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Well hello Dolly, Rachel's back

When the curtain goes up on Chelmsford Amateur Operatic Society's production of HELLO DOLLY on March 26 it will also be a case of Hello Rachel.

For the company will be welcoming leading lady Rachel Windsor back where she belongs on the Civic Theatre stage.

From the late 1980s to the mid-1990s Rachel Parsons, as she was then, was the leading lady in just about every CAODS show.

From a strong Eliza in My Fair Lady to a jazzy Anything Goes, with her in the female lead you knew that every note would be perfect, and she could act too.

In Hello Dolly Rachel joins a distinguished list of strong actresses from Streisand to Dora Bryan who have played this superstar role.

Nowadays she's the mother of two lively youngsters and living in Kent, but for a plum role such as Dolly Levi, the unstoppable matchmaker from Yonkers, Rachel is prepared to travel.

Her CAODS pedigree is impeccable. Rachel's late father Stan Parsons was for many years a stalwart of the group while her mother Jill is still an active member and adores babysitting.

Ray Jeffery directs this toetapping show with its mem-

orable musical numbers including the famous title song which the whole cast sings in the hilarious and sparkling Harmonia Gardens finale.

And will the unsinkable Dolly's matchmaking skills get her the heart of her own chosen man the grumpy Horace Vandergelder?

Hello Dolly runs until March 31 at 7.30pm nightly. Tickets are always in great demand so early booking on 01245 606505 is a wise idea.

MAKING MATCHES: Rachel Windsor as Dolly Levi in Hello Dolly.