

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A CHARLES H. SCHNEER/GEORGE SIDNEY PRODUCTION

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Tommy Steele *in* Half a Sixpence



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Tommy Steele in Half a Sixpence

The Cast

Kipps Tommy Steele
 Ann Julia Foster
 Helen Penelope Horner
 Chitterlow Cyril Ritchard
 Kate Elaine Taylor
 Flo Julia Sutton
 Victoria Sheila Falconer
 Buggins Leslie Meadows
 Pearce Grover Dale
 Sid Christopher Sandford
 Hubert James Villiers
 Fat Boy Gerald Champion
 Shalford Hilton Edwards
 Mrs. Walsingham Pamela Brown
 Lady Botting Jean Anderson
 Laura Aleta Morrison
 Young Ann Deborah Permenter
 Young Kipps Jeffrey Chandler
 Woodrow Barry Sinclair

Technical Credits

Producers Charles H. Schneer
 George Sidney
 Director George Sidney
 Executive Producer John Dark
 Assistant Director Peter Price
 Director of Photography Geoffrey Unsworth
 Camera Operator Kelvin Pike
 Production Designer Ted Haworth
 Art Director Peter Murton
 Assistant Art Director John Graysmark
 Director of Music Irwin Kostal
 Choreographer Gillian Lynne
 Assistant Choreographer Virginia Mason
 Music Editor Carroll Knudson
 Editor Bill Lewthwaite
 Costume Designers Elizabeth Haffenden
 Joan Bridges
 Production Manager Rene Dupont
 Continuity Margaret Unsworth
 Sound Mixer Buster Ambler
 Chief Make Up George Frost
 Chief Hairdresser Gordon Bond
 Wardrobe Supervisor Jackie Cummins
 Casting Sally Nicholl
 Stills Bert Cann
 Original Music & Lyrics David Heneker
 Adaptation by Beverley Cross
 Dorothy Kingsley
 Screenplay by Beverley Cross
 Based on the novel "Kipps" by H. G. Wells
 Technicolor® Panavision®





Young Arthur Kipps (Tommy Steele) and Ann Pornick (Julia Foster), both 10-year-old orphans in a bewildering world, find a sixpenny piece. The sixpence surely means good fortune for Arthur as he makes ready to board the train taking him to Shalford's Emporium to begin his apprenticeship to the draper.

Kipps and his apprentice fellows sing "All in the Cause of Economy" as they mock the hardhearted philosophy of their ever-grouchy employer. The merriment seems to brighten their otherwise gloomy surroundings.



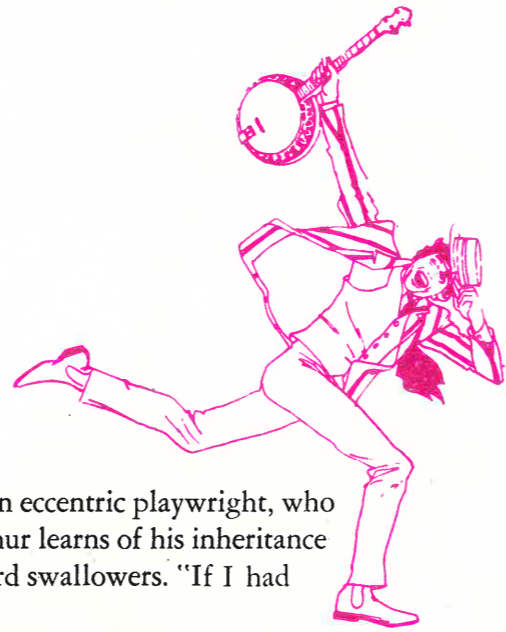


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Kipps and Ann sing the glorious "Half a Sixpence" as they swear undying love. Later, Arthur and Ann meet at Eastbourne, a seaside resort, after many years. Remembering the lucky sixpence, Arthur has the coin split in half, giving half to Ann as a token of their love for one another.





One day Kipps is literally run down by Chitterlow (Cyril Ritchard), an eccentric playwright, who takes Kipps to a local theater for emergency trouser repairs. Here Arthur learns of his inheritance and celebrates with an assortment of actors, jugglers, dancers and sword swallowers. "If I had 'Money to Burn,'" he shouts in this riotous song and dance.



