

BWT Report

Anything goes in lively style

IT is the 75th anniversary year of the Witham Amateur Operatic Society and last week's show, *Anything Goes* by Cole Porter, is set almost that long ago.

The orchestra, under Brian Brown, zipped through the overture and set the atmosphere, maintained throughout the production, of the devil-may-care 1920s.

Set mostly on board a transatlantic liner, the show is a vehicle for humorous one-liners and lively songs delivered in a variety of styles. Pat McLeod was the star of the show. A sexy evangelist she had the best songs. Making full use of her brassy tones in *Blow Gabriel Blow* she had set the show off to a fine start with *I Get a Kick Out Of You*.

Sue Rogers as the elegant Hope, the

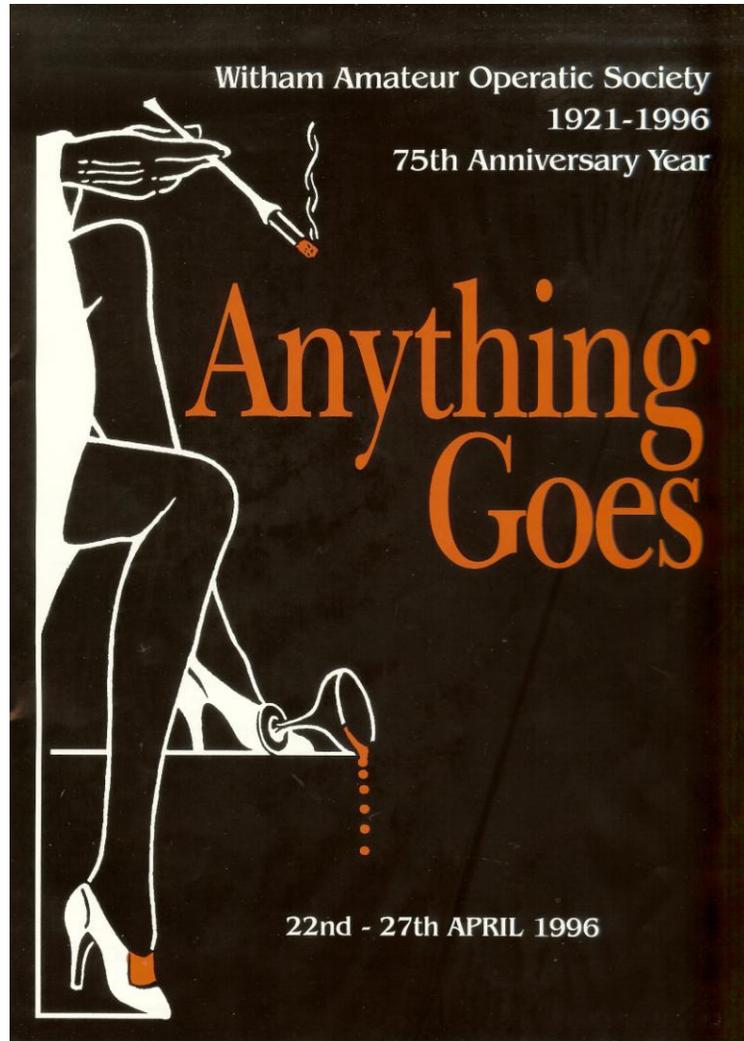
other leading lady, was a delightful contrast with her soft sweetness. David Holman, the hero, sang well with both the leading ladies; equally at ease singing the original words of *You're the Top* with Pat McLeod as he was with Sue Rogers in *It's De Lovely*.

Pamela Adams was a fine American grande dame looking for a suitable husband for her daughter Hope. She thought that she had found one in the foppish Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Stewart Adkins was foppish until near the end when he let his hair down and combined with Pat McLeod for probably the best number of the evening.

Michael Dunion was public enemy number 13 and Nicholas Clough the ship's captain. There were two excellent cameo roles. Kathryn Adkins full of vitality was a gangster's moll and Geoff Coverdale a shortsighted, drunken tycoon.

A most enjoyable evening.

