

# "Me and My Girl" show was full of laughs

**C**HELMSFORD Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, which has always given Chelmsford theatre-goers the pick of musical shows, presents one of the choicest to date with "Me and My Girl" at the Regent Theatre this week.

Breaking away from the popular Gilbert and Sullivan opera's, and Ivor Novello's romantic musicals, the Society scores full marks with this two-act musical comedy, which has all the zip and fun of its inimitable Cockney humour.

The fairy-tale story of a missing heir to a title and family fortune being found living in Lambeth, and his ultimate escapades among his aristocratic relatives, gives room for some fine comedy.

The show zings with catchy tunes, including the famous "Lambeth Walk," and clever dance routines for three hours.

King-pin of the tale, Bill Snibson, from "Lamberf," the pint-sized, likeable Cockney, with the razor-edge humour, is most energetically played by **RON HART**.

His brilliant and careful interpretation of the character leads one to believe that Chelmsford has found its own Lupino Lane—who originally played "Bill" at the Victoria Palace in 1937.

What enthusiasm and pace Mr. Hart put into his part! Full honours must go to him for his full-blooded acting, singing, and dancing.

## PERSONALITY

**DAPHNE ARMSTRONG**, who has never appeared in a musical before, made a successful début as

Bill's Cockney girl friend, Sally Smith. She has obviously worked hard at her part. Her voice is not quite strong enough, but she makes up for it with plenty of personality.

She had a good accent, and is a "find" for the Society.

**DAVID FLATT**, in his first principal part in a musical, plays wily Sir John Tremayne, the monocled aristocrat. He put a lot of work into the character, with excellent results.

**WIN FOLLET**, as the prim and tyrannical Duchess, plays the part well, and with great care for detail. She, also, is a newcomer to musicals, but very ably carries out her singing and dancing.

**MOIRA HENDERSON** gave a "1920" touch to her part as Jacqueline Carston, the gold-digging Society girl. Her boy friend Gerald Bolingbroke, a seasoned member of the company, with a fine singing voice, played **STAN PARSONS**.

**EDGAR WRIGHT** was very polished as the sympathetic family solicitor. Parchester, and **JIM WELHAM** was the butler, Charles.

Other main parts were played by Dick Kemp, Tony Oliver, Muriel Passmore, Carolyne Hudson, Peter Smith, Michael Evans, Ellen Gisby, and Fred, Gisby.

The whole production had excel-

lent co-ordination, obviously accomplished only by numerous rehearsals.

The dancers gave an energetic display and were generously applauded.

The first-rate sets used were a great credit to the stage staff. The Society proves again that amateur talent is able to hold a full-sized theatre stage, such as the Regent, for three hours, and amuse and entertain just as well as any professional company.

## SUCCESS

With "Me and My Girl," the Society's producer and director, **MR. ROBERT VERNON**, can chalk up another great success.

The production on the first night was described by **MR. DAVID SMITH**, the president of the Society as having "the slickness and gaiety of a Lyric revue." I feel sure that patrons of the Regent this week will come away feeling that his remarks were true.

Mr. Smith also said that it was important that everyone should support creative effort.

**The show was brilliant and gay he said, and added that Monday night was one of the most successful first nights to be held in Chelmsford.**

For the first time, the show was without a full orchestra to save high costs. Music throughout was expertly played by two pianists, **MR. BERT BARNEVELD**, chairman of the Society, and **MR. DON HARRIS**, with **MR. BERNARD CHARLES**, percussion.

Bouquets for behind-the-scenes work go to: Chorus master, Cecil Hart; dance arranger, Miss Sylvia Bryant; accompanists at rehearsals, Mr. A. R. Barneveld and Mr. S. H. Amey; stage manager, Mr. H. Bache; prompter, Mrs. S. Parsons; wardrobe mistress, Mrs. D. A. Hann, assisted by Mrs. S. Parsons; property master, Mr. S. J. Jackman; call girl, Mrs. Jane Andrews; publicity, Mr. Peter Smith; perruquiers, Mr. Frank Page, Miss Peggy Green, Mr. Bert, Cope.

## DANCERS

Trixie Brewer, June Davies, Josephine Dyson, June Gisby, Josie Henderson, Betty Louise Jackman, Diane Lawson, Joyce Manfield, Pat. Matthews, Renee Passmore, Betty Wager, Pam. Williams.

## TELEGRAPH BOY

Robin Ricketts.

## MENSERVANTS

Derek Ann, Sid. Collicott, Ken. Collins, John Howitt.

## SUPERNUMARY PARTS

Tony Richardson.

## CHORUS

**Ladies:** Cherry Beckwith, Margaret Burgess, Elizabeth Dutton, Julia Fairhead, Anne Fleming, Lillian George, Gwendoline Gibson, Jean Hasler, Pat. Harnett, Una Harris, Doreen Hurrell, Pat. Wayne, Peggy Welham.

**Gentlemen:** Derek Ann, Fred. Anelli, Sid. Collicott, Ken. Collins, Fred. Gisby, Mick Goodwin, John Howitt, Tony Oliver, Peter Smith, Fred. Steed, Stan. Stewart.

**B.V.**