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Manuel Beal - Jan/Feb 1961

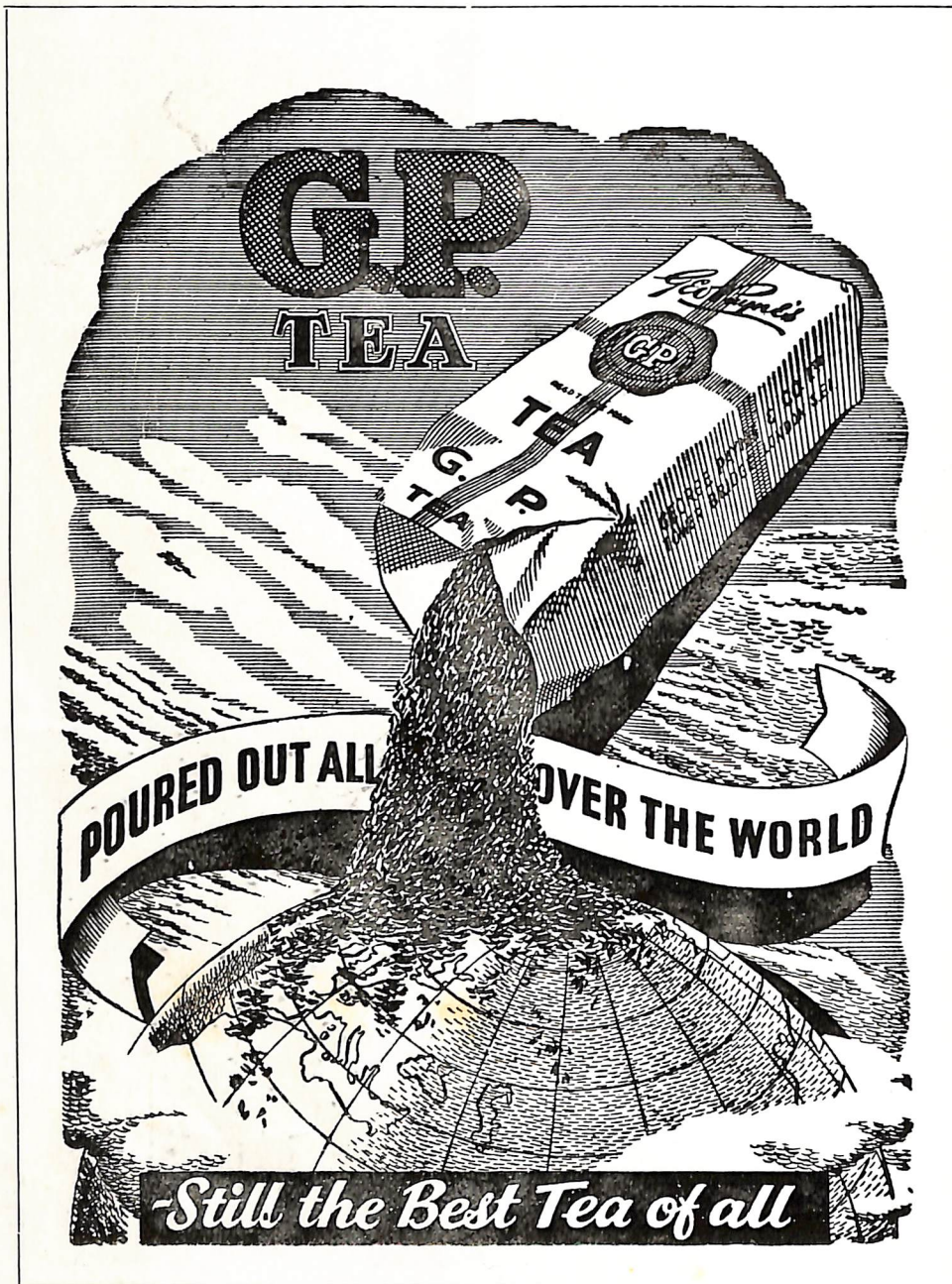


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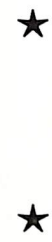
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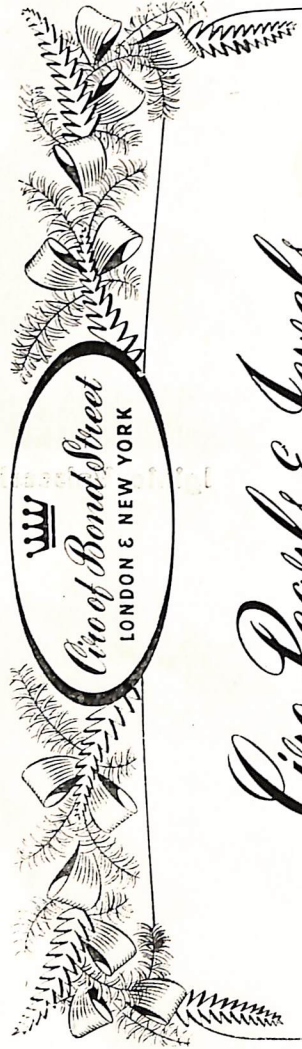


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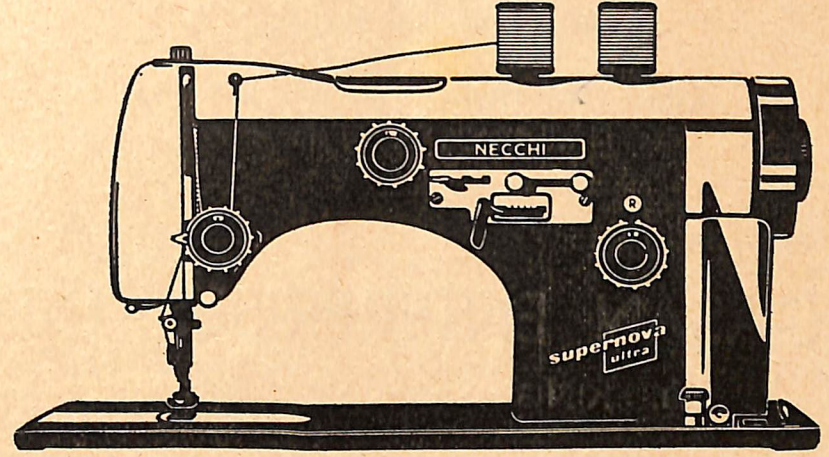
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Fedora

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

*Scene: Study in Vladimir Andreyevitch's house
in St. Petersburg, Russia.*

The Princess Fedora Romazov calls to see why her fiance has not waited for her after a theatrical performance they attended together. He had left her half way through pleading urgent business. She is surprised to find that he has not returned home yet. While a zealous servant goes in search of the Count at his favourite club, the princess gives a look round. But events take a dramatic turn when Count Vladimir is brought back home mortally wounded. The Chief of Police believes it is a political crime and suspects Count Loris Ipanoff of having committed it on behalf of the Nihilists. A search in Ipanoff's apartments proves that the man has made a hasty flight. Fedora swears upon the cross on her bosom to bind herself to eternal spinsterhood and mourning until the culprit is brought to book. She turns to her fiance in time to see him expire in her arms.

ACT II

*Scene: Drawing room in Countess Olga Sukarev's
house in Paris.*

The Princess Fedora is in hot pursuit of Count Loris Ipanoff. The search has led her to Paris whereto, it is known, the Count has escaped. She meets him at a party organised by her friend the Countess Olga Sukarev. Loris is attracted by Fedora's beauty and starts courting her, quite unaware of the trap that is being laid for him. Feigning to reciprocate his love, Fedora draws him into an account of his escape from Russia. He admits that it was because he killed Count Vladimir, and agrees to call later and tell her all about it if she promises him her love. Fedora promises. She is indeed struggling against a growing attraction for the man she decided to bring to account. Meanwhile she paves the way for his capture by the Russian Chief of Police, who has come with her to Paris, and for the imprisonment of his brother Valeriano in Russia, whom she also suspects to be a Nihilist. But Loris has

quite a different tale to tell. He had killed Vladimir in self defence after having surprised him at a rendezvous with Loris's wife. Fedora can hardly believe that her lover had been so false to her; but Loris shows her a spate of love letters in some of which she even finds offensive references to her. Loris is now widowed and in hiding. He adds that he knows there is someone on his heels. Fedora saves him from the clutches of the police by persuading him to stay with her and openly declares her passion for him.

