


Spa Opera
PRESENTS -
IN ITS 35th YEAR

My Fair Lady



AT ROYAL SPA CENTRE-24th to 29th OCTOBER, 1994

PRODUCER: DENZIL PUGH
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: WILLIAM BOSWORTH
CHOREOGRAPHER: JULIE BEDLOW-HOWARD

Characters
(in order of appearance)

MRS. EYNSFORD-HILL	CAROLE MORGAN
ELIZA DOOLITTLE	JULIA HALL
FREDDY EYNSFORD-HILL	DEVILLE FRENCH
COLONEL PICKERING	KRITHI HIGGINS
HENRY HIGGINS	DAVID BIDDLE
FIRST COCKNEY	BOB NEW
SECOND COCKNEY	TREVOR HUGHES
THIRD COCKNEY	ROY CHESWORTH
FOURTH COCKNEY	PAUL FISHER
HARRY TRIPER	PHILIP BOSWORTH
MARLYN	GRAHAM SHURVINGTON
JAMIE	TERRY BRIGGITT
ALFRED P. DOOLITTLE	JOHN FENNER
MRS. FEARCE	JAN JONES
MRS. HOPKINS	MAURIPINN WAINLESS
BUTLER	BERNARD PETTY
SERVANTS	MARGARET BOSWORTH SARAH FELIX MARY JULIAN-SMITH, AARIBEN WAINLESS, ROY CHESWORTH, PAUL FISHER, BOB NEW
MRS. HIGGINS	HELEN HENDERSON
DOXTMAN	PAUL FISHER
CHAUFFEUR	STEPHEN HULSE
LEIGH ROBERTSON	RON PLEGER
LADY ROXINGTON	MARGARET REES
CONSTABLE	PHILIP BOSWORTH
PIPER	JAMIE TIDES-SMITH
ZOLIAN KARAPATHY	PHILIP BOSWORTH
MAJOR LORNO	STEPHEN HULSE
QUEEN OF TEA-SOCIETY	JOY OSLER
PARROT	ALISON COUSINS
CHORUS OF GARDENERS, GONGERFISHERS, GARDEN & LARDER, GREAT VICTORIANS ETC.	

LADIES OF THE CHORUS

Margaret Bosworth, Beata Brown, Katherine Chesworth, Alison Cousins, Sarah Felix, Jill Green, Lisa Hartwell, Caroline Hazel, Samantha Jones, Mary Mansley, Felicia Payne, Margaret Rees, Karen Swales, Janet Tides-Smith, Jane Walters, Judy Welkome.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS

Alan Atwood, Roy Chesworth, Paul Fisher, Dan Fuller, Trevor Hughes, Bob New, Bernard Petty, Derek Rees, Fred Underwood.

DANCERS

Julie Bedlow-Howard, Deona Bason, Sue Carroll, Nikki Shurvinton, Louisa Taylor, Gaynor Williams, Alan Atwood, Terry Bright, Paul Fisher.

URCHINS

Ben Balentine, Alanaz Roebham, Gemma Cole, Lucy Gill, Rebecca Hartwell, Peter Howe.

SMOKING AND PHYLAXIAPHY ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM.

Evening so lavish it's fit for a lady!

My Fair Lady - Spa Centre Production runs till Saturday, October 29

I WENT along to the Spa Opera Group's production of *My Fair Lady* expecting to enjoy myself - after all it's a rather jolly little story with lots of nice songs, courtesy Messrs. Letter and Loewe. But I have to confess I wasn't expecting it to be quite so good as it turned out to be. This really is a wonderful show, with splendid painted backdrops, lavish costumes, and terrific performances. David Biddle plays Professor Higgins and instils in him all

that familiar self-centred arrogance which is at the same time both frustrating and engaging. Julia Hall makes a perfect Eliza Doolittle, the Cockney flower girl who transforms into a "lady". It's a vivacious, vibrant performance, and her singing is superb, particularly in *I Could Have Danced All Night*, which was, for me, the musical highlight of the evening. That said, there are many highlights, with the big choral numbers working exceptionally well. Often it looks as though there are a dangerously large number of people on

stage, and that inevitably one of the "urchins" will be trampled underfoot, but the dance routines have obviously been well rehearsed and everyone survived the first night intact. Another impressive feature is the accents, which are absolutely spot on - full marks to director Denzil Pugh. In fact it's hard to fault this production. If you're at a loose end on Friday or Saturday night pop along to the Spa Centre and treat yourself to a "loverly" evening's entertainment. For details of tickets ring the box office on 334418. Phil Appleby

Lady is a winner

My Fair Lady - Spa Centre
Familiar tunes with sing-along words, a story line that is well known and plenty of scope for colourful costumes and sets, are all ingredients which go to make up a sure-fire musical winner.

Spa Opera certainly achieved this last week in its staging of 'My Fair Lady'. Even before the curtain went up, at the first note of the overture, the audience was quietly humming along and tapping their toes in expectation.

With a total 18 scene changes, swiftly managed by the stage hands, the production zipped along with the whole cast, from flower-sellers and costermongers to the leads, putting their hearts into their roles.
Eliza, (Julia Hall) and Henry

Higgins (David Biddle), gave well-matched, spirited performances while Keith Higgins (Colonel Pickering) and Jan Jones (Mrs Pearce) gave them quiet and attentive support. The dancing, choreographed by Julie Bedlow-Howard, was executed with much enthusiasm by the whole cast, especially "With a Little Bit of Luck" and "Get Me To The Church On Time". In fact, the rolling eyes of Alfred P Doolittle (John Fenner) and the faces of the little urchins will remain in my memory for a long time. The production was very long, over three hours, and as the last few scenes are quieter and conversational, it did seem to drag a little. But that is the way the opera is written, and it took nothing away from the performance as a whole.
Elizabeth Beaumont

Musical has the sparks flying

MY FAIR LADY — Royal Spa Centre, Leamington, until Saturday. Running time 3 hrs.

IF you feel like dancing all night then old favourites like *Get Me To The Church On Time* and *With A Little Bit Of Luck* should get your feet tapping. Leamington Spa Opera Group give an enthusiastic rendition of the old tale of a flower girl turned lady and fill the stage with colour

and activity. Julia Hall is a captivating and tuneful Eliza Doolittle and she is no wimp when it comes to sparring with tutor Professor Henry Higgins played by David Biddle. The sparks fly whenever they meet. There are also sparks when John Fenner takes centre stage as Eliza's cheeky father Alfred Doolittle. Producer Denzil Pugh's show lifts the spirits.
Marion McMullen

