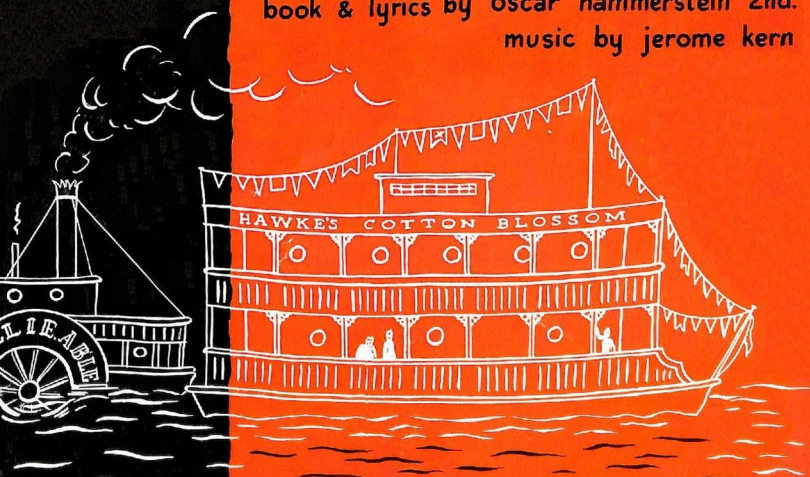


programme 1/-

the hastings musical comedy company
presents

“SHOWBOAT”

book & lyrics by oscar hammerstein 2nd.
music by jerome kern



produced by may macdonald

hastings municipal theatre — 8th to 20th september
napier municipal theatre — 24th to 27th september

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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
Wardrobe	...	...	RITA HOWARD and Assistants
Properties	...	...	LES REED and Assistants
Make-up	...	...	MARGARET McGRATH and Assistants Coached by LESTER BULL
Stage Directors	HECTOR and RALPH SPENCE
Chief Electrician	LYNN WILLIAMS
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The Story of . . .

SHOWBOAT

To the people living in the towns and plantations along the many tributaries of the Mississippi, the Show Boat was no longer a novelty. It had been a welcome sight since 1817. But the familiarity with these craft failed to dispel their glamour. To the planters, small farmers and villagers of the South, the Show Boat meant music, romance, gaiety. When the curtain rose they became little children listening to a fairy tale, and a world of unreality opened before their eyes. Things happened. They knew that in life things did not happen thus. But here they saw, believed, and were happy. Innocence wore gold curls. Wickedness wore black. Right conquered; virtue was rewarded. Women forgot for an hour their wash-tubs and their kitchen stoves; the men the coal-mines, the cotton fields, the potato patch. Here were warmth, laughter, music. It was escape. It was the theatre.

The Show Boat with which we are concerned is the "Cotton Blossom," owned by Captain Andy Hawks, whose wife, Parthy Ann, has a bitter tongue, but deep down a kindly heart. It is their daughter Magnolia whose adventures we follow.

Magnolia has fallen in love with a ne'er-do-well, Gaylord Ravenal, a man whose fortunes are at a low ebb and on whom rests the stigma of having killed a



ARCH BARCLAY as "RAVENAL"



RENAIS GAGE as "MAGNOLIA"

man, though later it is made clear that he did so in self-defence. Amongst the company of the Show Boat are Ellie, the comedian, and Frank, the villain of the plays, but off-stage a kind-hearted fellow and in love with Ellie.

Julie and Steve (husband and wife) play the romantic parts and are true lovers off the stage. Considerable dramatic interest is attached to them, for at one of the towns the sheriff, Valon, boards the "Cotton Blossom" with the intention of arresting the couple on a charge of miscegenation, that is, mingling of black and white blood, a crime in Mississippi. Julie has resisted the advances of Pete, a river-rat and odd-job man on the boat, who has learnt her secret and so betrays her. Steve gallantly evades the sheriff's authority by cutting his wife's finger and applying his lips to the wound, being thus able to swear on oath that he has black blood in him.

Steve and Julie are obliged to quit the company, and Captain Andy has to look out for a new leading man and lady. Magnolia comes to his aid, despite her mother's objection.

(Continued on page 5)

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MAY MACDONALD

Our Producer

The Society has been very fortunate in obtaining the services of May MacDonald as Producer of "Showboat," and her wealth of experience has been to our gain in this production.

May MacDonald's first professional engagement was in 1922, when she was producer of a revue for the Nelson Operatic Society. From 1926 to 1928 she produced for the Napier Technical College the operettas "May Time," "Kristine" and "King of Kandy." In conjunction with Constance Macdonald she produced six pantomimes, including "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "The Bluebird," etc., and she also produced the revue, "Boots and All," for the Napier Operatic Society.

