

THE HASTINGS MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY (INC.)

PROUDLY PRESENTS



the
Belle
of
New York

PRODUCED BY
SADIE BROWN



HASTINGS August 31st — September 12th
NAPIER September 16th — 19th

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A Member of the N.Z. Federation of Operatic Societies

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Producer	SADIE BROWN
Musical Director	ROBERT MULHOLLAND
Choreographer and Ballet Mistress	JEAN BALLANTYNE
Chorus Mistress	MARY BELL
Official Pianist	MARIE STOTHART
Ballet Pianist	MARY BELL
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Stage Managers	COLIN SPENCE and SYDNEY TAYLOR
Chief Electrician	JOHN HENDERSON
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Advertising	W. WILSON
Programme and Business Manager	DERECK WHITWORTH
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Librarian	DAVID HARRIS



SADIE BROWN, Producer of "The Belle of New York", comes to us after her recent successes with "The Mikado" and "Iolanthe" for the Hastings Light Opera Company.

She is well remembered for her fine singing and acting ability in many of our past productions and her wide experience in the acting field has undoubtedly assisted her in the measure of success she has achieved in her new role of producer.

We welcome her most warmly and express the hope that she will continue to contribute her talent to us in the future.

WE WISH YOU A MOST ENJOYABLE
EVENING
•
THE "LILAC" CAKE SHOP

ROBERT MULHOLLAND joins the Company as Musical Director for "The Belle of New York" following an outstanding musical career.

After three years' study at the Royal Manchester College of Music, Mr Mulholland gained further experience with the Halle Orchestra, the Liverpool Philharmonic and Manchester Opera House Orchestras. Fourteen years' association with the Fairy Aviation Band included a period of four years as bandmaster, during which time he conducted the band in broadcasting and concert tours of Britain and the Continent. Since residing in Hawke's Bay he has been Musical Director for the Napier Operatic Society in their productions of "Oklahoma" and "Love from Judy".

Without doubt, this wide experience has contributed to the high musical standard of this year's production and we express our grateful thanks to Mr Mulholland for his assistance.





JEAN BALLANTYNE, Choreographer and Ballet Mistress for "The Belle of New York", needs no introduction to Hawke's Bay theatre audiences, for she has been associated with amateur productions for many years, as well as having her own studio in Hastings.

Following her outstanding work in "Zip Goes a Million", we express to her our deep appreciation for the time that she has devoted to this, our 1964 production.

MARY BELL has been responsible for the very fine chorus work of all productions since the Company first ventured into musical comedy and we are again indebted to her.

"SALLY"	"RIO RITA"
"NO. NO. NANETTE"	"THE STUDENT PRINCE"
"ROSE MARIE"	"SOUTH PACIFIC"
"NAUGHTY MARIETTA"	"CAROUSEL"
"SHOWBOAT"	"ZIP GOES A MILLION"
	"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK"



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About . . . "THE BELLE OF NEW YORK"

A satire on the lives of famous people in New York before the turn of the century, "The Belle of New York" is renowned the world over for the stir it created at its first performance in George Lederer's production of 1897 at the New York Casino. The fact that the lives of celebrated New York residents had been caricatured did not meet with success in the city in which these people lived, and so it is no wonder that it ran for just six weeks at this time.

Opening at London's famous Shaftesbury Theatre on 12th April, 1898, and running for 697 performances, it was a riot and on its return showing in New York, "The Belle" became an immediate success and is still revived at regular intervals.

The spectacular costuming of the period — elegant ladies, complete with large hats, flowing frocks and the long-handled umbrellas; the men, theatre dandies of the times, immaculate and carefree — together with captivating melodies, farcical humour and colourful ballets indicate its everlasting freshness and appeal.



Ann Clifford as Violet Gray
York Davis as Harry Branson

The Orchestra . . .

Piano: MRS M. STOTHART

Violins: MRS E. DUNN (Leader), MRS A WILSON,
MR G. WADE, MR P. LOWE

Viola: MRS A. NORRIS

Cello: MRS J. PALMER

Bass: MR L. SPEAKMAN

Flute and Piccolo: MR A. TIBBENHAM

Oboe: MRS J. OLDROYD

Clarinet: MR O. KNIGHT

Trumpet: MR R. G. MULHOLLAND, MR P. BESWARICK

Horn: MR I. WARD, MR L. WARD

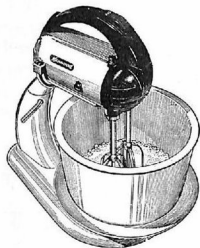
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Bob Murray as Ichabod Bronson
Jewell Shaw as Cera Angelique



Bruce Legen as Karl von Pumpnick
(The Polite Lunatic)

"The Belle of New York" — CHORUSES

LADIES OF THE CHORUS

Collen Bishop, Roberta Bowers, Kay Dawson, Jeanne Hall, Christine Haycock, Diane Hemmingway, Gloria Jones, Elizabeth Low, Sue MacKenzie, Sue McKay, Joyce Mardon, Wendy Middleton, Philippa Moore, Anne Rainbow, Lois Reefman, Elizabeth Smith, Maybelle Verity, Lyn Westerman, Judy Woodham, Myra Woodham, Marilyn Wotherspoon.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

Rob Aernout, Webber Booth, Robert Buckley, Ian Drake, Trevor Hall, David Harris, Winfried Heuser, David Holmes, Owen Kirker, John McKenzie, John Minnett, Mark Morgan, Brian Morley, Malcolm Palmer, Reuben Parahi, Robin Potts, John Purdie, Richard Rees, Derek Rolls, Mike Stewart, Peter Trask.

