



1986

# the DESERT SONG

Presented by  
Farnborough & RAE  
Amateur Operatic Society

#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is my pleasure once again to welcome you to an evening with the Farnborough & RAE Operatic Society. Our revival of "The Desert Song" will not only bring back happy memories but also introduce this melodic romance to many of you. First performed in the twenties, "The Desert Song" has retained its popularity and charm, which I'm sure will appeal to all our audience.

This year we are delighted to collaborate with the Farnborough Rotary Club in a Gala Evening. It is a new venture for the Society, which will indirectly extend our contribution to local charities as well as broaden our own horizons.

We welcome the return of "White Horse Inn" for our spring show and look forward to seeing you again.

LLOYD JONES

#### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1986-87

President — Dr. G. G. Pope, C.B.. (Director, Royal Aircraft Establishment)

Chairman — Dr. I. L. Jones  
Finance Officer — Mr. H. Hall  
Secretaries — Mrs. H. P. Alner  
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Publicity Manager — Mr. W. R. Walker

#### General Committee

Mrs. A. Garrod, Mrs. E. Hills, Mr. R. Duffett, Mr. J. Mack, Mr. A. Nelson

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Producer — John Mack  
Assistant Stage Managers  
— Mike Williams, Mike Davall  
Costume Manager — Mary Kitson  
Lighting and Sound — David Goddard,  
Bob Newman, Paul Dunn, Catherine Dunn  
Property Mistresses — Florrie Newman,  
Eileen Cox

Librarian — Eve Nye  
Stage Door — Bert Evans

Assistant Musical Director  
— Gill Canfield  
Assistant Choreographer — Huw Prall  
Assistant Costume Manager  
— Haydn Thomas  
Properties — John Mack  
Prompt — Anne Garrod  
Front of House — Peter Adams  
Wardrobe Mistress — Rosemary Doherty  
Call Boy — Richard Garrod

Make-up — Moreen Brown, Jean Pharo, Anne Wilson, Jenny Wilson  
Make-up Co-ordinator — Janet Jones

#### Scenery constructed and painted by

Fred Hammick, Ted Hills, Ernie Leedale, John Mitten, Mike Williams,  
Tony Merryweather, Freda Bloomfield, Amanda Williams, Lucy Williams

#### Stage Crew

Fred Hammick, Ted Hills, Tony Merryweather, Ted Freke, Jeremy Freke,  
Peter Viveash, Freda Bloomfield, June Thomas, Barbara Leedale,  
Jim Prescott

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Society gratefully acknowledges the valuable support received from Patrons, Programme Sellers, Stewards and all those who have contributed to the production. Special thanks are due to the Theatre Manager and his staff for their help and co-operation, and to the members of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade who are on duty in the hall throughout the week.

The Society particularly wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance of Barclays Bank with the production of this show.

The foyer photographs were taken by Terry Hallett.

The programme cover design is by Trevor Andrews.

The costumes are from The Haslemere Wardrobe.



FARNBOROUGH & R.A.E. AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY  
(founded in 1920)

presents by arrangement with  
SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

# THE DESERT SONG

Music by  
SIGMUND ROMBERG

Book and Lyrics by  
OTTO HARBACH, OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN  
and FRANK MANDEL

PRINCES HALL, ALDERSHOT

September 29th-October 4th, 1986

Nightly 7.30 p.m. Saturday Matinee 2.30 p.m.

Producer—JUNE THOMAS  
Choreographer—JOYCE ATLEE

Musical Director—DEREK CANFIELD  
Stage Manager—JOHN MITTEN

#### SYNOPSIS

Morocco is under French rule. The regime is harsh, and the Moroccans' only hope for salvation rests with an outlaw band of Riffs and their mysterious leader, the Red Shadow.

A new commanding officer has been appointed to the garrison, Capt. Paul Fontaine, who has been sent with the express purpose of wiping out the Riff band. Paul becomes involved with a native girl, Azuri, but the relationship soon proves to be a source of embarrassment to him when his fiancée, Margot, follows him from France. Azuri is rejected and, in her fury, she plots her revenge.

Margot, meanwhile, suffering from neglect as Paul single-mindedly pursues his military duties, is swept off her feet when confronted by the Red Shadow. Azuri senses how she may use this to her advantage, for she alone has discovered the Red Shadow's true identity. Her plan is to destroy not only Paul but as many as possible of the "white men" she has come to hate. It must inevitably lead to the Red Shadow's death. . . .

