

# It was 'Happiest Day' for the audience

"THE Happiest Days of Your Life," which the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society are presenting this week at the Regent Theatre, is a riotous romp. The company fling themselves into this farce of English school life with gusto, and Monday's packed house obviously enjoyed it immensely.

Oddly enough, the "Heads" of the two schools, played by Frank Morgan and Mary Leech, seemed less happy in their parts than the supporting cast. They were a little too anxious to gully the characters, in that they needed only to play Mary Leech straight.

However, little help was given to the very well played together where Mr Massey, the battleaxe-maths master, made full use of his gift for comedy. Ann Massey pursued him relentlessly in her part of the games mistress, Miss Gossage.

She, too, tended to overplay her part at first, but as the evening wore on she became far more credible. Her appearance in netball kit was one of the best moments of the evening.

The depressed porter, Rainbird, was well played by Roy Cooper, who made him completely credible, even to his way of walking across the stage.

## Holy terrors

As the holy terrors who represent the pupils of both the schools, Alan Harper and Daphne Armstrong rushed on and off the stage creating chaos wherever they went. Daphne Armstrong showed us schoolgirl "crush" on a mistress which was neither nauseating nor incredible.

Rosemary Gornall made a pretty English mistress, but Alec Torry, as her opposite number, was nothing like sure enough of his words.

William Rondel made a late, but effective, appearance as a blustering father, with Joan Wilson, Ruth Bew and Brian Squire as the other parents.

Although the play appeared to be slightly under-rehearsed, some of the actions and groupings were very effective, and the final scene of pandemonium was excellent.

## CHELMSFORD CO SUCCESS

Regent Theatre, Chelmsford Amateur Society in "The Happiest Days of Your Life" by John D.

This is a very good company with only a few weak spots apart from several instances of timing they gave a very able performance. The moderately interesting and offensive English farce, situations on the comedy follow when a boys' school through the error of a Ministry, to share its buildings with girls' school.

The mistaken identity popular and so helpful writing, produces a lot altogether the Society have fewer empty seats some theatre.

The men of the company better work than the woman outstanding contribution came from Frank Morgan master of the boys' school on this performance Mr. unusually accomplished actor, lacking the self-consciousness of most of his kind.

His Doctor Godfrey delightful, tattered but schoolmaster who has some time been