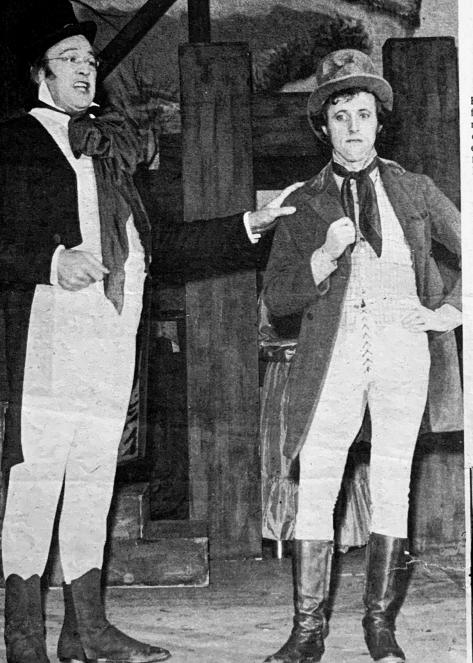
Now look here, Mr Weller

Inis Pickwick just

1972.





Freddie Castello, as Pickwick and Peter Smith as Sam Weller.

EVEN MAKING allowance for an above average number of mishaps on the opening night, I can't get enthusiastic about Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of Pickwick at the Regent this week.

Cyril Ornadel's mucic, Leslie Bricuse's lyrics and Wolf Mankowitz's lyrics add up to an average musical, difficult to stage at the Regent and with the title role written for a tenor.

In this production Mr Fred Costello, one of the Society's most experienced members, plays the part, and, because he has a baritone or bass baritone voice, the numbers have been transposed down for

## ROBBING

But this alters their character and not for the better, robbing them of much of of the evening.

their sparkle and Mr Costello never seems at ease either vocally or dramatically

Nor is Pat Viles, another Society stalwart, happily cast as Mrs Bardell, as she is unable to bring the necessary coy genteelness to the part. Peter Farmer has the necessary cheeky charm for Jingle, but needs to project it out far more.

John Cave, Eric Sutton and John Daldry are three rather subdued members of the Pickwick Club, and it is left to Peter Smith, as Sam Weller, to give the best characterised performance

If only the attack number with his (David Purdo), The T With Women, could been typical of the re evening would hav much more life.

Ralph Smith mak effective little cha study out of Georgi dell, David Hawkins i convincing as the d judge than as Mr Wa

Phil Payne direc Joe Armitage-Fuggl charge of an ore which is short on the side balancewise.

Monday's show s signs of under rel Inevitable, did you sa at all. One has only t Sound of Music or O

1972

By DAV

DESPITE overcoming last-minute difficulties Chelmsford Operatic Society's production of "Pickwick" this week is not turning out to be the box office success they had hoped.

With plenty of seats left for tonight and tomorrow's two performances at the Regent Theatre. the society are worried that the show will be a financial flop.

"The show has had difficulties, but these have now been ironed out and although the support has been disappointing those who come appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed it all, commented the society's secretary, Doug Hann,

yesterday. After problems in casting and