# The Desert Song

## LADIES' CHORUS

Wendy Allen  
Hilary Burroughs  
Carol Halliday  
Pam Hammick  
Ruth Harding  
Betty Hills  
Jean Horsey  
Mavis Inker  
Mary Kitson  
Wendy Mace  
Judy Martin  
Jenny Meadows  
Irene Mowat  
Anne Nelson  
Giga Phillips  
Jane Ryan  
Doris Short  
Juliet Smedley  
Diane Stejskal  
Eileen Stevens  
Paula Still  
Lynda Taylor  
Lorna Walters

## CHARACTERS

Sid El Kar  
Hadji  
Neri  
Benjamin Kidd  
Capt. Paul Fontaine  
Margot Bonvalet  
General Birabeau  
Pierre Birabeau  
Susan  
Edith  
Azuri  
Ali Ben Ali  
Clementina  
Mindar  
Hassi  
Lieut. La Vergne  
Sergeant De Boussac

Roy Duffett  
Sam Valentine  
Mary Kitson  
Roger Davies  
Adrian Bell  
Caroline Smith  
John Mack  
Ron Walker  
Eve Nye  
Lynda Taylor  
Siân Thomas  
Haydn Thomas  
Gill Canfield  
Phil Alner  
John Stechman  
David Main  
Graham Ryan

## MEN'S CHORUS

Phil Alner  
Martin Astill  
Richard Brown  
Ron Cockell  
Ken Grant  
Alan Hall  
Francis Hancock  
Mike Lehman  
David Main  
Dennis Martin  
Eric McLoughlin  
Guil Molyneux  
Arthur Nelson  
Huw Prall  
Graham Ryan  
Martin Sampson  
Eric Smith  
Haydn Thomas  
Roger Tringham  
Sam Valentine

## DANCERS

Joyce Atlee  
Jan Bonny  
Julia Davison  
Chris Hill  
Charlotte Patton  
Jane Ryan

Kim Ball  
Irene Chantler  
Jane Dugan  
Judy Martin  
Karen Rattue  
Anne Sampson

## ACT I

- Scene 1 Retreat of the Red Shadow in the Riff Mountains  
Scene 2 Outside General Birabeau's House  
Scene 3 A Room in General Birabeau's House

## ACT II

- Scene 1 The Harem of Ali Ben Ali, the following day  
Scene 2 A corridor outside Margot's Suite  
Scene 3 The Room of the Silken Couch  
Scene 4 Edge of the Desert  
Scene 5 A Room in General Birabeau's House

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts I and II

## ORCHESTRA

Flute — Alan Browning  
 Oboe — Barry Collison  
 Clarinets — John Young, Cyril Meeres  
 Bassoon — Carol Stather  
 Horn — Ted Roberts, Lesley Darlington  
 Trumpets — David Edwards, Robert Cook  
 Trombone — Michael Glover  
 Violins — Sidney Fincham, Margaret Dines, Peter Dawkins,  
 David White, James Cookson, Michael Johnson  
 Viola — Ann Lloyd  
 Cellos — Peter Torrent, Richard Toll  
 Bass — Charles Cudmore  
 Harp — Caroline Densham  
 Percussion — Russell Widdecombe  
 Off-stage Trumpet — John Canfield  
 Rehearsal Accompanists — Pearl Reed, Desmond Wood  
 Dancing Rehearsals — Brenda Woolger

## MUSICAL PROGRAMME

### ACT I

Prelude and Opening Chorus .....	Sid and Riffs
The Riff Song .....	Red Shadow, Sid and Riffs
Margot .....	Paul and Soldiers
I'll be a Buoyant Girl .....	Susan
French Military Marching Song .....	Margot, Girls and Soldiers
Romance .....	Margot and Girls
Then You Will Know .....	Pierre, Margot and Chorus
I Want a Kiss .....	Paul, Margot, Pierre and Chorus
It .....	Bennie, Susan and Girls
The Desert Song .....	Margot and Red Shadow
Finale .....	Ensemble

### ACT II

Entr'acte .....	
Opening Chorus .....	Clementina and Girls
Song of the Brass Key .....	Clementina and Girls
One Good Boy Gone Wrong .....	Bennie and Clementina
Eastern and Western Love .....	Ali, Sid, Red Shadow and Men
The Sabre Song .....	Margot and Red Shadow
Dance of Triumph .....	Azuri
Finale .....	Ensemble

In accordance with the requirements of the Hampshire County Council:  
 All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept entirely free  
 from obstruction, whether permanent or temporary.  
**NO STANDING ALLOWED**  
**NO SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM**

**NO VISITORS ALLOWED BACKSTAGE**  
**NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORDING**

## THE CAST

**Caroline Smith (Margot).** Caroline has appeared regularly in our shows since she joined the Society in 1968. Her first principal role was that of Chava in "Fiddler on the Roof" and, since then, her roles have included Fiona in "Brigadoon", Magnolia in "Show Boat" and Laurey in our last show, "Oklahoma!" Caroline is a familiar figure with a number of societies, from Farnborough to her home near Petersfield. Off-stage, she works as an accountant with a local insurance company.

