

**“ THE TOREADOR ” AT
CHELMSFORD.**

**PRODUCTION BY THE AMATEUR
OPERATIC SOCIETY.**



In the quartette during the first act.—Left to right: Archie (Mr. L. Hayward); Nancy (Miss B. Baker); Dora (Miss M. F. Spalding); Gus (Mr. J. C. Blooman).

The Chelmsford Amateur Operatic Society are this week presenting the musical comedy, "The Toreador," at the Regent Theatre. Commencing on Monday there will be altogether six evening performances, and a matinee to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon. This is the Society's seventh production during its career, which commenced in 1920. The first four were confined to Gilbert and Sullivan Operas. In 1925 the members produced "Miss Hook of Holland," and last year a delightful musical comedy in "The Country Girl" was staged. A play of a similar character, with, however, the setting of the Riviera and a town in Spain, was decided upon for this season, and once more the Society may be congratulated not only on sustaining its

Hopping's niece, Nancy Staunton, who has recently been saved from an hotel fire in Dresden by an unknown stranger with whom she has fallen in love. Dora is to meet Augustus Traill, the son of her guardian, but imagining that he has designs on her money she induces Nancy to pose as her husband. While the latter is thus disguised, the unknown rescuer arrives in the person of Sir Archibald Slackitt, followed by Gus. Then appears on the scene Sammy Gigg, a "tiger," as a groom is sometimes colloquially called. Teresa makes mischief between Carajolo and the widow, so the wedding is cancelled. The Toreador refusing to accompany Teresa to Spain, she induces Sammy to impersonate him.

The second act introduces the audience to the Spanish town of Villaya, where the Governor and populace are waiting to welcome Carajolo. Sammy

is delighted with his reception, but is horrified at the idea of fighting bulls in the arena and also of leading the revolution. Arrayed in the resplendent dress of a matador, he is waiting with the courage of despair for his contest in the bull-ring, when Carajolo arrives and his troubles are at an end. In the meantime Dora and Nancy, as Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, arrive at Villaya with Archie and Gus, who eventually discover Nancy's identity, and settle matters to their own satisfaction. Mrs. Hoppings is content to accept Pettifer in place of the faithless Toreador, who consoles himself with Teresa, and thus all ends happily.

THE CHARACTERS.

The characters are sustained as follows :-

Carajolo (a Toreador)	B. J. Myall
Sammy Gigg (a "tiger")	A. J. Walker
Sir Archibald Slackitt (Lieut. Welsh Guards)	L. Hayward
Augustus Traill (of the British Consulate of Villaya)	J. C. Bloomer
Pettifer (a dealer in wild animals)	C. L. Booking
Governor of Villaya	J. Nokes
Rinaldo (a Carlist)	V. C. Sturgeon
Moreno (Carajolo's friend)	H. A. White
Bandmaster	H. Tomalin
Mr. Probitt (a collector)	B. E. Howes
Commissionaire	A. M. Waller
Mrs. Malton Hoppings (a rich widow)	P. Green

Dora Selby (a ward in Chancery)	M. P. Spalding
Nancy Staunton (friend of Dora) ...	B. Baker
Susan (proprietress of the Magazin des Fleurs, Grand Hotel, Biarritz)	D. B. Booking
Cora Bellamy (principal bridesmaid)	O. Catt
Dona Teresa	C. G. Marks
La Belle Bolero	L. Hobart
Ethel Marshall	O. E. Pedley

Ladies of the Chorus: E. Bowhill, K. Bowhill, R. O. Cannon, U. M. Cannon, V. Cannon, A. E. Chisnell, D. Davis, N. Doole, B. Cannon, G. Hagger, D. L. Mann, E. Marshall, E. S. Myall, M. Norvington, E. M. Phillips, D. G. Reed, L. M. Redwell, D. Stannard, M. Turner, K. Young.

Gentlemen of the Chorus: G. Barlow, E. Bailey, F. Bearman, J. Bandoock, B. Catt, J. Cowan, H. C. Duck, C. Firman, F. O. Gossett, A. J. Hobart, J. W. Hawkes, P. Hinar, J. L. Phillips, J. M. Phillips, A. W. Ward, H. G. Willis.

Stage Band: C. E. O. Jones, E. Joyce, L. Orrin, P. O. Pluck, V. Tucker.

