

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director: Stephen Kenna

Pianists: Tracey Wheeler
Colin Lee

Bass: Stan Smith

Percussion: Sid Cooper

Previous Productions of the Society

1922 H.M.S. Pinafore	1966 Gypsy Love
1923 The Pirates of Penzance	H.M.S. Pinafore (CV)
1924 Ruddigore	Call Me Madam
1925 Patience	Iolanthe (CV)
1926 The Yeomen of the Guard	1968 The Desert Song
1927 Dorothy	Patience (CV)
1928 Les Cloches de Corneville	1969 Rose Marie
1929 The Mikado	The Mikado
1930 The Gondoliers	1970 Free as Air
1931 Falke	The Pirates of Penzance
1932 H.M.S. Pinafore	1971 Oklahoma!
1933 Merris England	Trial by Jury
1934 Tom Jones	H.M.S. Pinafore
1935 The Geisha	1972 The Merry Widow
1936 Dorothy	The Gondoliers
1937 The Maid of the Mountains	1973 Carousel
1938 The Street Singer	Patience
1939 Goodnight Vienna	1976 South Pacific
1947 Miss Hook of Holland	Ruddigore
1948 Maritza	1977 Guys & Dolls
1949 Katinka	Utopia Ltd
1950 The Lilac Domino	1978 White Horse Inn
1951 Rio Rita	Mikado
1952 Wild Violets	1979 Brigadoon
1953 Magyar Melody	Princess Ida
1954 Carissima	1980 Orpheus in the Underworld
1955 Rose Marie	Iolanthe
1956 Tulip Time	1981 Summer Song
1957 White Horse Inn	The Quaker Girl
1958 Gypsy Princess	1982 Desert Song
1959 The Merry Widow	Cox & Box & Sorcerer
1960 Bless the Bride	1983 Oklahomal
1961 The Boy Friend	The Pirates of Penzance
1962 Grab me a Gondola	1984 My Fair Lady
1963 The Quaker Girl	
1964 The New Moon	
The Mikado (CV)	
1965 The Maid of the Mountains	
The Pirates of Penzance (CV)	

Witham Amateur Operatic Society

Inaugurated in 1921

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WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Free as Air

A Musical in Two Acts



22nd - 27th
October 1984

PUBLIC HALL WITHAM

Book & Lyrics by
DOROTHY REYNOLDS & JULIAN SLADE
Music by
JULIAN SLADE

Produced and directed by
PETER GREEN & CYNTHIA STEAD
Musical Director STEPHEN KENNA

THE STORY

Molly sings:

I'm the maiden
Who loved the hero
Who helped the reporter
To coax the uncle
Who pestered the lady
Because of the nephew
Who loved the girl from London
She who ran away

And that is the framework of the story — a fairy story set in modern times on two mythical islands — Terhou and Jersey. Terhou, according to Lord Paul (the uncle), has been mentioned in the Geographical Magazine as uninhabited. In fact it is anything but — an unspoiled community whose only contact with civilisation is the monthly boat between the two islands.

On this boat, one summer's day, comes Geraldine (the girl from London), a reluctant heiress, seeking respite from Ivy (the reporter) and Jack (the hero). And so the confusion starts, for outsiders have never set foot on the island since Posthumous Lascivius in 54 B.C. Albert (the nephew) falls for Geraldine and Miss Catamole drives Lord Paul to drink — in Jersey. There Ivy and Jack persuade him to take them back to the island with him. Molly, who has always wanted a man from the mainland, falls for Jack and so the plot is complete.

Where will the story end?
All this confusion
Began with a girl who ran
To seek seclusion.

"Free as Air" opened at the Savoy Theatre, London on 6th June, 1957 and ran for 410 performances. It was to some extent overshadowed by 'Salad Days' which, written by the same team of Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade, opened at the tiny Vaudeville theatre on 5th August, 1954 and was only taken off on 27th February, 1960 having run for the record number of 2,282 performances.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Witham Amateur Operatic Society (Spring Production)
SHOWBOAT (22nd - 27th April 1985)

Witham Dramatic Club (Autumn Production)
CABARET (21st - 24th November 1984)

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

present

FREE AS AIR

(by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.)

