Sid-el-Kar and Hassi, contribute much to the story, as does also Clementina, one of the ladies of the Brass Key from Barcelona.



EVA MOORE



Eva Moore, who is the producer of the Napier Operatic Society's 1955 production, "The Desert Song," is probably one of the best known and most successful producers of amateur musical comedy in New Zealand.

She is one of five sisters of theatrical fame. Carrie Moore, a star both in England and Australia, and Australia's original "Merry Widow," is one of the sisters. Edward German wrote the part of Honour in "Tom Jones" for her and her name appears in so many original scores in London that they constitute a record. Lillie Moore, another sister, toured New Zealand with the J. C. Williamson productions of "The Student Prince," "Desert Song," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "The Girl Friend," and many others.

Eva Moore has played the leading soprano roles in all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, also the "Quaker Girl," "Merry Widow," "Waltz Dream," "The Geisha," and dozens of others. She has travelled more than half round the world, many times—a thorough coverage of all the playable towns of Australia, then to China, Japan, Manila, Honolulu and extensive tours of Canada and the U.S.A. In New Zealand she has produced for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Blenheim, Nelson, Palmerston North (where she created a record for both amateurs and professionals), Wanganui, New Plymouth, and Hamilton.

In 1954 she was responsible for the production "Chu Chin Chow," and Napier theatre-goers can remember what a success she made of this fabulous show. It is with real pleasure we welcome her back to Napier to produce "The Desert Song."

This year's activities include productions for the Wanganui Society ("New Moon"), Masterton Society ("The Desert Song"), Palmerston North Society ("New Moon").

JEAN BALLANTYNE

Ballet Mistress, is an Advanced Teacher of the Royal Academy of Dancing, London, and has trained with well-known teachers in England, on the Continent, in Australia and New Zealand. In the course of her dancing career Miss Ballantyne has been closely associated with the Amateur Theatre, and has been responsible for numerous Children's Recitals. Her Senior Ballet toured the Hawke's Bay area for the Community Arts Service in 1947.



CEDRIC WHITE

Has directed the Musical side of the Society for many years. He was a member of the original "Kiwi" Concert Party and remained in England under a Government Education grant and passed through the Royal Academy of Music. On his return to New Zealand he toured with the J. C. Williamson organisation, but eventually settled in Napier, where he is in practice as a Public Accountant. He was Musical Director for the highly successful "Chu Chin Chow" and once again is in charge of the Orchestra for the 1955 production of "The Desert Song."



 Try
AERATED HOT SALTWATER BATHS
 MUNICIPAL BATHS . . . MARINE PARADE
 NAPIER
 . . . for . . .
THEIR WONDERFUL TONIC PROPERTIES
 Telephone 2477 For Appointments

NAPIER OPERATIC SOCIETY (INC.)
 presents
"THE DESERT SONG"
 Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein 2nd. and Frank Mandel.
MUSIC BY SIGMUND ROMBERG.

 Try
AERATED HOT SALTWATER BATHS
 MUNICIPAL BATHS . . . MARINE PARADE
 NAPIER
 . . . for . . .
RHEUMATISM and KINDRED AILMENTS
 Telephone 2477 For Appointments

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

- ★
- SID-EL-KAR (Red Shadow's Lieutenant) RAY DALTON
 - MINDAR (Red Shadow's Sergeant) RAY BENNETT
 - HADJI (A Riff Farmer) JOHN BOSWELL
 - NERI (His Wife) MAIA ALEXANDER
 - HASSI (Deputy Leader of the Riffs) REG. JOHNSON
 - PIERRE BIRABEAU (The Red Shadow) ROBERT HOUSTON
 - BENJAMIN KIDD (A Reporter) BOB ROSS
 - CAPTAIN PAUL FONTAINE (Of the French Foreign Legion) DICK PREBBLE
 - LIEUTENANT LA VERGNE (Of the French Foreign Legion) ARTHUR HOOPER
 - SERGEANT De BOUSSAC (Of the French Foreign Legion) VAUGHAN GABITES
 - AZURI (A Native Dancer) NGAIRE PORTER
 - SUSAN (Benjamin's Secretary) ROSEMARY BARTON
 - EDITH (Her Friend) BETH SWEETAPPLE
 - MARGOT BONVALET (Guest of the Governor) GRACE TOUGH
 - GENERAL BIRABEAU (Provincial Governor) IAN COX
 - CLEMENTINA (A Spanish Lady) DAWN WRIGHT
 - NOGI (A Slave) DAVID SWEETAPPLE
 - ALI-BEN-ALI (Caid of a Riff Tribe) BOB WRIGHT

