

1985 *Brigadoon*

Enchanting musical form the mists

The musical *Brigadoon*, about two Americans who find a long forgotten village whilst walking in the highlands of Scotland, was an enchanting piece of theatre when it first opened in 1947. The fairy tale 18th century village, which appears out of the mist once every 100 years, brought with it an entrancing musical score.

The strong point of East Surrey Operatic Society's production last week at the Dorking Halls was without doubt the music and singing under the direction of Angela Barker. Both principal and choral singing was of the highest standard and the unaccompanied *Brigadoon* was beautifully executed.

David Thompson in the lead role as Tommy and Michelle Luck as Fiona were in perfect voice for the song "The Heather on the Hill"; just one highlight of two fine performances. Roger Nelson as Jeff and Pat Felstead as Meg were a fine comedy duo especially in Meg's song "The Love of My Life". Congratulations to Peter Benthom for his performance as Charlie Cameron. In the song "Come to Me. Bend to Me" he gave full rein to a fine voice and it provided a suitable opening for the ballet that followed, which was well choreographed by Shirley Knight and danced by Christine Lowenoff as Jean and the girls as bridesmaids.

Gillian Jarvis' direction kept the action going throughout. There was one memorable moment when a bagpiper in full Scottish regalia played the wedding procession in from the back of the audience.

Other performers worthy of mention were John Rapley as Mr Murdoch and Andrew Glass as Macgregor.

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