



THE BELGRADE THEATRE  
 Monday, February 25th, 1963  
 For Six Nights, at 7-30 p.m.  
 (MATINEE—SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd, at 2-30 p.m.)

THE COVENTRY SAVOY OPERA SOCIETY

THE COVENTRY SAVOY OPERA SOCIETY  
 presents  
**"UTOPIA LTD."**  
 by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

CAST  
 King Paramount the First (King of Utopia) ... ERNEST CHARLTON  
 Scaphio | Judges of the Utopian Supreme Court ... KEITH BENNETT  
 Phantis | The Public Explorer ... ANTHONY CRIVER  
 Tarara | The Utopian Vice-Chamberlain ... COLIN TAMBLYN

Imported "Flowers of Progress"  
 Lord Dramaleigh (A British Lord Chamberlain) ... JOHN FENNER  
 Captain Fitzbattlease (First Life Guards) ... DONALD AUSTIN  
 Captain Sir Edward Corcoran, K.C.B. (of the Royal Navy) ... RONALD DYSON  
 Mr. Goldbury (A Company Promoter, afterwards Comptroller of the Utopian Household) ... BARRY JONES

Sir Bailey Barré, Q.C., M.P. ... ARTHUR NEWMAN  
 Mr. Blashington (of the County Council) ... GEORGE SUDDENS  
 The Princess Zara (Elders Daughter of King Paramount) ... SYLVIA FREDDY  
 The Princess Nelaya | (her younger sisters) ... PATRICIA RABIN  
 The Princess Kalyba | (her younger sisters) ... FAY TILLEY  
 The Lady Sophy (their English Governess) ... MONICA TUCKEY  
 Salata | (Utopian maidens) ... ELISE AVES  
 Phylla | (Utopian maidens) ... GWEN WADDINGTON  
 JANET ARRIS

Utopian Maidens  
 J. BACON, A. BENNETT, A. BISHOP, M. BULLOCK, S. HUMPHREYS,  
 J. KIRKHAM, L. MASCARD, J. PRIEST, A. RUSSELL, I. SHEPHERD,  
 A. TILLEY, M. WADDINGTON and L. WILLIAMS

Utopian Guards and Nobs  
 J. COX, R. DYSON, J. FENNER, B. JONES, A. NEWMAN, R. SATCHWELL,  
 G. SUDDENS and F. THORPE

Troopers, 1st Life Guards  
 A. BRITTON, J. BUCKLAND, P. CRADDOCK, R. OWEN

Scenes: Act I A UTOPIAN PALM GROVE  
 Act II THRONE ROOM IN KING PARAMOUNT'S PALACE

There will be an Interval of 15 minutes between acts

Producer ... Dick Rowberry  
 Musical Director ... John Aves  
 Costumes and Wigs ... Messrs. B. J. Simmons & Co., London  
 Scenery ... Stage Scenery Ltd., London  
 Photographs ... Taylor Bros., Coventry  
 Choreography ... Miss Mary Wilson  
 Make up ... Gardner's Theatrical Stores, Coventry

No presentations will be made over the footlights

**SAVOY PRINCIPALS  
 SCORE IN 'UNKNOWN'  
 G. & S. OPERA**

A PRODUCTION of such a neglected opera as "Utopia Limited" may seem at first glance to be directed mostly at connoisseurs of Gilbert and Sullivan, but the performance by the Coventry Savoy Opera Society this week at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, should satisfy a wider audience.

It is not an outstanding work for it has the thump of plots and relies on a satire which now seems to mope rather than bring with wisdom teeth, but it has the compensation of many good songs.

These are little known, but they are evocative—such was the consistent style of G. & S.—and several have an immediate charm. It sometimes seems to borrow a page from the operetta, but these songs before the curtain.

To say that the opera has drained the resources of the Coventry amateur society is not to belittle them. Few of the other works require so many principal singers and one must accept a variation in standards. One does so easily because of the excellence of the main artists.

The story is of South Sea islanders whose way of life is revolutionised by the return of their princess from school in England. She brings with her representatives of the Army, the Navy, the law, commerce, the Lords and the local government—the "Flowers of Progress" who are to enlighten Utopia and make it a limited company.

**Captivating**  
 The English provides the satire on England and the English, the final act being the most perfect in the history of the operetta. The imported values can continue only if controlled by imported faculty.

As usual, Sylvia Freddy gave a captivating performance as the Princess last night. Her singing was rich in quality and she had an excellent partner in Donald Austin, as the Guards captain who becomes her willing escort. Leading the chorus as a whole, in duets they provided the highlights of the show.

Of his fellow immigrants John Fenner did sound work as the Lord Chamberlain and Barry Jones showed a fine voice in a satire on business methods which was as topical as anything in the show.

Also noteworthy were Donald Austin, as Captain Fitzbattlease, and Monica Tuckey, as Lady Sophy, the Governor's of the King's two younger daughters.

**ILLARIOUS**  
 Edwin Manley, as Scaphio, and Keith Bennett, as Phantis, played the Utopian Supreme Court, expert cases being none of W. S. Gilbert's delirious wit.

The singing showed that voices had been carefully trained, and the choruses were of outstanding quality. There was some failure to communicate to the audience the intricacies of the dancing scenes, but this may have been due to first night nervousness.

**COLOURFUL**  
 Taken a little slower with clearer voice projection, the audience would have enjoyed it even more. But despite all, the production was well worth while and a brave effort reflecting credit on all concerned.

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Donald Austin as Captain Fitzbattlease and Sylvia Freddy as Princess Zara in "Utopia Limited" at the Belgrade.

**Savoy Company Score  
 with Unusual Choice**

COLOURFUL costumes, lively music and satire combine to make the Coventry Savoy Opera Society's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's rarely heard "Utopia Limited" at the Belgrade Theatre, this week, an appreciable success.

"Utopia Limited" is a satire on the British constitution, in which a glamorous South Sea Island is changed into a "utopia," taking England as its model.

King Paramount, with his dry humour, was cleverly portrayed by Ernest Charlton, one of the most talented and polished singers in the company. Sylvia Freddy was a winsome Princess Zara, the King's eldest daughter, also giving a commendable performance.

Also noteworthy were Donald Austin, as Captain Fitzbattlease, and Monica Tuckey, as Lady Sophy, the Governor's of the King's two younger daughters.

**Utopia by the Savoy**  
 ONE of the least known Gilbert and Sullivan operas, "Utopia Limited" is the choice of the Coventry Savoy Opera Society for their biennial visit to the Belgrade Theatre for a week from February 25. This is believed to be the first production of the work in Coventry since 1925.

The rarity of performances has been due not to any doubts over its quality—for the music is charming and the book witty—but to the difficulties it presents for any company.

In 1928 Rupert D'Oyly Carte was reported to have abandoned a projected production because of the problems and costs involved.

**Bristol Visitor**  
 The story satirises the English way of life—prudence, conservatism, business and government. Dick Rowberry's production will feature several of the artists who have served the society well in previous operas, including Sylvia Freddy, Ernest Charlton, Edward Manley and Donald Austin.

The opening performance will be attended by a visitor from Bristol, Mr. George Rowell, who lectures in drama at the university there.

His interest lies in the fact that he and the musical director of the Bristol Opera School, Mr. Kenneth Hooper, transcribed a new opera from the Gilbert and Sullivan composition, "Utopia Limited," which was first produced in Bristol last year. It was the first production to reach its present form.

