



Fun and games in Ancient Greece — a dress rehearsal scene from Chelmsford Amateur Operatic Society's production of *La Belle Helene* which had a successful showing this week at the Civic Theatre.

Super show, Helene

LACK of space prevents me from giving the column entirely to the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of *La Belle Helene* (at the Civic Theatre all this week at 7.30 and at 4.00 and 7.45 tomorrow, Saturday) as they so amusingly suggested I might in the anachronistic dialogue with which the show is blessed. Suffice it to record that the inimitable Ray Jeffery has done it again. It is a super show full of fun and laughter and with impressive pace.

There are some larger than life performances from Russ Watson as a scheming old auger who reminds me irresistibly of a famous T.V. comedian who as far as I can remember was always up somewhere and from Betty Worrall as a naughty right hand woman you'd always want on your left. Gay

Jackson is a lovely Helene and Margaret Burgess and Lynette Bendall are sexy things in black. Stan Parsons is a very amusing Menelaus and Eric Sutton plays Paris but not as forcefully as perhaps one would have wished. However, his splendid appearance made up for the vocal shortcomings.

The sets have been kept deliberately simple and the effects are achieved by the super costumes and by the choreography which is at all times inventive and delicious to look at. We've got our own little Busby Berkley in Chelmsford! The whole company works splendidly together and my only regret is that the audience was so thin on the opening night. I hope that by now all the tickets are sold for the two final days.

The show deserves "House Full" notices.

JON RICHARDS