

RIO RITA

PRODUCED BY
May Macdonald



Hastings Municipal Theatre : 7th to 19th September

Napier Municipal Theatre : 23rd to 26th September

Programme . . One Shilling

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1959

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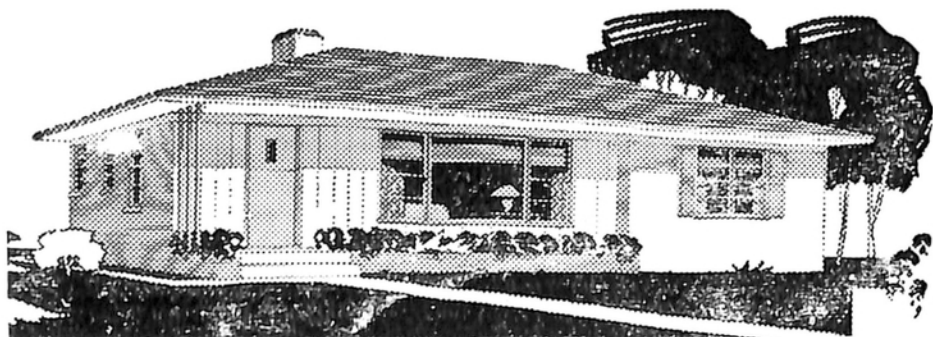
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Producer	MAY MACDONALD
Musical Director	HENRY RUDOLPH
Chorus Mistress	MARY BELL
Ballet Mistress	EMMA MAYE
Rehearsal Pianist	MARIE STOTHART
Costumes Designed by	MARIE FLORANCE
Costumes Made by	MARIE FLORANCE, RITA HOWARD And Members of the Company
Scenery and Sets Designed by	HECTOR and RALPH SPENCE, KEITH BRAZIER
Scenery and Sets Constructed by	HECTOR and RALPH SPENCE And Members of the Company
Scenery and Sets Painted by	KEITH BRAZIER and Members of the Company RITA HOWARD and Assistants
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The Story of . . .

RIO RITA

Rita, a lovely Spanish American girl, and her brother, Roberto, have been stripped of their possessions and ejected from their ranch on the Rio Grande by the Mexican authorities. Roberto, indignant that his sister should be compelled to sing in a cabaret for her living, has become involved with a local bandit known as "The Kinkajou," for whose capture a high reward is offered. The Texas Rangers are on the track of the bandit, his last escapade being a daring bank robbery. Jim, their Captain, is making investigations on the spot, incognito, and he and Rita fall violently in love. A wealthy and powerful Mexican, General Esteban, is also paying unwelcome attentions to Rita. He is a ruthless libertine and fiendishly jealous of Jim. A stealthy search of Jim's room reveals his identity, and that he is on the track of the Kinkajou. Esteban assures Rita that he knows Roberto to be the bandit, and that it is obvious Jim is making love to her only



BRIAN STEPHENSON as "CAPTAIN JIM STEWART"



RENAIS GAGE as "RIO RITA"

as a blind to effect her brother's arrest. She is heart-broken, and agrees to trap Jim at a party in Esteban's garden, but relents at the crucial moment and saves his life by covering his retreat from Esteban's gunmen.

On the barge moored on the Rio Grande, Esteban gives a splendid cabaret party at which he plans to win Rita. Roberto has previously threatened him for molesting his sister and, when he discovers her on the barge, struggling in Esteban's embrace, he tries to strangle him. Esteban's men, however, overpower Roberto and are about to shoot him, at the General's orders, when Jim, having cut the cables by which the barge was moored, thus allowing it to drift over to the Texas bank, intervenes. He saves Roberto's life by a bogus arrest and, on reaching Texas territory, arrests the real Kinkajou.

Chick Bean, having married Dolly, finds his Mexican divorce from Katie is of no avail. Katie arrives and discloses that she has inherited a huge fortune, and Lovett quickly persuades her to release Chick and marry himself. Thus, for the finale, we have a treble wedding, for Jim also weds his Rita.

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NAPIER



MAY MACDONALD

Our Producer

As the Producer of "Rio Rita" for the Society, May MacDonald has added another outstanding production to her long list of successes.

Her early operatic works included "Maytime," "Kristine" and "King of Kandy." With her sister Constance she produced six pantomimes, including "Snow White," "The Blue Bird," etc.

Before leaving for England in 1946, Miss MacDonald acted in over one hundred N.Z.B.S. plays and produced some sixty-nine three and one-act plays, including the Napier Repertory box office record-holder, "No Room at the Inn."

In England from 1946 onwards, May MacDonald gained wide acting experience in both stage and film work. One film in particular, "The Mark of Cain," gave her experience which was invaluable to her in her later stage work.

