

# The Desert Song

*By Arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.*

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

Music by Sigmund Romberg.



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*Assistant Musical Directors:* ROLAND WILDER, B.A., M.A.(MUS.), MARGARET MCKENZIE, L.T.C.L.

*Assistant Producer:* John Anderson, M.A., DIP.ED.

*Accompanist:* Tom Dykes

*Stage Director:* Marshall Taylor

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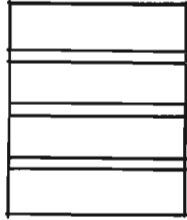
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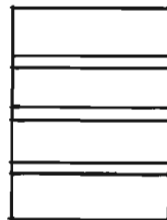
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## *Hon. President's Remarks*

This year's production is presently enjoying a very successful revival in London. We hope that our usual discriminating audience in Inverness will appreciate our efforts to create an equally successful revival in the Highland Capital. Certainly, if long weeks of planning, producing and sheer sustained effort are to count for anything, the success of our production must be assured.

The knowledge that, year by year, the Inverness Opera Company, despite fluctuations in membership, manages invariably to stage for our delight an attractive performance, says much for the cast and the many "back-room boys — and girls" — as well as being a compliment to the people of Inverness without whose support this would not be possible.

It must be remembered that although we, as a Company, benefit from the support of many Associate Members and the Company make all their own sets and costumes, nevertheless costs are continually rising, and we would welcome new Associate Members to enable us to continue what, we trust, is an annual treat to Inverness audiences.

We thank all who have helped the Company in various ways, and hope you will enjoy "The Desert Song."

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# The Story

In French Morocco, the French are having trouble with the Riffs. Some years before, Pierre Birabeau, son of General Birabeau, was struck by a superior officer for protesting against the treatment of the natives. In revenge he organises a band of Arabs to avenge the wrongs committed by his countrymen, and assuming a disguise, quickly becomes known as the Red Shadow. To the French army the Red Shadow is a mystery, for the simple reason that Pierre spends a fair part of his time in their midst posing as a simpleton with a passion for picking wild flowers. Naturally this sort of duplicity leads to complications, and two are particularly awkward for Pierre. One is that his own father has recently been appointed the General in Command of the Army, with a special commission to root out the bandit chief, and the other is that the girl he loves, Margot, only knows him as a gentle, half-witted creature who brings her posies. Margot's imagination has been taken captive by the deeds of the mysterious Red Shadow, and Pierre, in his capacity of the Riff Chieftain, gives her the desired surprise of being carried off by the desert warrior and conveyed to the harem of his Arab Chief. Here he woos the romantic maiden with all the fierce ardour associated with the love-making of wild, semi-barbarous Sheiks, and Margot, while straining at her captivity, succumbs to the wooing of her desert lover. The Red Shadow then finds himself in trouble with his Riff associates, but he defies and cows them. When, however, his father, the General, appears on the scene and bids him draw and fight, he submits to the ignominy of being branded a coward, and is driven forth into the desert without arms to defend himself or the wherewithal to nourish himself. In the last scene, General Birabeau learns that his son is the Red Shadow after the soldiers have gone out with orders not to spare his life if he is found. They return with the news that the bandit is no more — the famous Red Shadow having been killed off by Pierre. The final curtain falls on Margot in the arms of her Sheik-like lover, Pierre having adopted his disguise for the last time.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee wish to express their appreciation and thanks to the Associate Members and the Advertisers, Mr Ian MacDougall, Clansman Hotel, Inverness, and Bruce Miller (Inverness) Ltd., Music Sellers, 6 Queensgate Arcade for loan of pianos, and to all those who have lent props and helped in so many ways with the production.

**Photographs** by courtesy of James Gordon.

**Foyer Decorations** by members of the Inverness Floral Art Club.

By kind permission of Messrs W. L. Arber, Ltd., the cast are wearing Aristoc Stockings, supplied by Messrs John Forbes Ltd., Queensgate.

## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY has been in existence since 1927. The Productions since the war have been as follows:—

1947	THE MIKADO	1954	CONCERTS, ETC.	1963	WHITE HORSE INN
1948	IOLANTHE	1955	THE MIKADO	1964	SHOW BOAT
1949	THE GONDOLIERS	1958	MAID OF THE MOUNTAINS	1965	CALL ME MADAM
1950	PIRATES OF PENZANCE	1959	THE GYPSY BARON	1966	NEW MOON
1951	THE QUAKER GIRL	1960	THE MERRY WIDOW	1967	ROSE MARIE
1952	YEOMEN OF THE GUARD	1961	OKLAHOMA	1968	THE DESERT SONG
1953	MERRIE ENGLAND	1962	DIE FLEDERMAUS		