COON CHORUS

Boydie Campbell, George Ferris, Rangi Hapi, Bob Hirini, Owen Kirker, Bob Makutu, Mane Neho, Adam Puriri, Reubin Parahi, Leo Pere, Sam Poto, Jim Puriri.

CORPS DE BALLET

Briar Haig, Ann Gillett, Janne Treacher, Marie Watson, Vera Green.

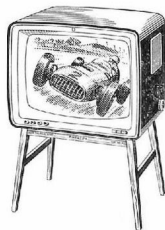
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THE HASTINGS MUSICAL COMEDY COMPANY Inc.

PRESENTS

"The Belle of New York"

A MUSICAL COMEDY IN TWO ACTS

Musical Director:
ROBERT MULHOLLAND

Producer:
SADIE BROWN

Music and Lyrics by
GUSTAVE KERKER

Book by:
HUGH MORTON

Cast

(In order of Appearance)

Harry Bronson (a young spendthrift)	.. .. .	YORK DAVIS
William (his butler)	.. .. .	MALCOLM PALMER
Twiddles (his secretary)	.. .. .	PETER TRASK
Cora Angelique (the queen of comic opera)	.. .. .	JEWELL SHAW
Doc. Snifkins (her father)	.. .. .	DEREK BELCHER
Count Ratsi Tattaloo } (twin Portuguese	.. .. .	TREVOR HALL
Count Patsi Tattaloo } noblemen)	.. .. .	JOHN MCKENZIE
Pansy Pinns (Cora's principal bridesmaid)	.. .. .	GLORIA JONES
Cora's Bridesmaids	.. .. .	SUSAN MCKAY, SUSAN MCKENZIE, WENDY MIDDLETON, ANN RAINBOW, MARILYN WOTHERSPOON
Kenneth Mugg (low comedian of comic opera)	.. .. .	PETER HANNAH
Kissy Fitzgarter (a music hall dancer)	.. .. .	GLENDIA SMITH



Cast

(In order of Appearance)

Blinky Bill McQuirk (a mixed-ale pugilist)	.. .. .	GOOCH PARAH
Fricot (a French chef)	.. .. .	ERIC REAY
Fifi Fricot (his daughter)	.. .. .	BEVERLEY COWAN
Mr Sheep (a minister)	.. .. .	MALCOLM PALMER
Ichabod Bronson	.. .. .	BOB MURRAY
(president of the Young Men's Rescue League of Cohoes)		
Karl von Pumpernick (a polite lunatic)	.. .. .	BRUCE LOGAN
Violet Gray (a Salvation Army lassie)	.. .. .	ANN CLIFFORD
Mamie Clancy (a Pell Street girl)	.. .. .	DOREEN MUDGWAY
New York Policeman	.. .. .	MALCOLM PALMER
Mr Snooper (a newspaper reporter)	.. .. .	OWEN KIRKER
Mr Peeper (a press photographer)	.. .. .	PETER TRASK
Railway Gateman	.. .. .	REUBEN PARAH

ACT I

Scene 1 — The Dining Hall of Harry Bronson's house on Riverside Drive, New York.
Scene 2 — The Conservatory of Harry Bronson's House.
Scene 3 — Pell Street, New York, on Chinese New Year's Eve.

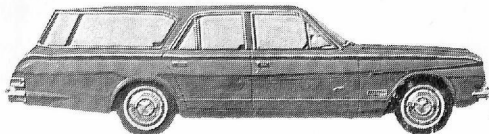
ACT II

Scene 1 — Smyler's Candy Store, Broadway, New York.
Scene 2 — Interior, Grand Central Station, New York.
Scene 3 — On the lawn of the Casino at Narragansett Pier.

Chorus Mistress:
MARY BELL

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The Story of . . . "THE BELLE OF NEW YORK"

The story opens with Harry Bronson, heir to his father's fortune, convivially celebrating his majority. He is to be married the next day to Cora Angelique, Queen of Comic Opera, but his purpose wavers on meeting Fifi, the daughter of the French chef, Fricot, engaged to prepare the wedding breakfast. Things are complicated by the claim of Kissy Fitzgarter, a music hall dancer, that Harry has promised to marry her, and further by the arrival of Ichabod Bronson, President of the Young Men's Rescue League of Cohoes, who disinherits his son of his fortune and incidentally of two prospective wives, who suddenly discover convenient engagements elsewhere. Fifi alone remains constant and Harry goes to work.

