

# Eden Court Theatre

INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY

presents

Merrie England

Wednesday 15-Saturday 18 March

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#### **Eden Court Theatre**

#### INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY

presents

#### MERRIE ENGLAND

Written by **BASIL HOOD**Composed by **EDWARD GERMAN** 

Wednesday 15-Saturday 18 March 1989 at 7.30pm

An Amateur Performance by arrangement with Chappell Music Ltd

Excessive noise, such as whispering, coughing, rustling of programmes and the bleeping of digital watches can be distracting to performers and spoil the performance for other members of the audience.

Flashing cameras are equally disturbing and they are illegal in the theatre. Please arrive in good time for all performances. In the interest of those members already seated, latecomers will not be admitted.

Would patrons please note that in the auditorium: You are requested not to smoke: cameras and tape recorders are not permitted

In accordance with the licensing regulations:

The Governors of Eden Court gratefully acknowledge financial assistance from Inverness District Council, Highland Regional Council, Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Film Council, Friends of Eden Court, Highlands & Islands Development Board, Ross & Cromarty District Council, Badenoch & Strathspey District Council. Wardrobe care by Comfort and Persil, courtesy of Lever Bros.

No obstructions, whether permanent or temporary, shall be allowed in any exit doors, exit ways (whether corridors or staircases), external passageways, gangways, foyers, lobbies or entrance halls.

The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at least once during the presence of the public at each performance.

MON MAY 22 for one week UNTIL SAT MAY 27 Eves: 7.45pm Sat: 8.00pm Reduced Price Matinee Sat: 2.30pm

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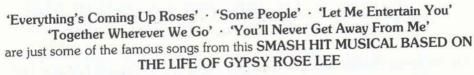
#### **RUTH MADOC** as Rose

Book by ARTHUR LAURENTS

Music by JULE STYNE

Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Produced for the Broadway Stage by DAVID MERRICK and LELAND HAYWARD



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£10.00 (Matinee: £7.50)

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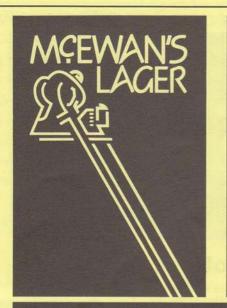
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#### Inverness Opera Company (founded 1927)

Hon President Mrs Kay Grigor, MBE Hon Vice-President Calum MacDougall Chairman Stella Reynolds Vice-Chairman David Caldwell Treasurer George MacGregor Secretary Cynthia Nicol (44 Harrowden Road, Inverness) Committee Sheila Mather, Ann Duncan, Moyra Jamieson Forbes Mitchell, Donald Matheson, John Green Social Committee Ann Duncan, Ann Harvey, Norma Irvine Susan MacKenzie, Janice MacKay, Ailza Russell

#### **Previous Productions**

The productions since the war have been as follows:

1947	The Mikado	1971	South Pacific
1948	Iolanthe	1972	Cárousel
1949	The Gondoliers	1972	The Pajama Game
1950	The Pirates of Penzance	1973	Fiddler on the Roof
1951	The Quaker Girl	1974	Oklahoma
1952	Yeoman of the Guard	1975	The Boyfriend
1953	Merrie England	~ 1975	Trial by Jury
1954	Concerts etc.	1976	Cabaret
1955	The Mikado	_ 1977	The Mikado
1958	Maid of the Mountains	1977	No No Nanette
1959	The Gypsy Baron	1978	Showboat
1960	The Merry Widow	1978	My Fair Lady
1961	Oklahoma	1979	Oh Susanna
1962	Die Fledermaus	<b>1980</b>	Yeoman of the Guard
1963	White Horse Inn	1980	Hello Dolly
1964	Showboat	1981	The Pajama Game
1965	Call Me Madam	1982	The White Horse Inn
1966	The New Moon	1983	Fiddler on the Roof
1967	Rose Marie	1984	Merry Widow
1968	The Desert Song	1985	Trial by Jury &
1969	Finian's Rainbow	3.00	Pirates of Penzance
1969	Guys and Dolls	1986	Die Fledermaus
1970	Summer Song	1987	The New Moon
1971	Brigadoon	1988	Carousel

Next production — Kismet

#### **Cast List**

#### Characters

The Earl of Essex	Len Johnson
Sir Walter Raleigh	Peter Carson
Walter Wilkins — a Player in Shakespeare's Company	Nicholas Nicol
Silas Simkins — another Player	
Long Tom — a Royal Forester	
Big Ben — a Royal Forester	
The Queen's Fool	
A Butcher	
A Tinker	
A Baker	Calum MacDougall
A Tailor	Gordon Fleming
Queen Elizabeth	
Miss Bessie Throckmorton	
'Jill-All-Alone'	
The May Queen	Kathleen Muir
Marjory	Louise Munro
Kate	
A Lord	
A Soldier	

#### Ladies' Chorus

Emma Anderson, Jean Blackhall, Robbie Cameron, Margaret Doig, Joan Don, Ann Duncan, Kyrstn Eadie, Alison Fraser, Cath Fraser, Brenda Green, Norma Irvine, Moyra Jamieson, Isabel Laing, Katherine MacFarlane, Diane McIntosh, Janice MacKay, Mina MacKay, Mairi MacKenzie, Susan MacKenzie, Caroline MacKenzie, Marjorie MacKenzie, Eleanor MacVinish, Alison Mitchell, Evelyn Moffat, Maureen Pringle, Catriona Patton, Stella Reynolds, Rona Robertson, Ailza Russell, Jennifer Smith, Jessie Smith, Irene Stacey, Carol Sutherland, Anne Taylorson, Sadie Whyte.

