

Inverness Opera Company Presents

The
Desert
Song

By Sigmund Romberg

at
EDEN COURT THEATRE

Programme £1

SPRING 1995 PRODUCTION



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Inverness Opera Company Presents

The Desert Song

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Book and Lyrics by

Otto Harbach, Oscar Hammerstein and Frank Mandel

Music by Sigmund Romberg

at Eden Court Theatre

Wednesday 22nd–Saturday 25th March at 7.30pm

(Saturday Matinee at 2.00pm)



*Producer: Maureen Pringle. Musical Director: Alyn Ross.
Choreographer: Cynthia Nicol. Assistant Producer: Jim Pringle.*

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For 'The Desert Song':

Producer: Maureen Pringle
Assistant Producer: Jim Pringle
Musical Director: Alyn Ross
Choreographer: Cynthia Nicol
Rehearsal Pianists: Mairi MacKenzie, Colin Warrender
Stage Director: Gordon Duncan
Stage Manager: Andrew Mackay
Stage Crew: Torquil McLeod, Alan Don
Prompt: Shauna Morgan
Props: Bill Harvey, Anne Harvey & Bill Blackhall
Wardrobe Co-ordinator: Aileen Hendry
Publicity: Donald Matheson, Trevor Nicol
Librarian: Sheila Mather

Set & Costume Design: John Claudius

Wardrobe: John Claudius, Jean Blackhall, Forbes Mitchell, Anne Harvey and Ladies of the Company

Uniforms: Torbay Costume Hire Co.

Orchestra Co-ordinator: Patricia Hartley

Poster / Programme Design: Trevor Nicol

Programme Compilation: Donald Matheson, Trevor Nicol

Patron Bookings: Trevor Nicol

Commercial Patron Bookings: John Green

Block Bookings: Ann Duncan

Company Bookings: Cath Fraser

Company Front-of-House Representation: Bill Blackhall, Doreen Caldwell, Isobel MacDougall, Jean Sinclair, Jessie Smith, Louise Munro

Props loaned by Howdens Garden Centre and B&Q, Inverness
June Park Promotions, Glasgow

ORCHESTRA:

Conductor – Alyn Ross. Leader – Robert Cairns

1st Violin:	Archie Gillies	1st Clarinet:	James Ross
1st Violin:	Debbie Swanson	Clarinet:	Alex Hume
2nd Violin:	Bob Curtis	Oboe:	David Evans
2nd Violin:	Leslie Curry	1st Trumpet:	Ray Mundy
Viola:	Colin Warrender	Trumpet:	Brian Mitchell
Cello:	Ricky Lusher	Trombone:	Nichol Thomson
Bass:	Sue Drever	Trombone:	John Milne
		Flute:	Caroline Cuthbertson
		Percussion:	Graham Barclay

From our Honorary President:



I am very proud to be the Honorary President of Inverness Opera Company, and on behalf of the Company I would like to thank everyone for their support.

Since 1927 Inverness Opera Company have staged excellent productions, and have attained presentations of the very highest quality and standard. Long months of rehearsal are required to attain these very high standards. A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to all who give of their time so freely culminating in the presentation of such a wonderful show.

Inverness Opera Company sincerely thank the Eden Court Theatre staff for their help – particularly the technical staff, whose expertise in lighting, staging and sound enhances the colourful costumes and scenery.

The Company's reward for its efforts will be your enjoyment and appreciation of the show, which this year is the ever-popular 'Desert Song'.



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The Story of 'THE DESERT SONG'

In French-occupied Morocco, the Riffs – a fierce band of Arab bandits – rebel against their French overlords. Pierre Birabeau, a young French officer, had previously protested against the savage treatment of the Arab population by his Army, but was struck by a superior officer for his efforts. Pretending the blow had made him a simpleton, he secretly organises the Riffs into a fighting force in order to wreak his revenge. He assumes a disguise and becomes known as The Red Shadow – a semi-mythical figure who strikes terror into the hearts of the French. Comic relief in the tale is provided by Benjamin Kidd – a reluctant war correspondent who has been sent to Morocco to cover the Riff rebellion., His exploits at the hands of the Riffs and his efforts to escape the clutches of Susan – his lovelorn secretary – form the sub-plot of the story. Things begin to become complicated when Pierre's father, General Birabeau, is made Governor of Morocco with a special commission to root out the bandit chief. To add to Pierre's troubles the girl he loves – Margot Bonvalet – who is betrothed to Pierre's rival, Captain Paul Fontaine – regards him as a gentle half-witted creature who brings her wild flowers. Margot soon becomes captivated by the stories of the Red Shadow and secretly admires his daring reputation. Meanwhile Azuri – a harem girl who is deeply in love with Fontaine and has been badly treated by the French – betrays the Red Shadow to General Birabeau in return for silver. When Pierre carries Margot off into the desert posing as the romantic outlaw of her dreams, his Riff followers believe he has lost his reason and threaten to expel him from the band. He defies them, but when General Birabeau arrives to challenge the Red Shadow, Pierre refuses to fight and is branded a coward. In accordance with tradition he is driven into the desert by his men – alone and without food, water or weapons. General Birabeau sends his men off to dispose of the Red Shadow before he learns of his true identity. Believing he has mistakenly ordered the death of his own son and stricken with remorse, the General meets his soldiers returning from having killed the Red Shadow. They inform him that the fatal blow was delivered by – Pierre! The final curtain sees Margot in the arms of her warrior lover – Pierre having adopted his disguise for the last time.