ACT III

Scene: At a mountain resort in Switzerland.

The Princess Fedora and Count Loris Ipanoff have become to all intents and purposes man and wife. All they wait for is to return to Russia, after Loris has obtained an official pardon, and is no longer considered an outlaw. But Fedora is full of unpleasant forebodings. Her impulsiveness has led to the death of Loris's brother while in prison and then to that of his ailing mother who could not stand the shock. The happiness of the lovers is marred by the news, which Loris receives from a friend, that both his mother and brother are dead, and the grant of his pardon brings him no relief. His friend tells him that it is now known who is dogging his footsteps. It is a woman, and he is coming to show her up to him. Fedora is at her wits' end. She implores him to pardon this unfortunate woman who might have been too overwrought about her fiance's murder to consider that he could have been a fickle lover. The unsuspecting Loris says that he could only pardon her after he will have strangled her with his own hands for the harm she had done to those who had been dearest to him. She is so overwhelmed with remorse and grief that Loris at last reads in her eyes the confession of her guilt. His terrible rage so desperately upsets Fedora that she takes poison in his presence from a secret phial in the cross on her bosom. The arrival of Loris's friend, who is also a doctor, coincides with Fedora's death in the arms of her lover whose forgiveness comes to her only too late.

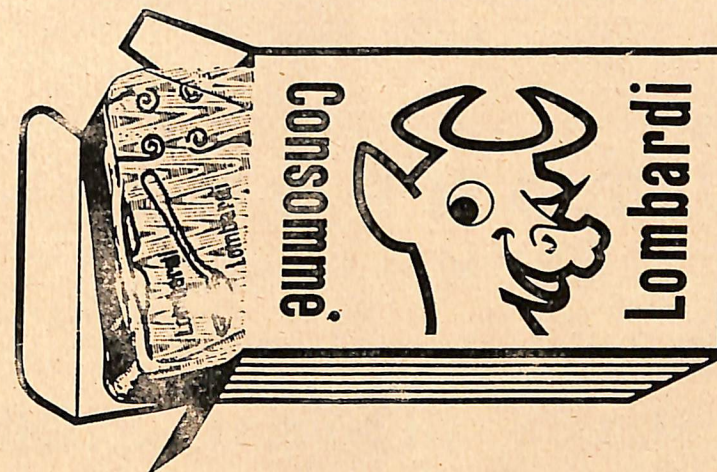
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Fedora

Opera in Three Acts by A. Colautti after V. Sardou

Music by
UMBERTO GIORDANO

First Produced at the Teatro Lirico Internazionale, Milan, in 1898.

CHARACTERS

PRINCESS FEDORA ROMAZOV	LUCIANA BERTOLLI
COUNT LORIS IPANOFF	GIUSEPPE SAVIO <i>belli voci, cab</i>
COUNTESS OLGA SUKAREV	ADRIANA TURRINI <i>h. l.</i>
CHEV. JEAN DE SIRIEX	AFRO POLI <i>good actor singer</i>
DIMITRI	ADRIANA TURRINI <i>h. l.</i>
DESIRE'	GIUSEPPE VICENTINI
BARON ROUVEL	GIUSEPPE VICENTINI
CIRILLO	ALFONSO MARCHICA <i>alt. base</i>
DOCTOR BOROVI	NICOLA GIORGIO
GRETCH, CHIEF OF POLICE	OTTAVIO SERPO
BOLESLAO, LAZINSKI	Mrs. AMELIO RIGOLIN
NICOLA	NICOLA GIORGIO
SERGIO	N.N.
MICHELE	N.N.

