

'SHOWBOAT' IS ANOTHER HIT

And it provides a host of memories

Says **KEN ANDREWS**

BEHIND all successful ventures is a brain. Supporting everything that is built or created must be a tower of strength. Put these into personalities and you have Phyl Payne, producer, brain and organiser of Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's latest venture and success "Showboat."

This year, as in most previous years, crowds flocked into the Regent Theatre, Chelmsford, in happy anticipation. As always, they left with a feeling of satisfaction of a job well done and a happy night out of which each is reminded for weeks later by the haunting tunes from a well-loved musical.

By tomorrow night the final curtain will have fallen.

The cast and all who have taken any part in this week's show, which is their 42nd production, there will be sighs of relief.

For the thousands who have packed out the theatre all this week will be the happy memories.

For the audience it is one—or maybe two—nights out.

For the cast it has meant months and months of hard work. Remembered will be the struggle through the bleak winter nights for rehearsals, the nights and days of study and of hard work.

NO DOUBTS

If any of those hard-working people have doubts about their efforts being worth while and appreciated, then let me dispel them.

The expression of every member of the audience as they left the theatre told the story — another success.

Around the town you could catch snatches of "Ol' man river" and "Only make believe" being hummed or whistled by someone reliving moments of the show.

For leading man **FREDDIE COSTELLO** it meant a change. Phyl Payne transformed him into a character actor—and a pretty good one at that. He played the role of Cap'n Andy with confidence.

The singing lead this year went to bearded **JOHN JEMISON**, who was the charming gambler of the South, Gaylord Ravenal.

Top honours go also to **PAT VILES** as Magnolia and particularly to **STAN PARSONS** and **PAULINE CONNOLLY**. Secretly, I think they stole the show, but I'm pretty sure they would be the last to suggest it.

"Showboat" was another first-class choice. No one could ever say this company was not daring and ambitious. Nothing seems too much or too big to tackle and with a team like this company has I should say nothing should be.

The cast: Jim Welham, Peter Smith, Robin Sampson, Helen Eldridge, Beryl Manaton, George Bruce, Iris Ford, David Flatt, Bernard Smith, Terry Mulrenin, David Hawkins, Derek Fisher



Champagne galore for some of the "Showboat" cast.

Robin Sampson, George Davey, Kath Willsher, Julie Naumann.

Chorus.—Girls: Audrey Adler, Edna Bennett, Sally Briggs, Maureen Cave, Jean Clements, Anne Cooper, Sandra Cranfield, Marian Dann, Vivian Downs, Margaret Francis, Barbara Goodling, Maureen Gore, Pam Jackson, Marea Jones, Janet Lynn, Marian Martin, Audrey McAuliffe, Jean Mulbery, Rita Noble, Pat Page, Sheila Prior, Alma Rowley, Margaret Ryder, Muriel Sampson, Linda Smith, Virginia Smith, Pat Stiles, Dorothy Stutely, Kay Trost, Pam Turner, Marina Tyler, Elizabeth Warren-Wren, Peggy Welham, Kathleen Willsher, Jennifer Woodcock, Anne Wright.—Boys: Jim Aitken, James Allan, Fred Anelli, J. Bacon, Roger Ball, George Bruce, Neville Burt, J. Carter, Sid Collicott, George Davey, Peter Farmer, D. J. Fisher, J. Gane, Chris Goby, Bernard Ivey, K. Jones, Michael Lee, Malcolm McVeigh, Stan Mold, Terry Mulrenin, Victor Perry, Nigel Pryor, Robin Rhodes, S. Roberts, Robin Sampson, Jim Welham, S. G. Wood.

Stage manager, Vincent Charles; wardrobe mistresses, Mrs. D. A. Hann and Mrs. P. Welham; property master, David Hollingworth; stage staff, Kelwyn Hughes, T. McAuliffe, R. Marsh and J. Daldry; prompter, Miss R. Palmer; ballet mistress, Muriel Sampson; stage carpenter, Sid Collicott; make-up, Frank Morgan (assistant, Carolyn Hudson); rehearsal pianists, Don Harris, Mrs. Joan Brandon and Mr. W. Kimber.