



PETER ANDREWS and ROSEMARY GORNALL in one of the most dramatic moments in "Pink String and Sealing Wax."

'Pink String' is exciting and dramatic

FRANK MORGAN, as the heavy Victorian father, dominated the production of "Pink String and Sealing Wax" by the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society at the Regent Theatre on Monday.

This was as it should be, for although it is his children who provide the action, the drama is that of a father's relations with his family.

It is greatly to Mr. Morgan's credit that he not only made us believe in Mr. Strachan as a domineering old brute, but also made his change of heart and attempts to understand his children perfectly credible.

As his high-spirited eldest daughter, Emily, Joy Puley gave a sparkling performance. In complete contrast, Rosemary Gornall played a blowsy slut, who looked just as if she might have walked out of a back-alley in Brighton, very well indeed.

Peter Andrews was not quite so happy in the part of the son. Although he had obviously worked hard at it, he did not seem quite able to suggest the immense conflict in the boy's mind.

Joan Wilson gave a good performance as the gentle, faded Mrs. Strachan. She had an air of lavender bags and pot-pourri. Patricia Harrison and Barbara Mulrenin enjoyed themselves in the parts of the two younger girls.

William Rondel, though rather hampered by a sheep-like wig, was a good, bluff Irish doctor and, as his son, William Broadley made us all wonder why Emily didn't accept him long before she did.

The cast were hampered by some awkward groupings and movements. They tended to get into straight lines and the movements in the second act scene between Albert and Pearl should have been far more definite and dramatic.

But it is a good, exciting, production and should easily fill the Regent for the rest of the week.

E.R.