From 1940 May MacDonald has performed in over one hundred N.Z.B.S. plays, has produced sixty-nine three-act and one-act plays in various New Zealand towns, including "No Room at the Inn," which holds the box-office record for Napier Repertory. She was also a drama festival adjudicator, and one of the producers for the N.Z. Drama Council.

During 1946-48 Miss MacDonald acted professionally in England under contract to Anthony Hawtry, playing in Buxton, Hastings, and Embassy Theatre, London. She acted in two films, "The Mark of Cain" and "Mr. Perrin and Mr. Traill." In a professional capacity she worked with Marius Goring, Diana Churchill, Colin Gordon, David Farrar, Gretta Gynt, Sally Grey, Douglas Montgomery, Barry K. Barnes and Eric Portman.

The Society is greatly indebted to May MacDonald for her untiring efforts put into "Showboat," and we sincerely hope to have her with us for our future productions.

The Story of SHOWBOAT

(Continued from page 3)

Gaylord Ravenal, warned by the sheriff to leave the town, seeks a passage on the Show Boat, and is engaged as the leading man, although knowing little of the art.

Magnolia and Ravenal meet whenever they can avoid the watchful eyes of Parthy, and their romance is secretly encouraged by Captain Andy, who seeks only his daughter's happiness. While Parthy is away obtaining evidence to blacken Ravenal in her husband's eyes, the wedding is planned and takes place despite Parthy's new-found knowledge of Ravenal's past. The newly-weds leave the "Cotton Blossom" to seek their fortunes in Chicago, where a daughter, Kim, is born to them. After a prosperous time fortune deserts Ravenal, the gambler, and feeling he is dragging down his loved ones, he departs, leaving behind what little money he has been able to borrow. This is soon used up, and Magnolia, aided by Frank Schultz, returns to the stage as a singer of Negro songs which were taught her by Julie, for whom she has a great affection.

At Magnolia's first appearance as a singer at the Trocadero (a night-spot), she is found by Captain Andy, who is out celebrating New Year's Eve. There is a tearful but happy reunion between father and daughter, and he prevails upon her to return home. Magnolia goes on to make a name for herself as a radio singer.

Captain Andy runs across Ravenal and insists on his returning to the new "Cotton Blossom," which still tours the river. While they are sitting in the moonlight by the water barrel listening to the radio, they hear a broadcast by Magnolia, who is singing "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man." This stirs Ravenal very deeply, and he is persuaded by Captain Andy to stay.

Magnolia is sent for and returns to the Show Boat, where there is a happy reunion.

THE

NEW

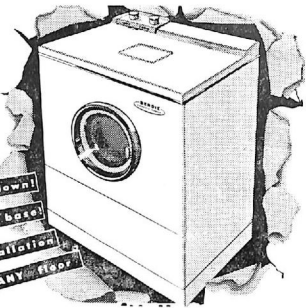
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PETER PLUMMER as "STEVE"

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EMMA MAYE

Our
Ballet
Mistress

Has studied National Dancing under Hazel and Jean Lee, of Napier, and Ballet under Jean Ballantyne, and is a member of the Royal Academy of Dancing. For many years she has taught in Wairoa, Napier and Hastings. Since residing permanently in Hastings her work has been confined to National dancing, and she has trained many outstanding dancers in this field. For the last seven years she has been a member of the Technical Committee of the N.Z. Academy of National Dancing, and on many occasions has been examiner throughout New Zealand.

Emma Maye will be remembered for her work with the ballet of "Rose Marie," and the high standard set in "Showboat" is a tribute to her ability in this field.



RITA HOWARD

Our
Wardrobe
Mistress

For some years Rita Howard has been a diligent worker for the Society, and has carried out a thankless job cheerfully and competently. She has worked very closely with Marie Florance, designer, and has been of great assistance in organising help with costumes, the making of costumes, and is ever ready back-stage with needle and thread to carry out "running repairs."

To the Ballet girls she is affectionately known as "Auntie Rita."



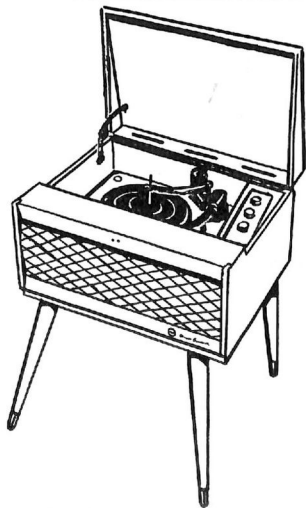
MARY BELL

Our Chorus Mistress

Mary Bell is one of the best known and most accomplished musicians in Hawke's Bay, having been associated with choral, operatic and orchestral societies, competition festivals, ballet and drama for many years. She is widely recognised as one of the leading vocal coaches in the province, and as an accompaniste, too, she is greatly sought after.

