



Music
Franz Lehár
Original Book and Lyrics
Victor Léon & Leo Stein
English Version
Christopher Hassall

Artistic Director
Rob Gorican
Musical Direction
Eleanor Crisell • Hayden Heathcock
Choreographer
Joyce Sanderson
Producers
Liz Allan • Loraine Scott

MEADOWVALE THEATRE

NOVEMBER 2000

THE MERRY WIDOW

ACT I • The Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris at the turn of the 19th century

A diplomatic reception is in progress, hosted by ambassador Baron Zeta, to celebrate the birthday of the ruler of Pontevedro; but other matters are occupying the minds of most of the guests. Baron Zeta has a problem: Madame Anna Glawari, once a poor country girl, now a rich widow worth 20 million francs. Should Madame Glawari marry a foreigner, their little country will be left bankrupt. A Pontevedrian must marry her, besting the legions of foreign suitors.

The likeliest candidate is the dashing Count Danilo Danilovitch, the embassy's first secretary, a former lover of Anna's who would have married her had his aristocratic family not objected to a commoner but He is now a confirmed bachelor preferring the company of the *grisettes* at Maxim's.

The main, though unwilling, contender on the French side is Camille

de Rosillon, who is madly in love with Baron Mirko Zeta's French wife, Valencienne. He writes his declaration of his love on her fan, but Valencienne, while returning his love, chooses to remain faithful to her husband. She decides to push him towards marriage with another.

Anna and Danilo arrive at the reception separately, but soon encounter one another. Although unwilling to admit it, they are still in love; but when Anna accuses Danilo of being interested in her now only because she is rich, he swears he will never say the words "I love you." They part with a declaration of war. The Baron tries to persuade Danilo that it is his patriotic duty to marry Anna. Danilo at least agrees to see to it that she doesn't marry any of the foreigners.

ACT II • The garden of Anna's house in Paris

Anna has invited all the Parisian elite to a national party at her mansion the following day; she opens the entertainment by singing the lovely song *Vilia*. Danilo arrives later, a reluctant guest, but still intent on keeping Anna's foreign suitors at bay. He succeeds in blackmailing St Briche and Cascada into withdrawing - by threatening to reveal their affairs with embassy wives - but is unsure of the position of Camille.

Valencienne and Camille retire to a pavilion for a last farewell. Baron Zeta and Danilo discover the rendezvous, but not

before Anna manages to take Valencienne's place and be found in the compromising situation. Anna declares that she is going to marry Camille - to the consternation of all, including the prospective bridegroom and a jealous Danilo.

In the garden, later that night, following a lively can-can led by Valencienne, Anna finds herself alone with Danilo. He forbids her to marry Camille, and she tells a delighted Danilo the truth of the pavilion rendezvous. Now there is no obstacle between them - except her fortune and Danilo's pride.

Judy Bikas

Characters

Baron Mirko Zeta	D. Kirk Teeple	<i>Pontevedrian Ambassador in Paris</i>
Valencienne	Leslie Carney	<i>His Wife</i>
Count Danilo Danilovitch	Curtis King	<i>Secretary</i>
Anna Glawari	Deborah Dowey	<i>Pontevedrian Widow</i>
Camille de Rosillon	Stephen Harland*	
Vicomte Cascada	Brian Toogood	
Raoul de St Brioche	Peter Whalen	
Bogdanowitsch	Bud Old	<i>Pontevedrian Military Attaché</i>
Sylvane	Ruth McDonald	<i>His Wife</i>
Kromow	Nick Forrow	<i>Pontevedrian Councillor</i>
Olga	Mary Lynn Merklinger	<i>His Wife</i>
Pritschitsch	Jeff Williams	<i>Pontevedrian Consul</i>
Praskowia	Rita Ferguson	<i>His Wife</i>
Njegus	Peter Josselyn	<i>An Embassy Secretary</i>

Ornaments of Parisian Society, Pontevedrians

Liz Allan
 Jim Allan
 Judy Bikas
 Karen Campagnolo
 Barbara Forrow
 Joyce Forth
 Chris Fraser
 Wynne Hamilton
 Pat Mack
 Dave Phelps
 Barbara Poland
 Howard Poland
 Jack Travis
 Peter Valentine
 William Whitehouse
 Janette Williams



Les Grisettes & Gypsy Dancers

Michelle Almeida
 Judy Bikas
 Melanie DeChuna
 Nat DeChuna
 Michelle Ferguson
 Christine Houle
 Aaron Smaller
 Natalie Wilkinson

* With the permission of Canadian Actor's Equity Association

Act I

Grand Salon of the Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris

1. *Introduction* Principals & Chorus
2. *A Highly Respectable Wife* Valencienne & Camille
3. *Gentlemen, No More!* Anna & Gentlemen
4. *I'm Off To Chez Maxime* Danilo
5. *All's One To All Men When There's Gold* Anna & Danilo
6. *Finale Act One* Principals & Chorus

Intermission

Act II

The Garden of Anna Glawari's Mansion in Paris

1. *Heia-Ho!* Anna & Chorus
2. *Vilia* Anna & Chorus
3. *Jogging In A One Horse Gig* Anna & Danilo
4. *You're Back Where You First Began* Septet
5. *A Lady's Fan* Anna & Danilo
6. *Red As The Rose In Maytime* Valencienne & Camille
7. *Quête à La Mode Parée*
8. *Oh How Splendid* Chorus
9. *There Were Once Two Royal Children* Danilo
10. *Interlude (Chez Maxime)* Orchestra

The Garden of Anna Glawari's Mansion later that evening

11. *Cakewalk* Orchestra
12. *Eh, Voilà Les Belles Grisettes!* Valencienne & Chorus
13. *Love Unspoken* Anna & Danilo
14. *Finale* Principals & Chorus