As Producer of our 1958 production, "Showboat," May MacDonald set a standard, and the Society is indebted to her for her untiring efforts to that end, and we sincerely hope to have her with us for our future productions.



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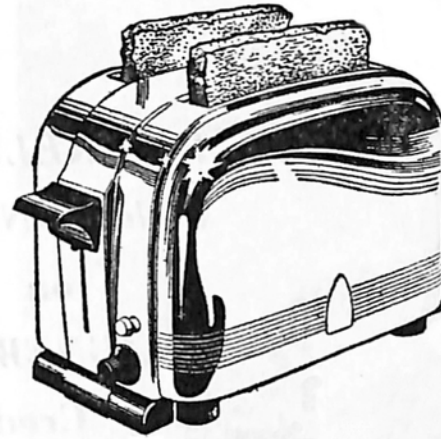
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"RIO RITA"



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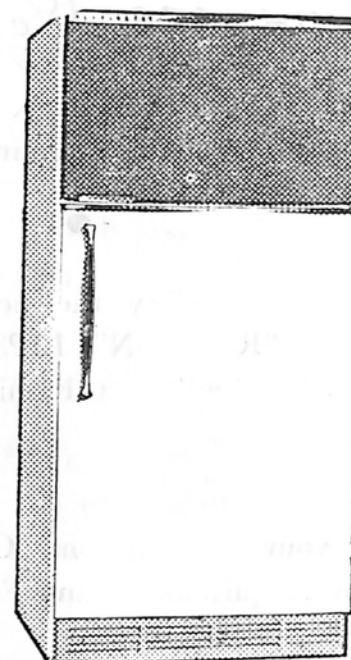
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MARY BELL

Our Chorus Mistress

Mary Bell has been associated with the Society since its first venture into musical comedy, and has been responsible for the fine chorus work in all of its productions.



"SALLY"

"NO, NO NANETTE"

"ROSE MARIE"

"NAUGHTY MARIETTA"

"SHOWBOAT"

"RIO RITA"



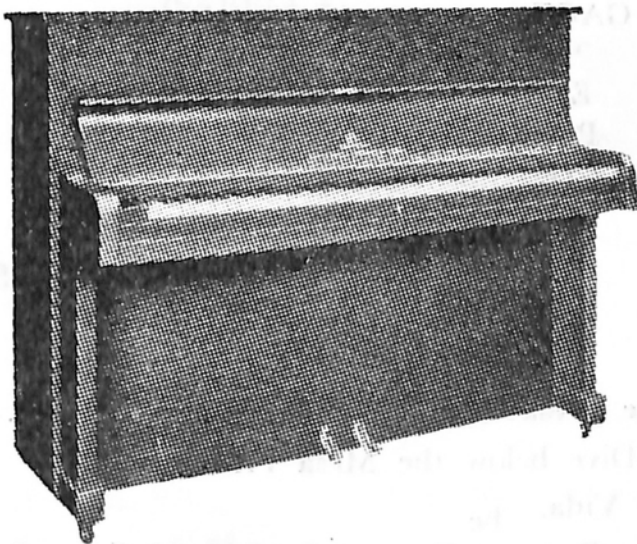


SADIE BROWN as "MAMA MIA"



"GOOCH" PARAHI as "PANCHO"

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The Hastings Musical Comedy Company Incorporated

(By Arrangement with Garret H. Carroll, Melbourne)

... presents ...

Rio Rita

Book by
GUY BOLTON

and
FRED THOMPSON

★ Cast

(In order of appearance)

CORPORAL McGINN	DERECK WHITWORTH
RANGER WILKINS	PETER PLUMMER
MAMA MIA (the Padrona)	SADIE BROWN
CARMEN	JEWEL CRAWFORD
ED LOVETT	KEITH BRAZIER
DAVALOS	GAVIN GARNER
ROBERTO	LEIGHTON WILLIAMS
TWO PEONS	JURY THOMPSON, HATA TIPOKI
GENERAL ESTEBAN	GORDON JOHANSON
LOLITA	SANDRA HALDANE
MARY LOU	PATRICIA SCOTT
RIO RITA	RENAIS GAGE
GUITAR PLAYER	RANGI HAPI
DOLLY	JUDITH WEBBY
DEBBY	THERESE POTHAN
CHICK BEAN	JAMES PAXIE

★ Cast

(In order of appearance)

JIM	BRIAN STEPHENSON
PANCHO	GOOCH PARAHI
JUANITA	DIANE BIEL
TWO BANDITS	SONNA SELWYN, SAM POTO
GONZALES	CEDRIC CATTON
PABLO	LEN HODGSON
MEXICAN CAPTAIN	JAMES PURIRI
SERVANT	TUROA HAPI
MARIA	ROSEMARY MORGAN
CARMELITA	RAEWYN TROUP
ISABELLA	JEAN HALL
CONCHITA	MARY TIPOKI
KATIE	GLADYS WILLIAMSON
CHORUS of Mexicans, Cowboys, Texas Rangers, Peons, Waiters, Pirates, Mexican Officers, Cabaret Singers, Dancers, Guests.	



