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Dear Patrons,

Here is a letter I received from the head office of Associated British Cinemas Ltd, sometime in February.

"Dear Mr. Westaway,

Kindly note the following:-

May 2nd INTERNATIONAL BALLET (Box Office opens March 14th).

July 11th CHOCOLATE SOLDIER (Box Office opens May 2nd).

August 29th CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY (Box Office opens July 11th).

October 3rd ICE CARNIVAL (Box Office opens August 29th).

Yours sincerely,

Just that-not another word.

I sat at my desk and stared and stared so hard and long, that my assistant thought something was seriously wrong.

"S'matter, guvnor, you look worried?"

"Worried," I yelled, "I've just received the greatest news in my life," and I handed

him the letter, then a broad grin immediately spread over his face.

To describe my feelings is difficult—try to imagine you have swallowed a dozen butterflies, and they are fluttering about in your tummy. Now I know what it feels like to win a big pools prize.

You wonder at my excitement? I will explain.

Whilst the aim of Associated British Cinemas Ltd., is to build a prosperous business, our Directors insist that all our patrons must be given complete satisfaction to achieve this. When you realise a Manager derives great pleasure in knowing that he is giving enjoyment and an opportunity to see "something different" to thousands of patrons, he is thrilled. He feels on top of the world when the name of his own particular theatre is on the lips of everybody in the town. So that brief, laconic "memo" from head office has brought all this excitement to me.

You will appreciate I am writing this after the phenomenal success of the Ballet, and before "Chocolate Soldier." To touch briefly on the Ballet, I wonder how many of you can realise my pleasure and satisfaction when I looked round the auditorium at each performance and saw 2,500 faces flushed with happiness and the enjoyment of

a rare entertainment for Stockton.

And here I must publicly pay tribute to my staff, both Back-stage and Front-of-the-Theatre. They worked well, and because of their splendid co-operation, the most thrilling week in my career as a theatre manager passed without a hitch. Boys and Girls, my sincere thanks.

I am asked by many patrons why I did not give them similar attractions more often.

There is a very good reason—in your interest—why I do not bring on a different show each week—but only selected shows now and again. I feel strongly that only the 100% standard of London's critical west-end is good enough for our patrons—whether it is the high standard of International Ballet, the first rate acting and staging of "Chocolate Soldier" operetta—whether the magnificent singing of the classic operas rendered by the Carl Rosa Opera Company, or the spectacular staging of the great Ice Carnival—each in its class must be "top" of its class. The number of "tops" is limited, so my policy is, rather than bring up numerous shows irrespective of quality, "The Best even if Fewer." I know you will agree with this policy—that "Only the best is good enough for Stockton."

A final point. Remember, Carl Rosa Company are appearing for ONE WEEK ONLY. BOOK NOW. Applications for seats at the box office (10 a.m. - 7 p.m.), by

letter and by phone, are pouring in.

Yours sincerely, M. R. WESTAWAY.

All gangways, passages and staircases shall be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction, and no person shall be allowed to sit or stand during any performance or entertainment in such gangways, passages or staircases. The public shall be permitted to leave by all entrance doors after each performance or entertainment. No smoking shall be permitted to take place on the stage except as part of a performance or entertainment. The fire-proof safety curtain to the proscenium opening must be lowered and raised at least once during every performance or entertainment to ensure that it is in proper working order.

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### Programme

FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, JULY 11th, 1949

BERNARD DELFONT and BEN KANTER

(By arrangement with Hans Bartsch) present AN OPERETTA IN THREE ACTS

### THE CHOCOLATE SOLDIER

by RUDOLPH BERNAUER and LEOPOLD JACOBSON

English Version by Stanislaus Stange Book revised by Guy Bolton

Music by Oscar Straus Additional Lyrics by Harold Purcell

### Cast in order of appearance:

Nadina (Popoff's Daughter ..... .... .... .... .... JESSICA JAMES Mascha (Nadina's Cousin) ..... ..... ..... BEVERLEY WRIGHT Aurelia (Popoff's Wife) ..... ..... GENE MARIAN Bumerli ROY ROYSTON Masakroff (Captain of the Guard) GORDON NEEDHAM Alexius Spiridoff VICTOR STANDING Kasimir Popoff FRED EMNEY Ballet : PRUDENCE HYMAN PRUDENCE HYMAN ... George Gerhardt Lorraine Jordan, Eunice Gibson, Betty Smith, Pauline Stroud, June Howard, George Gerhardt

Rita Harstedt, Diana Field. Ladies of the Ensemble: Mary Dolby, Margaret Clark, Iris Rhodes, Kay Young, Janet Haley, Leonne Mills,

Pauline Rhodes, Margo Pretton. Gentlemen of the Ensemble :

Mervyn Watkins, Tony Williams, John Cartier, Colin McInnes, Howell Hennybury, Oliver Hardwick, Jack Griffiths, Harold Linsdell, Richard Wynne, David Evans, Bernard Wilcox.

SYNOPSIS : The Time

Late Last Century A Small Town in Bulgaria

ACT I

Nadina's Bedroom in Colonel Popoff's House ACT II

The Terrace. In May of the Following Year ACT III

The Same as Act II. That Evening

MUSICAL NUMBERS :

ACT I Marching Thro' the Night ... ... ... What Can We Do Without a Man? ... Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha Say Goodnight ... ... ... Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha My Hero ... ... Nadina The Chocolate Soldier Nadina, Bumerli Seek the Spy Ensemble Ti-ra-la-la ... ... ... Nadina, Aurelia, Mascha ACT II The Fatherland is Free

... ... ... Alexius the Heroic ... Ensemble Slavic Ballet ... Prudence Hyman and Corps de Ballet Can it be Love? ... Nadina, Alexius Forgive Nadina, Bumerli The Tale of a Coat Ensemble Falling in Love Nadina, Bumerli Finale

Ensemble ACT III My Hero (Reprise)
Waltz Ballet ... ··· Vocal Ensemble ... Prudence Hyman, George Gerhardt and Corps de Ballet Big Moment ... ... ... ... ... That would be Lovely Mascha, Alexius Letter Song Nadina, Bumerli Finale

Orchestra under the direction of JAN HURST

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TUES., AUG. 30 7.15	LA TRAVIATA	FRIDAY, SEP. 2 7.15	LA TRAVIATA
WED. MATINEE, AUG. 31 - 2	MADAME BUTTERFLY	SAT. MATINEE, SEP. 3 - 2.3	
WED. EVENING, BARBER OF SEVILLE. AUG. 31 - 7.15		SAT. EVENING, SEP. 3 - 7.1	MADAME BUTTERFLY

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