NINE OF 25 FAIRIES featured in the hit production "The Maid and the Golden Slippers" Friday and Saturday nights in the Civic Centre are shown in white and tinsilled costumes. (Daily News Staff photo by Meinhart Lagies)

Children's operetta received warmly by two big crowds

Buddy Taft's touch for showmanship that has established his dance productions as tops in popularity among Prince Rupert stage shows shone through again as an audience of nearly 1,000 was treated to the children's operetta "The Maid and the Golden Slipper" Friday and Saturday.

This time the director of the Civic Centre school of dancing combined his talents with those of Phyllis Hankinson, well-known music teacher and choir director and singer in her own right, to turn the Cinderella story into a fascinating parade of color, music and dancing.

The two-act operetta, written by Claude Davis Richardson especially for a cast of children, was carried by the more than 50 performers in a smooth co-ordinated flow that well concealed the countless hours of work put into it by Mrs. Hankinson and Mr. Taft.

SECOND PERFORMANCE BEST

Various first-night kinks, weak dialogue and an off-and-on loudspeaker system, were ironed out for the Saturday performance.

The second night also saw a more receptive audience that spared no applause after exceptionally good renditions.

Clapping flared up when Ruth Rivett as Cupid sang the solo "I am the God of Love," after a lively chorus by 18 lords and ladies: "Who is this Maiden so Divine?" to the duet "Love Me" by Marlyn Brown as Cinderella and Vallerie Deraden as the Prince and to various other renditions.

MICROPHONE SETBACK

Special praise goes to Marlyn Brown who despite the handicap of entering rehearsals more than a month later than the rest of the cast gave a spirited and polished performance. It is to be regretted that because of a faulty microphone back rows of the first night audience were deprived of hearing some of Cinderella's best scenes.

Also to be commended are Louise Thomas, as the fairy godmother, Vallerie Dearden, Prince Charming, Eleanor Greene as the stepmother, Marie Ridsdale, and Charlene Parent as stepsisters, Brian Stanford as footman, Ruth Rivett as Cupid.

It was the first time that an operetta with a cast ranging in age from eight to 14 has been staged here, and the success is no coincidence but the result of hard work by Mrs. Hankinson, Mr. Taft and a score of individuals or groups who offered their assistance.

SPECIAL LESSONS

Mrs. Hankinson as vocal director and conductor not only gave vocal training at regular rehearsals in the Civic Centre but also made her home headquarters for special lessons for the principals.

Mr. Taft, in charge of choreography and dancing, showed unerring taste in selecting the authentic 17th century costumes. The Prince and Cinderella wore contrasting blue and yellow pastel tones, the lords were clad in white satin pantaloons and cutaway jackets, the ladies in fabrics of tulle, brocades and satin, and the fairies in white, short ballerina costumes offset with silver tinsel. Lords displayed white wigs while the Ladies were crowned by elaborate coiffures and sparkling jewels.

MRS. EBY ACCOMPANIES

Orchestra consisted of Bruce Wilson on the clarinet, Percy Curle on the base-fiddle and Mrs Floyd Eby on the piano. W. A. Simpson served as acting director.

Others contributing to the success were ushers Sherril Cook, Judy Bird, Evelyn Carpenter, Leslie McLaren, Marion Hardy and members of the IODE Cambral chapter; Julia McKay and Shannon Pallant as makeup artists, C. H. Insulander and John Rodie for operating the public address system loaned by J. H. Jefferies and E. D. Manson for supplying jewellery; Fred Owens, assisting in stage setting, Mrs. Hazel Burrell for make-up and hair styles and Mr. and Mrs. Alex Mitchell for window display space.

Fairies were: Vickie Lynn Cloutier, Anita Ferguson, Sharon Pierce, Barbara Pierce, Kathleen Hughson, Kathleen Major, Jillian Michaluk, Jane Lucas, Roberta Rossi, Jo-Anne Page, Barbara Page, Shiela Dumas, Ethel Moore, Lee-Anne Bjarnason, Noela Kruegar, Jane Murray, Shirley Thomas, Sandra Hartshorne, Lynn McGhan, Sandra Bartlett, Marilyn McRae, Betty Joan Orr, Karen Naylor, Jenny Rae and Donna Simmundson.

