

Kismet

1975

By Special Arrangement with Music Theatre International, New York and Boston

"KISMET" COMES TO THE NORTH FORK

The North Fork Community Theater has been transformed into a scene from Arabian Nights and exotic music fills the air for the performance of "Kismet" on June 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. "Kismet" was first presented in New York on December 3, 1953, at the Ziegfeld Theatre. That production starred Alfred Drake, Doretta Morrow, and Richard Kiley.

"Kismet" is the story of a day in the life of a poet and his daughter whose lives take several unusual and dramatic turns as they are caught up in the strands of fate and propelled to their destiny. The music of Alexander Borodin was adapted for "Kismet" by Robert Wright and George Forrest.

"Kismet" at the NFCT was the brainchild of director Frank Steele who delighted at the New York production. He proposed the play to the theater's board of directors who readily accepted it when the originally scheduled "Gypsy" became unavailable. It was a fortunate turn of events.

Frank Steele's enthusiasm, time, and hard work has brought "Kismet" to life as it did "Man of LaMancha" which he directed at the NFCT four years ago. Everyone in the Southold area is also familiar with the lavish "Founders' Follies" productions which Frank has directed for several years.



Frank Steele

Directing "Kismet" has been no mean feat. Casting sessions were held as long ago as February and rehearsals began in earnest as soon as "A Man By Any Other Name" finished its run. Mr. Steele's children could sing the songs from the show long before most of the cast had ever heard them, and it wasn't long before his wife Beverly had been enlisted to help with publicity. His home has been a constant stream of people eager to work on the production, and his basement has been the nerve center for costume making and storage. Frank has even done much of the choreography for the show.

"Kismet" may be the vision of Frank Steele, but it is the product of the hard work and talents of many people. We all hope that you thoroughly enjoy the show, because that is what "Kismet" is all about.

LOVE - ARABIAN STYLE

Fate brings two pairs of lovers together in "Kismet" as the story unfolds. The Caliph, who must find his Wife of Wives is smitten by the charms of Marsinah. The Poet is such a disarming rogue that it is only natural that he should attract the attentions of Lalume. Fortunately for us all, they must sing their way through all the complications that all good love stories provide.

Bette Jeanne Townsend is a delightful Marsinah. Local audiences will remember her portrayal of Lili in "Carnival" at NFCT. "Bj" is an elementary music teacher in Greenport where she and her husband, Al (musical director for "Kismet") reside. They are expecting their first child in October. When she is not busy with her singing, Bette Jeanne enjoys gardening and refinishing antique furniture.

The Caliph is played with distinction by Dr. Donald Wirth, a local veterinarian who recently moved to Laurel from Deer Park. "Kismet" is his first stage appearance since college when he appeared in a Gilbert and Sullivan production, but he has been singing oratoria for several years. Dr. Wirth is married and has six children. He listens to opera and does some amateur motor racing in his spare time.

Hajj, the Poet, is ably played by John Rasanen, a Mattituck resident. John's abilities as an actor and singer have been amply demonstrated locally in the NFCT productions of "Man of LaMancha," in which he played Sancho, and "Summer and Smoke," in which he departed from his singing to play the role of Archie Kramer. Photography, landscaping, marksmanship, and of course, singing are the other interests of this versatile young man who hopes for a career as an opera singer.

The role of Lalume seems well suited to the talents of Leona White, a Cutchogue housewife and mother of a five year old daughter. Although this is her first appearance at NFCT, she is not new to the stage having been in "No, No Nanette" in Greenport. Leona's hobbies include skiing, golf, garden work, and music.



John Rasanen

1975

"NICE" GUYS FINISH LAST

"Kismet features two of the most villainous cads since Captain Hook and the Grinch. Like all good villains, Jawan the Brigand and the Wazir are destined to suffer the consequences of their evil doings.

The roles of Jawan and the Wazir are played by veterans of the NFOT, Richard Dries and George Stahler, respectively.

Richard Dries is a teacher in Southold, married, and the father of two. His hobbies include farming, fishing, and carpentry. Dick has distinguished himself in many NFOT productions, including "The Odd Couple," "Wait Until Dark," "Absence of a Cello," "Little Foxes," "Damn Yankees," and "Pajama Game."

No villain can be completely effective without henchmen, be they brigands or policemen (or in some cases both!). Jawan and the Wazir are ably supported.

