

winchester
operatic society



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LA VIE PARISIENNE

May 2005

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SYNOPSIS

Two young Parisians Raoul and Bobinet are in love with the beautiful Metalla but she rejects them both in favour of a richer and older man and so they decide to immerse themselves in the social high life of bohemian Paris. Rich tourists Baron and Baroness Gondremarck arrive along with a millionaire Brazillian, the later is hell bent on spending his money as fast as possible.

Raoul invites the Baron and Baroness to stay, Metalla is furious as she feels usurped but in the meantime the Baron has fallen madly in love with her.

As a distraction Raoul decides to throw a huge party at his aunt's house. In the time honoured tradition of masquerade Raoul's housekeeper Pauline pretends to be Bobinet's wife and others are not all that they seem. As the party becomes more and more wild the Baron becomes more and more intoxicated before totally collapsing.

Naturally the operetta ends with the masquerades being revealed and forgiveness all round as the final chorus sings of all things Parisienne.



Director Ian Crowe

Ian made his debut with the Winchester Operatic Society playing second shortest bass in the chorus of 'La Vie Parisienne'; as a newcomer to the City it was his way of getting to know people. He has been surprised at how much of the music he has dredged up from his memory, and horrified that he can no longer reach middle C.

If you didn't blink you might have spotted him blessing Richard the Lionheart, before he set out to face Saladin in a crusade, in the BBC2 programme called 'The Holy Warriors', which has been the major event in Ian's life since 'Oklahoma'.

Musical Director Julian Poore

Forty years ago his father put a french horn into Julian's hands. When it crashed to the floor the career of a cornet player was launched. Under teachers John Knight, Chris Kennett and Ernest Piper, Julian progressed (via the Hampshire County Youth Band) to study trumpet at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 1982 he joined the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, which has taken him all over the world, working with many musical personalities.

As a trumpet soloist he has performed many works including recording Shostakovitch's Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings with the New English Orchestra. *He will play Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in New Hall, Winchester on August 5th.*

Julian teaches at Peter Symond's College, and Pilgrims' Winchester and Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke as well as running the band and choir at the Salvation Army in Alton.

Choreographer Suzanne Hall

Suzanne began dancing with The Betty Blackmore School of Dance in Ilfracombe and continued to dance and choreograph when she moved to Winchester to study education and drama at the then King Alfreds College. She has choreographed 3 shows for Encore Youth Theatre including the award winning 'Hot Mikado'. Most recently she choreographed 'Oklahoma', combining that role with playing Ado Annie. Suzanne owes a huge thank you to Louise for all her help as Suzanne is expecting her third child in 2 weeks time and teaching a can-can would have been very uncomfortable!

CAST

Lorraine Morgan
Elizabeth Mason
Amanda Stebbing
Penny Bullough
Jacqui Beckingham
Helen O'Sullivan
Chris Milne
Daniel Hickson
Max Bullough
Clive Hilton
Graham Light
Andrew Hartley
Adrian Hickford
Stephen Godfrey
Matthew Laxton
Colin Paice

Gabrielle *a glovemaker*
Baroness Gondremarck *tourist*
Metella *fashionable cocotte*
Pauline *housekeeper*
Julie *servant*
Louise *servant*
Raoul *parisian rake*
Bobinet *parisian rake*
Brazil *millionaire tourist*
Baron Gondremarck *tourist*
Marcel *maitre d'hotel*
Pierre *man servant*
Jacques *man servant*
Station Master
Alphonse
Joseph

Parisians and servants

Anne Croudass, Jill Fitzpatrick, Lizzie Gilbert, Thérèse Godfrey, Jan Gwynne-Howell, Talia Hedström, Louise Hodson, Grace Honeysett, Linda Howard, Mary Jackson, Bob Jones, Pam Jones, Hannah Laxton, Alan Matheson, Claire McIntosh, Alan Morgan, Victoria Morgan, Nicola Moore, David Rowe, Anna Shields, Tim Stevens, Frances Stirrup, Barbara Teitz, Heather Williamson

SCENES

Act I **Scene 1**
Western Railway Terminus

Scene 2
Raoul's House in the
Champs Elysées

Interval - 20 minutes

Act II The Salon Fonténue

short interlude please remain seated

Act III Café des Anglais



MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Opening chorus	<i>Chorus</i>
Entrance of Metella	<i>Metella, Raoul, Bobinet and chorus</i>
Ladies of Society	<i>Raoul and Bobinet</i>
Entrance of Baroness and Baron	<i>Baroness, Baron and Raoul</i>
Finale Scene 1	<i>Baroness, Raoul, Brazil, Baron and chorus</i>
Paris interlude	
No-no-no!	<i>Gabrielle and Brazil</i>
Tonight	<i>Raoul, Bobinet and Brazil</i>
The Letter Song	<i>Metella</i>
Finale Act 1	<i>Gabrielle, Baroness, Raoul, Baron and chorus</i>

