

Come and Join Us!

The Ramsgate Operatic Society is all about a group of people getting together to rehearse and perform shows. Our members are from all walks of life and all ages. Rehearsals are held every Thursday evening at St. Ethelbert's Church Hall, Hereson Road Ramsgate.

If you are not into singing or being on stage, why not try your hand at one of the myriad other jobs that have to be done to stage a production: handyman (or woman), tea maker, seamstress, set painter, dancer, carpenter, lighting or sound expert, stage crew etc.

Go on, drag yourself away from the pub or the box for an evening or two. We do socialise after the rehearsal at the local hostelry!

In the first instance call our Secretary on 0870 774 3793 or speak to one of the our front of house crew wearing a Ramsgate Operatic Society badge.



**OUR NEXT
PRODUCTION
IN THIS
THEATRE**

8TH to 12TH November 2005

Rogers & Hammerstein's
CAROUSEL

Ramsgate Operatic Society affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association
Thanet Arts Council & D'Oyly Carte Opera Trust presents



The Merry Widow

a century of operetta's first lady

Franz Lehar's masterpiece, first introduced to the world at Vienna's Theater an der Wien in 1905, is hundred years young on December 31 2005. We decided to join in with the celebrations during the centenary year.

An amateur production by arrangement with Glocken Verlag Limited.

Original Operetta in three acts by Victor Leon and Leo Stein, music by Franz Lehar, new book and lyrics by Phil Park, music adapted and arranged by Ronald Hanmer.

Ramsgate Operatic Society
PRESENT

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Music by Franz Lehar, new book and lyrics by Phil Park,
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Founded in 1960. Registered Charity 1091538.
Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association,
Thanet Arts Council

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

MAXINE BURROWS
BOB DRYWOOD

MARGATE THEATRE ROYAL TRUST
Established in 1787 Registered Charity 279015

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Technical Stage Manager & Co-Licensee	Jay Thomas
Technical Consultant	Richard Thomas
FOH Maintenance	Brian Wallis

Plus our back-stage staff and our front of house volunteers who give up their free time so that you can enjoy yours. We would also like to thank the Red Cross, for the excellent first-aid cover they provide. Please help them by putting a donation in their collection bucket at the end of the performance.

WARNING

In order to comply with the conditions imposed by the copyright holders the taking of video, digital, photographic or sound recordings at any of the performances will not be permitted. Also the use of mobile telephones is not permitted.

PLEASE SWITCH YOURS OFF NOW.

NO SMOKING IN ANY PART OF THE THEATRE

Our Chairman Writes

Dear Friends

Welcome once more to Margate's lovely Theatre Royal. This Spring's offering is The Merry Widow which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2005. Franz Lehar wrote other operettas but 'The Widow' has remained a firm favourite across the years. With its wonderful melodies and intriguing plot, it has delighted audiences the world over.

On a more sombre note, we sadly miss our treasurer and friend of many years, Bill Bennett, who died suddenly recently. We will all miss his fine bass voice and his cheerful disposition. Also our sympathies go to Iain Kilty, who through an accident has had to relinquish this part in this production but 'the show must go on'.

Bob Drywood, our MD and Maxine Burrows, our Director and choreographer, have put all their efforts into this production. Much work goes on backstage with these productions and I must also mention Andrea Vigo on whose expertise and ingenuity we rely so much.

Finally, don't forget to book up for our next show 'Carousel' next November.

With every good wish, sincerely,

George Martin.

A Note On The Merry Widow

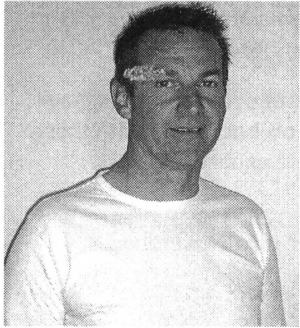
Anna, Madame Glavari has recently been left twenty millions by her rich, elderly husband and has left her native 'Fatherland' Pontevedro and is on a visit to Paris. Baron Zeta, the Pontevedrian ambassador in Paris, realises that since she holds the entire wealth of the country in her bank account, were she to marry a foreigner all the country's assets would leave the country, leaving Pontevedro bankrupt. Should she remarry, it would have to be to a Pontevedrian. Enter Danilo, a handsome, penniless count, employed at the embassy. Zeta seizes on the idea of Danilo wooing then marrying Anna, thereby securing the twenty millions for The Fatherland. What he doesn't know at first is that the two were former lovers.

