

THE
DESERT
SONG



**SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME**

10p

MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP



MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP

(Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association)

PRESENT

THE DESERT SONG

By Arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

BOOKS AND LYRICS BY

OTTO HARBACH, OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN 2nd. and FRANK MANDEL

MUSIC BY SIGMUND ROMBERG

WEEK COMMENCING OCTOBER 15th 1973

Production JOHN H. PALIN

Dances arranged by JEAN PATTERSON

Chorus Mistress VILMA MELLOR A.R.M.C.M.

Musical Director MAURICE GREENHAM L.L.C.M.(TD)

MAJESTIC THEATRE ORCHESTRA *Leader:* W.H. PERKINS

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THE MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the third production of the Majestic Theatre Group, after the outstanding successes of 'Oliver' and 'South Pacific' all members of the Group are on their toes to prove themselves once again in a completely contrasting show.

'The Desert Song' has demanded a supreme amount of concentration from the cast and all the vital members of the stage staff, but they have risen to the occasion magnificently and their tremendous enthusiasm, combined with so much talent has revealed the great team spirit that exists throughout the group.

I am confident that their many months of sheer effort and hard work will result in a most enjoyable performance for you - So now the haunting melodies of 'The Desert Song' - and may I thank you for your kind support which is greatly appreciated

HARRY SMITH

Hon. Life Member Richard Healey

VICE PRESIDENTS

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STAN LEE MARGARET SMITH

HON. AUDITORS

F.H. NEWTON MARY CUNNINGHAM



MAURICE GREENHAM
(Musical Director)



JEAN PATTERSON
(Choreographer)



VILMA MELLOR
(Chorus Mistress)



THE DANCERS



LEW PRITCHARD
(Red Shadow/Pierre)



PAULINE BAXENDALE
(Margot)

The Desert Song

THE STORY

The action takes place in Fez in Morocco and in the surrounding Mountains and Deserts.

Both Pierre Birabeau, the son of the Governor of Morocco, and Captain Paul Fontaine are in love with Margot Bonvalet. When the operetta opens Pierre's reputation and his chance of Margot's favour is clouded by the stigma of treachery and cowardice. This false impression prevails because some years earlier as a junior officer he refused to be a party to what seemed to him to be a senseless and cruel massacre in one of the interminable village raids. He scorned chances of vindicating these charges either to his father, General Birabeau (then commanding the French Forces in Morocco) or to his fellow officers, and, by the time we meet him has become a 'Scarlet Pimpernel' figure - a weakling to his family and friends but, in reality, the elusive 'Red Shadow'. All the cunning and strategy of the occupying French Forces failed to ambush this flamboyant Leader of the Riff Brigand Band whose exploits are constant mortification to the Governor and the military colony. Every ambitious officer regards the capture of the 'Red Shadow' as potential laurels for his military advancement. Paul Fontaine even promises Margot the head of the rebel as a wedding present.

Margot's attitude to her two lovers is understandingly indecisive although drawn to Pierre, she is repulsed by his apparent spinelessness whilst Paul, on the other hand, treats life with a military obtuseness which she finds equally daunting. Unbeknown to her suitors and perhaps even to herself, the 'Red Shadow' gradually becomes for her a symbol of male courage and independence.

The ramifications of this theme are obviously lively, and the complications are augmented by a secondary theme of the native girl Azuri's love for Paul. In an effort to win Paul's admiration and gratitude Azuri is willing to betray the 'Red Shadow' but, being disbelieved and repulsed, swears vengeance on both Paul and Margot.

The story ends happily when Pierre risks his life by visiting Margot in his disguise as the 'Red Shadow', although he is unaware that the place is surrounded by French Troops. In the course of a fiery scene between them Margot announces that it is Pierre whom she really loves, a confession to which the 'Red Shadow' can find little objection. Only when captured and condemned to death by his own father does Pierre reveal his true identity, which gives satisfaction to everyone except the luckless Paul and he, at least, is given the chance of behaving like an 'Officer and Gentleman'.

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GLYN TAYLOR
(Sid El Kar)



PAT PENNEY
(Clementina)



COLIN READ
(Ali Ben Ali)



LADIES CHORUS



TONY ROSE JOHN SCOFIELD
(Mindar) (Hass)



ALMA McINTYRE
(Neri)
KEN WHITTAKER GEORGE BROWN
(Hadji) (Sergeant de Boussac)



DAVID WATSON CAROL TAYLOR
(Lieut. La Vergne) (Edith)



HARRY LEVERINGTON
(Paul)



GLEND A MEADOWCROFT
(Azuri)



DEREK PEARN
(General Birabeau)



KENNETH SAWYER
(Benjamin Kidd)



CAROL BARBER
(Susan)



