



COVENTRY SAVOY OPERA SOCIETY

"PATIENCE"
or *Banithorne's Bride*

COLONEL CALVERTLEY	} (<i>Officers of the Dragon Guards</i>)	ERNEST CHARLTON
MAJOR MURGHROYD		BARRY JONES
LIEUTENANT THE DEER OF DUNSTABLE		DONALD AUSTIN
REGINALD BENTHORSE (<i>a fleckly Post</i>)		REN SATCHWELL
ARCHIBALD GROSVENOR (<i>an Idyllic Post</i>)		JOHN FENNER
MIC. BENTHORSE'S SOLICITOR		MARTIN WADDINGTON
THE LADY ANGLIA		KATHLEEN GRIFFITHS
THE LADY SAPHIR	} (<i>Rapturous Maidens</i>)	MONICA TUCKEY
THE LADY ELLA		MACHETA WALLING
THE LADY JANE		ANNE BENNETT
PATIENCE (<i>a Dairy Maid</i>)		SYLVIA FREEDY

CHORUS OF RAPTUREOUS MAIDENS

J. BACON, M. CONNOLLY, J. COX, A. EVANS, J. EDWARDS, L. FENNER, A. GOULD, P. GILL, M. MOLYNEUX, C. MCGONWAY, J. PRIEST, A. RUSSELL, V. RUSSELL, P. SATCHWELL, K. SMITHERMAN, J. STEWART, A. TILLEY, M. WADDINGTON.

CHORUS OF OFFICERS OF DRAGON GUARDS

A. BRITTON, J. COX, W. ESSEX, A. LEVER, B. LINNEMANN, R. MOUNTER, R. OWEN, G. SUDDENS, K. SCOREY, A. TUCKEY, P. TREW, R. WASHBROOK.

The scene of the opera is set in the grounds of Banithorne Castle.

Producer	James Salmon
Musical Director	Joseph O'Reilly, A.R.C.M.
Costumes and Wigs	William Mutrie & Sons Ltd., Edinburgh
Scenery	John Griffin Theatre Studio, Nottingham
Photographs	A. C. Cryer and Beryl Houghton Ltd.
Mak-up	Gardner's Theatrical Stores, Coventry

EIGHT

AMATEURS' 'PATIENCE' HAS A LIGHT TOUCH

GILBERT and Sullivan show themselves debunkers par excellence in "Patience," which is Coventry Savoy Opera Society's choice for their annual production. It is being given a week's run at the Belgrade Theatre, where it opened last night.

When it was written over 20 years ago, the amateur club was in vogue — and what fun the two amateurs had at the expense of those who professed a superior appreciation of all things beautiful.

The casual punch of Gilbert's wit has now lost some of its sting, but one can still appreciate the clever wit of words and music he and Sullivan achieved.

Strong backing

James Salmon's production has the light touch that is needed and three to a sound display of teamwork from the well-versed cast.

The chorus of rapturous maidens gives strong backing to the principals and it is to be expected that their roles will be well received in some quarters. All to establish their presence immediately, but there is such a minimum to be enjoyed when they assume post early later for the song. "It's clear that medieval art."

A thoroughly engaging performance comes from the society this year to Paul Hamilton's sharp characterization would be welcome in some quarters.

Delightful duet

It hardly needs the description of a "Patience" that the creation of the role is masterfully done and his encounter with the Lady Jane are always amusing.

Mr. Satchwell's emulation of the more demanding Gilbertian lines could well serve as a model for other amateurs who are successful with the librettist's intricate word-juggling.

He shares a really delightful duet with Anne Bennett's Lady Jane in the song "Do go to him, and say to him."

Anne Bennett has the ample resources needed for the character she is portraying, and displays a keen sense of humour which is always welcome.

Refreshing

The role of Patience is taken by Sylvia Freedy, and she gives a refreshing performance as the dairy maid who finds that love is a far from straightforward adventure.

Other leading parts are taken by Kathleen Griffiths and Macheta Walling.

The orchestra plays with sympathetic understanding for the society's requirements, and the musical director, Mr. Joseph O'Reilly, is a bright feature of the production.

The production is a typical Valentine's theme, and constitutes a bright feature of the Coventry Savoy Opera Society's choice for their annual production.

G. and S. opera with a Valentine touch

A "PATIENCE" with scenery that has a "Valentine twist" is to be staged next month by Coventry Savoy Opera Society, which specialises in Gilbert and Sullivan works.

James Salmon's production opens at the Belgrade Theatre for a week's run on February 1 — the day after the Valentine's Day. The scenery has been specially made by a firm in Nottingham.

Kathleen Griffiths and Macheta Walling.

A new musical director, Mr. J. O'Reilly, has been engaged for the show. He has previously conducted at Leamington.

It is the second year that the society has employed the services of Mr. Salmon as a producer. Last year, he produced "The Gondoliers" for them.

The society has done much to preserve interest in Gilbert and Sullivan operas in Coventry by their annual production of a new opera, and a little bit more hard work will result in more popular musicals these days, a society spokesman confessed.

SAME TEAM

Rehearsals for "Patience" have been going on over a long period, and about 40 people will be appearing in the show. The principals will be more or less the same team as before, with the addition of Mrs. Satchwell, who last appeared with the society two years ago.

Other leading members of the cast will be Sylvia Freedy (as Patience), Monica Tuckey (as Donald Austin), Barry Jones (as Colonel Calvertley), and John Fenner (as Major Murghroyd).

Local 'Patience' is a rewarding venture

was a brave decision by Coventry Savoy Opera Society to put on "Patience" only four months in the polished performance in Coventry by the City Cart Opera Company whose long-standing name in Gilbert and Sullivan has made their productions almost definitive.

In a venture invited comparison it is the highest praise for a performance in the Belgrade Theatre that this week stands up to the comparison.

A couple more of the cast look opportunity of seeing how the society has handled the stage. There was little sign of the usual amateurishness in the cast, and the producer James Salmon have achieved

The production was well timed for its extra touch of sympathy in the setting of the Valentine's hearts and cupid.

The title role of the dairy maid is a dilemma who wants to fall in love with the Colonel, but it is because she is so happy about the idea that she is always so undecidedly undecidedly undecidedly by Sylvia Freedy who adds amusing touches to her fine voice and creates just the right blend of innocence and coquetry.

"This reaches its peak in her duet with the Colonel. It would really suit her with John Fenner as Archibald Grosvenor. The post she says not love because it is so perfect."

HUMOUR

Rev. Satchwell makes a first-class job of Reginald Banithorne who sings the post's music because he throws in the addition of the "Twenty rapturous maidens" and performs wondrous of diction with Gilbert's verbal athletics.

Anne Bennett injects extra humour into the role of the Lady Jane, who is afraid of being left on the shelf and was deservedly enquired for her opinion. And in those women's "Do go to him, and say to him, and say to him."

As the three officers of the Heavy Dragon Guard, Ernest Charlton, Barry Jones and Donald Austin manage to make off an early woodpecker to create one of the comical situations of the show in the scene where they decide to sleep the sentimental air and give in order to compare with the post in the love stakes.

John Fenner, who is played by Kathleen Griffiths, Jones and Martin Waddington.

Thomas work is generally well disciplined especially in the finale to the first act, and the overall orchestra, under the musical director, Mr. Joseph O'Reilly, copes well with the taxing score.

—J.R.K.

