

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA

ANNIES ON TARGET..

IT was Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society which last month led the expected rush of societies to present *Anything Goes*, newly released for amateur production after its West End revival with Elaine Paige.

Stourbridge did Cole Porter proud in his centenary year — and this week it is the turn of the exciting and versatile youngsters who form the Coventry Youth Operetta Group.

Amateur stage BY JOHN SLIM

The girls in the three leading roles — Sarah Tuson, her younger sister Samantha, and Louise Benham — share the distinction of having played the title role in *Annie*.

Louise, in fact, has done so twice, at Bedworth in 1985 and at Hinckley in 1986.

In *Anything Goes*, she takes her first principal part for the Youth Operetta Group as Hope Harcourt, the African heiress.

Sarah, who takes the central responsibility as Reno, was outstanding as Mrs Blitstein in the group's remarkable production of *Blitz!* 12 months ago.

She was YOG's Annie in 1986.

And Samantha, who appears as Bonnie, was Annie with Leamington & Warwick Operatic Society in 1988.

That was the production in which YOG's director, Mark



■ The three 'Annies' now in *Anything Goes*: Samantha Tuson (front) with Sarah (left) and Louise Benham behind.

Thorburn, shaved his head to play Oliver Warbucks.

Playwrights cannot start too early, it seems. The Unicorn Theatre, established in London's West End in 1947 as a theatre for children and their families, is running its annual National Young Playwright Competition.

Tom Stoppard and Alan Ayckbourn are judging the entries, which are open to youngsters aged from four to 12. Entries should be sent to Ruth Burgess, Unicorn Theatre, Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London

WC2H 7JB. Further details are available from Dorothy Wooller on 071 379 3250.

W Bushill-Matthews, president of Birmingham & District Theatre Guild since 1975 and its chairman for 25 years before that, died recently at the age of 86 — with the intention of going out with a flourish.

A special service at Birmingham Cathedral on December 5, will take the form of a celebration rather than being a time for sorrow.

A friend explained: "He wanted it to be an occasion for celebratory hymns and trumpets."

During his chairmanship of the Guild, Mr Bushill-Matthews — invariably known as Bushill — was one of the key people involved in the acquisition of Birmingham's Old Rep for the amateur theatre of the area.

In the pit

Glynis Smith, who has not ridden a bicycle for 20 years, is having to start again — because Jenny Bulman, producer of *White Horse Inn* at the Norbury Theatre, Droitwich, next week, wants her to ride one for her role as the postwoman.

A theatre member said: "She is a bit terrified of riding into the pit and landing in the arms of the cellist."

WHAT'S ON

- Happy Families, Highbury Little Theatre, Sutton Coldfield (to tomorrow).
- The Late Christopher Bean, Grange Players, Grange Playhouse, Walsall (to tomorrow).
- Annie, Get Year Gun, Palace Theatre Company, Palace Theatre, Redditch (to Sunday).
- Oliver, Lichfield Operatic Society, Lichfield Civic Hall (to tomorrow).
- Bees Marie, Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society, Brierley Hill Civic Hall (to tomorrow).
- Anything Goes, Coventry Youth Operetta Group, Coventry College (to tomorrow).
- An Evening With Noel Coward, Colehill Operatic Society, Colehill Town Hall (to tomorrow).
- The Mikado, Cannock Chase Operatic Society, Princes of Wales Theatre, Cannock (to tomorrow).
- Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi, Oldbury Repertory Players, Barlow Playhouse Studio, Langley, (to tomorrow).
- The Seecover, St Alpheus G&S Society, Solihull Library Theatre (Nov 11-16).
- Absent Friends, Nonentites, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster (Nov 11-16).
- White Horse Inn, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich (Nov 11-16).
- Blithe Spirit, Moorpool Players, Moorpool Hall, Harborne (Nov 11-16).
- Brigadoon, Dunlop Operatic Society, Old Rep (Nov 12-16).
- Princess Ida, Worcester G&S Society, Malvern Festival Theatre (Nov 12-16).
- A Christmas Carol, Hagley Theatre Group, Hagley Community Centre (Nov 12-16).
- The Fleugh and The Stars, Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa (Nov 12-23).
- The Lion in Winter, Cynnet Players, Studley Village Hall (Nov 12-16).
- Beating the Bounds, Oldbury Repertory Players Youth Theatre, Barlow Playhouse, Langley (Nov 15 & 16).
- The Murder of Maria Marten or The Red Barn, Crescent Theatre (Nov 16-23).
- Beyond Reasonable Doubt, Rugby Theatre (Nov 16-23).

