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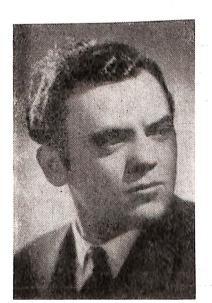
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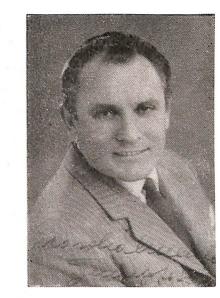
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MANON LESCAUT

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

SCENE: BY A WAYSIDE INN IN AMIENS

The young and elegant Chevalier Des Grieux is joking about the fickleness of love with a few friends, when out steps from the Arras diligence, just halted, the charming schoolgirl Manon Lescaut whose brother is escorting her to a convent to complete her education. Des Grieux falls madly in love with her. While Lescaut is being plied with wine and money by the wealthy Geronte, the latter makes love to the girl and even arranges to rescue her from the boredom of the convent by carrying her off in his carriages that evening. But Des Grieux seizes an opportunity to declare his love to her. Manon hardly knows what love is, but she cannot help preferring Des Grieux to Geronte and goes off with him in Geronte's carriage. To the furious ravings of the deceived Geronte, Lescaut cynically replies that Manon would tire of Des Grieux when his money is exhausted. Meanwhile a group of students, who have enjoyed the trick by the elopers, deride the discomfited Geronte.

ACT II

SCENE: AN ELEGANT BOUDOIR IN GERONTE'S HOUSE IN PARIS

Lescaut's words have come true. Manon has deserted the penniless Des Grieux and has come to the old but wealthy Geronte who lavishes upon her all that a frivolous young girl could wish for. But Manon is not happy and her brother, who understands, contrives to bring Des Grieux to her. Manon soon persuades the Chevalier that she loves him still and they fall in each other's arms only to be caught by Geronte who gibes them and withdraws. Later Lescaut comes to warn them that Geronte is returning with the gendarmes. They had better clear out. Manon dallies to secure her jewels and the delay is fatal. She is denounced as a courtesan and arrested.

ACT III

SCENE: ON THE QUAYSIDE AT LE HAVRE

Manon is awaiting deportation to America with a gang of courtesans. Her brother and Des Grieux make an attempt to rescue her, but they fail. She is brought forth with the rest of the gang and led to the ship. Des Grieux pleads to be taken with them, even it he has to work his passage as a member of the crew, and the captain, touched by the devotion of the young man to Manon, takes him on.

ACT IV

SCENE: A VAST WILDERNESS NEAR THE FRONTIERS OF NEW ORLEANS

Dusk is falling. There is no human habitation in sight. Des Grieux and Manon are trudging their way along in an endeavour to escape. Both are ragged and footsore. Des Grieux who has been supporting the half-unconscious girl, settles her down on a knoll and goes in search of water. They are both parched with thirst. The heat is stifling. Manon thinks he has abandoned her and gives way to utter despair. He returns, without water, only to catch her last breath and the words "I love you!" As she dies, he falls senseless beside her.

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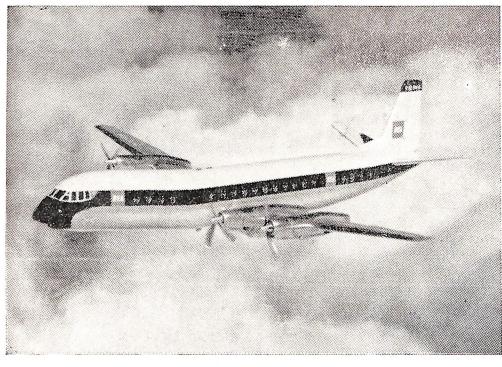
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Music by

GIACOMO PUCCINI

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CHARACTERS

| MANON LESCAUT |
|---|
| LESCAUT (Sergeant in the King's Guards) ATTILIO D'ORAZI |
| CHEVALIER DES GRIEUX ANTONIO BARTOLI |
| GERONTE DE RAVIOR (Treasurer-General) LORIS GAMBELLI |
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MANON LESCAUT

