

Surrey Mirror & County Post

EAST SURREY OPERATIC SOCIETY

FRIDAY MARCH 28th 1958

OKLAHOMA!

Andrew Glass and Molly Greaves as Curly and Laurey, give faultless performances and capture the hearts as the perfect young lovers. Mr Glass's interpretation of "Out of my Dreams" is one of the highlights of the play, and blended with Miss Greaves voice in the duet "People will say we're in Love", they form a perfect combination of power and sweetness. Mr Glass is a very gifted actor, and with his strong, rich voice, he tends to outshine all others on the stage when he is singing.

Oklahoma! has proved to be one of the East Surrey Operatic Society's most successful box office productions. There were full houses for three of the six performances and few empty seats on the other occasions. This is the first time the society have attempted a modern musical but it is intended, after last week's run, to present more light operas of this kind. Each night the quality of the show seemed to develop a little, and the final performance on Saturday night raised cheers and loud applause from a completely satisfied audience. The Society's success was all the more creditable as there were four newcomers in leading roles. Sandra Macdonald and Andrew Pearch, who took the parts of Laurey and Curley in the dancing scenes, were appearing in a large show for the first time; Gordon Elsey, too had, previous to this part, never acted outside school. He played the rascally Casanova of the play, Will Parker, and Wendy Fraser played her first big part as Pigtails. All of them gave outstanding interpretations and made it difficult to realise that they were only amateurs.

There was a potential danger to the play on Saturday when Andrew Glass, who took the leading part as Curley, developed a cold. However, not only was his singing faultless and his cold overcome, he also gave his best performance of the week. After the last house on Saturday bouquets were presented to the principals.

Special congratulations should go to the ladies of the chorus: M. Colvin, S. Dunn, N. Hare, G. Hayter, S. Hobbs, M. Knight, C. Pearch, J. Gascoigne-Pees, A. Porteus, G. Reynolds, I. Skinner, K. Smith, S. Smith and S. Webb; gentlemen of the chorus: F. Bacon, H. Barber, J. Brough, T. Cooper, E. Crawley, D. Jackson, K. and S. Nightingale, J. Pearch, J. Gascoigne-Pees, G. Simmonds, D. Scott and W. Waters.

Mr D. Chantler, speaking on behalf of the Society's committee, said that *Oklahoma!* had been successful in every way; box office results were good and the large cast had given a chance for some of the younger members of the Society to show what they could do.

The conductor of the orchestra (which was provided by the Redhill Society of Instrumentalists) was appearing for the last time with the Operatic Society. He is shortly to go to Germany where he will be conducting a German orchestra. Dale Jackson, another newcomer to the Society, who is a Canadian, proved to be a useful member, in schooling the actors to speak with the correct accents. A great deal of the praise should go to the producer, Elsie Rendell.