Act II

Opening Act II	<i>Pauline, Julie, Louise, Pierre, Jacques and chorus</i>
Try Anything Once	<i>Pauline, Julie, Louise, Bobinet, Pierre, Jacques and chorus</i>
Joie-de-Vie	<i>Bobinet, Brazil and chorus</i>
Little Cloud	<i>Pauline and Baron</i>
Frou-Frou, Tock-Tock	<i>Gabrielle and chorus</i>
You Have Split your Jacket	<i>Ensemble</i>
Finale Act II	<i>Ensemble</i>

Act III

Opening Act III	<i>Marcel and chorus</i>
These Magic Hours	<i>Metella and Raoul</i>
Gabrielle and Brazil	<i>Gabrielle and Brazil</i>
Finale Act III	<i>Full Company</i>

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1	Tessa Wetford
Violin 2	Gideon Baker
Viola	Jane Houghton
Cello	Samantha Harris
Bass	Tues - Fri Mark Frampton Sat - Jean Giles
Oboe	Barry Collisson
Flute/Piccolo	Lorraine Brazier
Clarinet 1	Mandy Moffat
Clarinet 2	Ann Clausen
Bassoon	Sandra Woolsey
Trumpet 1	Shaun Moffat
Trumpet 2	Roger Hammond
Trombone	Richard Honeysett
Percussion	Mark Davis

BIOGRAPHIES

Jacqui Beckingham - Jacqui started her 'stage career' in Preston, Lancashire at a very young age and over the years has appeared in many guises from Tuptim in "The King and I" too Annie Chapman in "Jack the Ripper." Having recently moved to the area this is Jacqui's third production with WOS, her first was as the Sergeant of Police in "The Pirates of Penzance" complete with flashing blue garter!!!

Max Bullough - Max Bullough hails originally from the North East of England where he began his singing career as a soprano. When his voice broke he had some six years as a bass then moved, for the purposes of adulation and getting a chance to sing the tunes, to the tenor range. He has been delighted to sing major roles with WOS over the years and now, as his figure fails and his balding progresses, he specialises in "character roles" such as that of Brazil, this evening.

Penny Bullough - I am enjoying playing the housekeeper with not-so-hidden talents. La Vie was completely unfamiliar to me and it has been a real pleasure to come to know the music. I had hoped to bring some subtlety to the role of Pauline, but as that seems beyond me I am relying on the wig - I have waited eighteen years as a member of WOS to have a wig that isn't bright red, so this is rather a special occasion.

Andrew Hartley - Most people would incorrectly assume this is Andrew's second appearance with the society. In fact, he made his debut fifteen years ago as a child Yeomen in "The Yeomen of the Guard". He went on to perform extensively with the Junior Section and at University. Having returned to the society, Andrew took up slapping bottoms and starting fights in "Oklahoma!". He is enjoying being similarly irreverent in La Vie as Pierre, with his current partner-in-crime, Jacques. He collects orange peel.

Adrian Hickford - La vie Parisienne is Adrian's third show with WOS. His previous stage experience was with Southampton University's Light Operatic society, where he played many of the G&S bass/baritone roles, including Giuseppe (Gondliers), Ko-Ko (The Mikado), The Lord High Chancellor (Iolanthe) and Major General Stanley (Pirates of Penzance). He has also sung with a number of choirs in many English cathedrals, at the Edinburgh Festival and in Prague.

Dan Hickson - This is Dan's eleventh Show with the society and once again he finds himself with a part involving his pursuing company of the female variety. Previous principal parts include Pluto in Orpheus of The Underworld, Gabriel Eisentein in Die Fledermaus, Frederick in Pirates of Penzance and Sky Masterson in Guys & Dolls.

Clive Hilton - This is Clive's 33rd show with WOS. Most recently he played Carnes in "Oklahoma!", Samuel in "The Pirates of Penzance" and Arvide in "Guys and Dolls". As the gullible and pompous Baron Gondremarck, he finds that being the butt of the joke is well compensated for by the opportunity to flirt with the ladies of Paris and to get drunk on champagne! Clive is also a member of the vocal ensemble "Southern Eclectic" and is a guest soloist with several choral societies.

BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Laxton - Matt is delighted to be taking part in his first show with WOS and would like to thank the society for its warm welcome. He previously spent thirteen years with societies in Greater Manchester and Basingstoke. His first role on stage was as a Von-Trapp at the tender age of twelve, and he has never looked back since! Matt has thoroughly enjoyed playing in the chorus and as a dancer for many shows, and has also taken principal parts including Bill Calhoun in *Kiss Me Kate*, Cole Porter in *Red Hot and Cole*, and Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Graham Light - This is Graham's 23rd show with WOS. In that time he has played several principal parts as well as very enjoyable stints in the chorus. This time, playing the part of Marcel the 'maitre d'hotel', he is both principal as well as chorus. Marcel does not appear until Act 3. However, look out for him popping up in character as part of the chorus in Acts 1 & 2.

Elizabeth Mason - Having returned to WOS after an eight-year break, I am delighted to be playing the part of the Baroness who is such a glamorous and flirtatious lady. A husband and a lover, what more could I want!

Christopher Milne - Following his Award winning debut as Director, Christopher is once more treading the boards and in the process learning more about directing from the performers position. He is thrilled to be playing the part of Raoul, but would appreciate it if anyone from the audience could let him know what the operetta is about. Is it really just a musical farce, or is there more depth to the story?

Lorraine Morgan - Lorraine has been involved in amateur operatics since she was 5. As a member of Hanwell & Ealing Operatic Society she performed Laurie in *Oklahoma*, Carrie in *Carousel* and Gabrielle in *La Vie Parisienne*. Lorraine has also appeared with Southampton Operatic Society as Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, Phyllis in *Iolanthe* and Mercedes in *Carmen*. This is her second show with WOS, and she is enjoying being part of such a friendly and talented group.

Helen O'Sullivan - This is Helen's 7th show with WOS. Having previously played the cockney lass Sally in "Me and My Girl" and the uptight mission doll Sarah in "Guys and Dolls" she is looking forward to living "La Vie Parisienne". In her spare time Helen is a primary school teacher and leads a choir at her local church.

Amanda Stebbing - Amanda is looking forward to singing the part of Metella as she says it will give her the opportunity to dress up-her last role with the society was Ruth , the piratical maid of all work in "Pirates of Penzance"- not very glamorous! This is her third production with WOS, having also sung Buttercup in "HMS Pinafore".

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

the gondoliers

Our 100th Production!

8-12 November 2005, Theatre Royal, Winchester
Record evening, 23 May 2005, contact Jacqui
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MERRIE ENGLAND

29 & 30 April 2006, New Hall, Winchester College



KISS ME KATE

7-11 November 2006, Theatre Royal, Winchester

THE CREW

Stage Manager	<i>Angie Barks</i>
Assistant Choreographer	<i>Louise Hodson</i>
Production Manager	<i>Pamela Jones</i>
Production Secretary	<i>Jacqui Beckingham</i>
Orchestra Secretary	<i>Gill Beck</i>
Wardrobe	<i>Jo Pearce with Katie Moffitt, Annette Hilton</i>
Set Design & Construction	<i>Sue Aiken with David Knapp & Brian Hurst</i>
Prompt	<i>Mike Palette</i>
Rehearsal Prompts	<i>Geoffrey Burnaby and Gill Beck</i>
Props Designer	<i>Jo Burnaby</i>
Props Team	<i>Annette Hilton, Gill Beck, Pam Farren</i>
Lighting & Technical	<i>Rachel Fox, Spatz Crawford (Theatre Royal)</i>
Backstage	<i>Sue Aiken, Ralph Bateman, David Fancett, Adrian Davis, John Jones, David Knapp, Martin Larcombe, David McCauley, Phil Moody, Anne Waggott, Peter Vincent</i>
Hair and Make-up	<i>Pamela Jones with Clare Britton, Tricia Caldbeck, Holly Dibden, Tilly George, Christine Harding, Anne Odling, Sian Woodruff, Ron & Pauline Wilson</i>
Front of House	<i>Barbara Kearns</i>
Raffle	<i>Eileen Evans, Christine Webster</i>
Rehearsal Accompanists	<i>Thérèse Godfrey, David Rowe</i>
Rehearsal Refreshments	<i>Sue Aiken, Hannah Benwell, Thérèse Godfrey, Jill Fitzpatrick, Clive Hilton</i>
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Acknowledgements

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The Society acknowledges the generous help given by:

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Management, Sue Tatnall (EOMS) for great help with costumes.

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