

BWT Report

SOUTH PACIFIC

Romantic Musical

SOUTH Pacific is a musical brimming over with well-known songs and Witham Amateur Operatic Society gave capacity audiences the chance to hear them at the Public Hall last week.

In an American military setting the men's chorus were soldiers and the ladies nurses and islanders. The story centres on two romances blighted by racial prejudice.

Pat McLeod brought vitality and enthusiasm to her part as the leading lady. Stewart Adkins was the Frenchman who by his heroism turned the course of the war. His pleasant voice combined well with that of Pat McLeod.

This show gives opportunities to many minor characters. Nicholas Ladd caught the eye as the professor. Children are often ill at ease on stage but Charlotte and Anthony Clough were refreshingly natural as children of the Frenchman. The chorus came into its own with the camp entertainment on Thanksgiving Day, in particular the women's chorus.

Surprisingly the producer, Derek Collins, gave the chorus very little to do, resulting in a rather static production. Brian Brown was the Musical Director and led the Chelmsford Sinfonietta. The sets and costumes were very effective, and the many scene changes worked smoothly.

Geoff Coverdale was the commander of the base and Tim Nash his assistant. Michael Dunion as Luther Billis made their life difficult with his antics. Philip Cousins as an Officer had a very easy style and a voice to match. Lucy Yeeles as the native girl moved beautifully. The romance was however doomed because of their different races. Janet Wash seemed to enjoy herself as Bloody Mary.

The audience certainly enjoyed the vitality outstanding, larger than life production.