Producer:
MAY MACDONALD

Chorus Mistress:
MARY BELL

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: The Mesa Francesca, San Lucar, Mexico.
Scene 2: A Dive below the Mesa Francesca.
Scene 3: La Vida.
Scene 4: The Patio of General Esteban's Villa.

ACT II

Scene 1: The Pirate Ship, a floating cabaret on the River Rio Grande.
Scene 2: Kay Bonita.
Scene 3: The Mesa Francesca.

Musical Director:
HENRY RUDOLPH

Ballet Mistress:
EMMA MAYE

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★ Rio Rita Choruses and Ballet

LADIES OF THE CHORUS

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GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

Bob Buckley, Bob Cater, Bill Christen, Ian Gordon, Len Hodgson, Ron Jack, Frank Kerrigan, Gordon McKay, George Mitchell, Bob Murray, Alan Thomson, Peter Trask, Cedric Catton, Charles Couch, David Edwards, Turoa Hapi, Ray Nuku, Spadie Onekawa, Jim Puriri, Adam Puriri, Leo Pene, Reuben Parahi, Sam Poto, Gooch Parahi, Brassy Parahi, Rangi Hapi, Boydie Campbell, Ray Paki, Bob Hirini, Hata Tipoki, Jury Thompson, Sonna Selwyn, Richard Wihongi, J. Broughton.

CORPS DE BALLET

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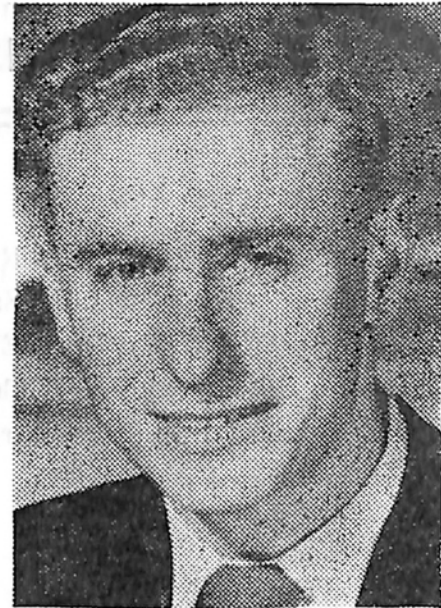
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Costume Designer



KEITH BRAZIER
Decor



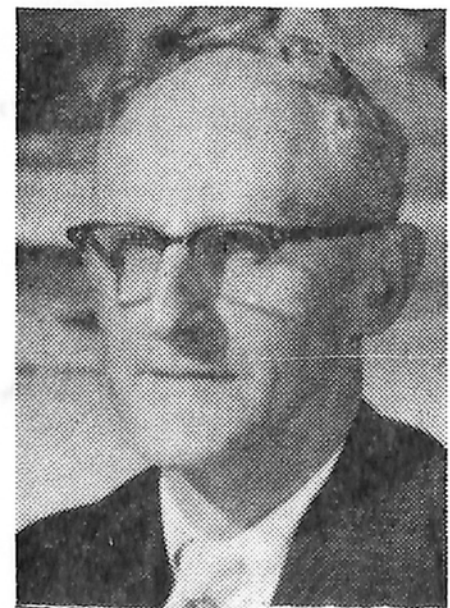
Key Designing Personnel . . .

Once again the Society has been fortunate in securing the services of these talented people. Theirs is the skill that adds to the glamour and spectacle of a good production.

We trust that in our future productions we are able once again to call upon their services and number them among our key personnel.



HECTOR SPENCE
Stage Director



RALPH SPENCE
Stage Director



GLADYS WILLIAMSON as "KATIE"
KEITH BRAZIER as "ED LOVETT"



JUDITH WEBBY as "DOLLY"
JIM PAXIE as "CHICK BEAN"

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Henry Rudolph

Mr. Rudolph has again come to us from the Capital City to take the baton in our 1959 production.

We are deeply appreciative of his work for the Society, and he should be justly proud of his musical arrangements for the chorus work in "Rio Rita."

The Orchestra . . .