L-ISTORJA FIL-QOSOR

L-EWWEL ATT

XENA: FEJN LUKANDA FUQ IT-TRIQ TA' AMIENS

Iż-żaghżugh u eleganti Kavalier Des Grieux jissahhar wara l-gmiel tat-tfajla Manon Lescaut li huha jkun sejjer iwassal f'kunvent biex tkompli l-istudji taghha. Ikun iridha wkoll Geronte, xwejjah sinjur minn Parigi, li sahansitra jitlobha tahrab mieghu dik il-lejla f'karrozza li jkun kera apposta. Iżda x'hin Geronte jkun jilghab u jixrob fil-lukanda ma' hu Manon, il-kavalier Des Grieux jirnexxilu jattira l-attenzjoni taghha, u Manon tingibed warajh ukoll, avolja ghad ma tafx x'inhi mhabba. Des Grieux u Manon jinqdew bil-karrozza ta' Geronte u jaharbu lejn Parigi. Geronte u Lescaut, hu Manon, jindunaw tard wisq bil-harba taż-żewg żghażagh, iżda Lescaut jsabbru billi jghidlu li Manon ghad tixba' minn Des Grieux meta lil dan jispiċċawlu l-flus.

IT-TIENI ATT

XENA: BOUDOIR FID-DAR TA' GERONTE, PARIGI

Lescaut kellu ragun. Manon telqitu lil Des Grieux u tinsab issa ghand Geronte, li, ferhan tghidx kemm, qed itajjar flus bil-ghama biex lil Manon ma jonqosha xejn. Iżda x-xbejba ma tistax idderri, u huha li fehem x'jonqosha, jara kif jaghmel u jgibilha lil Des Grieux. Manon tipperswadi lill-Kavalier, li kien ghadu moghmi warajha, li hi ma tkunx insietu, u jaghmlu pači. Dlonk jasal Geronte li, x'hin isibhom imghannqin, jitlaq taparsi qaghad, iżda jmur ghall-pulizija. Hu Manon iwiddibhom minnu u jhajjarhom jaharbu, iżda Manon titnikker tigbor dehebha u l-pulizija tilhaq tasal. Geronte jugżaha li tkun dahqet bih u jarrestawha.

IT-TIELET ATT

XENA: IX-XATT TA' LE HAVRE

Manon qed tistenna li jitturufnawha ghall-Amerika ma' gemgha nisa ohra misjuba hatja bhalha mill-Qorti. Lescaut u Des Grieux jittantaw iharrbuha, iżda ma jirnexxilhomx. Hi u tkun sejra abbord ma' l-ohrajn, Des Grieux l-ewwel jithajjar jiehu l-Kaptan bil-herra, iżda wara jitlob bil-hniena biex imur mal-vapur imqar jekk ikollu jahdem ta' bahri abbord, basta jkun fejn Manon. Il-Kaptan tigih hniena minnu u jaccettah.

IR-RABA' ATT

XENA: FID-DEZERT FI NEW ORLEANS

Qed jidlam. F'dik in-nixfa u f'dak id-dezert bla tarf, Manon u Des Grieux eghjew mexjin ghal ghonq it-triq biex jaharbu l-kamp fejn xehtuhom. Bil-ghatx u mfarrkin, jieqfu jistriehu, u Des Grieux imidd lil Manon nofsha mitlufa minn sensiha fuq ir-ramel u jmur jara jsibx qatra ilma. Manon tistejqen u, x'hin ma ssibux, tahseb li jkun telaqha ghal rihha. Izda Des Grieux jerga' lura, ghajjien aktar minn qabel u... bla ilma. Manon bil-kemm tilhaq tghidlu b'lehen mitfi li thobbu... Tmut f'dirghajh, u hu jintelaq hdejha ghaxi.

e.s.i.