Mark Volinski has appeared in NFOT productions of "Lion in Winter," and "Cabaret" and in "Jesus Christ, Superstar," "Charlie Brown," and "House of Blue Leaves." He is a Southold resident, an auto salesman, who plays the piano and accordion.

David Markel is also a Southold resident who has made frequent appearances in NFOT productions including this season's "Forty Carats."

Ted Doroski, Jr. an office machine repairman from Cutchogue, is making his first stage appearance in "Kismet." He likes tennis and skiing.

Art Wilks, a teacher in Southold and Vice President of the NFOT is no stranger to the stage. He has appeared in over 25 productions, his most prominent roles having been in "Peanut Butter Prince," "Kiss Me, Kate," and "Spoon River Anthology." Art and his family live in Southold.



George Stahler and henchmen

The Boy Scouts of Troop #51, Greenport, will sell refreshments during Intermission

George Stahler and his wife, Jane have been quite active in the NFOT in recent years. He is a probation officer and they have one child. George's NFOT career includes roles in "Cabaret," and "A Ms by Any Other Name." He has also appeared in "The Mandrake," "The Crucible," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Eagle with Two Heads," and "Orpheus Descending."

Frank Wanser, another newcomer to the NFOT, is employed by the Suffolk County Police Dept. He and his wife, Sue, who appears in the chorus of "Kismet," have one child and reside in Southold.



Bette Jeanne Townsend



Leona White

A SLAVE GIRL IS NOT JUST ANOTHER PRETTY FACE

Even the Poet is not immune to the charms of a pretty face, but our slave girls show that they have much more to offer.

Marjory Moffat, who is also producer of "Kismet," has displayed her acting talents before as Agnes Gooch in "Auntie Mame."

Elisa Lieblein, a Greenport resident, is a shopkeeper at the Port of Egypt. She appeared in the chorus of "No, No, Nanette" and enjoys skiing.

Allison Mann is a sophomore at Southold High School. She appeared in last year's Founders' Follies and her hobbies include music and crafts.

Sara Harnett, who does a street dance in the Bazaar of the Caravaans, lives with her four children in Southold. This is her first stage appearance.

Debbie Schneider, a senior at Southold High School, has appeared in the chorus of "Music Man," "South Pacific," and "Anything Goes."

Rachel Levin has appeared in "Oliver," "Peter Pan," and Founders' Follies. She also is a senior at Southold High School.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ONE DAY IN BAGHDAD

ACT I (From Dawn to Dusk)

- Scene 1 On the steps of the Mosque
- Scene 2 A tent just outside the city
- Scene 3 The Bazaar of Caravans
- Scene 4 A side street
- Scene 5 A garden
- Scene 6 A street near the Bazaar
- Scene 7 The throne room of the Wazir of Police

ACT II (From Dusk to Dawn)

- Scene 1 Along the route of the Caliph's procession
- Scene 2 The garden
- Scene 3 Anteroom to the Wazir's harem
- Scene 4 A rooftop pavilion in the Wazir's Palace
- Scene 5 A corridor in the Wazir's Palace
- Scene 6 Anteroom to the Wazir's harem
- Scene 7 The ceremonial hall of the Caliph's Palace

MUSICAL CONTENTS

ACT I

Overture.....Orchestra
 Sands of Time.....Inam of Mosque, Muezzins
 Rhymes Have I.....Poet, Marsinah
 Fate.....Poet
 Fate - Reprise.....Poet
 Not Since Nineveh.....Lalume, Chorus
 Baubles, Bangles and Beads.....Marsinah, Bangleman, Caliph
 Townspeople
 Stranger in Paradise.....Marsinah, Caliph
 He's in Love.....Policemen, Townspeople
 Gesticulate.....Poet, Wazir's Council
 Fate - Finale Act I.....Poet

ACT II

Night of My Nights.....Caliph, Townspeople
 Stranger in Paradise-- Reprise.....Marsinah
 Baubles, Bangles and Beads - Reprise.....Caliph
 He's in Love, Night of My Nights - Reprise.... Townspeople
 Was I Wazir?.....Wazir, Guards
 Rahadlakum.....Lalume, Poet, Wazir's Harem
 And This is My Beloved.....Marsinah, Caliph, Poet, Wazir
 The Olive Tree.....Poet
 Zubbediya (dance).....Zubbediya
 Samaris (dance).....Samaris
 Ababu (dance).....Ababu
 Finale - Act II.....Poet, Caliph, Marsinah, All

