



"PIPPIN"

PRODUCER: GILL STAPLETON

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: JACKIE McFARLANE ASS. PRODUCER: VERA BOEKEE

CAST LIST

PIPPIN	COLIN WISE
LEADING PLAYER	KEVIN SHIPPEY
CHARLEMAGNE	JOHN PETCH
LEWIS	HOWARD STAPLETON
BERTHE	BRENDA WOODS
FASTRADA	PAULINE BAMBRIDGE
CATHERINE	VIV JACKMAN
THEO	JOE ALLEN
THE HEAD	CHRIS KETTERINGHAM
BEGGAR	JONATHAN SHIPPEY
PEASANT	ANDREW WARD
NOBLE	DAVID MARIS
FIELD MARSHALL	ANDREW MAXEY
TREASURER	ALAN BACHMAN
DANCER EXTRAORDINAIRE	CYNTHIA NAYLOR
DANCER ORDINAIRE	CATHERINE BUCK
CHARLEMAGNE'S GIRLFRIEND	MICHELE TWITCHETT
PETITIONER	KATRINA TWITCHETT
EXPERT ON STILTS	STEPHANIE SHIPPEY
ARTIST'S MODEL	SUE PAYNE
FIRE-BOX VOLUNTEER	RACHEL WARD
TERRIBLE TWINS	LOUISE WARD
& MORE	SARA WOODS

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THE PLAYERS

"PIPPIN"

Book by Roger O. Hirson

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Originally directed on the Broadway stage by BOB FOSSE

Produced by permission of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL
and JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD. LONDON

"THE SYNOPSIS"

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your entertainment tonight, we, "the players" give you the "true" story of Pippin, the first-born son of Emperor Charlemagne. Join us as we unravel the exciting tale of Pippin's search for complete fulfillment. Let the 'Leading Player' take you and Pippin along the road to mystery, war, family strife, seduction, murder, revolution and finally, of course, happiness.

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ACT I
MUSICAL NUMBERS

MAGIC TO DO
CORNER OF THE SKY
WAR IS A SCIENCE
GLORY
SIMPLE JOYS
NO TIME AT ALL
WITH YOU
SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE
MORNING GLOW

Leading Player & Company
Pippin
Charles & Company
Leading Player & Company
Leading Player
Berthe & The Boys
Pippin & The Girls
Fastrada
Pippin & Company

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

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ACT II
MUSICAL NUMBERS

THE RIGHT TRACK
THERE HE WAS
KIND OF WOMAN
EXTRAORDINARY
PRAYER FOR A DUCK
LOVE SONG
I GUESS I'LL MISS THE MAN
FINALE

Leading Player & Pippin
Catherine
Catherine & Heavenly Choir
Pippin
Theo & Pippin
Catherine & Pippin
Catherine
Leading Player & Company

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PIPPIN & THEO

THE BAND

Keyboards: Jackie McFarlane
Linda Henty
Lead Guitar: Stephen Meadwell

Bass Guitar: Lythe Grizzle
Drums: Chris Davis

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Stage Manager:	Derrick Mews	Wardrobe:	Bet Ilett
Ass. Stage Manager:	Gordon Clarke		Norma Shippey
Backstage:	Raymond Wiser	Make-up:	Alec Ilett
	Mick Robinson		Liz Ilett
	Tony Scott		Dawn Robinson
	Charles Layton	Lighting:	Tim Ward
	John Richmond		Jonathan Salmon
Props:	Olga Williams	Prompts:	Alison Frisby
Ass. by:	Doreen Kowelesky		Pam Hunt
	Liz Ilett	Publicity:	Kevin Shippey
	Alec Ilett	F.O.H.:	Sheila Petch
	Dawn Robinson		Pat Shippey
Secretary:	Pat Shippey		Brenda Richmond

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LEVERINGTON VILLAGE HALL COMM.
ST. AUDREY'S CONVENT SCHOOL
REHEARSAL FACILITIES

AND TO ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED IN
NUMEROUS WAYS WITH THIS PRODUCTION

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FOR COSTUME & FANCY DRESS HIRE
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An uplifting moment for (left to right) Chris Ketteringham, Colin Wise and Howard Stapleton with the chorus of WOADS production of 'Pippin'.
Picture: John Day Photographers.