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Kipps and Ann have a falling out because he has failed to keep a swimming date. Her friends chide her with stories of his wild celebration the night before. Ann retorts with "I Don't Believe a Word of It." Arthur tries to explain, but Ann will have none of it. She cries out, "I'm Not Talking to You."



Glorifying in his escape from the draper's, Arthur cuts quite a figure in the small town. He meets the blue-blooded Helen (Penelope Horner); believing he has little chance with her he sings, "She's Too Far Above Me."

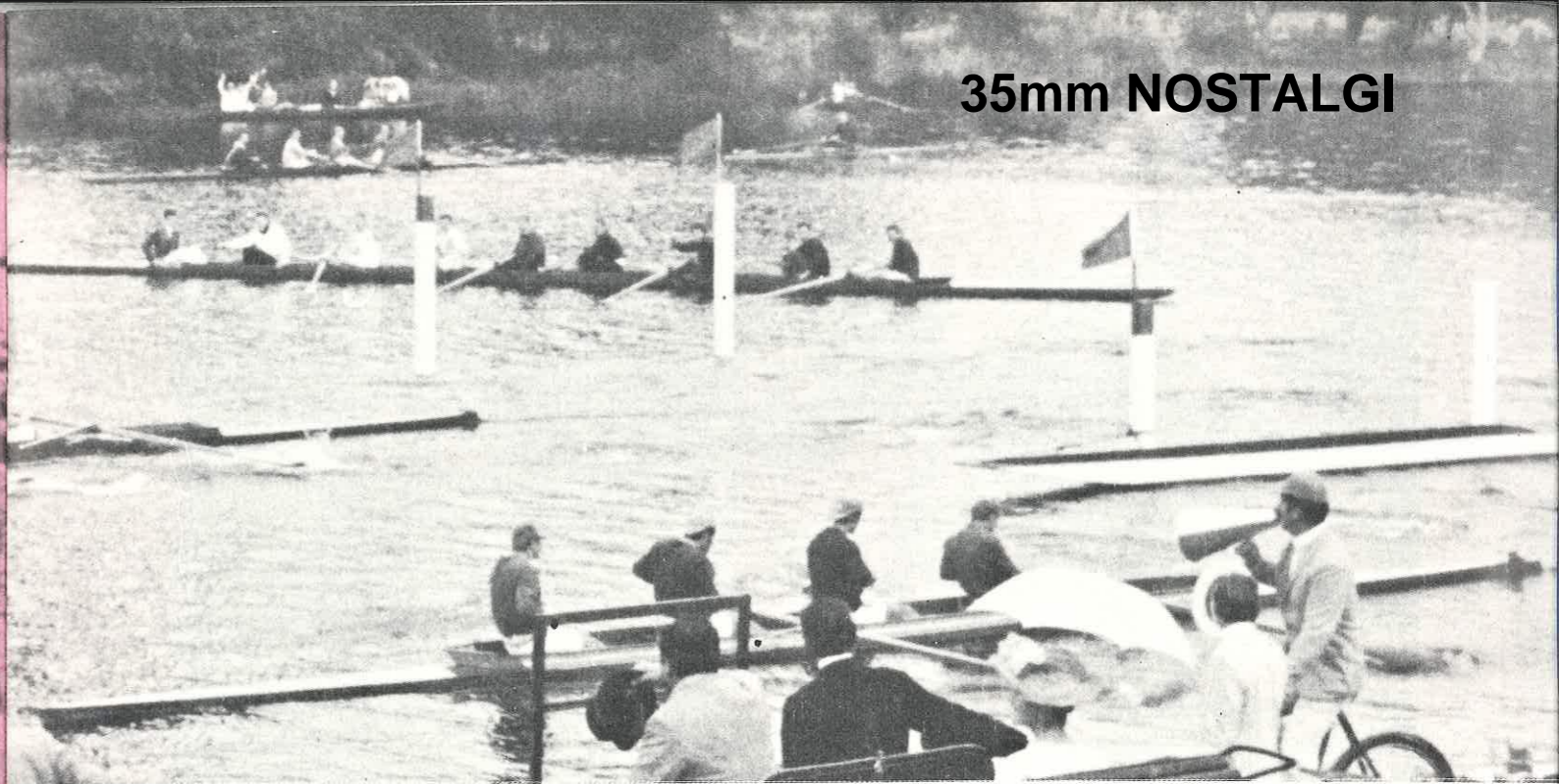
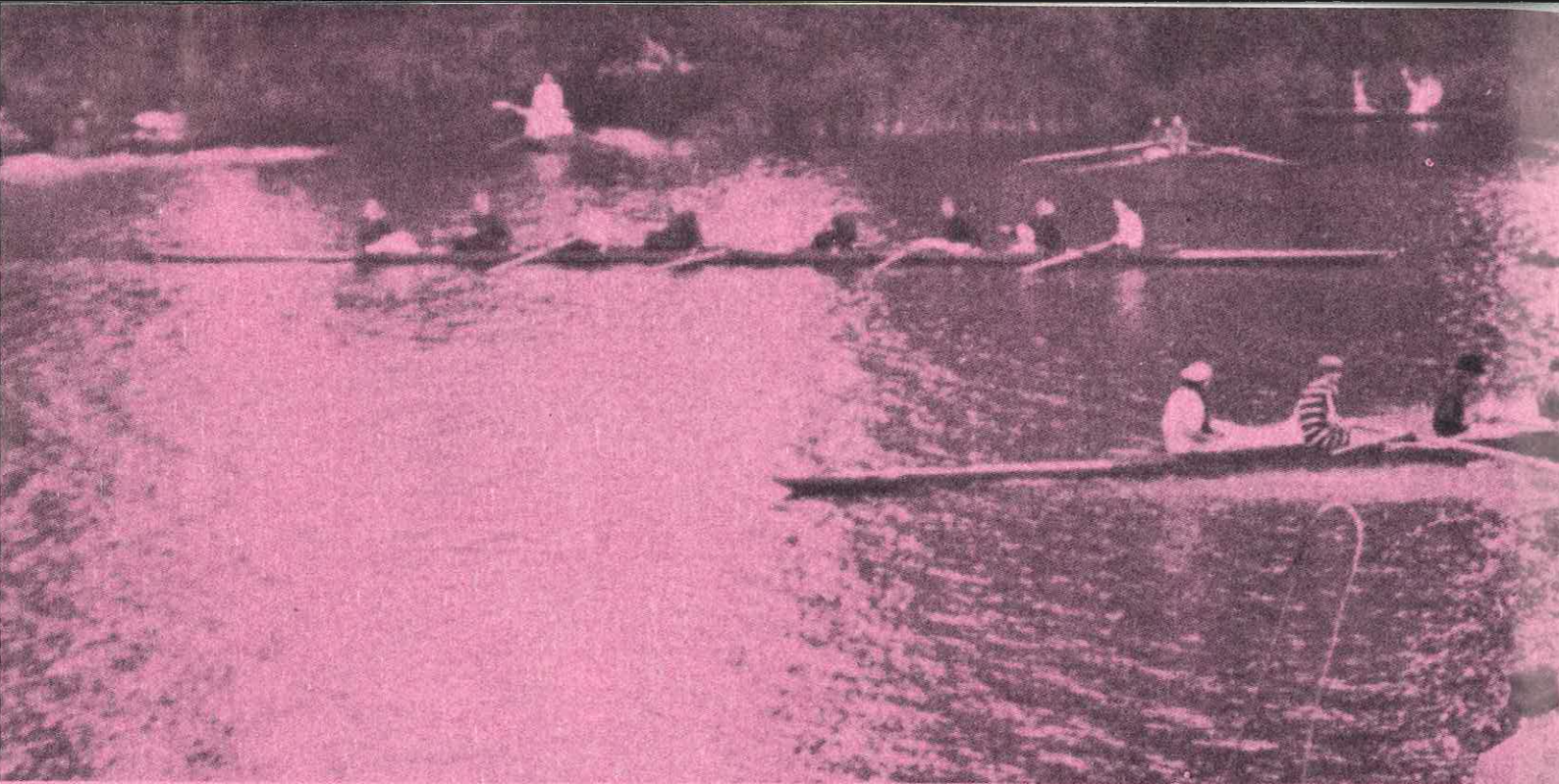
Goaded by her mother (Pamela Brown), Helen chases after Arthur. Her kiss after his victory in the regatta causes Arthur to take off like a rocket. As a storm breaks he sings "If the Rain's Got to Fall."



