

## 1983 Annie Get Your Gun

### *Annie's fast on the draw*

East Surrey Operatic Society's production of "Annie Get Your Gun" staged in the Dorking Halls proved to be a well, staged, complex show, which worked well even on the first night. The entire show was bright and fast moving, supported by an excellent orchestra under the direction of Colin Copestake, occasionally marred by a relentlessly fast tempo in the more sentimental numbers.

Choreography was well thought out and ably tackled by individual dancers and the large chorus. The Indian chant scene was thrillingly staged, the red costumes and fiery lighting combined with the wonderfully pagan sound of the music to make a breathtaking scene.

Gillian Jarvis as Annie was likeable, gauche and entirely credible. She conveyed an immense variety of talent and one could sit back and thoroughly enjoy her singing and acting. Andrew Glass as Frank Butler tended to lack subtlety and variations but had a marvellous stage presence and pleasing singing voice. Charlie Davenport, played by Phil Felstead, provided an amusing light relief and the several other supporting roles were convincingly portrayed.

The show is rather dated in substance. Perhaps the style of presentation could have made an attempt to remedy this. Nevertheless, the show looked and sounded good and is minded of how many good tunes it has in it.

How rewarding to be able to enjoy such an able standard locally.