In Russia, Paris and Switzerland in 1898.

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Chorus Master

ERNESTO PIRISI

Assistant Conductor

AMELIO REGOLIN

Chorus Master

J. ABELA SCOLARO

Prompter

GIACINTO POLONI



Fedora

L-EWWEL ATT

*Xena: Offiċċju fid-dar ta' Vladimir Andreyevitch
f'San Petersburg, ir-Russja.*

Il-principessa Fedora Romazov tgħaddi d-dar tal-għarus tagħha, il-konti Vladimir Andreyevitch, biex tara għala ma stennihiex wara t-teatru. Kien hareġ f'nofs l-opra għax qal li kellhu xogħol urġenti. Tiskanta xhin issib li ma jkunx id-dar, u tibgħat seftur ifittxu l-każin fil-waqt li hi tagħti daqqa ta' għajn mad-dwar. Hin bla waqt tidhol il-Pulizija li ggib magħha lill-konti Vladimir ferut għall-mewt. Il-Kap tal-Pulizija jissuspetta fin-Nihilisti u b'mod speċjali fil-Konti Loris Ipanoff li kien joqgħod fid-dar ta' biswit Andreyevitch. Imma tfittxija f'dik id-dar turi li Ipanoff ikun ġa ħarab. Il-principessa Fedora tagħmel wegħda li tibqa għal għomorha xebba u bil-vistu, jekk il-għarus tagħha jmut, sa ma jirnexxilha taqbad il-ħati, u ta' dan taħlef fuq Salib li jkollha imdendel ma' għonqa. Vladimir imutilha f'dirgħajha.

IT-TIENI ATT

Xena: Salott fid-Dar tal-Kontessa Olga Sukarev f'Parigi.

Il-Principessa Fedora qed tigri wara l-Konti Loris Ipanoff, u t-tfittix iwassalha f'Parigi fejn taf li hu issa jinsab. Tiltaqa' wiċċ imbwiċċ miegħu f' "party" fid-dar tal-ħabiba tagħha l-Kontessina Olga Sukarev. Loris iħoss ruħu miġbud bi għmiel il-principessa Fedora bla ma jintebah bin-nassa li jkun diehel fiha. Fedora tagħmel ta' bir-ruhha qiegħda tkompli miegħu sa' ma' ggagħlu jgħidilha li hu telaq mir-Russja għax kien qatel tabilhaqq lill-Konti Vladimir u ma titilqux qabel ma jwegħdha li dik il-lejla stess jiġi jgħidilha l-ġrajja kollha. Izda Fedora wkoll issa qed tħoss x'jiġbidha lejn dan il-bniedem qalbieni: madankollu tiftiehem mal-Kap tal-Pulizija Gretch biex, galadarba sqarr li hu kien l-assassin, jaqbd u taħt idejha kif johroġ mingħanda u biex jieħu ħsieb ukoll jordna l-arrest ta' hu Valerjanu fir-Russja fuq akkuza ta' komplicita'. Loris jiġi, imma l-istorja tiegħu hi ferm differenti milli tkun hasbet Fedora. Lil Vladimir ikun qabdu mal-mara tiegħu Vanda u jkun qatlu wara li l-ieħor ikun ferieh. Lil Fedora juriha xita ta' ittri ta' mħabba bejn Andreyevitch u martu li fl-aħħar jikkonvincu lill-principessa kemm il-għarus tagħha kien bniedem infami. Issa Loris romol u jinsab mifrud minn art twelidu u minn ommu li tant iħobb. Jaf pero' li hemm xi hadd qegħed jiġri warajh biex jeqirdu, izda xejn ma jobsor li tkun Fedora stess.

Issa Fedora tixhet imħabbitha kollha fuqu, u biex tħarsu minn taħt idejn il-pulizija ġgaghlu jibqa' magħha hemm.