THE DESERT SONG was first presented in Britain at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London on 7th April 1927. It was previously staged by Inverness Opera Company at the Empire Theatre in March 1968.

Inverness Opera Company would like to thank their Patrons and Commercial Patrons for their continued support in mounting this Production. They would also like to thank the Management and Staff of Eden Court Theatre for their invaluable assistance, with special thanks to the Technical Staff who, under the leadership of Jim Clark, created most of the scenery for this production. Jeff King, John Gordon, Mary Cluston, Neil MacLaennam made and painted the scenery, while Bob Shanks, Graham Watt and Gordon Grant were involved in staging, sound and lighting respectively.

PRINCIPAL



Ian Muir
(PIERRE/RED SHADOW)



Alison Mitchell
(SUSAN)



Trevor Nicol
(GEN. BIRABEAU)



Patricia Hartley
(MARGOT)



John Claudius
(BENNIE)



Caroline Nicol
(AZURI)



Len Johnson
(ALI BEN ALI)

PLAYERS



Brian Howlett
(PAUL)



Heather Neilson
(CLEMENTINA)



Gordon Sinclair
(SID EL KAR)

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Sid el Kar	Gordon Sinclair
Hadji	Andrew Hunter
Neri	Anne Bamborough
Ben Kidd	John Claudius
Paul Fontaine	Brian Howlett
Margot	Patricia Hartley
Gen. Birabeau	Trevor Nicol
Pierre	Ian Muir
Susan	Alison Mitchell
Edith	Aileen Hendry
Azuri	Caroline Nico!
Ali Ben Ali	Len Johnson
Clementina	Heather Neilson
Mindar	David Caldwell
Hassi	Ralph Duncan
Lt. La Vergne	Richard Miemczyk
Sgt de Boussac	John Green
'Sandy Bottom'	Donald Matheson and Jim Hartley

CHORUS

Marian Armstrong, Claire Cameron, Pam Carr, Kay Craib, Joan Don, Fiona Doughty, Ann Duncan, Cath Fraser, Brenda Green, Mimi Greenfield, Robyn Hammond, Norma Irvine, Moyra Jamieson, Sheila Mather, Evelyn Moffat, Pat MacDonald, Mariei McEwen, Mina Mackay, Susan MacKenzie, Alison MacLeod, Eleanor MacVinish, Elaine Peter, Susan Robertson, Janice Stewart, Carol Sutherland, Anne Watson, Irene Webster.

Bill Collins, Scott Don, Tom Fraser, Jim Hartley, Callum Jamieson, Donald Matheson, Calum MacDougall, George MacGregor, Jim Pringle, Leon Radin, Ian Shearer, Charles Sinclair, Matt Smith, Bob Morgan.

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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. — Edge of the Desert. (The following morning half an hour before dawn.)

Scene 5. — Courtyard of General Birabeau's House. (Two days later.)

Time — 1925. Place — Morocco.

Musical Numbers

≈ ACT I ≈

SCENE I		Then you will know	Margot, Pierre & Chorus
Opening Chorus	The Riffs		
The Riff Song	Red Shadow, Sid & Riffs	I want a kiss	Margot, Paul, Pierre & Chorus
Margot	Paul & Soldiers	It	Susan, Benny & Girls
		The Desert Song	Margot & Red Shadow
SCENE II		FINALE ACT I	
I'll be a buoyant girl	Susan	Won't you wish us luck	Chorus
SCENE III		Soft as a pigeon	Sid, Azuri & Chorus
French Military Marching Song	Margot, Girls & Soldiers	The Desert Song (Reprise)	Margot & Red Shadow
Romance	Margot & Girls		

≈ ACT II ≈

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



Ralph Duncan (Hassi), Aileen Hendry (Edith), David Caldwell (Mindar)