Act I: Interior of Susan's flower shop, Biarritz. Act II: Market-square, Villaya.

The orchestra is composed of the following: First violins, Mr. Maitland de Lacy, leader, Mr. O. B. Oliver, Mr. G. Ryder; second violins, Mr. V. Waldau, Mr. S. H. Clark; viola, Mrs. C. Price-Smith; violoncello,

however, this being by accident and not by design. Mr. E. T. Parfitt had been cast for the part of Sammy Gigg, a "tigress"—which it may here be explained denotes a man servant who accompanied a dog cart in the days before motor cars were in vogue, and not the wild beast of the jungle. Owing to unforeseen circumstances this character was played by Mr. A. J. Walker, of the Midland Bank Operatic Society. That Mr. Walker was perfectly at home with the part was obvious to the audience on the opening night, and considering that he only had one rehearsal with the remainder of the cast he is playing the role remarkably well. The part of Sammy Gigg, who comes on to the stage as a manservant and ends up by impersonating a Toreador, demands a fund of spontaneous humour and an appreciation of the possibilities of exploiting a situation from the point of view of comic opera. In these respects Mr. Walker adequately "fills the bill," and is a distinct favourite with the audience. The part of Carajolo, a Toreador, is entrusted to Mr. B. J. Myall, whose dignity and aplomb are only equalled by the felicity of his amorous scenes with the rich widow and his Spanish lover, Teresa. He scores a distinct hit with the "Toreador's" song, and altogether does the part full justice. Mr. Leonard Hayward is happily cast in the part of Sir Archibald Slackitt, the Guardsman with an Oxford manner, not to mention a monocle! His musical numbers are very popular, especially "Everybody's awfully good to me," and the duet "The East and the West," which he shares with Gigg, is a feature of the play. Mr. J. C. Blooman, who makes his initial appearance in a principal part, gives a pleasing interpretation of Augustus Traill, and there are indications of his ability to sustain an even more pretentious role on some future occasion. As Pettifer, the dealer in wild animals, Mr. Cyril Bocking enhances his reputation as a clever amateur actor. His stage presence is excellent, and he sings and dances as if he did nothing else in his life. Mr. J. Nokes capitally portrays the fussy, self-important little governor of Villaya, and Mr. V. C. Spurgeon as a Carlist is villainous enough in appearance and manner to satisfy the most convinced anarchist.

Cordial applause greets the appearance on the stage of Miss Peggy Green, who has many previous successes to her credit. As a rich widow who hopes to "book" the Spanish grandee but eventually consoles herself with Pettifer she radiates exactly the atmosphere that the part demands, and is always on good terms with her audience. Indeed one feels that a Chelmsford production without Miss Green would be incomplete. Another lady who adds to her laurels as the result of appearing in "The Toreador" is Mrs. A. J. Hobart. The part might have been written for her, so daintily does she impersonate La Belle Bolero. Her charming voice is heard to advantage in the song during the second act, "My Toreador," which is unquestionably one of the most attractive numbers in the play. Mrs. W. R. Catt as Cora Bellamy the chief bridesmaid

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A group of flower sellers.—Susan (Mrs. C. L. Bocking), the proprietress of the flower shop is seated in the centre, with Miss K. Bowhill on her right and Miss A. E. Chisnell on the left. Standing, left to right: Misses D. Davis, N. Doole, and V. Cannon, and Mrs. A. J. Hobart.



FOUR OF THE PRINCIPALS.—Left to right: Pettifer (Mr. C. L. Bocking); Carajolo (Mr. B. J. Myall); Mrs. Hoppings (Miss Peggy Green); Dona Teresa (Miss C. G. Marks).

Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

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SEVENTH PRODUCTION

AT THE

REGENT THEATRE, CHELMSFORD,

ONE WEEK, commencing MONDAY NEXT, Feb. 14th,

At 7.45 p.m.

MATINEE—Saturday at 2.45 p.m.

In the FAVOURITE MUSICAL COMEDY,

“The Toreador”

(By permission of the Gaiety Theatre Co.).

Producer and Stage Manager—Miss MADGE MACKLIN.

Musical Director—Mr. C. KENNET DRYDEN.

Hon. Chorus Master—Mr. LAWRENCE HEY.

PRICES (including Tax):

BOX SEATS 7/6. CIRCLE 5/9. ORCHESTRA STALLS 4/9. STALLS 3/6.

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