

## Showboat's Cargo full of goodies! Newspaper review by Emma Cooper

Show Boat dropped anchor at the Pavilion last week, bringing with it an entertaining cargo of comedy, romance, impressive singing and superb acting.

A famous light-hearted musical, Show Boat was presented by the enterprising 14-20s Music and Drama Society which executed the show with its usual style.

The story centres round the lives of those living aboard the 'Cotton Blossom' an amateur show boat that sails along the Mississippi way back in the late nineteenth century. Rowena Kent and Scott Bartlett play Magnolia Hawks and Gaylord Ravenal- the young couple who fall in love at first sight. They are convincingly romantic and pretty Rowena gives some fine performances, especially with her moving solo 'After the Ball'.

Scott suits the part of the dashing Gaylord perfectly with first class acting, but at times his voice is not quite strong enough for the duets. Magnolia's mother, Parthy Ann Hawks is made extremely believable by the talented Helen Perrat. She successfully conveys Parthy Ann as the nagging wife in this very comic role. Partnering her expertly, is husband Captain Andy Hawks, played by Hugh Chudley.

For me Hugh was the star of the show-if only for his hilarious interpretation of the play 'which should have been' on the Cotton Blossom. This one man scene literally had the audience in fits of laughter.

Creating the atmosphere of the dark Mississippi excellently is the Negro couple Joe and Queenie, played by Andrew Butler and Tami Shearn. They both acted well and Andrew's solo of the classic 'Ol Man River' with his deep clear voice was brilliant. Tami's singing voice was a real joy to hear, being soft and extremely pleasant. Julia Connett and Neil Harding gave a fine comic performance as the couple who fall – eventually – eventually in love and find fame and fortune.

And Amanda Boud, playing Julie, had probably the the best female voice in the whole show- singing the solo 'Bill' superbly.

The cast all wear fine and apt costumes. A great deal of work had evidently gone into them. And the talented orchestra, conducted by Lynne Caygill, who is also the show's musical director, was very impressive, providing good music to add spirit to the show. This was yet another triumph for the 14-20s group.