Book and Lyrics by DOROTHY REYNOLDS and JULIAN SLADE

Music by JULIAN SLADE

CAST

MOLLY	Lorraine Ely
MR. MUTCH, the shopkeeper	Edward Maltby
MR. POTTER, the bailiff	Geoff Coverdale
MISS CATAMOLE	Pat Briggs
GREGORY, Bindweed's assistant	David Songer
BINDWEED, the gardener	Peter Green
LORD PAUL POSTHUMOUS, the Lord of the Manor	Mike Pilling
TOM FERRIER, a boatman	Dick Enfield
GERALDINE MELFORD, an heiress	Helene Jones
ALBERT POSTHUMOUS, Lord Paul's nephew	Simon Mitchell
FRANCINE, the barmaid	Cynthia Stead
IVY CRUSH, a woman reporter	Paula Pilling
JACK AMERSHAM, a racing motorist	Stewart Adkins
FIRST REPORTER	David Green
SECOND REPORTER	Edna Starling
THIRD REPORTER	Mark Rasmussen

ISLANDERS, MECHANICS AND SUPPORTERS

Julie Hampshire	Cynthia Meek	Patricia Robinson	Malcolm Lowe
Janice Hawkes	Elisabeth Miller	Edna Starling	David Songer
Ann Marsden	Yvonne Mitchell	Carole Turner	Dick Enfield
			Mark Rasmussen

Stage Manager: Audrey King

Lighting: Robin Dedman

Stage Crew: Les King, Mick Adams, Nick Clough, Roger Clark, John Reed, Andrew Chalkley

Derek Hunt, Philip Harris, Tom Barnes, Ron Howe

Properties: Ann Hunt, Dorothy Reed, Mandy Smith, Karen Walford

Make-up: June Smith

Wardrobe: Alison Brewer, Cynthia Meek, Nesta Hinchliffe

Prompt: Jo Wood

Front of House: John Gunson

Programmes: June Locke

Scenery: Stage Productions

Costumes: Lyndon Theatrical Costume Hire Service, Ace Costumes, & The Society

Accompanist in rehearsal: Tracey Wheeler

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

SCENE 1	The Well on Terhou. <i>Morning.</i>
SCENE 2	Front Cloth.
SCENE 3	The Seashore. <i>Morning.</i>
SCENE 4	Island Front Cloth. <i>Later the same morning.</i>
SCENE 5	Exterior of Shop and Miss Catamole's House. <i>Afternoon of the same day.</i>
SCENE 6	Island Front Cloth. <i>Early the same evening.</i>
SCENE 7	The Bar of the Octopus Hotel, Jersey. <i>Later the same evening.</i>
SCENE 8	Island Front Cloth. <i>Later the same night.</i>
SCENE 9	Exterior of Shop and Miss Catamole's House. <i>Immediately following.</i>

ACT II

SCENE 1	The terrace of the Big House. <i>The following morning.</i>
SCENE 2	Front Cloth.
SCENE 3	The Well. <i>Later the same morning.</i>
SCENE 4	Island Front Cloth. <i>The afternoon of the same day.</i>
SCENE 5	The Seashore. <i>Later that afternoon.</i>
SCENE 6	Island Front Cloth. <i>Later that afternoon.</i>
SCENE 7	The Bar of the Octopus Hotel. <i>Early evening of the same day.</i>
SCENE 8	Island Front Cloth. <i>A little later that evening.</i>
SCENE 9	The Well. <i>Sunset.</i>

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

OVERTURE	Molly and Islanders
"I'M UP EARLY"	Potter, Mutch, Lord Paul and Chorus
REPRISE, "I'M UP EARLY"	Mutch, Potter and Lord Paul
"LET THE GRASS GROW"	Mutch, Potter and Lord Paul
DANCE AND REPRISE, "LET THE GRASS GROW"	Geraldine
"NOTHING BUT SEA AND SKY"	Islanders
"THE BOAT'S IN"	Albert and Geraldine
"FREE TO SING"	Molly
"A MAN FROM THE MAINLAND"	Ensemble
REPRISE, "FREE TO SING"	Geraldine and Albert
REPRISE, "NOTHING BUT SEA AND SKY"	Ivy and Ensemble
"DAILY ECHO"	Jack and Chorus
"HER MUMMY DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE"	Lord Paul, Ivy and Jack
REPRISE, "THE BOAT'S IN"	Ensemble
"THE GIRL FROM LONDON"	

ACT II

REPRISE, "A MAN FROM THE MAINLAND"	Molly, Jack and Girls
"I'D LIKE TO BE LIKE YOU"	Albert and Geraldine
"TESTUDO"	Ensemble
"I'VE GOT MY FEET ON THE GROUND"	Jack and Molly
"HOLIDAY ISLAND"	Ensemble
"GERALDINE"	Reporters
REPRISE, "FREE TO SING"	Ensemble
"WE'RE HOLDING HANDS"	Miss Catamole and Potter
"TERHOU"	Molly and the Company
FINALE	The Company