



The Guide to Musical Theatre

THE CABARET GIRL

A musical comedy in 3 acts by George Grossmith and P. G. Wodehouse.
Music by Jerome Kern.

Winter Garden Theatre, London : Opened 19th September, 1922; closed
11th August, 1923 (361 performances)

SYNOPSIS

Marilynn Morgan is a chorus girl who tries to get a job in the glamorous troupe of the All Night Follies at the same time, pursuing her love affair with the aristocratic hero, Jim Paradine.

Involved in their affairs are the producers of the cabaret, Messrs Gravvins and Grippls. They drss up a lot of peasants as aristocrats with the aim of impressing Marilynn's young man's parents into consenting to a wedding. It all backfires and Marilynn flees back to London, and showbusiness, where she gets her cabaret job and her young man comes to claim her, family, or inheritance or no.

STORY

The hero, James (“Jim”) Paradene is the nephew of the Marchioness of Harrogate. He has been left a small fortune by his father, on condition that he must marry a lady who meets with the approval of the Marchioness and her son, the Marquis of Harrogate. Unfortunately, Jim wishes to marry Marilynn Morgan, but his trustees disapprove of her because she is a chorus girl.

Act 1: The Showroom of Messrs Grippls & Gravvins, Music Publishers, Bond Street

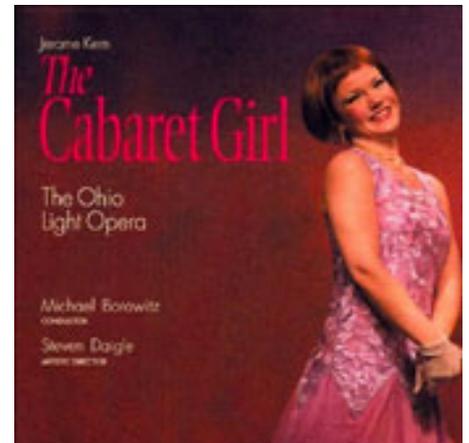
Jim comes to the offices of Grippls and Gravvins looking for a song to sing at his local village concert. When Marilynn also arrives, to audition for a cabaret that Grippls and Gravvins are producing, Jim tries to persuade her to give up her career and settle with him in the country, but she refuses and suggests that they should part. Jim, however, has an idea: if he and Marilynn pretend to be married, his trustees will no longer be able to withhold their approval. Gravvins has “a little place in the country”, “The Pergola” at Woollam Chersey, Hertfordshire, and invites the young couple to visit it.

Act 2: “The Pergola”, Woollam Chersey

Jim and Marilynn arrive at “The Pergola” in the guise of a honeymoon couple. The plan is that Gravvins will invite the local aristocracy to a garden party, to meet the honeymoon couple, with the intention that the Marchioness will be impressed with Marilynn’s social standing. But all the notables of the district are away on holiday, so the members of the Grippls & Gravvins cabaret troupe are enlisted to impersonate them. Gravvins himself takes the part of the local vicar, but the plot is unmasked when the real vicar appears. Marilynn, thoroughly embarrassed, admits her part in the deception and announces that she will have nothing more to do with Mr James Parradine, before fleeing the scene.

Act 3: “All Night Follies” at The Cabaret

Marilynn is performing in the Grippls & Gravvins production, “All Night Follies”, at The Cabaret, where Jim



comes looking for her. He has realised that he cannot expect Marilynn to give up the bright city lights and is prepared to go along with her wishes if she will agree to marry him. The curtain falls before the Marchioness and her son have given their approval, but as she has expressed admiration for Marilynn and he has fallen for the charms of Lily de Jigger, another member of the cast, a happy ending seems probable.

CAST: (in order of appearance)

Marchioness of Harrogate	Jim Paradene	Laburnum Brown
Marquis of Harrogate	Harry Zona	Lilac Smith
Effie Dix	March	Poppy Robinson
Miss Simmons	April	Hyacinth Green
Miss Tompkins	Little Ada	Tulip Williams
Miss Witmore	Lily de Jigger	Vicar of Woollam Chersey
Miss Browlow	Marilynn Morgan	Box office keeper
Commissionaire	Feloosi	Cabaret dancer
Customer	Quibb	Cabaret singer
Mr Grippls	Mrs Drawbridge	
Mr Gravvins	Mayor of Woollam Chersey	and chorus

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. Overture/Introduction
2. Chorus: "Love song is ended"
3. Song: "You want the best seats"
4. Duet: "Mr. Grippls, I've just been thinking"
5. Song: "There she stood"
6. Duet: "Journey's End"
7. Sextet "Whoop-de-doodle-do"
8. Scene: "Dancing Time"
9. Duet "Dancing Time" 3:58
10. "Great news, boys!"
11. Finale: "My little place"

Act II

12. Opening: "The Pergola Patrol"
13. Scene: "Praise for our zeal"
14. Song: "Shimmy with me"
15. Song: "Oh, dear days of long ago"
16. Scene: "We've escaped? Looking all over"
17. Trio: "Oh, I feel so nervous"
18. Finale Act II: "What do you think"

Act III

19. Opening: "Good evening"
20. "London, brighter London"
21. Song: "Kahlua"
22. Finale: "Oriental dreams"