

The **DESERT SONG**



The Hastings Light Opera Co. (Inc.)

1971 Production

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ARE SAYING

GO GO GO

Shaw Savill



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The Hastings Light Opera Co. (Inc.)

(A member of the Federation of Operatic Societies)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this our tenth year of production we have chosen to present to you, the public, one of the world's most popular musicals, "The Desert Song".

The success of any amateur show relies entirely on public support and I am sure that for this reason alone "The Desert Song" will prove to be one of the most successful yet produced by our company.

That we have had problems would be a gross understatement. The delivery of our wardrobe and scenery was held up through floods and all of the properties were taken to the dump in error.

For those who have overcome these difficulties I extend my sincere thanks. To you all I extend a sincere welcome and I hope that as in the words of the Riff song you too will be singing as you are riding HO-ME.

RON WALKER,

President.

OFFICERS FOR 1971

Patrons:

His Worship the Mayor of Hastings: R. V. Giorgi,

N. B. Fippard, Esq.

President: Ron L. Walker.

Vice-Presidents: Sybil Reay, Peter Hill.

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer: Eric. Reay.

Assistant Secretary: Sara Holderness.

Committee:

Sadie Brown

Maureen Brady

Peter Dixon

Ray Walker

Eddie Cameron

Nada Broomhead

Glenda Rickard

Oliver Christoffersen

Bruce Murray

Pearce Williams

THE DESERT SONG PERFORMANCES

Hastings Municipal Theatre, 1st — 8th, May

Napier Municipal Theatre, 13th and 15th, May

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Producer

Sadie Brown

SEASON

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GRAND SHOW

Production Team . . .



Musical Director

Cecil Fitzwater

In a period when good musicals were common Romberg's "Desert Song" enjoyed a high place in music lovers regard. Through the years, despite fierce competition from modern music and its associated gimmicks, this high rating has been maintained, and today the music of the show comes as fresh as though composed only yesterday. The "Riff Song", "Romance", "Desert Song" and "One Alone" are a quartette of songs that will hold their own against any competition, and will, with others, bring maximum pleasure as they are presented again in 1971 for your enjoyment.



Chorus Mistress

Ngairé Shand

The name Romberg conjures up pleasant musical memories for many. I hope that our interpretation of this "musical play" will present you with the satisfaction and enjoyment that I have received in fulfilling my role as chorus mistress.

My congratulations to the company. It is always a pleasure to work with co-operation such as there has been for this production.



Choreographer

Joan McVicar

The story of the Desert Song

In MOROCCO the French are having trouble with the Riffs. This is a story of Pierre Birabeau, a Frenchman, who, pretending to be a simpleton, in secret organizes a band of Arabs to avenge the wrongs committed by his countrymen against the Arabs and becomes known as the Red Shadow.

Complications arise for him when his father is appointed General in Command of the Army, with the duty of capturing the bandit chief, and by the visit of Margot, the girl he loves. Margot is romantically attracted by the deeds of the Red Shadow and Pierre abducts her, taking her to the harem of an Arab Chief. General Birabeau follows them and challenges the Red Shadow to a duel. Pierre refuses to fight his father and is branded a coward, being driven into the desert without arms or supplies. In the last scene the General learns the identity of the Red Shadow after the army has been sent out to kill him. They return with the news that the Red Shadow has been killed by Pierre who then reveals his true identity to Margot.



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**THE RED SHADOW and PIERRE BIRABEAU
PAUL WARING**



MARGOT . . . PAT BOWEN

Comedy Duo . . .



"Now listen Susan, there are times when a man has to be cruel to be kind"
GLENDA RICKARD . . . SUSAN AND BENNIE . . . PETER HILL



The Desert Song



By
arrangement
with
J. C. Williamson
Theatres Ltd.

•

Music by
Sigmund
Romberg

•

Books and Lyrics
by
Otto Harbach,
Frank Mandel,
and
Oscar
Hammerstein 2nd

CAST (in order of appearance)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Sid El Kar</i> | Wayne Lister |
| <i>Hadji</i> | Norm Brown |
| <i>Neri</i> | Audrey London |
| <i>Benjamin Kidd</i> | Peter Hill |
| <i>Capt. Paul Fontaine</i> | Carl Jamieson |
| <i>Margot Bonvalet</i> | Pat Bowen |
| <i>General Birabeau</i> | Pearce Williams |
| <i>Pierre Birabeau</i> | Paul Waring |
| <i>Susan</i> | Glenda Rickard |
| <i>Edith</i> | Olwyn Walker |
| <i>Azuri</i> | Dallas Beckett |
| <i>Ali Ben Ali</i> | Bob Bird |
| <i>Clementina</i> | June Keough |
| <i>Mindar</i> | Kevan Broomhead |
| <i>Hassi</i> | Bruce Murray |
| <i>Lieut. La Vergne</i> | Len Crawford |
| <i>Sergeant de Broussac</i> | John Hodges |

French Girls, Spanish Girls, Soldiers' Wives and Harem Girls:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Hazel Boyd | Sara Holderness | Audrey London | Kay Townsend |
| Sandra Dixon | June Keough | Claire McDonald | Olwyn Walker |
| Zita Driscoll | Beth Lean | Linda Merrill | Judith Wellwood |
| Moira Gillespie | Pamela Learmonth | Doreen Struthers | |