Since joining this Company as Chorus Mistress in our first musical comedy production, "Sally," it has been her wish for the Company to produce "Showboat." This wish has now materialised, and we feel sure that the high standard reached by the two choruses and the singing principals will be a fitting reward for the many arduous hours put into their training.

It is principally through her efforts that it has been possible to obtain many of the fine voices in the cast of "Showboat" and previous productions. Key personnel are essential to our future, so thank you, Mary Bell, and we hope you will always be with us as our Chorus Mistress.



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HASTINGS

The Hastings Musical Comedy Company (Inc.)

By Arrangement with Chappell & Co. Ltd., London

... presents ...

The Hawke's Bay Stage Premiere of

SHOWBOAT

Music by
JEROME KERN

Book and Lyrics by
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN 2nd

Cast

(In order of appearance)

WINDY
STEVE BAKER
PETE
QUEENIE
CAPTAIN ANDY
PARTHY ANN HAWKS
ELLIE MAY CHIFLEY
FRANK SCHULTZ
RUBBER FACE
JULIE LA VERNE
GAYLORD RAVENAL
VALLON
MAGNOLIA HAWKS
JOE
FARO DEALER
BACKWOODSMAN

GEORGE MITCHELL
PETER PLUMMER
ANGUS PARK
SADIE BROWN
GORDON JOHANSON
GLADYS WILLIAMSON
JUDITH WEBBY
GEOFFREY BRADBURY
LEN HODGSON
JENNIFER SCHNACK
ARCH BARCLAY
CEDRIC CATTON
RENAIS GAGE
SYDNEY CRAWFORD
DEREK WHITWORTH
GAVIN GARNER



Cast

(In order of appearance)

JEB
BARKER
SECOND BARKER
THIRD BARKER
SANDOW GIRL
MISS ENGLAND
MISS FRANCE
MISS AMERICA
FATIMA
A LANDLADY
ETHEL
MAX
JAKE (Piano Player)
CHARLIE (Doorman at Trocadero)
LOTTIE
SOLOISTS IN SPIRITUALS

GORDON RIACH
GEORGE MITCHELL
GORDON RIACH
ALAN THOMPSON
GAVIN GARNER
JILL KELLY
PEGGY BRAZIER
GWEN SHORTLAND
PATRICIA SCOTT
EUNICE SPENCE
JEWEL CRAWFORD
GAVIN GARNER
DAVID POPPELWELL
ALAN THOMPSON
DIANE BIEL
SYDNEY CRAWFORD

JIM PURIRI

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: The Levee at Natchez on the Mississippi—In the late 1890's.
Scene 2: Kitchen Pantry of the "Cotton Blossom"—A Half Hour Later.
Scene 3: Outside a Waterfront Gambling Saloon—Simultaneous with Scene 2.
Scene 4: Auditorium and Stage of the "Cotton Blossom"—One Hour Later.
Scene 5: Box-office on Foredeck of "Cotton Blossom"—Three Weeks Later.
Scene 6: Auditorium and Stage of the "Cotton Blossom," during the Third Act of "The Parson's Bride"—That Evening.
Scene 7: The Top Deck of the "Cotton Blossom"—Later That Night.
Scene 8: The Levee—Next Morning.

ACT II

Scene 1: A Midway Plaisance, Chicago World's Fair, 1893.
Scene 2: A Room on Ontario Street, 1901.
Scene 3: Rehearsal Room of the Trocadero Music Hall—About 3 p.m.
Scene 4: Trocadero Music Hall—New Year's Eve, 11.30, 1904.
Scene 5: On the Road.
Scene 6: The Levee—Moonlight.
Scene 7: The Levee at Natchez—The Next Night.

Producer:
MAY MACDONALD

Chorus Mistress:
MARY BELL

Musical Director:
HENRY RUDOLPH

Ballet Mistress:
EMMA MAYE

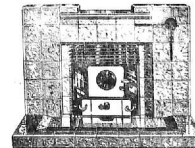
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MISSISSIPPI LADIES' CHORUS

Mary Reid, Rose Puriri, Joyce Tipoki, Alice Maere, Manuwai Edwards, Mania Whakamoe, Jewell Crawford, Gladys Ferris, Kara Parahi, Poppy Edwards, June Parahi, June Cotter.

MISSISSIPPI BALLET

Doreen Edwards, Alice Maere, Robyn Beach, Judy Lowe, Heather McDonald, Patricia Kilfeather.

WHITE BALLET

Peggy Brazier, Pauline Bromley, Sonia Fargher, Jill Kelly, Terese Pothan, Julie Sparks, Joy Sleeman, Gwen Shortland, Patricia Scott.