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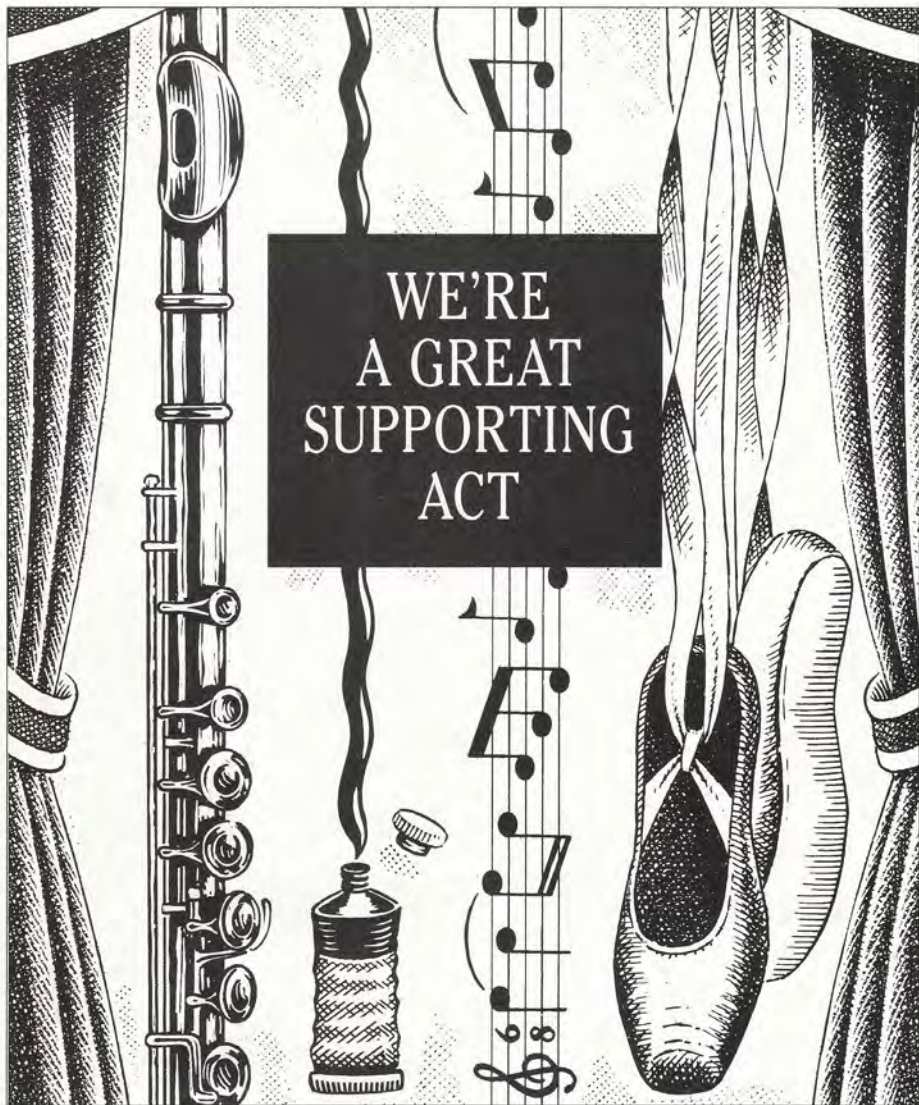
1947	The Mikado	1967	Rose Marie	1979	Oh, Susanna
1948	Iolanthe	1968	The Desert Song	1980	Yeomen of the Guard
1949	The Gondoliers	1969	Finians Rainbow	1980	Hello Dolly
1950	The Pirates of Penzance	1969	Guys and Dolls	1981	The Pyjama Game
1951	The Quaker Girl	1970	Summer Song	1982	The White Horse Inn
1952	Yeomen of the Guard	1971	Brigadoon	1983	Fiddler on the Roof
1953	Merrie England	1971	South Pacific	1984	The Merry Widow
1954	Concerts, Etc.	1972	Carousel	1985	Trial by Jury and Pirates of Penzance
1955	The Mikado	1972	The Pyjama Game	1986	Die Fledermaus
1958	Maid of the Mountains	1973	Fiddler on the Roof	1987	The New Moon
1959	The Gypsy Baron	1974	Oklahoma	1988	Carousel
1960	The Merry Widow	1975	The Boyfriend	1989	Merrie England
1961	Oklahoma	1975	Trial by Jury	1990	Brigadoon
1962	Die Fledermaus	1976	Cabaret	1991	The Gondoliers
1963	White Horse Inn	1977	The Mikado	1992	Showboat
1964	Showboat	1977	No No Nanette	1993	Oklahoma
1965	Call Me Madam	1978	Showboat	1994	The Gipsy Baron
1966	The New Moon	1978	My Fair Lady		



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