Chorus of Riffs, French Soldiers, Soldiers' Wives and Sweethearts, Spanish Girls.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES



ACT 1

- Scene 1—Retreat of the Red Shadow in the Mountains (Evening)
- Scene 2—Outside General Birabeau's House (The Same Evening)
- Scene 3—A Room in General Birabeau's House (A Few Minutes Later)

ACT 2

- Scene 1—The Harem of Ali-Ben-Ali (Afternoon of the Following Day)
- Scene 2—A Corridor (A Few Minutes Later)
- Scene 3—The Room of the Silken Couch (A Few Minutes Later)
- Scene 4—The Edge of the Desert (An Hour Before Dawn)
- Scene 5—Courtyard of General Birabeau's House (Two Days Later)

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director : Cedric White. **Piano : Winifred Quarrie.**
 Violins : E. Collier, L. Williams, G. Wade, E. Dunn, D. Hansen, N. J. Brunton, V. Tidy. Cellos : S. Girvan, S. Milne. Basses : B. Hansen, D. Smith. Flutes : E. Hocking, A. Clarke. Clarinets : P. Blanchette, G. Start. Bassoon : L. Abbott. Trumpet : H. F. Vincent. Trombone : C. Turnbull. Tympani, Drums and Effects : J. Seaton.

Producer EVA MOORE
 Choreography JEAN BALLANTYNE

NAPIER OPERATIC SOCIETY (INC.)

LADIES OF THE CHORUS—

Margot Ball
 Alison Blackbourn
 Margaret Brooking
 Anne Briasco
 Robin Rivett-Carnac
 Brenda Champion
 Annette Downes
 Rosalie Downes
 Rose Dasler
 Lillian Eddy
 Betty Eagle

Annette Evans
 Mona Fauchelle
 Marion Hitchens
 Anne Herniman
 Ruth Hooper
 Shirley Johnson
 Naomi Mooney
 Diana Mooney
 Marise McDonald
 Kerry McDonald
 Janet McDonald

Margaret Norman
 Rosemary Orton
 Gail O'Reilly
 Beverley Prebensen
 Olga Rean
 Dorothy Ross
 Betty Rae
 Deborah Stuart
 Beth Sweetapple
 Betty Wetherall
 Barbara Welch

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS—

Barry Brebner
 Rae Bennett
 Jim Brownlie
 Cedric Catton
 Brian Copeland
 Maurice Campbell
 Ralph Dauber
 Terry Durney
 Frank Ennor

Matthew Farrell
 Vaughan Gabites
 Brian Grossman
 John Geary
 Joe Hutchinson
 Arthur Hooper
 Paul Murphy
 Alec McClelland
 Brian McLeary

John McKinnon
 Clarke Nichol
 James Paxie
 Peter Shirley
 David Sweetapple
 Noel Tolhurst
 Colin Wells
 Noel Wilson
 Terry White

LADIES OF THE BALLET—

Lynette Rivett-Carnac
 Betty Crawford
 Heather Bentley

Ruth Hunter
 Jennifer Grant
 Joan Lambert

Carine Jackson
 Dianna Rowell

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1.

Scene 1—Prelude and Opening Chorus: "High on a Hill" and "Drinking Song"	Sid-El-Kar and Riffs Chorus
Song: "The Riff Song"	Red Shadow, Sid-El-Kar and Riffs
Reprise: "Hold Bold Men of Morocco"	Sid-El-Kar and Riffs
Finaletto, Scene 1	Red Shadow and Sid-El-Kar
Song: "Margot"	Paul and Soldiers
Scene 2—Song: "I'll Be a Buoyant Girl"	Susan and Edith
Scene 3—Chorus: "Why Did We Marry Soldiers?"	Girls' Chorus
French Military Marching Song	Margot and Girls
Military Ballet	Ballet
Song: "Romance"	Margot and Girls
Duet: "Then You Will Know"	Margot and Pierre
Trio: "I Want a Kiss"	Margot, Paul and Pierre
Duet: "It"	Susan and Bennie
Duet: "The Desert Song"	Margot and the Red Shadow
Ballet	Azuri and Native Dancing Girls
Finale Act 1	The Company

ACT 2.