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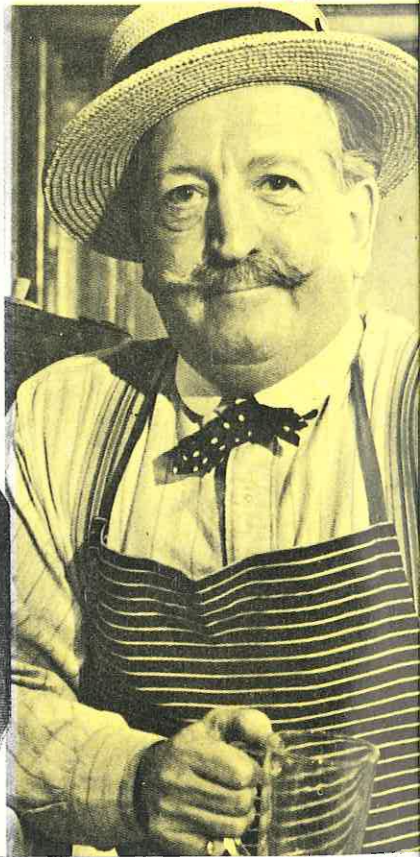
During the boat race, Kipps and the male chorus join in "The Race Is On." With this encouragement, Arthur leads his crew to victory.

After being forced into an engagement with Helen, Kipps finds himself unable to enjoy life among the upper classes. He breaks his engagement and makes up his quarrel with Ann. Now married, he and Ann and their friends set off for a pub where they wildly celebrate with "Flash, Bang, Wallop!"

Unhappy with life in Arthur's inherited big house, Ann is despondent over his insistence on "improving" himself. Mistaken by the local vicar for the maid, Ann tearfully expresses her feelings in "I Know What I Am."



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RAIN



MONEY TO BURN

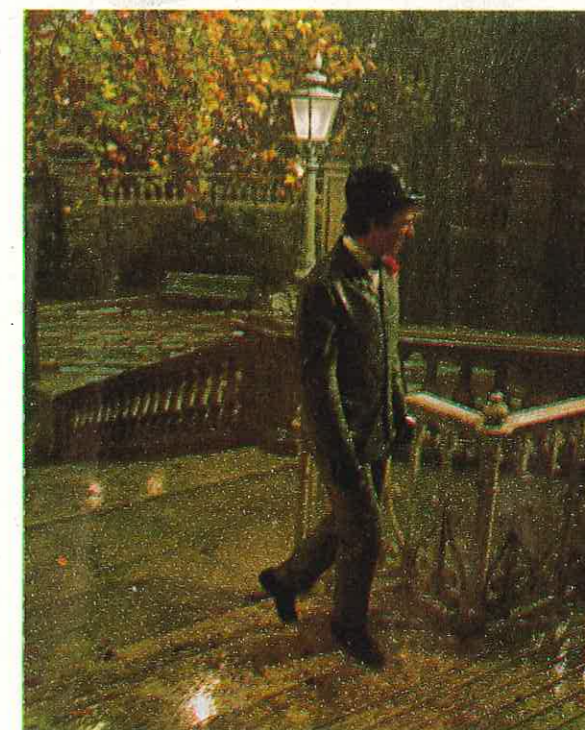
ALL IN THE CAUSE OF ECONOMY
HALF A SIXPENCE
MONEY TO BURN
I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU
PROPER GENTLEMAN
SHE'S TOO FAR ABOVE ME
IF THE RAIN'S GOT TO FALL
THE RACE IS ON OR
MRS. BOTTING'S BOATING
REGATTA CUP RACING SONG
FLASH, BANG WALLOP!
I KNOW WHAT I AM
THIS IS MY WORLD