# The Des

## CHARACTERS

<i>Sid El Kar</i> ... ..	MALCOLM MACDOUGALL
<i>Hadji</i> ... ..	WILLIAM COWIE
<i>Neri</i> ... ..	ROMA YOUNG
<i>Benjamin Kidd</i> ... ..	SCOTT DON
<i>Capt. Paul Fontaine</i> ... ..	DONALD MATHESON
<i>Margot Bonvalet</i> ... ..	MARJORY MACKENZIE
<i>General Birabeau</i> ... ..	JAMES GORDON
<i>Pierre Birabeau</i> ... ..	JAMES PRINGLE
<i>Susan</i> ... ..	JANET MCINNES
<i>Edith</i> ... ..	JUNE SCRIMGEOUR
<i>Azuri</i> ... ..	LOUISE MUNRO
<i>Ali Ben Ali</i> ... ..	RODERICK MORRISON
<i>Clementina</i> ... ..	JESSIE SMITH
<i>Mindar</i> ... ..	JOHN MATHESON
<i>Hassi</i> ... ..	ARCHIBALD SOLOMON
<i>Lieut. La Vergne</i> ... ..	DONALD MACDONALD
<i>Sergeant De Boussac</i> ... ..	JOHN SANDEVER

## CHORUS

(Riffs, French Soldiers, Spanish Girls, Soldiers' Wives, Etc., Etc.)

### LADIES:

Anel Anderson, Christine Bee, Rachel Elliott, Moira Fisher, Catherine Fraser, Constance Fraser, Jennifer Hancock, Betty Hutcheson, Silvia Hutchison, Christine Kennedy, Florence Morrison, Lindsay McClure, Wilma McIver, Mary McNulty, Rhoda Paterson, Isobel Sandever, June Scrimgeour, Lilian Simpson, Amy Sinclair, Roma Young.

### GENTLEMEN:

Tony Biernat, William Cowie, John Matheson, James Morrison, Robert McCorkindale, Donald Macdonald, Ian Mackenzie, Jack Pitblado, John Sandever, Matthew Smith, Archibald Solomon.

## ORCHESTRA

<i>1st Violin:</i> James Stuart (Leader) A. Siczekarek	<i>Viola:</i> Charles Allan George Duell	<i>Double Bass:</i> Frank Gale
<i>2nd Violin:</i> Roland Wilder Bertha Busby	<i>Cello:</i> Chris Turner	<i>Flute:</i> Elizabeth Dooner
	<i>Oboe:</i> James Currie	<i>Clarinet:</i> David Gardner Raymond Meiklejohn
	<i>Trumpet:</i> Harry Shore Alfred Campbell	<i>Drums:</i> Frank Miller
	<i>Trombone:</i> James Brough	<i>Piano:</i> Tom Dykes

# ert Song

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### ACT I

- 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 II

- 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 The Edge of the Desert (the following morning, half-an-hour before dawn).  
SCENE 5 Courtyard of General Birabeau's House (two days later).

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

- SCENE I:  
*Opening Chorus* The Riffs  
*The Riff Song* Red Shadow, Sid and Riffs  
*Margot* Paul and Soldiers  
*Romance* Margot and Girls  
*Then you will know* Margot, Pierre and Chorus  
*I want a Kiss* Margot, Paul, Pierre and Chorus  
*It* Susan, Benny and Girls  
*The Desert Song* Margot and Red Shadow
- SCENE II:  
*I'll be a buoyant girl* Susan
- SCENE III:  
*French Military Marching Song* Margot, Girls and Soldiers
- FINALE ACT I:  
*Won't you wish us luck* Chorus  
*Soft as a Pigeon* Sid and Chorus  
*The Desert Song — Reprise* Margot and Red Shadow

### ACT II

- SCENE I:  
*Opening Chorus*  
*Song of the Brass Key* Clementina and Girls  
*One good boy gone wrong* Clementina and Bennie  
*Eastern and Western Love* Red Shadow, Sid, Ali and Men
- SCENE III:  
*The Sabre Song* Margot and Red Shadow
- SCENE IV:  
*The Edge of the Desert* Red Shadow and Riffs
- SCENE V:  
*All hail to the General* Margot, Paul and Girls  
*It* Susan and Bennie  
*Dance of Triumph* Azuri  
*Finale*
- (a) *Let Love Go*  
(b) *One Flower in your Garden*  
(c) *One Alone*

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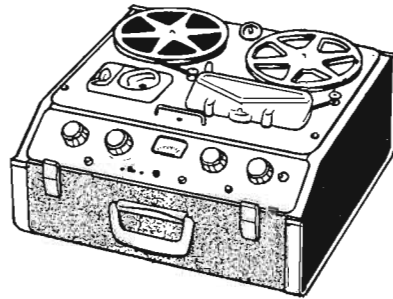
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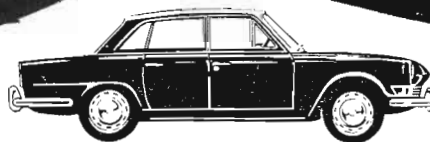


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Members also have the right to be present at, and vote at, Annual General Meetings of the Company, which are generally held each year in April. At these meetings the production policy for the ensuing year is usually shaped. The annual subscription for Associate Membership is £1.

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Saturday 8.30 - 12.30  
—

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**C. DAVIDSON**

(M. & I. MacDougall, Proprietors)

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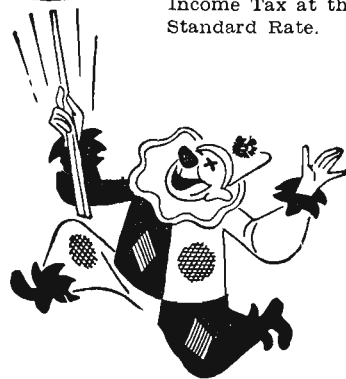
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