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The Desert Song, 1948

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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
of
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Present

“The Desert Song”



Book and Lyrics by
Otto Harbach — Frank Mandel
Oscar Hammerstein II

Music by Sigmund Romberg

Student Union Theatre
Montana State University

May 11, 12 and 13
Curtain at 8:15

"THE DESERT SONG"

Directed by — LeRoy W. Hinze

Technical Director — Lewis W. Stoerker

Musical Director

John Lester

Choral Director

Norman Gulbrandsen

Conductor

Eugene Andrie

Dances

Marion MacAllister

Betty Wylder

CAST

Sid El Kar	George Lewis
Mindar	John H. Jones
Benjamin Kidd	Philip C. Galusha
Captain Paul Fontaine	Bruce Johnson
Azuri	Marie Wade
Lieutenant LaVergne	Dick Humphrey
Sergeant Du Bassic	George Armour
Margot Bonvalet	Gayle Davidson
General Birabeau	Bob Svoboda
Pierre Birabeau	Floyd Chapman
Susan	Patti Luer
Edith	Mona Brown
Ali Ben Ali	James Callihan
Clementina	Doris Eggar
Neri	Marta Drysdale
Hadji	John Moore

THE STORY

The **Desert Song** opens in the hideout of the Riff band high in the hills of distant Morocco. The Riffs are discovered boasting of their bravery in evading Captain Fontaine and his pursuing French Foreign Legion. They are surprised by this very Legion, and the leaders, The Red Shadow, Sid-El-Kar, and Mindar make plans to defend their hideout. The Legion finds the hideout and Captain Fontaine is certain that the Red Shadow has escaped him for the last time.

In Scene 2 we find Susan, the fiancée of Benjamin Kidd, a correspondent of the Paris Daily Mail, who has been captured by the Riff band, awaiting his return. Benny does return and describes his terrifying experience as a Riff captive.

Scene 3 opens with the wives of the French soldiers and Margot, the general's niece, waiting for the soldiers return from the day's battle. The men enter and relate the day's happenings to their wives. Pierre Birabeau, the son of the general and secretly the Red Shadow, doubts the ability of Captain Fontaine to capture the Red Shadow. As the scene progresses the character of Pierre as himself and the Red Shadow and the love that he feels for Margot are brought out beautifully through song, word, and dance. The scene ends with the Red Shadow singing his love for Margot as he and the Riffs kidnap Margot and Susan.

Act 2, Scene 1 takes place in the harem of Ali-Ben-Ali, a wealthy Caid where several captive girls led by Clementina are singing and dancing to entice the interest of Ali-Ben-Ali. Later in the scene Clementina practices her seductive arts on Benny when he and the Riff band with their prisoners, Margot and Susan, occupy the harem for a night's shelter. Benny and Susan plan to exchange clothes and go **back** to the French headquarters. The scene closes with the melodic "Eastern and Western Love" sung by Ali-Ben-Ali, Sid-El-Kar, Red Shadow, and the men's chorus.

In scene 2 Benny, on his way to the French headquarters in women's clothing is recaptured by the Riffs.

Scene 3, in The Room of the Silken Couch, presents the turmoil that Margot experiences in deciding whether she loves Paul, Pierre, or the Red Shadow; and the hatred of Azuri, a slave girl who is also in love with Paul. The scene closes with General Birabeau's face-to-face conflict with the Red Shadow and the Red Shadow's refusal to fight his own father.

Scene 4 is the Red Shadow's farewell to his men, since by the laws of his tribe he is forced to go into the desert without food and shelter as a penalty for his refusal to fight General Birabeau.

Scene 5 discloses the true identity of the Red Shadow and ends with the final realization that he and Margot are truly in love.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1	Prelude and Opening Chorus.	Riffs
2	The Riff Song	Riffs
3	Ho Bold Men of Morocco	Reprise of the Riff Song
4	Finalletto—Scene 1	Paul and Soldiers
5	Margot	Susan
6	I'll be a Bouyant Girl	Girls
7	Open Chorus—Why Did We Marry Soldiers	Margot and Girls
8	French Military Marching Song	Margot and Girls
9	Romance	Margot and Girls
10	Then You Will Know	Margot and Paul
11	I Want a Kiss	Susan and Bennie
12	It	Margot and the Red Shadow
13	The Desert Song	
14	Finale—Act I.	

ACT II

15	Opening Chorus—My Little Castagnette	Clementina and Girls
16	Song of the Brass Key	Clementina and Girls
17	Spanish Dance	Native Dancers
18	One Good Boy Gone Wrong	Clementina and Bennie
19	Dance	Clementina and Bennie
20	Eastern and Western Love	Red Shadow, Sid, Ali Ben Ali and Men
21	One Alone	Red Shadow
22	The Sabre Song	Margot and Red Shadow
23	Farewell	Men
24	It	Susan, Bennie and Girls
25	Dance of Triumph	Azuri
26	Finale of Act II	Ensemble

ORCHESTRA

Violas	Trombone	Basses
George Beagle	Joe Estes	Doris Wilson
Sheila McDorney		Gene Huchala
Cello	Violins	Flute
Nancy Critelli	Roland Troyer	Lorraine Andrie
Bassoon	Robert Staffanson	Trumpets
Don Herbig	Madison Vick	Grant Mundy
Clarinets	Eugene Chiesler	Donna Harlan
John McCrea	Mildred Roy	
Jack Story	Patty Kind	
Oboe	Percussions	Horns
Harold Herbig	Robert Kelly	JoAnn Tripp
	Janet Curry	Ruth Trask
	George Pew	

PRODUCTION STAFF

1	Business and Publicity Manager		Bo Brown
2	Assistant to the Director		R. Don Lichtwardt
3	Secretary to the Director		Virginia Risch
4	Scene Designer		Lewis W. Stoerker
5	Assistant Scene Designer		Nancy Fields
6	Stage Manager		Edward Patterson
7	Assistant Stage Manager		John Stevens
8	Assistant Business Manager		Bob O'Neil
9	Assistant Publicity Managers		Marylyn Neils, Tom Roberts
10	House Managers		Pat Blinn, Michael O'Shea
11	Costumes		Nancy Fields
12	Assistant in Costumes		Constance Rachac
13	Scene Technician		Robert Haight
14	Assistant Scene Technician		Marybelle Fry
15	Stage Carpenter		Mike Thompson
16	Light Technician		John Waldron
17	Electrician		Fred Lerch
18	Properties		Margaret Jesse
19	Makeup		Tom Roberts
20	Box Office		Margaret Lampen, Don Phillips
21	Posters		Frank Kerr
22	Rehearsal Pianists		Jean Lewis, Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Cole

CREWS

Costumes—

Beverly Burgess
 Bernice Wiley
 Barbara Erickson
 Eddie Thompson
 Mike O'Shea
 Mary Hillman
 Deanne Parmeter
 Virginia Bulen
 James Newton
 Martha Brown

Properties—

Beverly Burgess
 George Kraus
 Patty Mager
 Marge Mackin
 Beverly Hughes

Make Up—

Virginia Risch
 Eddie Thompson
 Patty Cornithus
 Laura Bergh
 Diane Dragstedt
 Mary Hillman
 Jack Swee
 Helen MacDonald

Stage Crew—

Beverly Hughes
 Marge Mackin
 Patty Mager
 Jack Umphart
 Jean Patterson

English 22 and English 16

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