'PIPPIN' — A SHOW NOT TO BE MISSED

A tale of mystery, war, family strife, seduction, Murder, revolution and finally, of course, happiness; that is the promise of Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of 'Pippin'.

And Tuesday night's opening performance at Angles Theatre of the musical comedy by Roger O Hirson certainly lived up to that pledge.

The society seem to revel in the challenge of Steven Schwartz demanding score and lyrics which swung from strong jazz tempos through traditional waltzes and ballads.

The old Grecian style of narrator was brought bang up to date by Kevin Shippey who punctuated the action with explanations and observations.

Mr Shippey, as the leading player, is even bestowed with magical powers to revoke time at one point.

Colin Wise gave a powerful portrayal of Pippin, a man tortured by his own high ideals and in search of total fulfillment.

"I promise not to waste my life in commonplace, everyday pursuits," determines Pippin. But despite the advantage of being

the first-born son of Emperor Charlemagne, his quest is far from simple.

Some well thought-out staging carried off a number of chorus scenes which could easily have slipped into sheer pantomime.

And John Petch, Howard Stapleton, Brenda Woods and Pauline Bambridge as Pippin's regally bizarre family inject humour through their lack of

understanding for Pippin and his aspirations.

The tale twists until the very last moment of justice +, and the Society can be proud of the strength of the whole show.

Running until tomorrow (Saturday), the performance produced by Gill Stapleton, should not be missed.

AH



The cast of "Pippin," Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's latest production, during rehearsals at the Angles Theatre.

Music and humour to be enjoyed

"PIPPIN," Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's choice for their annual summer show, is a theatrical experience not easy to categorise.

At times it is almost pantomimic and, if the audience tries to find some deep message in the plot, they may well finish up feeling baffled.

Jill Stapleton, the producer, has no doubt how it should be regarded.

"It is a fun piece — fun for the audience and fun for those taking part," she says. "One shouldn't look too hard for hidden meanings but should just sit back and enjoy the music and the humour."

find fulfilment but never quite succeeding whether it be a soldier, emperor, politician or lover.

Colin Wise, who made such a fine debut with the society in "Gigi," gives another splendid portrayal as Pippin, imbuing the part with a little of Norman Wisdom and rather more of Frank Spencer.

•Narrator

He is just one of a particularly strong cast of principals, essential in a show which demands singing of the highest quality. And here one can only say what a pleasure it is to hear the beautifully pure voice of Vivien Jackman filling a Wisbech theatre once more.

John Petch is a dominating figure as Charlemagne, and Pauline Bambridge, battling

against a throat infection, performs bravely as his wife.

Other leading roles are taken by Howard Stapleton, Brenda Woods and Kevin Shippey, who tries to keep the audience in touch with the action as the narrator.

There is, too, a delightful contribution from young Joe Allen.

The whole show is given added vibrancy by a lively chorus and an accomplished musical group under the direction of Jackie MacFarlane.

"Pippin" opened at the Angles Theatre last night and continues for the rest of the week. It is certainly unusual, but it is highly entertaining and has all the polish that one has come to expect from the society over the years. But perhaps, above all, it is memorable for its inspired musical score.

GW

Superb

And she is absolutely right, because "Pippin" has a superb score by Stephen Schwartz, the composer of "Godspell," and a rich vein of humour.

Indeed, it is difficult to understand why, after a successful run on Broadway, it has never been put on in the West End and why the Wisbech society should be the first to perform it in this part of the country.

In a fashion which is unusual to say the least, it tells the story of the elder son of Charlemagne trying to