Scene 1—Opening Chorus: "My Little Castagnette"	Clementina and Girls
"Song of the Brass Key"	Clementina and Girls
Spanish Dance	Ballet
Reprise: "Give Him the Key"	Clementina and Margot
Duet: "One Good Boy Gone Wrong"	Clementina and Bennie
Concerted Number: "Eastern and Western Love"—	
(a) "Let Love Go"	Ali-Ben-Ali
(b) "One Flower In Your Garden"	Sid-El-Kar
(c) "One Alone"	Red Shadow and Chorus of Riffs
Scene 2—Incidental Music	
Scene 3—"The Sabre Song"	Margot
Finaletto	Margot and the Red Shadow
Scene 4—"Scena Farewell"	Red Shadow and Chorus of Riffs
Scene 5—Waltz	The Ballet
Soloists	Lynette Rivett-Carnac, Betty Crawford
Chorus: "All Hail to the General"	Birabeau, Paul, Margot and Girls
Reprise: "It"	Bennie
Finale Act 2	Margot, the Red Shadow and the Company



Robert Houston in the Dual Role
The Red Shadow (Pierre Birabeau).



Grace Tough as Margot Bonvalet.



SPANISH LADIES OF THE CHORUS.



Bon Cox as General Birabeau.
Ngaire Porter as Azuri.



Bob Ross as Benjamin Kidd.

1955 - PRODUCTION PERSONNEL - 1955

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY

and

Producer	Eva Moore	Lighting Director	Dick Tyler
Musical Director	Cedric White	Chief Mechanic	Ira Owen
Ballet Mistress	Jean Ballantyne	Electrical Effects	Jack Isles
Stage Director	Cedric Wright	Properties	Edwin Brown
Assistant Stage Director	Les Woodfine	Wardrobe	Elizabeth Monrad
Hon. Pianiste	Winifred Quarrie	Secretary-Treasurer	Rodney Wimsett
Hon. Prompt	Ingrid Husheer	Assistant Secretary	Brian T. Grossman
Make Up	Bonnie Houston		
		Publicity and Programme	Sid Henney and Ted Herniman

NAPIER OPERATIC SOCIETY (INC.)

CREDITS.

Assistants to Wardrobe Mistress—

Mrs. E. Collier, Mrs. B. Herniman, Mrs. E. H. White, Pat Spriggs, Judith Lambert, Sally Barry, F. Field.

Assistants to Property Director—

T. Billington, W. B. Spence, R. Ingle, L. Fleming, C. Thurston, Miss D. Brown, B. Lord, J. Calnan.

Assistants to Make-up Supervision—

Keith Monaghan, Helen McConochie, Isobel Johnson, Bill Wells.

The Hamilton Operatic Society for Scenery and Costumes.

Murray Roberts and Co., Ltd., for storage space.

The Daily Telegraph Co., Ltd.

The Hawke's Bay Herald-Tribune.

Mrs. B. Herniman for teas for cast.

Army Department for rifles and equipment.

Napier Repertory Society for spotlights.

Dereck Alford for scenery repairs.

Captain A. A. Brandon.

R. Cawston for loan of horse.

G. Donghi for loan of donkey.



THE SPANISH BALLET.



Reg Johnson as Hassi, Maia Alexander as Neri, John Boswell as Hadji, Ray Bennett as Mindar.

BARRYS BOTTLING CO. LTD.

Wine and Spirit Merchants

Napier



Hawke's Bay Agents for—

COATES PLYMOUTH GIN

DANIEL CRAWFORD'S SCOTCH WHISKY

COACH LINES . . .



TO —

AUCKLAND, ROTORUA, CHATEAU, TAUPO,
WAIROA, WAIKAREMOANA Etc.

Coaches available for special trips to any part of the country

Hawke's Bay Motor Co. Ltd.

Dickens Street, Napier.

Russell Street, Hastings



For prompt attention . . .

Remember Our After Hours

Phone 50 Taradale

USE OUR WORLD WIDE TELEGRAPH
SERVICE

ROBSON'S TRES BON

Day Phone 3242 Napier

— Say It With Flowers

CHOOSING



Gifts



CAN BE FUN

at Blythes Gift Dept. (upstairs)



LOVELY CRYSTAL
GOOD CHINA
LAMP SHADES
TABLE LAMPS

ENGLISH . . .
FRUIT SETS
MORNING SETS
COFFEE SETS

And novelties from all over the world.