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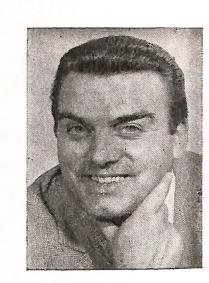


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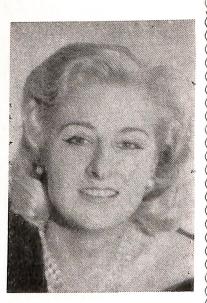
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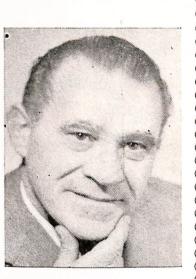
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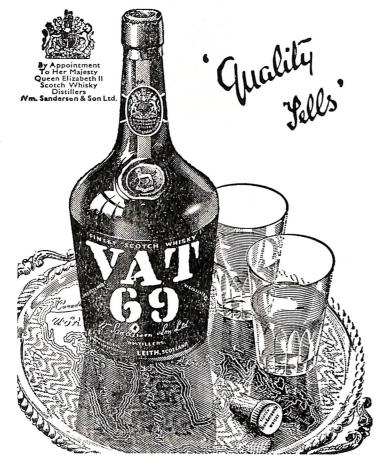
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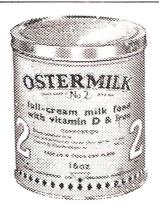
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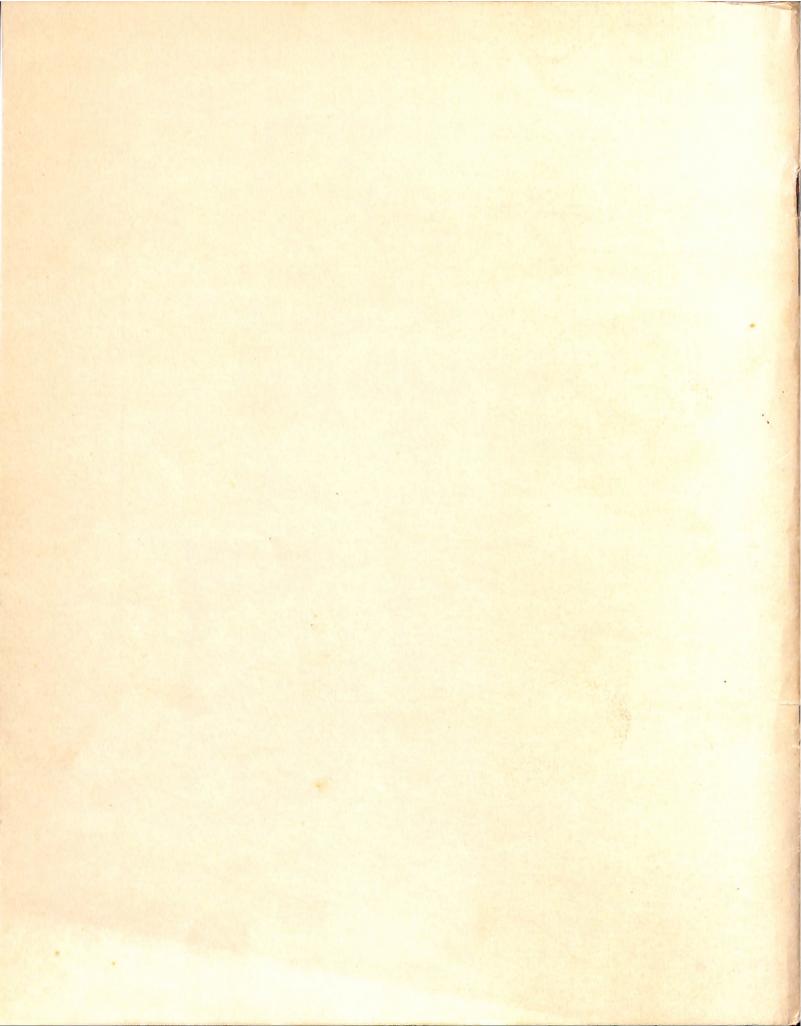


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