#### Gentlemens' Chorus

Ian Allison, Niall Allison, Colin Douglas, Scott Don, Ralph Duncan, Willie Findlay, Callum Jamieson, George MacGregor, Donald Matheson, Bob Morgan, Jamie MacDonald, James Pringle, Drew Proudfoot, Charles Sinclair, Matt Smith

#### **Programme Notes**

#### Merrie England — Music by Edward German Lyrics by Basil Dean

First produced in 1902 and an instant success, this famous operetta is compiled of a host of historical and fictitious characters set against the rich pageant of Tudor England. The partnership of German & Dean was hailed as the natural successor to Gilbert & Sullivan. The witty libretto and excellent music contribute to an extremely enjoyable and colourful entertainment.

#### The Plot

The story is contained within the historic period of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The Earl of Essex causes Sir Walter Raleigh to lose favour with the Queen by revealing Raleigh's love for her lady in waiting, Bessie Throckmorton. Elizabeth has Bessie imprisoned and Raleigh banished, but Essex later undergoes a change of heart and works to end the estrangement between the lovers and the Queen, which he brings about using a simple plan of deception.

These events take place amid the jollity of May Day revels, which Elizabeth and her court attend, on the banks of the River Thames.

#### **Synopsis of Scenes**

#### **Musical Numbers**

#### ACT I

Introduction	
Opening Chorus	Sing a down, a down, a down
Duet (Long Tom & Big Ben)	
Song (Jill with Chorus)	
Song (Wilkins)	
Song (Raleigh) and Chorus	
Quintet	
Ballad (Bessie)	
Duet (Raleigh & Bessie)	
Trio (Wilkins, Simkins & Essex)	When a man is a lover
Song (Essex with Chorus)	
Entrance of Queen Elizabeth	
Song (Elizabeth) with Chorus	O peaceful England
Song (Wilkins) with Chorus	
Finale of Act I	

#### **ACT II**

Opening Chorus with Solo (Jill)	The month of May has come today
Quartet	
Duet (Wilkins and Simkins)	
Duet (Jill and Raleigh)	
Chorus	The Queen o'May is crowned today
Song (Raleigh)	Dan Cupid tath a garden
Ensemble	Two merry men a drinking
Song (Bessie)	O who shall say that love is cruel
Song (Essex)	When Cupid first this old world trod
Masque of St George and the Dragon	Egyptian Dance
Chorus with Solo (King)	Oh! here's a to-do to die to-day
Finale	Now who'll come, said Robin Hood

#### **Inverness Opera Company**

Producer	
Assistant Producer	James Pringle
Musical Director	Sheila Bruce
Rehearsal Accompanist	Alyn Ross
Stage Director	George Reynolds
Stage Manager	Gordon Duncan
Stage Assistants	
	Craig Duncan, Martin Caldwell
Props	Ann & Bill Harvey, Judith Rumbold
Wardrobe Sheila Mather (Co-	ordinator), Jean Blackhall, Morag Johnson
	Sadie Whyte, Joan Murray
Choreography	Helen Mackie
Prompt	Lesley Kay
Front of HouseKay Grigor, Cynth	ia Nicol, Wilma Torrance, Judith Rumbold
	David & Jan Proudfoot
Publicity	Moyra Jamieson & Donald Matheson
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Librarian	Norma Irvine
Orchestra	
Conductor	Alyn Ross
Organ	
Percussion	

Set hired from Popplewells of Ayr Costumes from W.A. Homburg Ltd, Leeds

#### Acknowledgements

Britannia Building Society, J.L. Barnfather, Drumness Construction Ltd, Patients of Netley Lodge, Hard of Hearing Club, Inverness College of Further Education School of Hairdressing, Ronnie Ross, The Florians.

Piano Sheila Bruce
Trumpet Ray Munday
Double Bass Graham Robb

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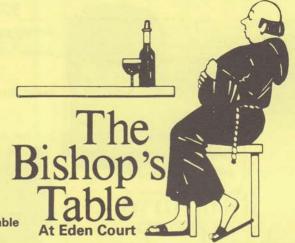
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about 'What's On' in the Theatre.



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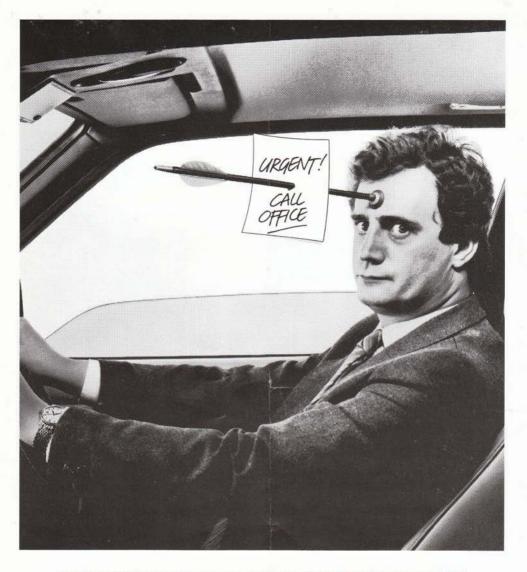
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