**Ron Walker (Pierre).** Ron first played opposite Caroline as Bill Calhoun in "Kiss Me Kate". Since then, he has partnered her in both "Brigadoon" and "Show Boat". His most recent roles have been as Pluto in "Orpheus in the Underworld" and Cord Elam in "Oklahoma!" Ron is responsible for the Society's publicity.

**Adrian Bell (Paul).** This is Adrian's first major role with the Society, having joined us in 1984 for "Show Boat". He has performed several minor roles since then, however, including Sir Lionel in "Camelot" and Mars in "Orpheus in the Underworld". Off-stage, Adrian's passion is flying and he is a qualified glider pilot.

**Siân Thomas (Azuri).** Siân's first show with us was "Kismet", in which she played one of the slave children. It is particularly pleasing, therefore, to see her blossom forth as one of our dancers. She has already performed principal roles, as Louise in "Carousel" and Winnie Tate in "Annie Get Your Gun". Siân has recently completed her education at a London college for business studies.

**Eve Nye (Susan).** Like Adrian, Eve joined the Society for "Show Boat", when she played the part of Ellie May Chipley. More recently in "Oklahoma!", she took the role of Ado Annie. Although regularly cast as the comedienne in our shows, Eve also enjoys the more serious side of acting and is a member of the Fleet Players.

**Roger Davies (Bennie).** Following the role of Will Parker in "Oklahoma!", Roger once again partners Eve to form the comedy duo. Roger joined the Society for "Guys and Dolls" when, despite having had no previous acting experience, he was plunged straight into the part of Benny Southstreet. Since then he has not looked back and has performed regularly in our principal line-up.

**Roy Duffett (Sid El Kar).** Roy has been a stalwart of our tenor line for many years, having joined the Society in 1967. The characters he has played range from the gentle tailor, Motel, in "Fiddler on the Roof" to one of the gangsters in "Kiss Me Kate". Roy serves on the main committee and is also treasurer of our social committee.



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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION:

## WHITE HORSE INN

23rd-28th March, 1987

The Society welcomes new members, whether they wish to take part actively or join as patrons. Particulars of membership may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. Mitten, 9 Carlton Crescent, Church Crookham. Telephone: Fleet 614378.

## PAST PRODUCTIONS

1921 The Golden Amulet	1945 Iolanthe	1971 Camelot
1922 The Pirates of Penzance	1946 The Rebel Maid	1972 Die Fledermaus
1923 Patience	1947 The Yeomen of the Guard	1973 Fiddler on the Roof
1924 The Mikado	1948 H.M.S. Pinafore	1974 Kismet
The Yeomen of the Guard	1949 The Mikado	1975 The Music Man
1925 Les Cloches de Corneville	1950 The Pirates of Penzance	1976 The Merry Widow
1926 The Gondoliers	1951 The Arcadians	Robert and Elizabeth
1927 The Pirates of Penzance	1952 The Quaker Girl	1977 La Belle Hélène
1929 The Rebel Maid	1953 A Country Girl	The King and I
1930 The Geisha	1954 Rose Marie	1978 Kiss Me Kate
1931 H.M.S. Pinafore	1955 Waltz Time	My Fair Lady
The Yeomen of the Guard	1956 The Desert Song	1979 Rose Marie
1932 Iolanthe	1957 The Gondoliers	Half a Sixpence
1933 Patience	1958 The Vagabond King	1980 Carousel
1935 The Mikado	1959 The Gypsy Baron	Oliver
1936 The Gondoliers	1960 Iolanthe	1981 Carmen
1937 Ruddigore	1961 White Horse Inn	Brigadoon
1938 Les Cloches de Corneville	1962 Brigadoon	1982 Die Fledermaus
1939 The Yeomen of the Guard	1963 Night in Venice	The Most Happy Fella
1940 The Pirates of Penzance	1964 South Pacific	1983 Guys and Dolls
1941 The Mikado	1965 Show Boat	Annie Get Your Gun
1942 A Waltz Dream	1966 The Land of Smiles	1984 Show Boat
1943 The Desert Song	1967 Oklahoma!	The Yeomen of the Guard
1944 The Vagabond King	1968 Merrie England	1985 Camelot
The Gondoliers	1969 Orpheus in the Underworld	Orpheus in the Underworld
1945 Good Night, Vienna	1970 Chu Chin Chow	1986 Oklahoma!

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