Lords and ladies were: Shirley Thomas, Pat Odowes, John Minard, Arnold Rivett, Donald Fiddess, Karen McBride, Judy Pinneger, Jennifer Large, Gail Bartlett, Barbara Murray, Maureen Lyons, Christine McKay, Virginia Hughson, Marilyn Orr, Barbara McLaren, Penny Hankinson, Lorraine Laing and Susan Harding. —M.L.

Frank Sklapsky funeral held

Funeral for former city resident Frank Joseph Sklapsky was held Wednesday in Brock, Sask., it was learned here today. Mr. Sklapsky died in Brock, March 27 at the age of 84.

Mr. Brock lived alternately in Brock and Prince Rupert from 1948 to 1958.

Predeceased by his wife Arletta in 1946 and a daughter, Thelma Huckaby last year, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Hilda Hamilton and four sons, Frank, George, Norman and Frederick, all of Prince Rupert; two other daughters, Mrs. Lottie Krepps of Brock and Mrs. Pearl Holben of Totnes, Sask., two other sons, Balnard and Virgil of Brock, one brother, William of Bath, Michigan; and two sisters, Mrs. Lillie Federspiel of Abbotsford and Mrs. Annie Federspiel of Saginaw, Mich.

Potpourri starts Thursday

A great transformation in the Civic Centre began today as arts and crafts director Fred Owens laid out his floor plan for the Civic Center Centennial Potpourri.

The three-day event, to begin Thursday, will feature a gigantic production of exhibits, sale booths, novelty counters, demonstration sales displays, highlighted by entertainment and "An Artist's Sidewalk."

"Something for everyone" is the theme of the "big affair."

For the younger set, there will be a fish pond, sponsored by the Prince Rupert Girl Guides and Brownies and a surprize package counter, attended by the Soroptimist International of Prince Rupert.

Other novelty features are a shoeshine and manicuring booth, convened by the Kinettes.

A "peek into the future" will be given in the fortune telling tent, where palms, tea-cups and cards will be read.

The Centre's photography club is convening an oldtime photo stall and the artist's sidewalk will include a portrait salon with "on the spot" drawings and caricatures, by members of the Prince Rupert Art Club.

Displays of flowercraft, leathcrwork, copper tooling, ceramics, jewellery and fabrics will take the spotlight in the booths of arts and crafts.

Providing entertainment will be Buddy Taft's Civic Centre School of Dancing, a pantomime "The Silent Barber" enacted by the Prince Rupert Auto club and the Centre's Rhythm Band, featuring youngsters between the ages of 3 and 6.

UFAWU WA tea success

A sea life decor in the Civic Centre main lounge made an attractive setting for the Women's auxiliary to the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union "Spring Salmon Tea and Bazaar" staged Sautrday afternoon when the group realized more than $200 in its successful venture.

President Mrs. Arvid Maki received the guests and attended the tea room.

Presiding at the pouring table, centred with a huge bouquet of fresh-cut spring flowers, were Mrs. Frederick Chaprun and Mrs. Anna Young.

Serviteurs were Mrs. Anton Vell, Miss Susan Watson and Mrs. Alfred McIntosh. Directing the kitchen were Mrs. Louis Smith and Mrs. Ernest Campbell.

Convening the sewing booth were Mrs. Harry Quick, Mrs. R. L. Gardiner and Mrs. N. G. Nelson

In the plant stall were Mrs. William Greenwood and Mrs. Florence Leask.

Attending the home-baking stand were Mrs. Roy Mouland and Mrs. Florence McKinnon.

Cashiers were Mrs. Betty Geary and Mrs. Pearl Robinson of the Port Edward WA.

Winners of door prizes and raffles were Ivan Gamble, spring salmon; Mrs. Dora Wesley, set of china; Mrs. Smith, planter; Anna Young, luncheon cloth; Heather Baxter, cake, made and donated by Mrs. A. T. Instance.