Special Thanks To:
 Fred Yoerges, Pat Wall, Mar-
 cella Winters, Addie Pisan-
 cano, Vic Prusinowski, Lynn
 Macri



John Ashton advises Don Wirth



John Rasanen is overcome by
 Rahadlakum

MUSIC MAESTRO, IF YOU PLEASE

A fine orchestra has been assembled for "Kismet" under the direction of Alfred Townsend. Al, whose wife plays Marsinah, is a music teacher at Sagamore Jr. High in Ronkonkoma. For the NPCT he has conducted the orchestra for "Carnival" and written the original score for "Summer and Smoke."

Our orchestra for "Kismet" includes:

- Flute/piccolo - Mary Bess LaFreniere
- First Clarinet - Ilsa Bohn
- Second Clarinet - Karen Hudas
- Bass Clarinet - David Tuthill
- French Horn - Amy Shapiro
- Trombone - Kevin Petroszewski
- First Trumpet - Andrew Normandeau
- Second Trumpet - Glen Nathan
- Piano - Anne Richmond
- Percussion - James Carroll, Sharon Kaytis

CHARACTERS
 (In order of appearance)

Imam of the Mosque.....Jack Moffat
 Muezzins.....Mark Volinski, Frank Wanser, George Stahler
 First Beggar.....Art Quintana
 Second Beggar.....Ed Morganstern
 Third Beggar.....Bob Wall
 Omar.....John Ashton
 Poet (Hajj).....John Rasanen
 Marsinah.....Bette Jeanne Townsend
 Hassan Ben.....Art Wilks, Ted Doroski, Jr.
 Jawan.....Richard Dries
 Bangle Man.....Jack Moffat
 Chief Policeman.....Mark Volinski
 Second Policeman.....Frank Wanser
 Wazir of Police.....George Stahler
 Wazir's Guards.....Frank Wanser, Art Wilks, David Markel,
 Mark Volinski, Ted Doroski
 Lalume.....Leona White
 Princesses Ababu.....Gladys Flurry, Sue Greenwald,
 Dorothy Devlin
 Orange Merchant.....Art Quintana
 Caliph.....Don Wirth
 Informer.....Tom Fischer
 Slave Girls...Sara Hartnett, Elisa Lieblein, Margory Moffat,
 Allison Mann, Debbie Schneider, Rachel Levin
 Servant.....Tom Fischer
 Princess Zubbediya of Damascus.....Diane Mallory
 Ayah to Zubbediya.....Adrienne Tapner
 Princess Samaris of Bangalore.....Maureen Tucker
 Ayah to Samaris.....Helen Hunt
 Prosecutor.....Bob Wall
 Widow Yussef.....Adrienne Tapner
 Manservant.....Bob Wall
 Spy.....Tom Fischer
 Townspeople and Chorus: Dave Butcher, Jay Schondebare,
 Marguerite Schondebare, Bernadette Aldcroft, Fran Osmer,
 Sue Wanser, Georgia O'Connor, Kathy Shaw, Linda Ruland,
 Eileen Sheldon, Dorothy Yoerges

DANCING IN THE STREETS

CHORUS

Dancing abilities abound in "Kismet," particularly among the young ladies vying for the hand of the Caliph. The Wazir's choice is the Princesses Ababu, though the Princess Zubbediya and the Princess Samaris provide excellent competition.

The Ababu are played by Susan Greenwald, Gladys Flurry, and Dorothy Devlin. Sue Greenwald is an English teacher and resides in Cutchogue with her dog, Pup. She appeared in Founders' Follies and enjoys furniture refinishing, needlepoint, and photography.

Gladys Flurry and her husband live in New Suffolk. Gladys is a clerk typist in the District Attorney's office and enjoys bowling, sewing, reading, sports, and cooking. She has appeared in "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Everybody Loves Opal," and "The Wizard of Oz."

The third Princess of Ababu is Dorothy Devlin, a health aide for the Head Start program in Greenport. She enjoys yoga and worked on the stage crew for the NFCT production of "Lion in Winter."