Conductor: HENRY RUDOLPH

Pianist: MARIE STOTHART

Violins: Mrs. E. DUNN, Mrs. A. WILSON, Mr. G. WADE, Mr. G. HANCOX

Flute: Mr. A. TIBBENHAM

Clarinets: Mr. A. LOUGHLAN, Mr. O. KNIGHT

Trumpets: Mr. K. KEOGH, Mr. C. GIRVAN

Univox: Mr. J. MULLANY

Bass: Mr. R. LAVIN, Mr. C. MARTIN

Drums: Mr. J. SETON



SANDRA HALDANE as "LOLITA"
GORDON JOHANSON as "GENERAL ESTEBAN"



JEWEL CRAWFORD as "CARMEN"



THE TEXAS RANGERS



LEIGHTON WILLIAMS as "ROBERTO"



GAVIN GARNER as "DAVALOS"



GORDON JOHANSON as "GENERAL ESTEBAN"



RENAIS GAGE as "RIO RITA"
BRIAN STEPHENSON as "CAPTAIN JIM STEWART"

President's Message . .

Nineteen fifty-nine has been a year of achievement—a milestone in our history. It has seen the building of our new home, the Hastings Musical Comedy Company Hall, possibly the most modern and spacious structure of its kind in the Dominion.

We are a young society and have accomplished much in a short time. Within our ranks there is a spirit of loyalty and friendship which we cherish. It has been the aim of the Society to provide good, clean entertainment, and the goodwill and prestige gained is our greatest asset.

We trust that by our humble efforts, we have contributed something to the cultural life of the community and a little to the building of a Greater Hastings.

W. WILSON,
President.

Subscribing Members

Ashford, Mr. R.	Gran', Mr. W. C.	Longhurst, Mr. L.	Richardson, Mrs. D.
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Godfrey, Mrs. R.	Lawton, Mr. C.	Price, Miss N.	Wilson, Mrs. W.
Goulding, Mrs. J. S.	Lawton, Mrs. C.	Reid, Mr. T.	
Graham, Miss J. M.	Liley, Miss R.	Richardson, Mr. D.	

Credits . . .

To the many members, friends and business firms who have given so generously of their time and assistance to make this and our past musical comedy productions a success, we express our grateful thanks.

"Sally"—Mrs. J. B. HAMILTON.

"No, No Nanette"—J. BAXTER.

"Rose Marie"—J. BAXTER.

"Naughty Marietta"—J. BAXTER.

"Show Boat"—MAY MACDONALD.

"Rio Rita"—MAY MACDONALD.

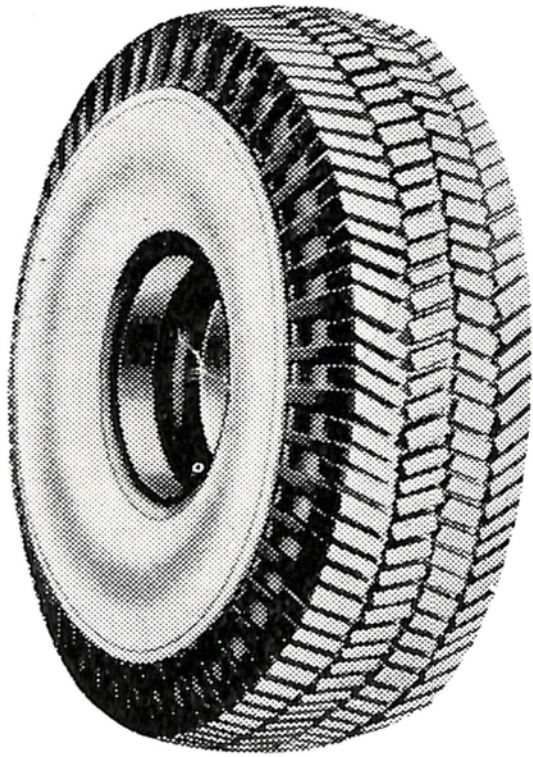


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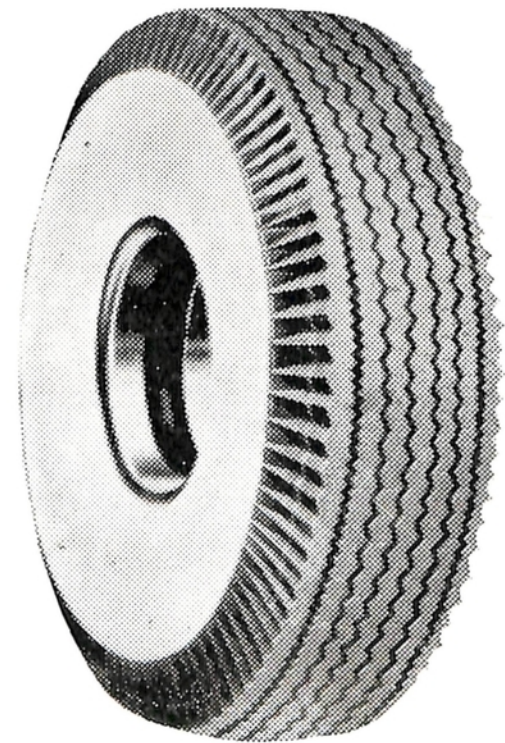
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