IT-TIELET ATT

Xena: F'Lukanda fuq il-muntanji fl-Isvizzera.

Il-principessa Fedora u l-Konti Loris Ipanoff jinsabu ħenjin iġħaddu erbat ijiem fl-Isvizzera qabel ma jasal il-permess biex Loris jista' jirritorna f'pajjiżu u hemm jizzewġu. Imma Fedora tinsab inkwieta. Il-ġhaġla biex tirrapporta lill-ħuh Valerjanu kienet wasslet għal-mewt ta' dak iż-żagħżuħ fil-ħabs tax-xmara Neva u anki għal mewt f'daqqa ta' omm Loris malli ħadet l-aħbar ħażina. Il-hena bejn iż-żewġ maħbubin jithassar kif Loris jieħu l-aħbar tal-mewt ta' ommu u ta' ħuh mingħand ħabib il-mara li qegħda tfittixlu l-passi tiegħu. U Loris juri li sa fl-aħħar wasal għalih il-waqt li jithallas. L-aħbar tal-maħfra li tiġih fl-istess ħin xejn ma tferrahlu qalbu. Fedora titlef rasha. Sejra tinkixef. Titolbu biex jaħfer lill-dik il-mara li setgħet forsi għamlitlu kulma għamlet għax kienet temmen fi Vladimir. 'Naħfrilha', jwegibha hu, "imma wara li nkun fġajtha b'idejja stess". Xħin tara dan, u tisma' wkoll li l-ħabib ta' Loris ikun wasal, Fedora tixrob velenu qawwi li jkun moħbi fis-salib ta' ma' għonqha. Loris jinduna li l-ispjuna kienet hi imma l-miġja ta' l-ħabib, li jkun tabib, turih li m'hemm ebda tama li Fedora tgħix. Il-maħfra tiegħu tasal tard. Fedora tmutlu f'dirġajh bi kliem ta' mħabba kbira fuq xufftejha.