GENTLEMEN'S CHORUS

1971-1973

THE DESI

Entire Production Division

The Cast

Sid El Kar	GLYN TAYLOR
Hadji	KEN WHITTAKER
Neri	ALMA McINTYRE
Benjamin Kidd	KENNETH SAWYER
Capt. Paul Fontaine	HARRY LEVERINGTON
Margot Bonvalet	PAULINE BAXENDALE
General Birabeau	DEREK PEARN
Pierre Birabeau)	
The Red Shadow)	LEW PRITCHARD
Susan	CAROL BARBER
Azurl	GLENDIA MEADOWCROFT
Ali Ben Ali	COLIN READ
Clementina	PAT PENNEY
Mindar	TONY ROSE
Hassi	JOHN SCOFIELD
Lieut. La Vergne	DAVID WATSON
Sergeant De Boussac	GEORGE BROWN



Ladies of the Chorus

Carol Taylor, Carol Payne, Margo Barratt, Mary Cunningham, Margaret Comish, Diane Charmer, Joy Farmer, Jean Hunt, Rosa Lee, Vilma Mellor, Alma McIntyre, Brenda Mackintosh, Jean Massey, Dorothy Pomfret, Margaret Reeves, Mabel Taylor, Carol Watson, Deirdre Armriding, Helen Burton, Cherry Moss, Sylvia Pritchard, Edwina Widdows, Edna Roberts, Diane McIntyre, Jean Walker, Anne Pearn, Michele Foden, Jill Sandoe, Sheila MacDiarmid, Diane Clarke.



Gentlemen of the Chorus

David Watson, Keith Buckler, George Brown, John Bright, Paul Conner, Tom Farmer, John Griffith, George Penney, Wilfred Taylor, John Taylor, Robert Hopkins, Paul Warrington, Bernard Lancaster, Stan Jones, John Scofield, Tony Rose, Ken Whittaker.



Dancers

Sheila Rose, Sheila MacDiarmid, Kathryn Baxendale, Elizabeth Baxendale, Elaine Bellerby, Julie Hill, Jane Cotterill, Sherel Goddard, Ann Bailey, Elizabeth O'Donovan, Carol Payne.

THE DESERT SONG

3rd Production

Directed by John H. Palin

ACT ONE

- Scene 1. Retreat of Red Shadow in the Riff Mountains. Evening.
Scene 2. Outside General Birabeau's House. The same evening.
Scene 3. A room in the General's House. A few minutes later.

INTERVAL 15 MINUTES THE THEATRE BAR IS NOW OPEN

ACT TWO

- Scene 1. The Harem of Ali Ben Ali. Afternoon of the following day.
Scene 2. The Corridor. A few minutes later.
Scene 3. The Room of the Silken Coach. A few minutes later.
Scene 4. The edge of the Desert. The following morning half an hour before dawn.
Scene 5. The Courtyard of General Birabeau's House. Two days later.

THE MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR MAURICE GREENHAM

Violins: W.H. Perkins (Leader), R.K. Tatten, N. Black, S. Guy, J. Teagle
Viola: Nancy Hughes *Cello:* B. Scott *Bass:* F. Goodfellow *Flute:* D. Drackley *Oboe:* J. Chadwick
Clarinets: R. Griffiths *P.* Gibson *Bassoon:* W. Hankinson *Trumpets:* J. Dootson, J. Cooke *Trombone:* A. Wood
Percussion: G.R. Livie *Horns:* F. Bertinshaw *Piano:* Kathleen McGhie

MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER



JOHN H. PALIN

It is my pleasure once again to present my production of Macclesfield's 3rd. Musical 'The Desert Song'.

I hope this will bring back happy memories to many and at the same time meet with the approval of the younger members of our audiences. Once again our production is 'tailor made' apart from the uniforms, Mrs. Patterson as usual has done a wonderful job as Wardrobe Mistress. Our Stage Staff again have constructed ALL the scenery to specifications for the Majestic Stage, since May thousands of man hours have been spent on production construction, lighting, decor, sound, make-up, front of house and properties, please spare one moment to glance at our credit page, to these people working as a team I tender my grateful thanks for their full co-operation, if we are successful in this our 3rd. production it is the result of team work.

This year we welcome Maurice Greenham as Musical Director the result of his guiding hand and that of our Chorus Mistress Vilma Mellor you will judge for yourself this evening.

To you our audience, without whom the whole project would be pointless, our appreciation for your continued support by which we hope to continue to provide live theatre -
For Macclesfield - By Macclesfield.