HALF A SIXPENCE



I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT



SHE'S TOO FAR ABOVE ME

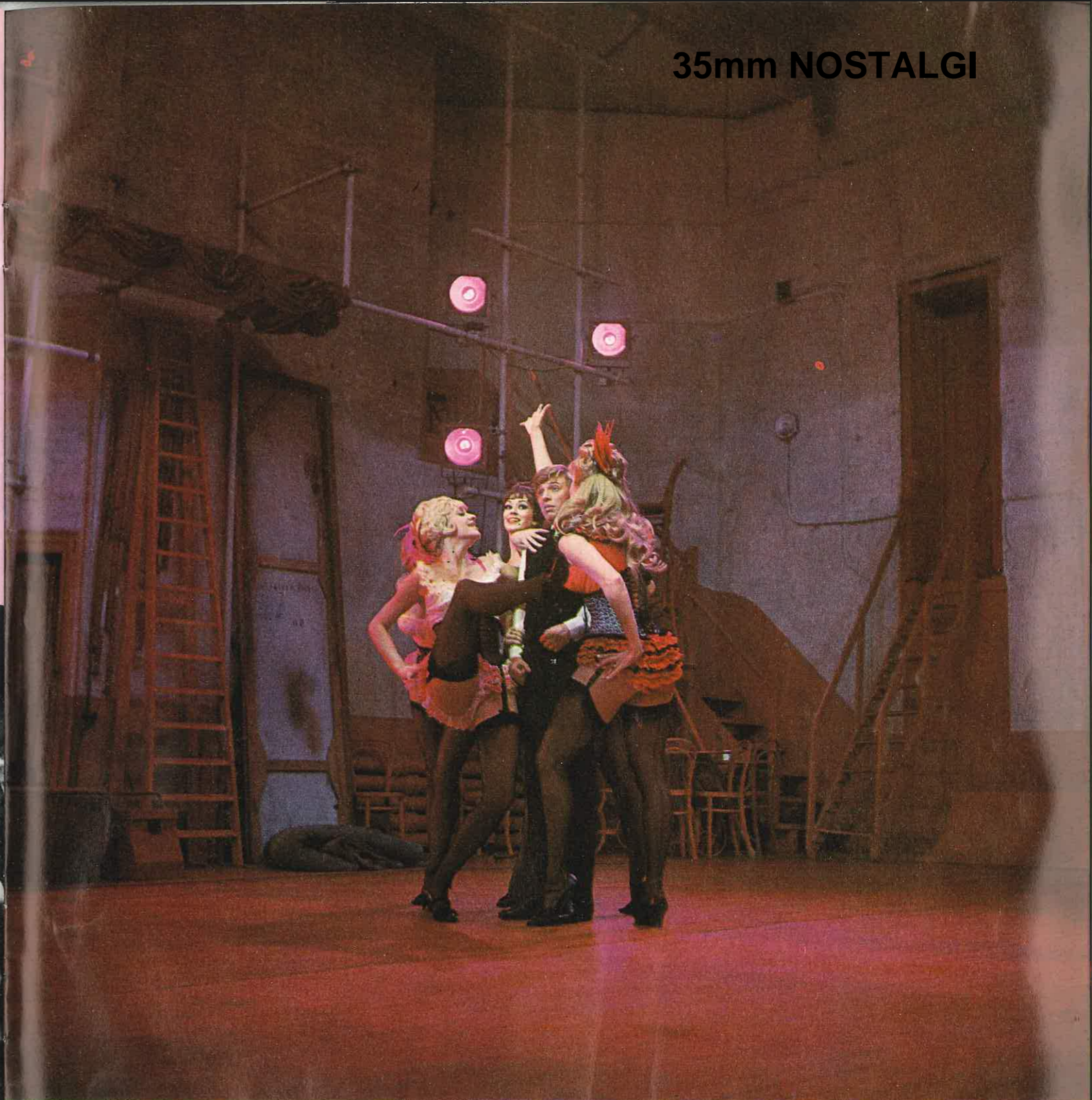
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All is not lost, however, for Chitterlow, who had borrowed from Kipps to finance a play, bursts on the scene to say that the play is a hit. He hands the first of many royalty checks to Arthur, who sets out to build the little cottage Ann so desperately wants. And so love and good fortune conquer all!