THE GOOD GIG GUIDE

TONIGHT: Slayer (NEC Arena); Elliot / Bigger Than Rod / Rough Cut (Adams & Eve, Birmingham); Ricky Graham & The Corvettes (Austin Rover Sports & Social Club); Spin (Dudley JBs); The E Numbers / Mac (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton); Ark / Thundering Hearts (Lichfield Arts Centre); Good Question Derek (Aston University); Roy Harper (The Toc, Coventry); A Rock Band (The Wheatheat, Walsall); Top / Scorpion Rising / The Cranberries (Wolverhampton Polytechnic);

TOMORROW: UFO / Red Dogs (Junction 10, Walsall); Bryan Adams / Baby Animals (NEC Arena); Runrig / Capersville (Wolverhampton Civic Hall); Ricky Graham & The Corvettes (Rubery Social Club); Naked Truth (Dudley JBs); Tom Robinson (The Toc, Coventry); Rock Island (Westhill College, Selly Oak); Frank White (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton).

SUNDAY: Midge Ure / This Picture — Viva Gig — (Symphony Hall); Tesla / Kiss Of The Bypass (Hummingbird, Birmingham); The Raiders / Chud (Pen & Wig, Birmingham); Cool Blue — *Anything Goes* — (Jefferson, Quinton); The E Numbers (Dudley JBs); Citizen Fish / Zygote (Edwards No 8, Birmingham); Caravan / The Straws (Wolverhampton Civic Hall); Factory Circus (Lloyds, Ladgate Hill); Midway Still (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton);

Digbeth); Labi Siffre (Warwick University); Mack & The Boys (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton).

MONDAY: Whispers (Symphony Hall, Birmingham); David Essex (Wolverhampton Civic Hall); Diamond Head (Edwards No 8, Birmingham); Alibi / Wild Obsession (Dudley JBs); Where / Blim (Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath); Sherriff (City Tavern, Birmingham); Flirtcuts / Sweet Revenge (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton); Elizabeth Jane (Barrel Organ, Digbeth); The Skirts (Smackers, Cannock); Pigface (Institute, Digbeth); Shore (Syntras).

TUESDAY: Ben E King (Fox's, Wolverhampton); The Gods / The Partnership (Hummingbird, Birmingham); Intastella / Float (Birmingham University); Nod / State Of Fear (Dudley JBs); Splrea X (Barrel Organ, Digbeth); Labi Siffre (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton); Discharge (Rock City, Nottingham); Deadline (Syntras); Dr Ross The Harmonica Boss (The Bear, Bearwood).

WEDNESDAY: The Moody Blues — Viva Gig — (NEC Arena); Steve Gibbons Band / Trevor Burton Band / Ruby Turner / Curtis Little & The Soul Doctors — Billy Paul Benefit

Concert — (Birmingham Town Hall); Big Man Clayton / The 44s (Aston University); Intastella (Nottingham University); Pele / Gary Born & The Stormkeepers / The Lost Forest (Wolverhampton Polytechnic); Acoustic Shock (Smackers, Cannock); Airhead (Birmingham University); India Tag (Selly Park Tavern, Selly Park); Born Blind (The Institute, Birmingham); Shock The Most (Arthur Bar, Gas St); State of Groove (Hummingbird); Mack & The Boys (Station, Kings Heath); Pale Kings (Pen & Wig, Dale End); Tribe of Dan (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton); Airhead (Aston University).

THURSDAY: Kitchens Of Distinction / Sweet Jesus (Warwick University); Tim Ward Band (Hop & Grape, Aldridge); Happy Deathbed / Zarn 10 (Dudley JBs); Gary Hall & The Stormkeepers / Mac (Breedon Bar, Kings Norton); Last Chance (Red Lion, Kings Heath); Coup De Grace / Feet First (Edwards No 8, Birmingham); Intastella (Leicester Polytechnic); Mack & The Boys (Station Inn, Selly Oak); Kittenbirds (Syntras); Silvertones (Pen & Wig, Dale End).

For free inclusion in the *Gig Guide*, write to *Gig Guide*, Features Department, Evening Mail, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6AX. Telephone applications cannot be accepted.