The Princess Zubbediya is Diane Mallory, a postal employee who is married and lives in South Jamesport. At the NFCT she has appeared in "Cabaret" and has been in local productions of "The Music Man" and "Once Upon a Mattress." Bike riding and beachcombing are among her favorite activities.

Maureen Tucker, the Princess Samaris, is a student at Oneonta. She has appeared at the NFCT in "Anything Goes" and local audiences remember her as Dolly in "Hello, Dolly" and Muisie in "The Boyfriend." Maureen, a Greenport resident, enjoys gymnastics and other sports.



Chorus enjoys Ababu dance

Our chorus is made up of many talented people who have put in a great deal of time and effort. Too often the chorus goes relatively unnoticed, but in a production such as "Kismet" a good, strong chorus is of obvious importance.

Jack Moffat (Imam, Bangle Man) this is his 23rd NFCT production - teacher - Southold.

Robert Wall (Prosecutor, Beggar, Manservant) worked in "Virginia Woolfe," "Carnival," "Auntie Mame" - Orient.

Art Quintana (Beggar, Orange Merchant) "Man of La Mancha," "Carnival," "Summer and Smoke" - micro bio.tech - East Marien.

Dave Boutcher (Slave Master) high school student - Cutchogue.

John Ashton (Omar) "Man of LaMancha," "Auntie Mame," "Wait Until Dark," "Finian's Rainbow," "See How They Run," "Spoon River" - banker - Mattituck.

James Schondebare (chorus) first stage appearance - attorney - Southold.

Marguerite Schondebare (chorus) first stage appearance dental assistant - Southold.

Dorothy Yoerges (chorus) first stage appearance - housewife - Mattituck.

Bernadette Aldcroft (chorus) "40 Carats," "A Ms By Any Other Name" - music teacher - Southold.

Francine Osmer (chorus) "Damn Yankees," "Blithe Spirit," "Bells Are Ringing," "Call Me Madam" - teacher aide - Southold.

Sue Wanser (chorus) first stage appearance - teacher - Southold.

Ed Morganstern (Beggar, chorus) "Bells Are Ringing" - speech therapist - Riverhead.

Tom Fischer (Informer, Servant) first stage appearance - lab technician - Jamesport.

Adrienne Tapner (Ayah, Widow Yussef) Stirling Players - antique shop owner - Southold.

Georgia O'Connor (chorus) "Man of LaMancha," "Summer and Smoke," "Bells Are Ringing," "Finian's Rainbow," - housewife - Southold.

Kathy Shaw (chorus) "Lion in Winter" bank teller - Mattituck.

Linda Ruland (chorus) first stage appearance - housewife - Mattituck.

Eileen Sheldon (chorus) first local appearance - secretary - Riverhead.

BEHIND THE SCENES

So much goes into the production of "Kismet" besides the acting, singing, and dancing that lingers in the audience's minds. It takes a great deal of time, energy, talent, and patience to transform the North Fork Community Theater into an Arabian fantasy in Baghdad. The illusion could not come to life without props, makeup, setting, and the colorful costumes of the east. And finally, there would be no audience without someone to provide publicity and sell tickets.

Coordinating the entire effort is the job of Margory Moffat, our indomitable producer. She is no stranger to the production end at NFCT having produced "The Price," "Virginia Woolf," and "Marigolds." Margory, who also appears as a slave girl, is a bookkeeper and secretary at Seatronics. Although she seems to live at the NFCT during a production, she has a home in Southold.

We would like to give credit to the following "behind the scenes" people for a fine job:

- Set Construction.....Hal Young, Art Wilks, Bill Hess, Syd Breese
- Set Decoration..John Osgood, S.L. Kelly, Jewel Gonzales
- Costumes.....Nancy Alexander, Dorothy Yoerges
- Lighting.....Al Baylan, Tom Brown, Eric Zwickel, Richard Golder
- Props.....Barbara Clay
- House Manager.....Joann Szymanowski
- Stage Manager.....Barbara Clay
- Stage Crew.....Karen Yoerges
- Make-up.....Judy Davids, Marietta Sylvestri, Maureen Moffat
- Rehearsal Pianists.....Ann Richmond, Pat Wall, Sharon Kaytis
- Tickets.....Fanny Behlan
- Publicity.....Beverly Steele, Judy Utter
- Program.....Helen Hunt
- Photography.....John Richmond, Tom Samuels, Lisa Wolfteich, Vic Prusinowski