DR. A. E. FRANKLIN, PhD, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Franklin of this city has received a dual appointment, it was announced here today. Born in Zealandia, Saskatchewan in 1921, Dr. Franklin graduated from McGill University in 1951. His appointments include the position of associate member of the Research Council of Canada and a promotion to assistant professor of the University of Toronto.

PERSONALS

Mrs. J. R. Ayres and daughter Barbara Ruth, 240 Fourth Avenue West returned to the city Saturday after spending the Easter holidays in Vancouver.

PICTURES BEFORE the altar of the Church of the Annunciation, three-month-old Joseph Alan Currie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Currie of 518 Browser Street, is shown in his mother's arms with Rev. Robert Dalton officiating at the Easter Sunday afternoon christening. Godparents are the baby's uncle Douglas Letourneau and Mrs. Susanne Simm, both of this city. A family dinner followed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Currie, attended by more than 20 relatives and friends. (Photo by Douglas Letourneau)

Louis Quilico warmly applauded in final concert series recital

Reviewed by W. C. HANKINSON

This season's Prince Rupert Concert Society series came to an end yesterday afternoon in the Civic Centre with a vocal recital by Canadian baritone Louis Quilico, accompanied at the piano by Lina Pizzolongo, or Mrs. Quilico as we should know her offstage. The program represented a wide variety of material from a period of some three centuries.

There were, of course, the flaws which always try the critic's conscience — the poorly arranged program with a preponderance of French songs and a lack of representation of the tremendous literature of German lieder and serious songs, facial contortions, forced and sometimes strained tones which occasionally threatened security of intonation, faulty English articulation and generally poor consonants when the tone was forced, lack of imaginative interpretation outside the operatic field.

But there were good things to outweigh the technical weaknesses. Mr. Quilico appeared as a very human and courteous person, human enough to be nervous in those first minutes on the stage and forget his words, but who enjoyed his singing and who did not forget to be gracious to his accompanist.

The artist seemed to be at his best in his operatic numbers. His dramatization of the roles added much to the singing as it did also in "Song of Charon" by Lully and the "Song of the Folea" by Moussorgsky. Indeed, in contrast to his "Largo al Factotum" which did not quite come up to par, the "Song of the Flea" was a triumph. Angels may well fear to tread the ground so solidly established by Feodor Chaliapin and Ezio Pinza but our artist acquitted himself admirably.

Weak spot of the program, if we except the unfortunate encore "The World is Mine Tonight," was "My Lady Walks in Loveliness" by Charles and "Go, Lovely Rose" in the Quilter arrangement. Aside from articulation troubles which rather spoiled them, the singer did not quite seem to convey the tenderness of appeal usually associated with those songs.

Indeed, throughout most of the remaining numbers of the program, Mr. Quilico sang pleasantly enough but without the degree of feeling and understanding which we often enjoy in concert artists. That is not to say that his singing was bad nor that it was not enjoyable and well received. His handling of Nevin's "Mighty lak' a Rose" showed a capacity for tenderness and interpretation which one missed in some of the other numbers.

Lina Pizzolongo was more than adequate at the piano. It was, in fact, a great disappointment not to hear her in her own right as a pianist. She intimated, on questioning, that she had not been asked to play solo. We have had similar disappointments at other concerts this season. If the inclusion of a group by a competent accompanist depends on our request, it would seem a good idea to ask for this added pleasure on future occasions. Certainly we were sorry not to hear from Miss Pizzolongo Sunday afternoon.

When all is said and done, those members of the Concert Society who were present at Mr. Quilico's concert were well rewarded and enjoyed themselves thoroughly if one may judge from their enthusiastic applaus.

READERS

- Deep Sea Fishermen's Union General Meeting Tuesday, April 15, at 8 p.m. Union Hall. Elections. (77)
- Sons of Norway meeting Monday, April 14, 8 p.m. (76)

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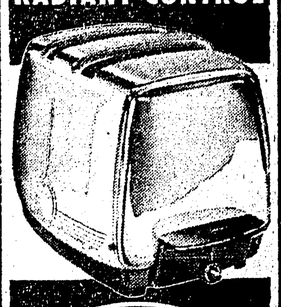

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