

Top marks for Gigi

Gigi

Chelmsford Operatic and Dramatic Society
Civic Theatre, Chelmsford

THIS was an excellent production. From the moment Honore, acted and sung most stylishly by Peter Smith, gave us *Thank Heaven For Little Girls!* to the final curtain, nothing lagged.

Producer Ray Jefferies had drilled his singing and dancing chorus well, and the set was attractive and cleverly used, without the necessity for vast changes.

Nick Court, as Gaston Lachailles, the great French womaniser, really made the audience believe in him, and his opening number, *It's A Bore!* was sung with great pace and confidence, which he never lost.

I loved the two dear old ladies, Mamita and Aunt Alicia, Gigi's grandmother and great aunt, played by Gill Plumtree and Deanna Tucker respectively. They scored off each other nicely, and Mamita's duet with Honore, *I Remember It Well*, was great.

Top marks must go to Christie Booth, in the title role of the young French gamine, Gigi. All leggy and awkward at the start, she developed into an elegant young lady by the end of the show and sustained her character well.

The cast list of the smaller parts is too long to mention, but I couldn't see a weakness among them, and the whole show rolled smoothly to its all too quick ending.

Musical director Andrew Denyer resisted the temptation to overdo the decibels and held the orchestra under a tight reign, keeping the tempi strict and very musical to the ear — always a great help to the singers who are charging about the stage.

The whole company must be given a pat on the back for an excellent evening's entertainment.

Brian Churcher