

PERFORMANCE OF 24TH APRIL 1998

WITHAM A. O. S.

THE PAJAMA GAME

Not performed too frequently nowadays, this remains a show with plenty of scope to entertain. In this production, directed by Cynthia Stead, sets were very effective and well managed on the small stage, with good costumes and hair styles matching the period.

Ensemble work was sometimes appropriately energetic, but not always so. For instance 'Once a Year Day' had plenty of fizz, whereas 'Racing with the Clock' didn't really convince either in energy or volume.



Nick Clough's Hasler was strong and uncompromising, and Pat Briggs, as Mabel, kept things running smoothly in the office. Michael Dumon's Prez was nicely comic, but a little subdued, presumably so as to maintain the right relationship with Babe as played.



WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

MONDAY 20TH TO SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 1998

Stewart Adkins was in good voice as Sorokin, torn between his attraction to Babe and his need to settle the pay dispute. Elisabeth Ladd's Babe was underplayed somewhat, with a resultant lack of tension between her and Sorokin, and her pleasant voice was sometimes no match for the orchestra. Paul Chittleborough was a suitably frenetic and unstable Hines; Kathryn Adkins gave us a glamorous and provocative Gladys, excellent with the men in an evocative Steam Heat;



There was strong support from the other principals, in particular from Emily Chaplin's Poopsie. Under M.D. Jill Parkin's baton the orchestra did not quite provide the degree of support which was needed, and too often was insensitive to the stage output.

Well received by a rather smaller audience than usual for Witham, a lot of work by the company was very evident, but nevertheless there were periods where more vitality and drive were needed. As usual, a highly informative, well laid out and often amusing programme.



Characters (in order of appearance)

<i>Hines</i>	Paul Chittleborough
<i>Prez</i>	Mike Dunion
<i>Joe</i>	Steve Rogers
<i>Hasler</i>	Nicholas Clough
<i>Sid Sorokin</i>	Stewart Adkins
<i>Gladys</i>	Kathryn Adkins
<i>Mabel</i>	Pat Briggs
<i>1st Helper</i>	Jim Crimmins
<i>2nd Helper</i>	Darren White
<i>Charlie</i>	Alf Farmer
<i>Babe Williams</i>	Elisabeth Ladd
<i>Mae</i>	Peg Harker
<i>Brenda</i>	Judy Henderson
<i>Poopsie</i>	Emily Chaplin
<i>Salesman</i>	Tom Whelan
<i>Pop</i>	Geoffrey Coverdale



"Steam Heat" Dancers

Kathryn Adkins, Tim Clarke, Sue Rogers, Vin Farmer, Jonathan Baron, Steve Rogers, Richard Lovewell.

Chorus

Pamela Adams, Muriel Chambers, Helen Clark, Anita Collings, Vin Farmer, Helen Fox, Natalie Hawkes, Robyn Holley, Sue Rogers, Alison Taylor, Sarah Wilson, Jonathan Baron, Tim Clarke, Jim Crimmins, Alf Farmer, Richard Herring, Marea Irving, Richard Lovewell, Danny Mullane, Steve Rogers, Tom Whelan, Bryan White, Darren White.