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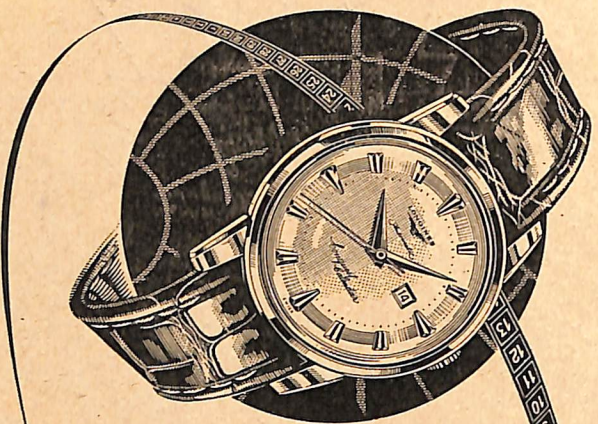
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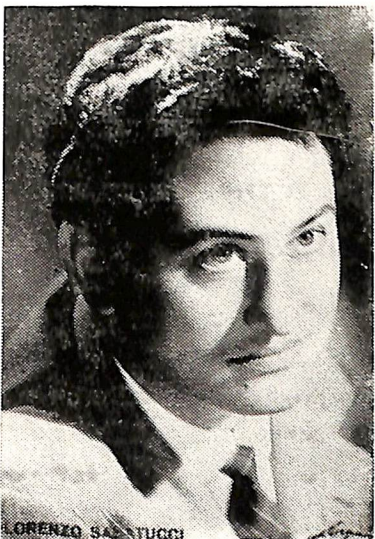
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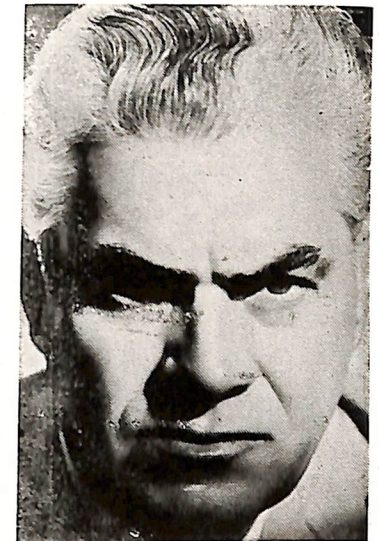
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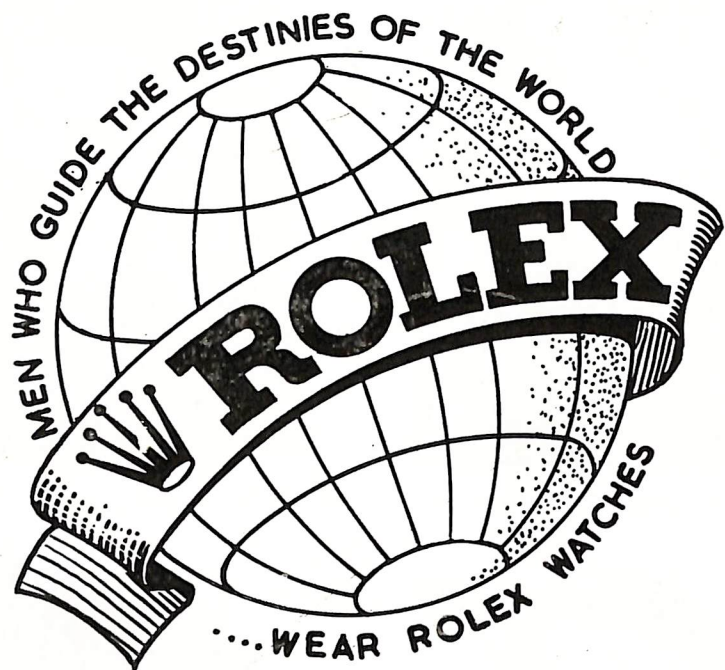
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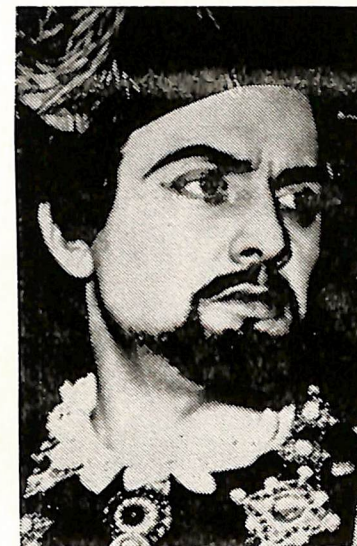
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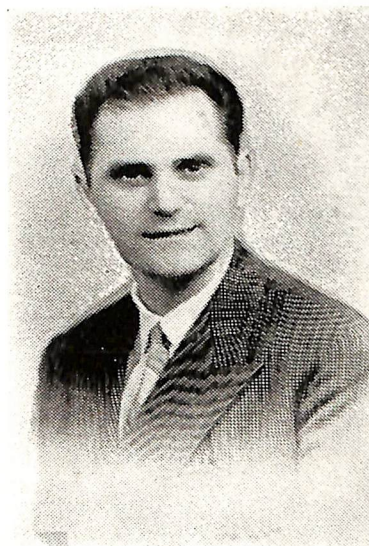
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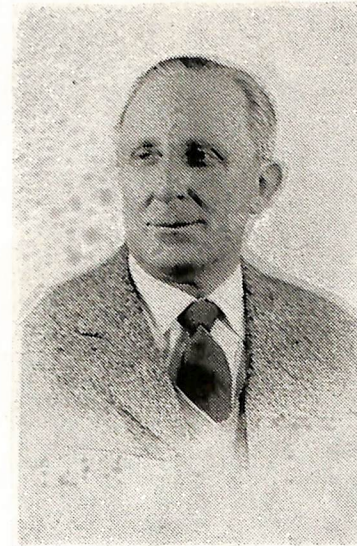
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