To complicate matters further, Zeta's wife, Valencienne, is on the verge of an affair with a young Frenchman Camille de Rosillion. Zeta, a doting husband and blissfully unaware of their attraction, is too busy scheming to keep the Widow's fortune in the country. To lose the money would spell disaster for his 'beloved Fatherland'. So he enlists the help of Danilo, who doesn't want to get involved with Anna again. Or does he?

After a series of twists and turns, true, romantic love wins out, to some of Lehar's most glorious music.



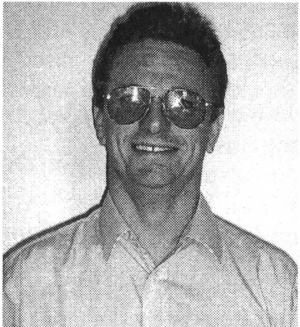
Maxine Burrows



Derry Martin



Bettina Walker



Jeremy Lawrence

The Cast Of Players

Anna (Madame Glavari) The Merry Widow Bettina Walker
 Danilo (Count Danilovitsch) Derry Martin
 Baron Zeta Mike Kendrick
 Valencienne Pat Drywood
 Camille (Count de Rosillon) Jeremy Lawrence
 Njegus Michael Reed
 St. Brioche John Burrows
 Cascada Roger Lee
 Kromov Don Pottle
 Olga (Wife of Kromov) Tina Hearne
 Bogdanovitsch Robin Smith
 Sylvia Sylvia Blogg
 Praskovia June Redford
 Grisettes at Maxim's:
 Lolo Sandra Allen
 DoDo Patti Bowling
 Jou-Jou Maxine Burrows
 Frou-Frou Sarah Davies
 Clo-Clo Erin Price
 Margot Marilyn Adams

Embassy Staff and Guests:

Pauline Booker, Eve Frampton, Lynda Humphreys-Parsons,
 Aldwyth Humphries, Betty Reid, Hannah Russell, Frances
 Shaw, Gloria Withers, Laura Woodrow.

The Orchestra

Musical Director Bob Drywood
 Leader Ivor Crocker
 Violins: Denise Coe
 Bob Gill
 Janet Evans
 Nancy White
 Harry Cook
 Christine Chappell
 Mary Macleod
 Catherine Smith
 Keith Davies
 Owen James
 Bob Spoor
 Marilyn Adams
 Cello
 Bass
 Flute
 Clarinet
 Oboe
 Trumpet
 Trombone
 Percussion
 Pianist
 Marilyn Adams

The Musical Numbers

ACT 1

Overture

1. "Pontevedro In Paree" (Cascada, Zeta and Ensemble)
2. Melos (Ballroom Music)
3. "A Highly Respectable Wife" (Valencienne and Camille)
4. "So Many Men Admire Me" (Anna and Male Ensemble)
5. Melos (Ballroom Waltz)
6. "You'll Find Me At Maxim's" (Danilo and Ladies)
7. "It Goes To Show" (Anna and Danilo)
8. Finale Act 1 (Anna, Valencienne, Danilo, Camille, St. Brioche, Cascada and Chorus)

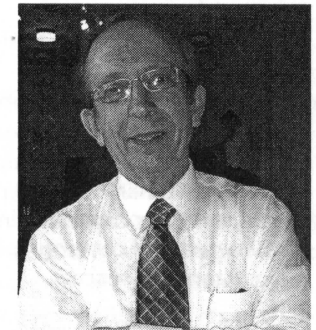
ACT 2

9. Opening Act 2

10. "Vilia" (Anna and Ensemble)
- 10a. Reprise (Chorus)
11. "Driving In The Park With You" (Anna and Danilo)
12. "Women! Women! Women!" (Danilo, Cascada, St. Brioche, Zeta, Kromov, Bogdanovitsch)
13. Introduction To The Waltz Scene (Anna and Danilo)
14. The Waltz Scene (Anna and Danilo)
- 14a. Melos
15. "Flowers Are Awakened In May Time" (Valencienne and Camille)
- 16-20. Finale Act 2: Part One to Five (Anna, Valencienne, Danilo, Camille, Zeta, Njegus and Ensemble)

