

MACKAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

presents

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S

The KING and I

By Arrangement with Chappel & Co.

6 - 9 SEPTEMBER, 1965

BEHIND THE SCENES

STAGE MANAGER: Jim Brown.

ELECTRICS AND LIGHTING: Roy Cowan

SOUND: Malcolm Lowe

PROMPT: Beryl Smalley

WARDROBE: Margo Arbuthnot assisted by Jeanette Brown and Beryl Smalley

MAKE-UP: Kerry Cook

And the Community Theatre Stage Crew

We acknowledge with thanks assistance given by 4MK and Mrs. Yared of "Tops" Bridal Wear and all others who in any way helped towards tonight's production

Special thanks to Josephine Colby and Jim Barry who provided piano accompaniment during rehearsals.

We take special pride in the decor and costuming for this production because they have been designed and made locally

The set was designed by Jim Brown who also constructed the set for Jim Bussell's last production "Teahouse".

Jim Brown was assisted in the set construction by Max Rose, John Buttell and others.

The costumes were designed and made by Margo Arbuthnot, assisted from time to time by Beryl Smalley, Mrs E. Yared and Jeanette Brown.

We're sure you'll agree that their talents and efforts have greatly added to the success of this production.

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ABOUT THE SHOW

The story of "Anna and the King of Siam" was adapted from the novel by Margaret Landon for a movie of the same name starring Irene Dunne and Rex Harrison. It was from this film that Oscar Hammerstein evolved the musical "The King and I" along with his long time collaborator Richard Rodgers, whose beautiful music combined with Hammerstein's skilful lyrics set the show for a long and successful run. It opened in 1951 on Broadway with Gertrude Lawrence and Yul Brynner in the lead parts. Brynner caused a sensation by completely shaving his head which added much to the publicity. The Show was an immediate success with its songs on everyone's lips. "I Whistle a Happy Tune", "Getting to Know You", "It's a Puzzlement" and "Shall We Dance" among the favourites. One of the most popular scenes was the "March of the Siamese Children". Possibly the most beautiful song of the Show is sung by the young lovers Lun Tha and Tuptim, "We Kiss In the Shadows".

The London Production opened in 1953 with Herbert Lom and Valerie Hobson in the leads.

Following the stage success, M.G.M. made the film version with Deborah Kerr and the bald-headed Yul Brynner, again playing the King.

Tonight's production is of the original stage version and calls on the combined talents of over seventy people not the least of whom is the producer, Jim Bussell.

Jim has had over fifteen years experience with musical comedy since he started in his home town, Tamworth in N.S.W. Since then he had appeared in Cairns and Townsville and last but not least in Mackay. In Townsville, Jim produced many successful shows including "The Women" and "Teahouse of the August Moon". It was following his success with the latter show that he was transferred to Mackay and made his mark by producing the Community Theatre production of "The Teahouse of the August Moon", which set box office records which still stand second only to the highly successful "Pygmalion". Jim played the rascally dustman "Doolittle" in "Pygmalion", a performance which was hailed by the critics.

Assisting Jim in this most ambitious production are John Bull as Musical Director and Betty Meskell as Choreographer.

John Bull is a well-known figure in the music world of Mackay being the Education Department's Music Specialist teacher and also Conductor of the very successful Mackay Junior Choral Society.

John has produced musicals for the Mackay Choral Society, "Sally", "The Country Girl" and "Maid of the Mountains" to name a few, but he is best known, perhaps, for his work in organising the Annual Mackay Eisteddfod. A dedicated musician, John knows how to get the best out of a voice. We're sure you'll agree after tonight's performance.

The third member, but not the least of the production team, is Betty Meskell, a talented dancer and teacher of the dance who danced professionally in the South before returning to Mackay to establish her very successful and popular School.

Betty's outstanding contribution to tonight's show is the Ballet sequence "The Small House of Uncle Thomas" choreographed by her and danced by pupils of her school.

Tonight's production marks another first for Mackay Community Theatre and is consistent with our policy of bringing variety and quality before you, the Theatre goers of Mackay.

We trust that you will enjoy this lavish and spectacular show.

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The KING and I

By Rodgers and Hammerstein

THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

THE ROYAL WIVES

Jan Chardon: Kerry Cook
Angela Bugala: Helen Bourke
Berns Tomkins: Kay Tilse
Helen Trim

THE ROYAL CHILDREN

Donna Formo: Debbie Black
Debbie Moy: Karen Howe
Helen McFadden: Robin Dixon
Ellen Juhász: Terry Brunkhorst
Kay Sturgeon: Karen Sturgeon
Kerry Standing: Kerry Harris
Judith Atkinson: Vianne McLean
Helen Doherty: Carol Cox
Nolene Smith: Ailaine O'Mahoney

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

JOHN BULL

CAPTAIN ORTON
LOUIS LEONOWENS
ANNA LEONOWENS
INTERPRETER
KRALAHOME
KING
PHRA ALACK
LUN THA
TUPTIM
LADY THIANG
PRINCE CHULULUNGKORN
SIR EDWARD RAMSAY
SECRETARY
SLAVE

PRODUCER:

JIM BUSSELL

LES PING
MARK ORCHARD
RHONDDA ULLMAN
MERV ALLAN
BRIAN PHILLIPS
IAN COOK
TOM SLATER
KEITH PHILLIPS
PATSY BURKE
BIDDY DOCHERTY
JOHN DOHERTY
HERB GRIMLEY
ROGER GREEN
NEV HALL

THEATRE ROYAL
MACKAY

SEPT. 6, 7, 8, 9,
1965

THE ROYAL DANCERS

Dorothy Massie: Annette Lounie
Marion Redford: Ruth Gifford
Susan Gifford: Linda Hinchey
Helen Kucharski: Bronwyn Keen

THE ORCHESTRA

Violin	Bern Power
Trumpet	Neville Wilson
	John Rose
Trumpbone	Bob Howe
Percussion	Carl Wilson
Piano	Shirley Todd

CHOREOGRAPHER:

BETTY MESKELL

SYNOPSIS OF ACTS

The Place: Siam

The Time: The Nineteenth Century

ACT I

- Scene 1 The Deck of the "Chow Phya"
- Scene 2 The King's Study
- Scene 3 The King's Study
- Scene 4 The Schoolroom in the Palace
- Scene 5 Anna's Apartments in the Palace
- Scene 6 The King's Study

ACT II

- Scene 1 A Reception Room in the Palace
- Scene 2 The Palace Garden
- Scene 3 The Theatre Pavilion
- Scene 4 The King's Study
- Scene 5 A Room in Anna's House
- Scene 6 The King's Study

FINALE

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ABOUT THE CAST

Making her Mackay stage debut is **Rhonda Ullman** (Anna). A well known personality in Mackay, Rhonda is in reality making a comeback to the stage. She was a member of Brisbane's Twelfth Night Theatre for six years and sang with the Queensland Light Opera Company in many productions, singing the lead in "Maritana" and "Bohemian Girl".

No stranger to the Mackay stage is **Ian Cook** (The King). Ian is a versatile and reliable actor who has played in "The Little Hut", "Sailor Beware", "The Trapper" to mention a few. He is the possessor of a pleasing and powerful baritone voice and this combined with his fine physique made him an ideal choice for the King.

Appearing for the first time in Mackay is **Patsy Burke** (Tuptim). Patsy trained as a classical singer at the Sydney Conservatorium and sang with the Hurlston Choral Society before coming to Mackay. Her beautiful soprano voice is ideally suited to the Richard Rodgers score.

Singing opposite Patsy is a well known Mackay singer **Keith Phillips** (Lun Tha) whose fine voice has been heard in Mackay Choral Society productions of "Sally", "The Country Girl" and recently "Iolanthe".

Keith is also an experienced actor appearing in many Community Theatre productions, the last one being "Teahouse".

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ABOUT THE CAST

(Continued)

Another well known Mackay singer and actress in this cast is **Biddy Docherty** (Lady Thiang). Biddy's recent appearances have been in "Desert Song" and "Iolanthe" with the Choral Society and "Sailor Beware" with the Theatre.

Making his debut in this production is **Mark Orchard** (Louis Anna's Son). This youngster has a strong voice and confidence to spare.

Brian Phillips (Kralahome) appears in his first full production. His last appearance was in the one act play "A Custom More Honoured".

Tom Slater (Phra Alack) and **Merv Allan** (Interpreter) return after successful appearances in our last production "The Shifting Heart".

John Doherty (Prince Chululungkorn) last appeared in "Teahouse" and sang in the quartette for "Only an Orphan Girl".

Herb Grimley (Sir Edward Ramsay) makes a welcome return after his last appearance as "Freddy Einsford-Hill" in "Pygmalion".

Les Ping (Captain Oston) has sung with the Choral Society in past productions but tonight is content with a non-singing part.

Roger Green (Secretary) last appeared in "One More River".

Space does not permit us to mention personally all the many Royal Wives, children and dancers who provide the essential background and support for the principals in this cast which is probably the largest amateur cast to appear on the stage in Mackay.

tastes delicatessen lunches as the ad boys say a new concept in theatre advertising by offering a free recipe to every purchaser of this lavish souvenier programme of the king and i the i is small as in inferiority complex roast pork first buy a pig in a poke if you aren't sure what a pig is take along a pig or a mohammedan a pig will steadfastly refuse to eat either carefully set fire to the poke if you have no matches rub two boy scouts together in the ensuing conflagration or fire as we say in english the pig will cook and transmute into roast pork before trying to eat the meat brush off any char ash clobber or boy scout which may be adhering a mervy business i hear you say then why not go to tastes delicatessen where for a few miserable shillings you can buy pork not only roasted but stuffed with fennel as well as seasoning so dont forget go to tastes and get stuffed pork but dont think thats all we sell foods our business comes to tastes and cultivate a tastes-with-calories attitude to life it also quite frankly helps to keep the wolf from our door at 60 wood street the long narrow shop with the short balding prep within shouting distance of this theatre dont shoot too loud you might ruin your chances

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THE MACKAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

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Senator I. A. C. Wood

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Mr. J. Brown

HON. SECRETARY:

Mrs. N. Green

HON. TREASURER:

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Mr. J. Buttell, Mr. R. S. Brown

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Mr. K. Kennett, Mr. J. Brown

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PUBLICITY AND PROGRAMMES:

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