James Bright.



Essex Chronicle Report

Set sail for fun

COLE Porter's *Anything Goes* still has two days to run this weekend at the Witham Public Hall. If you need cheering up, then hurry down there for an evening of great songs, witty dialogue and an endearingly hammy plot, most of which takes place on board a luxury transatlantic voyage.



Knock-out of the show is Pat McLeod giving another of her gutsy performances, this time as the sexy nightclub singer, Reno Sweeney. Reno is in pursuit of handsome (but poor) Billy Crocker who is in love with Hope Harcourt who loves him back but is betrothed to wealthy, naff, English Lord Evelyn Oakleigh for his money so that her Mamma can live in luxury again.



Sue Rogers breathed life into the rather insipid character of Hope and Pamela Adams sharply depicted her money-minded mother. Stewart Adkins was an amusing presence as the raucous upper-

class idiot. Mike Dunion is very funny as Moonface Martin, failed gangster. Good cameo performances are given by Ashley Saunders and Len Howard as the two Chinese converts.

Jackie Horne

Cast of Characters

Reno Sweeney (a sexy evangelist turned nightclub singer)	<i>Pat McLeod</i>
Hope Harcourt (a beautiful debutante)	<i>Sue Rogers</i>
Evangeline Harcourt (her mother, a widow)	<i>Pamela Adams</i>
Lord Evelyn Oakleigh (a wealthy Englishman)	<i>Stewart Adkins</i>
Elisha Whitney (a goggle-eyed tycoon)	<i>Geoff Coverdale</i>
Billy Crocker (Whitney's young assistant)	<i>David Holman</i>
Moonface Martin (a hapless gangster, public enemy number 13)	<i>Michael Dunion</i>
Erma (a sexy gangsters moll)	<i>Kathryn Adkins</i>
Ship's Captain Ship's Purser (S.S. American)	<i>Nicholas Clough</i> <i>Chris Lowe</i>
Luke John (Chinese converts)	<i>Ashley Saunders</i> <i>Len Howard</i>
Angel 1, Purity Angel 2, Chastity Angel 3, Chastity Angel 4, Virtue (Showgirls with Reno's act)	<i>Elisabeth Ladd</i> <i>Cherry Lenox</i> <i>Michelle Sims</i> <i>Anne Dobinson</i>
Fred (a bartender)	<i>Alastair Irving</i>
Henry T Dobson	<i>Howard Brooks</i>
FBI agents	<i>Jim Crimmins</i> <i>Alastair Irving</i>
Male Dancers	<i>Steve Rogers</i> <i>Paul Chittleborough</i>
Press reporters and photographers	<i>Judy Henderson</i> <i>Tom Whelan</i> <i>Steve Rogers</i>

Ladies of the Chorus

(minor roles, passengers)

Muriel Chambers, Rosemary Chaplin, Helen Clark,
Anita Collings, Natalie Hawkes, Judy Henderson,
Marea Irving, Joyce Ryder, Sue Siddalls, Bobbie Tyler,
Liz Watson, Anne Wilson.

Gentlemen of the Chorus

(minor roles, sailors, passengers)

Howard Brooks, William Chaplin, Paul Chittleborough,
Doug Coleman, Jim Crimmins, Richard Herring,
Ben Ingles, Alastair Irving, Richard Lovewell,
Danny Mullane, Roger Munt, Steve Rogers,
Tom Whelan.

Orchestral Credits

The Chelmsford Sinfonietta

<i>Musical Director:</i>	Brian Brown
<i>Administrator:</i>	Karen Brown
<i>Violin:</i>	Philippa Crook
<i>Reeds:</i>	Christine Wendell Paul Wendell Sarah Stone Jerry Martin
<i>Keyboard:</i>	Simon Harvey
<i>Trumpets:</i>	George Reynolds Karen Brown
<i>Trombones:</i>	Bryony Rees Steve Edmonds
<i>Bass</i>	Robin Harris
<i>Drums:</i>	Colin Turner
<i>Rehearsal accompanist:</i>	Ruth Le Poidevin