ACT 3

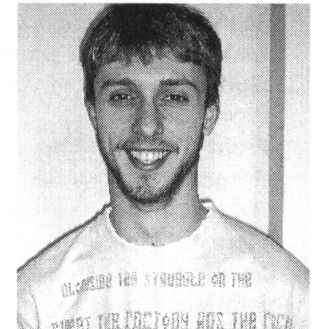
21. Entr'acte
22. Opening Dance
- 22a. Melos
23. The Grisettes' Song (Valencienne, Lolo, Dodo, Jou-Jou, Frou-Frou, Clo-Clo, Margot and Danilo)
- 23a. Reprise: "You'll Find Me At Maxim's" (Grisettes)
24. The Merry Widow Waltz (Anna and Danilo)
25. Finale Act 3 (Ensemble)
- 26-28. Curtain Calls and Play-out



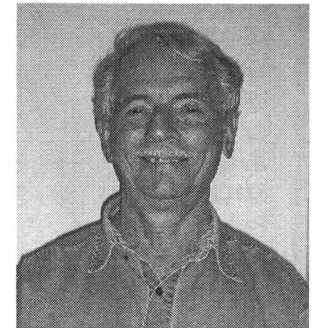
Bob Drywood



Pat Drywood



Michael Reed



Mike Kendrick

Production Credits

- **Director & Choreographer:** Maxine Burrows
Maxine has long been connected with show business she was brought up in a 'Showbiz' family. From appearing on the professional stage as a child and as a young woman - to undertaking a variety of roles in amateur shows, The present day sees her concentrating on Direction and Choreography. Most recently she has directed and choreographed our groundbreaking 'The Beggar's Opera' with outstanding success.
 - **Musical Director:** Bob Drywood
Bob marks 53 years service to amateur theatre in 2005. Currently NODA's SE Area Councillor he has assisted Societies from Gravesend to Redditch, Maidstone to Medway towns and, of course, to Ramsgate, in achieving high standards of performance. He becomes president of NODA in 2006.
 - **The Team:**
Stage Manager: Andrea Vigo. Stage crew: Lynda Wilson, Terrie Wheatley-Ward, Peter Elson & Alan Tilley.
Props: June Redford.
Costumes: Stage Sets.
Wardrobe: Erin Price, Bob Drywood and additional costumes: Pam Hayfield.
Wigs: Pauline Booker
Scenery: George Martin, Stage Sets.
Make-up: Marjorie Corden & Jane Gore.
Lighting and Sound: Jay Thomas.
Prompt: Jean Tilley.
Front of House: Margaret Woods, Marjorie Butler and friends.
Programme: Mike Kendrick, Iain Kilty and Pam Hayfield.
Publicity: Mike Kendrick.
Pianist: Mary Patten.
Rehearsal Facilities: Courtesy of Father Fisher at St Ethelbert's Church.
Banners: Derry Martin, Mike Kendrick - with our thanks to Derek Little.
- PRESIDENT:** Margaret Woods
CHAIRMAN: George Martin.
SECRETARY: Bob Drywood.
TREASURER: Dudley Gore.
COMMITTEE: Sylvia Blogg, Patti Bowling, Maxine Burrows, Samantha Gambrill, Jodie Kilty, Betty Reid, Mike Kendrick.
SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Betty Reid (Chairman) Eve Frampton, Sam Gambrill, Pam Hayfield, Pam Martin, Sarah Miles.

Our grateful thanks to all who have contributed to this production and in particular To George Martin, The Walpole Bay Hotel and Wyevale Garden Centres PLC for extra furniture and effects and Scotts Furniture Mart, Margate.

In Memory of Bill Bennett

10 March 1923 10 March 2005

- For many years Bill was an essential member of The Ramsgate Operatic Society, filling the roles of treasurer and committee member with distinction. It was however as a performer he will be best remembered. His singing teacher had been Harvey Allen, a famous bass of the 1950's, who had manifestly encouraged Bill to a vocal standard that had enabled him to sing minor roles in Mozart operas. But it was in the works of Gilbert and Sullivan that he found his metier, and it's probably true to say that over a span of forty years he'd sung most of the principal roles in the G & S repertoire.

At the earliest rehearsals for this show his fine bass voice rang out, as always, and although it's silent now, no doubt it will continue to echo in the memory of each of his many friends in the Society. Bill's wide range of other interests and activities were legion: cars old and new, a detailed knowledge of the works of PG Wodehouse, gardening and the arts in general, were just a few of them. In the dressing room his bad jokes were a never-ending delight. 'Sorely missed' doesn't begin to cover our sense of loss and our thoughts are with Janet and the family at this time.