JOHN H. PALIN

THE DESERT SONG

PROGRAMME OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Opening Chorus	Sid El Kar and Riffs
The Riff Song	The Red Shadow and the Riffs
Margot	Paul and the Soldiers
I'll Be A Buoyant Gal	Susan and Edith
Why Did We Marry Soldiers?	Edith and Singing Girls
French Military Marching Song	Margot, Girls and Soldiers
Romance	Margot and Singing Girls
Then You Will Know	Margot, Pierre and Chorus
I Want A Kiss	Paul, Margot, Pierre and Chorus
It	Susan, Bennie and Dancing Girls
The Desert Song	Margot and The Red Shadow

ACT TWO

My Little Castagnette	Clementina and the Girls
Song Of The Brass Key	Clementina, Ali Ben Ali and Girls
Spanish Dance	The Girls
One Good Boy Gone Wrong	Bennie and Dancing Girls
Let Love Go	Ali Ben Ali
If One Flower Grows Alone	Sid El Kar
One Alone	The Red Shadow and Chorus of Riffs
Sabre Song	Margot
Reprise: The Desert Song	Margot and The Red Shadow
Reprise: It	Susan, Bennie and Dancing Girls



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The Desert Song

FOR THE MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP

<i>Stage Director</i>	Bert Goddard	<i>Choreographers Assistant</i>	Elaine Bellerby
<i>Stage Manager</i>	John Meadowcroft	<i>Rehearsal Accompanist</i>	Bruce Wood
<i>Lighting</i>	Ron W. Knight	<i>Publicity</i>	Derrick Thorley
<i>House Manager</i>	Stan Lee	<i>Programme Compiled by</i>	Fred H. Newton
<i>Assistant</i>	Doug Pickford	<i>Hairdresser</i>	Carol Taylor
<i>Scenery Design</i>	John H. Palin & Bob Payne	<i>Make-up Devised by</i>	Anne Ryder
<i>Decor</i>	David McDowell	<i>Assistants</i>	Colin Read Mary Pearn Dorothy Brown Susan Bright Stan Wild
<i>Sound</i>	Bob Payne	<i>Scenery Constructed by</i>	John Meadowcroft Alan Bickley Derick Massey George Brown Paul Connor Harry Leverington Bert Goddard Tony Rose John Blackburn Dennis Moss Mark Elkin Martin Heath John Sandoe
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	Derick Massey & Alan Bickley		
<i>Stage Staff</i>	Norman Heaps Michael Dabs Barry Armitt Fred Amos Leo Donnelly Brian Jefferson John Blackburn Martin Heathcote John Sandoe		
<i>Wardrobe Mistress</i>	Doris Patterson		
<i>Wardrobe Assistant</i>	Margaret Cotterill		
<i>Properties</i>	Margaret Hilditch Barbara Taylor Dennis Moss	<i>Refreshments during Construction</i>	Sheila MacDairmid
<i>Front Of House Staff</i>	Members of the Group		

FOR THE MAJESTIC CINEMA

<i>Director and Secretary</i>	Peter W. Higginbotham
<i>Manager</i>	Derrick Thorley
<i>Electricians</i>	Arthur Woolrich Derek Farr



A few of the Stage, Front of House Staff and Social Committee:

MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP

VISITORS

A warm welcome to our visitors, from many parts of Cheshire and adjacent Counties. We hope they enjoy our production and wish everyone a safe journey home.

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BAPTIST LADIES AUXILLARY
ST. LUKES LADIES CIRCLE, GOOSTREY
MACCLESFIELD EVENING TOWNSWOMENS GUILD
POTT SHRIGLEY LADIES FELLOWSHIP
and others received since the programme went to print

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank Mr. P.W. Higginbotham, fellow Directors and Staff of the Majestic Cinema.
The Local Press
The Baptist Chapel, St. Georges Street (Rehearsal Rooms)
Mr. J.D. Sefton for photographs
Blacks of Macclesfield, 8 Market Place, Macclesfield for Loan of Riding Habit
Programme and Raffle Ticket Sellers
The many ladies and Gentlemen not individually acknowledged in this programme who have in any way contributed to the production
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IN IAN FLEMMINGS

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JACK SMETHURST & NINA BADEN-SEMPER
IN

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

NOV 26th.

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IN

MAN AT THE TOP

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also

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THE MAJESTIC THEATRE GROUP

Why not become a member of the Group?

As well as taking part in productions, members also have an active social life, these are just a few events which have been arranged; Dinner Dance, Treasure Hunt, Social Evenings and a Winter Holiday in Benidorm.

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

Just fill in your details below and hand it to any of the House Staff or return it to our Hon. Secretary, Colin Read, 155 Buxton Road, Macclesfield.

I am interested in joining the Majestic Theatre Group as :
Vice President/Acting/Singing Member/Dancer/Back Stage Staff/
Wardrobe Staff/etc.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

TELEPHONE