WHITE CHORUS (MEN)

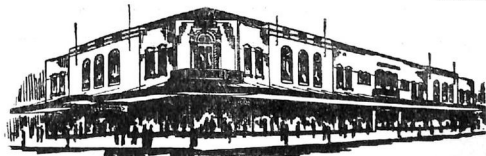
Ray Begg, Derek Burns, Ian Gordon, Trevor Hall, Len Hodgson, Ian Inglis, Ray Morris, Jim Morgan, George Mitchell, Angus Park, Gordon Riach, Tom Russell, Alan Thomson, Peter Trask, Dereck Whitworth, Cedric Catton.

WHITE CHORUS (LADIES)

Barbara Burnett, Diane Biel, Suzette Baird, Diane Boese, Barbara Carrington, Judy Dixon, Penelope Frost, Jean Hall, Val Horton, Grace Hunt, Hazel Illston, Pat Lewis, Rosemary Morgan, Rosemary Ritchie, Marie Shortall, Raewyn Troupe, Lee Webber.

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HECTOR SPENCE
Stage Director



RALPH SPENCE
Stage Director

Key Designing Personnel

This team are our key personnel in the designing, building and decor of "Showboat."

This Society is indeed fortunate to have such people capable of carrying out this exacting work. The great amount of research and work that has gone into this fine production reflects great credit on their abilities.

We feel sure that in their respective fields they are equal to the best.

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



MARIE FLORANCE
Costume Designer



KEITH BRAZIER
Decor



SYDNEY CRAWFORD as "JOE"



GLADYS WILLIAMSON as "PARTHY"

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Henry Rudolph

Our Musical Director, Mr. Henry Rudolph, is perhaps one of the best known musicians in New Zealand, particularly in the Capital City.

He has conducted the Orchestra in two previous productions of this Society, and we extend to him a warm welcome in this the year of "Showboat."

The Orchestra . . .

Conductor: HENRY RUDOLPH.

Pianist: MARIE STOTHART.

Violins: Mrs. DUNN, Miss HANSSON, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. WADE.

Flute: Mr. A. TIBBENHAM

Clarinets: Mr. A. LOUGHLAN, Mr. J. HORNE

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

Univox: Mr. J. MULLANY

Bass: Mr. L. GANNAWAY

Banjo: Mr. W. BAXTER

Drums: Mr. F. HUSE



JUDITH WEBBY as "ELLIE"
GEOFF BRADBURY as "FRANK"



SADIE BROWN as "QUEENIE"

After "SHOWBOAT"

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ARCH BARCLAY as "RAVENAL"



GEORGE MITCHELL as "WINDY"

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Brazier, Mr. D.	Hamilton, Mrs. J. B.	McGrath, Mr. J. R.	Thompson, Miss D. H.
Brazier, Mr. K.	Hannan, Mr. A. J.	Newrick, Mrs. H.	Toomey, Mr. N.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Hastie, Mr. B. R.	Newton, Mrs. I. C.	Warren, Mr. W. A.
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Esam, Miss P.	Longhurst, Mr. L.	Richardson, Mr. D.	

Appeal for Membership

We trust that the happy memories of "Showboat" and our previous productions will induce you to become a Subscribing Member now and thus help the Society to progress consistently with the development of our City.

Hon. Secretary:

MISS M. McGRATH,

Duchess Crescent, Hastings.

Credits

Mr. and Mrs. T. Brown and friends for untiring assistance in making costumes.

Mr. R. Brazier for properties.

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Make-up team for their zeal in the hours of practice in their endeavour to make a perfect job of the make-up, and Mr. Lester Bull for coaching.

Mr. Derek Whitworth for assistance with men's wardrobe.

Mr. L. Longhurst for valuable assistance.

It is inevitable that we may omit to mention the many people who may have contributed much towards the success of this production, as their names are often times unknown.

To all these good friends our sincere thanks.



THE TROCADERO BALLET.

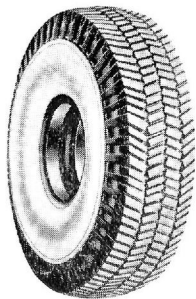
Don't ask for a Recap

Insist on a Supercap

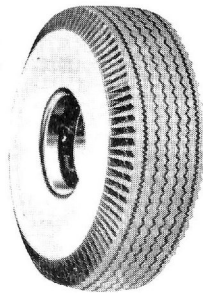
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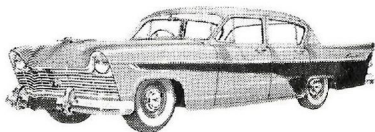
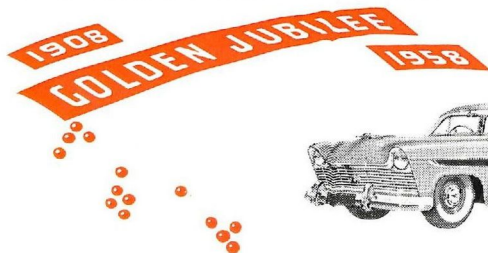
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