

1985 La Vie Parisienne

BWT report

A Taste of Paris

PARIS, where all the women are young and all the men are middle-aged, is the theme of La Vie Parisienne courageously taken by Witham Operatic Society for their autumn show. On the first night the home made scenery was easy on the eye, the costumes from earlier in the century were most attractive and there was some good singing of Offenbach's catchy music.

I fear the production was somewhat hackneyed to start with. Couples in act one were liable to be arrested for loitering and there was little originality in the grouping. However, who were we to complain when we had glamorous Patsy Doy as Gabrielle, Elisabeth Miller as the Baroness, ebullient Stewart Adkins as a millionaire from foreign parts and Tom Magnone with Howard Brooks as a couple of gentlemen out for a good time.

And a very well-judged character performance from Nicholas Clough as Baron Gondremarck. Lorraine Ely was ideally cast as saucy Metella. She walked the stage delightfully but a cold had deprived her of her singing voice — let US hope it will return very soon. But Pat Briggs was in very good form as Pauline, and the housekeeper Geoff Coverdale, was impressive in everything he did.

Gilbert Sutcliffe

1985 La Vie Parisienne

BWT report

A Taste of Paris

PARIS, where all the women are young and all the men are middle-aged, is the theme of La Vie Parisienne courageously taken by Witham Operatic Society for their autumn show. On the first night the home made scenery was easy on the eye, the costumes from earlier in the century were most attractive and there was some good singing of Offenbach's catchy music.

I fear the production was somewhat hackneyed to start with. Couples in act one were liable to be arrested for loitering and there was little originality in the grouping. However, who were we to complain when we had glamorous Patsy Doy as Gabrielle, Elisabeth Miller as the Baroness, ebullient Stewart Adkins as a millionaire from foreign parts and Tom Magnone with Howard Brooks as a couple of gentlemen out for a good time.

And a very well-judged character performance from Nicholas Clough as Baron Gondremarck. Lorraine Ely was ideally cast as saucy Metella. She walked the stage delightfully but a cold had deprived her of her singing voice — let US hope it will return very soon. But Pat Briggs was in very good form as Pauline, and the housekeeper Geoff Coverdale, was impressive in everything he did.

Gilbert Sutcliffe