In the meantime Harry has met Violet Gray in Pell Street, a low Chinatown quarter. Violet is a pretty Salvation Army lassie and known in the neighbourhood at the "Belle of New York", but the difficulty with her converts is that "they do not follow the light; they always follow me". Ichabod, who transpires to be a person of convenient morals, appears and, disgusted at finding his son in such an ill-reputed quarter, declares he will leave his fortune to the first worthy person he meets, and, of course, it is Violet. At first she refuses, but she then conceives a plan which, put into operation, brings a satisfactory conclusion to the play.

The path of the plot is crossed many times by a host of humorous characters: Mamie Clancy and Blinky Bill, of the New York Underworld with their amusing Bowery love-making; Karl, that most polite lunatic, who pursues his rivals in love, the two Bronsons, father and son, with his murderous "sticker"; Mugg, the melodramatic tragedian, who aspires to Cora's hand; and Doc Snifkins, who aspires to a more lucrative union for his daughter.



Gooch Parahi as Blinky Bill
Doreen Mudgway as Mamie Clancy

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Peter Hannah as Kenneth Mugg

Glenda Smith as Kissy Fitzgerald

Blinky Bill

● This is a photograph of the first entry in our earliest ledger, showing the account of Thomas Tanner, dated Feb. 3, 1879, 85 years ago.

1879		Tanner, Thomas		1879	
Feb	3 to Work	1	5 16	March	By Chique
	13	1	15 1	April	5
	17	1	5	June	25
	23	1	2 9 6	July	20
	27		12	Aug	9
	28		17	By Balance	7 2 6
			12		167 16 6

● In the same ledger there is an entry for the Hastings Masonic Lodge, 1880; so mote it be. Also we have Nelson Bros., Tomoana, 1880, not then designated a freezing works, but as the Tomoana Gelatine Factory.

● It is as well to remember the first shipment of frozen meat left N.Z. in 1880, dispatched in the S.S. Dunedin from a South Island port. By these records we are a fairly old established firm, but don't think we are old and senile. Our progress these last few years has been remarkable.

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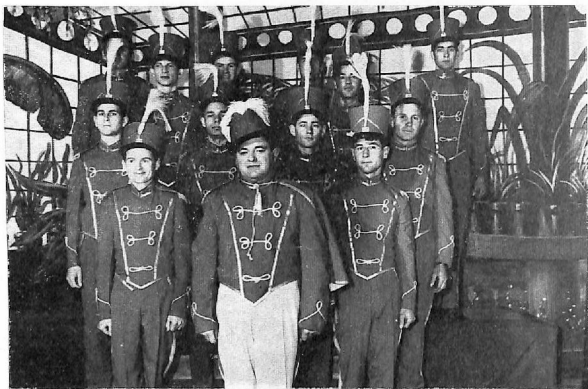
Established, circa 1879



Harry Bronson
Beverly Cowan as Fifi Fricot
Eric Reay as Fricot



Harry Bronson, Derek Belcher as Doc Snifkins, Cora Angellique, Kenneth Mugg, Owen Kirker as Mr Snooper,
Peter Trask as Mr Peepor

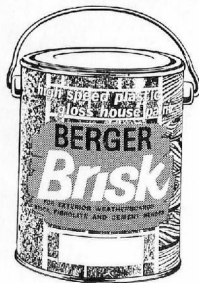


Ichabod Bronson and the Anti-Cigarette Society



John McKenzie and Trevor Hall as Counts Ratsi and Patsi

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All Scenery and Costumes for "The Belle of New York" were hired from the Hamilton Operatic Society.

Grants Opticians for loan of Spectacles.

Napier Frivs for loan of Music.

Mr Alex Houston for co-operation with Photography.

Mr Keith Brazier for designing Programme Cover, Posters, etc.

Mr M. Parkhill for continued assistance.

Mrs M. Florance for designing Ballet Costumes.

L. J. Harvey Ltd. for loan of Glasses and Flowers.

Bon Marche Ltd. for assistance.

National Cash Register Co. Ltd. for loan of equipment.

Mrs Mavis Stayt for supervision and assistance with make-up.

Mrs J. M. O. Robetson for assistance.

Mr Cedric Wright for assistance.

Messrs Long and Barden for Cordial used in this production.

Mr Alan Bowes for loan of Cycle.

Diamond Dry Cleaners for assistance.

Mr Ron Hunter and the Tin Hat Club for loan of Suits.

Our Social Committee for serving suppers and providing social events throughout rehearsals:

Peggy Brazier, Kay Dawson, Jeanne Hall, Gloria Jones, Derek Burns, Trevor Hall, David Harris, John McKenzie, Mark Morgan, Malcolm Palmer.

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

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Mr W. Wilson

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Miss May MacDonald

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