


Gilbert and Sullivan



IOLANTHE

OR
THE PEER AND THE PERI

COLLEGE THEATRE
COVENTRY

Monday, 11th March, 1968
For Six Nights
at 7.30 p.m.

The
Coventry Savoy
Opera Society

CAST

THE LORD CHANCELLOR.....Rex Satchwell
 EARL OF MOUNTARARAT.....Ernest Charlton
 EARL TOLLOLLER.....Colin Tamblin
 PRIVATE WILLIS (of the Grenadier Guards).....Anthony Crier
 STREPHON (an Arcadian Shepherd).....John Fenner
 QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES.....Joan Holmes
 IOLANTHE (a Fairy, Strephon's Mother).....Kathleen Griffiths
 CELIA..... Sylvia Aves
 LEILA | Fairies.....Fay Taylor
 FLETA |.....Linda Spittle
 PHYLLIS (an Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward in Chancery).....Richard Johnson
 PAGE.....Richard Johnson
 Chorus of Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, Barons and Fairies.

Ladies: E. Aves, P. Bates, A. Bishop, B. Chance, S. Cousins, J. Cox, H. Garner, P. Gibbons, C. Jennings, M. Lever, S. Lee, C. McConway, J. Priest, P. Satchwell, J. Stewart, A. Tilley, S. Washbrook, M. Withers
 Gentlemen: B. Bonifacio, J. Bowen, A. Britton, J. Cox, M. Crowe, N. Davis, G. Hancock, T. Lees, A. Lever, T. Mathews, R. Pheasey, G. Suddens, D. Skipper, P. Trew, R. Washbrook

ACT 1 An Arcadian Landscape.
 ACT 2 Palace Yard, Westminster.
 Date: between 1700 and 1882.

Producer.....Dorothy Dillam
 Musical Director.....Jack Aves
 Costumes and Wigs.....S. B. Watts and Co. Ltd.
 Scenery.....Scenic Display Services
 Fairy Costumes designed by Freda Stanyn & made by the Wardrobe Dept.
 Wardrobe Dept.....Alice Russell, Pat Gibbons, Freda Stanyn

There will be an interval of 15 minutes.
 Coffee will be served during the interval
 in the Coffee Bar adjacent to the Theatre

'IOLANTHE'—College
LITTING music, predictable "plot" and stereotyped characters are the ingredients which make Gilbert and Sullivan operas. You either love them or hate them. If you are in the first category, Coventry Savoy Opera Society's presentation of "Iolanthe" is a must.

Credit must go to Rex Satchwell as the Lord Chancellor whose senile antics and clever characterization are the mainstay of the performance. Ernest Charlton as the Earl of Mountararat and Colin Tamblin as the Earl Tolloller are excellent with their meat-mouthed, aristocratic roles.

Joan Holmes as the Queen of the Fairies has a rich, contralto voice which does credit to her part, while Kathleen Griffiths as Iolanthe does well in her mainly acting role.

Others worthy of mention are Sylvia Preedy as the charming Phyllis, John Fenner as love-lorn Strephon, Anthony Crier as Private Willis, and Sylvia Aves, Fay Taylor and Linda Spittle as the principal fairies.

Musically, "Iolanthe" is the best production by the Savoy Opera Society for some time. The chorus singing, though weak from the men, is good and is complemented by the polished orchestra.

Produced by Dorothy Dillam and under the musical direction of Jack Aves, the show is at the College Theatre, The Butts, until Saturday.—H.T.

A good idea goes wrong in 'Iolanthe'

ONE of the problems of a good amateur group is to maintain a high standard, but there comes a time when that standard falls, and such is the case this year with the Coventry Savoy Opera Society.

They opened a week's run of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" at the College Theatre last night and, although it is a good production, having seen their last nine performances I know they are capable of doing better.

Producer Dorothy Dillam has some novel ideas, and one which comes off well is the introduction of a page, delightfully played by Richard Johnson.

Slouch about

Another good idea, taking into account the cramped condition of the stage, is the entrance and march of the peers from the back of the auditorium, down the two gangways and on to the stage.

Unfortunately, it is not as successful as it might have been for it is an unsteady entrance. The male chorus, with a few exceptions slouch about when they should swagger; they are not haughty enough and they are hesitant in their movements, a number forgetting them completely. There is nothing state-manne about them.

Most of their actions are artificial and lifeless and it is a pity they do not take more notice of the ladies' chorus who are always alert to the action about them.

Great success

The evening was a great success for Rex Satchwell as the Lord Chancellor. He is in the mould of Peter Pratt and John Reed, the Dooly Carte Opera Company comedians, and he stands head and shoulders above everyone with his delightful antics and facial expressions.

Another fine performance is given by Anthony Crier as Private Willis. Ernest Charlton and Colin Tamblin are good as the two earls and Joan Holmes makes a commanding Queen of the Fairies.

Completing a good line-up of principals are Sylvia Preedy, John Fenner and Kathleen Griffiths.

Musical director John Aves has gathered together one of the best orchestras the company has had for a long time.—H.T.