The Double Crossword

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

- Where it costs nothing to live in non-communist countries? (3,4,5)
- Certain in the long grass to have sprung back (9)
- In the kitchen I left nothing (3)
- Treatin' another salt (7)
- Bwana converted by Moslem prince (5)
- Fashionable diplomacy is unblemished? (6)
- One loves to read another way alternatively inside (6)
- Force I need to get the Spanish member inside (5)
- Where to find driver's seat in a battle area (7)
- Born during one evening (3)
- Fool about with reins strangely of a reddish colour (9)
- Towards the end in the evening (4,2,3,3)

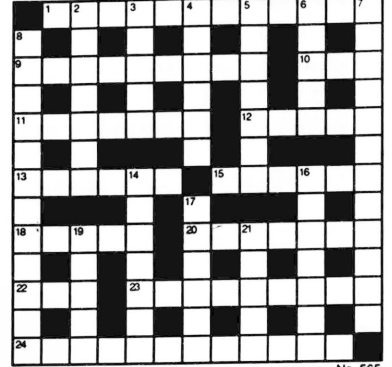
Down

- Tabitha moved into natural surroundings (7)

QUICK CLUES

Across

- Unfairly (5,3,4)
- Fastidious (9)
- Remote (3)
- Use (7)
- Light vehicle (5)
- Stink (6)
- Small amount (6)
- Frill (5)
- Frill (5)
- Builder (7)



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No 565

- Animals, deer, say, with antelope initially (5)
- Went round when editor lost his life (6)
- Wide boy developed farther apart (7)
- Revive Frenchman before we start (5)
- Coolness needed on reflection (12)
- Passage to Scottish island learner took was temporary (12)
- Coils so twisted round statues (7)
- Exact copy of a clip was replaced (7)
- This French tool damaged outside by a cat (6)
- Fold petal over (5)
- Suzette's material (5)

Across

- Draw (3)
- Impish (5)
- Ignore (4,1,4,3)
- Confiscated (12)
- Goodbye (7)
- Ornamental ruffle (7)
- Gain (6)
- Salad plant (5)
- Former Argentine president (5)

ANSWERS TO No 564

CRYPTIC: Across — 1 Outfitter; 6 Hip; 8 Flight of fancy; 9 Dream; 10 Gorilla; 11 Coping; 13 Credit; 16 In range; 18 Visitor; 20 Front entrance; 22 Lea; 23 Dinner-set. Down — 1 Oaf; 2 Twine; 3 Inhuman; 4 Though; 5 Refer; 6 Handled; 7 Rymaster; 9 Decentful; 12 Persona; 14 Reverse; 15 Pennon; 17 Noted; 19 Sinus; 21 Eat.

QUICK: Across — 1 Wash-basin; 6 See; 8 Railway engine; 9 Scum; 10 Noctuid; 11 Gosh; 13 Bertha; 16 Capital; 18 Try-on; 20 Oyster-catcher; 22 Sue; 23 Therefore. Down — 1 War; 2 Shire; 3 Bewitch; 4 Saying; 5 Nonet; 6 Skillet; 7 Eyestrain; 9 Sagacious; 12 Impasse; 14 Entitle; 15 Cloche; 17 Trent; 19 Yahoo; 21 Rue.

AND THE FUN FOUR...

CHARLES

TEA UP!

SORRY NO CHEQUES ACCEPTED UNLESS COVERED BY VALID BANKER'S CARD.

GILLETTE SAYS THIS IS A MIXTURE OF COB LIVER OIL, BROWN ALE BEERS & STALE EGG YOLKS IS WHAT I NEED.

URGH! IT TASTES HORRIBLE! ... HOW CAN ANYTHING THAT TASTES THIS BAD BE GOOD FOR YOU?

HE SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN HE'S GOT A GOLD HE RUBS IT ON HIS CHEST.

CHUPPER! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO STAY DOWN IN THE HOUSE?

ONCE...

BUT I'D LIKE...

327 OTHER OCCASIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION...

DAD, I CAN'T GET TO SLEEP!!

I SAID I CAN'T GET TO SLEEP!!

NEITHER CAN I WITH ALL THIS SHOUTING GOING ON!

CHESS by Leonard Barden

White mates in three moves, against any defence (by T and J Warton, 1933). The black king is trapped in the White camp, and if it was Black's turn to move the problem would be easy. If 1... K-B8, 2 B-R4, K-Q8; 3 Q-Kt1 mate (the pawn is pinned by the bishop) or 1... K-K8, 2 QxP! B2; K-B8; 3 Q-Q1 mate.

The paradoxical point of the problem is that with White to move he has no simple way to avoid disturbing the position and maintain both set mates. Look for hidden, seemingly irrelevant key.

Solution No.4522: 1 Q-Q2! Resigns. If R-Q2, 2 BxR ch and 3 BxR with an easy win on material.