Soldiers of the Foreign Legion and Members of the Red Shadow's Band:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Bryan Baker | Adrian Brown | Bruce Gibbs | Derek Rolls |
| Brian Bartlett | Norm. Brown | John Hodges | Henk van Hooijdonk |
| Bill Beckett | Len Crawford | Ross Pullen | |
| Kevan Broomhead | John Davidson | Randal Roberts | |

Dancers:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Marie Falconer | Barbara O'Sullivan | Karen Thompson | Shona Thompson |
| Heather Lomas | | | |

Karamu Marching Team:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Deborah Baxter | Lynette Cuthbert | Christine Scott | Heather Wallace |
| Margaret Boxall | Caroline Edmonds | Christine Wall | Margaret Ward |
| Denise Cuthbert | Ricky Lay | Deborah Wallace | Christine Kaye |

Ted — *The Donkey*

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Scene 1: Retreat of the Red Shadow in the Riff 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: Edge of the desert. (The following morning half an hour before dawn).

Scene 5: Courtyard of General Birabeau's house. (Two days later).

LOCALE — NORTHERN AFRICA.



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The Desert Song

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Prelude and Opening Chorus</i> | Sid and the Riffs |
| <i>The Riffs Song</i> | The Red Shadow and Riffs |
| <i>Margot</i> | Paul and French Soldiers |
| <i>I'll Be a Buoyant Girl</i> | Susan and Edith |
| <i>Why Did We Marry a Soldier</i> | French Girls, and Wives |
| <i>Romance</i> | Margot |
| <i>Then You Will Know</i> | Margot, Pierre and Chorus |
| <i>I Want a Kiss</i> | Margot, Pierre, Paul and Chorus |
| <i>It</i> | Susan, Bennie and Girls |
| <i>The Desert Song</i> | Margot and the Red Shadow |
| <i>Finale, Act I</i> | Margot, Paul, Azuri, Sid, Red Shadow and Chorus |

INTERVAL

ACT II

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Entracte</i> | Clementina and Spanish Ladies |
| <i>My Little Castagnette</i> | Clementina and Girls, and Ali |
| <i>One Good Boy Gone Wrong</i> | Clementina and Bennie |
| <i>Eastern and Western Love</i> | Red Shadow, Sid, Ali and Riffs |
| <i>The Sabre Song</i> | Margot and The Red Shadow |
| <i>Reprise, The Desert Song</i> | Margot and The Red Shadow |
| <i>Farewell!</i> | Red Shadow, Mindar, and Riffs |
| <i>All Hail to the General</i> | General Birabeau, Girls and Soldiers |
| <i>Dance of Triumph</i> | Azuri |
| <i>Finale, Act II</i> | Soldiers and Girls |
| <i>Reprise, One Alone</i> | Margot and Girls |

ORCHESTRA

Eric Thorpe, Ngaire Shand — *Piano*
Enid Dunn, Anita Rae, Charlie Jukes — *Violin*
Joan Palmer — *Cello*
Leon Speakman — *Bass*
Alan Meakin, Allen Thorpe — *Clarinet*

Stuart Boston, Roy Robinson — *Trumpet*
Douglas Robinson — *Trombone*
Michael Winter — *French Horn*
Ken Scour — *Drums*

The Principals . . .



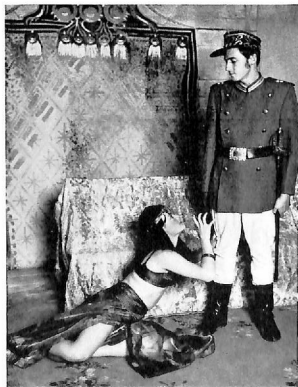
"He is the Red Shadow"

RED SHADOW, AZURI and SID EL KAR



"Yet when I seek this beauty"

THE RED SHADOW and MARGOT



"Claws of a tiger, sharp with fury"

CAPTAIN PAUL FONTAINE and AZURI



"Oh no, we are from Barcelona"

ALI BEN ALI and CLEMENTINA

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

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- 1966 — The Valley of Song.
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- 1968 — A Country Girl.
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- 1970 — Aladdin.

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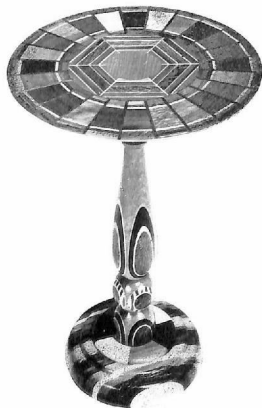
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LADIES OF ALI BEN ALI'S HAREM



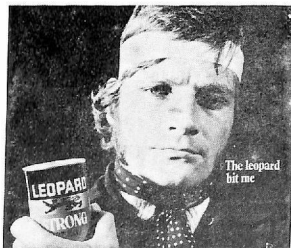
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Army Dept., Napier, for help with props.

All who have helped towards the success of the show.

Last but not least our subscribing members whose
interest in the company we value.

Thank you



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Olwyn Walker

Hazel Boyd

Bert Hamerlilhey

Sybil Reay

Peter Dean

Judith Wellwood

Pam Learmonth

Moir Gillespie

Derek Rolls

Len Crawford

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Stage Manager:

Peter Dixon

Electrician:

John Henderson

Rehearsal Officer:

Oliver Christoffersen

House Manager:

Eric Reay

Lighting Designer:

Cedric Wright

Wardrobe Mistress:

Nada Broomhead

Property Mistress:

Sybil Reay

Librarian:

Maureen Brady

Ballet Pianist:

Shirley Pell

Stage Team:

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Baby Sitters:

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