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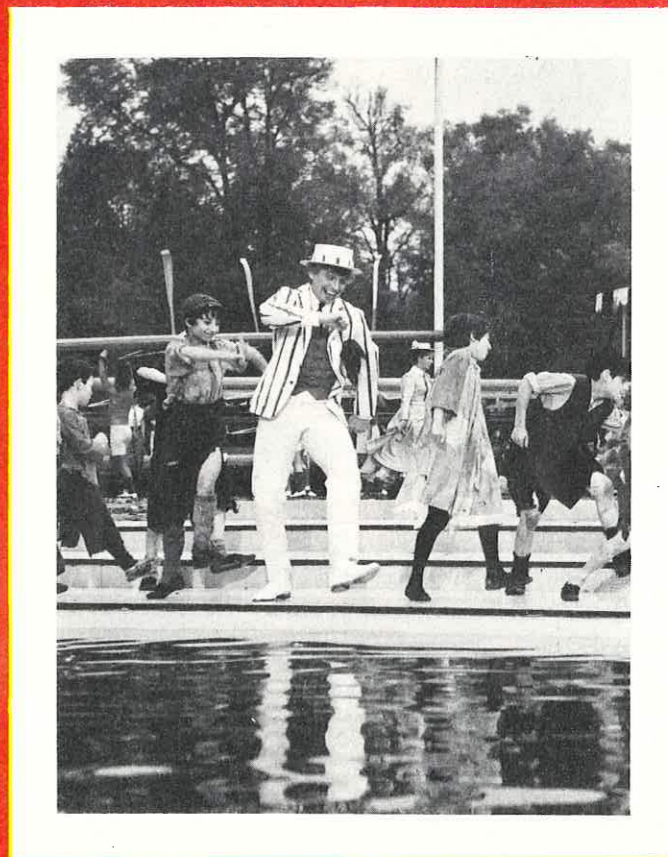
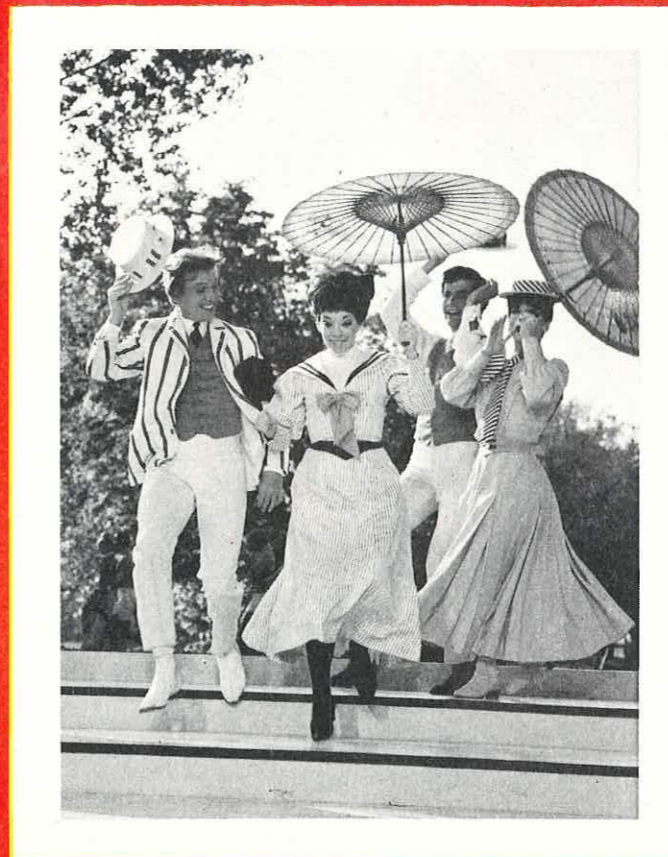
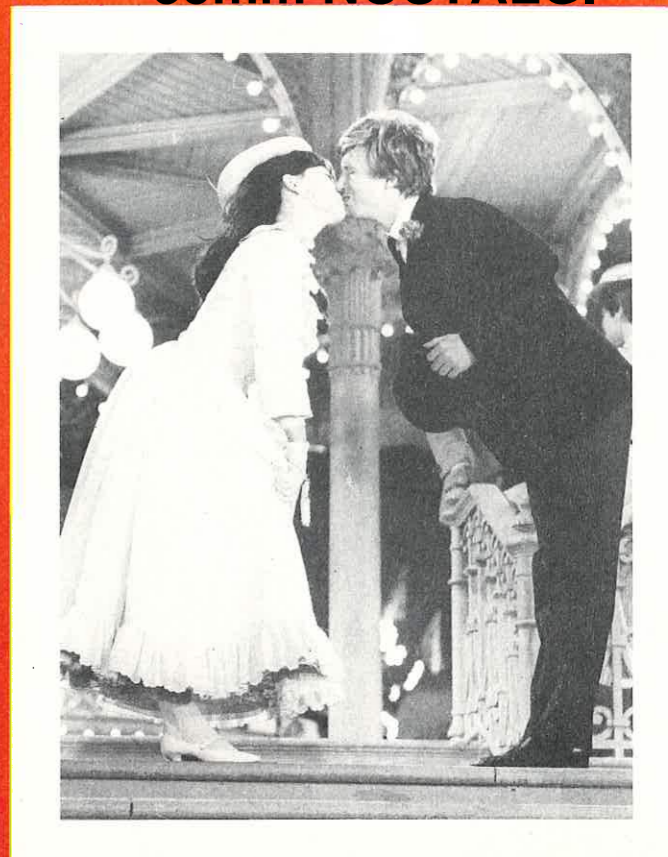
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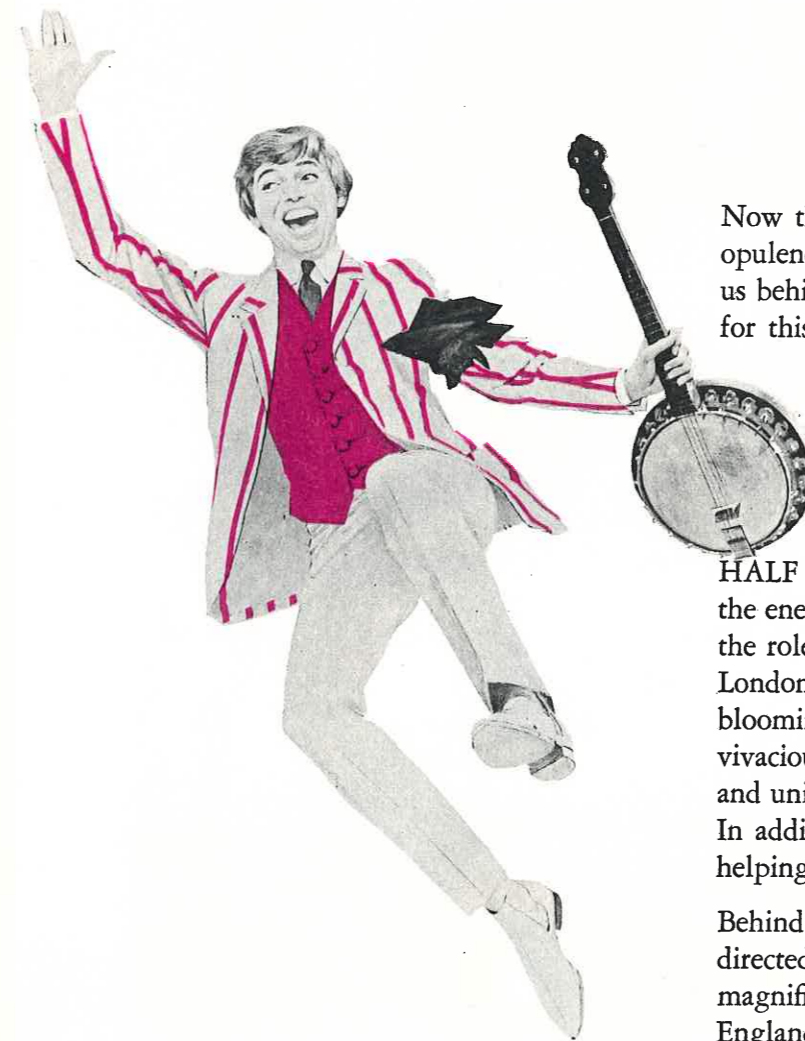
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Now that you've seen HALF A SIXPENCE in all its opulence and joyous splendor, we would like you to join us behind the scenes to meet the major talents responsible for this, the biggest bloomin' musical of the year.

HALF A SIXPENCE is blessed, first and foremost, with the energetic bounce of Tommy Steele—recreating in Kipps the role he played so brilliantly for almost four years in London and on Broadway. Joining Tommy in this big, bloomin' and happy story of young love are pretty and vivacious Julia Foster and Penelope Horner; the irrepressible and unique Cyril Ritchard; and newcomer, Grover Dale. In addition, there is literally, a cast of thousands—all helping to make HALF A SIXPENCE strut and stroll.

Behind the camera, George Sidney, who has produced and directed some of the great Hollywood musicals, has magnificently captured the Edwardian elegance of an England at the height of its glory. Filming HALF A SIXPENCE amidst the spectacular English countryside, Sidney has used historic Blenheim Palace, Henley-on-Thames and charming little Tunbridge Wells to convey screen magic rarely seen these days.

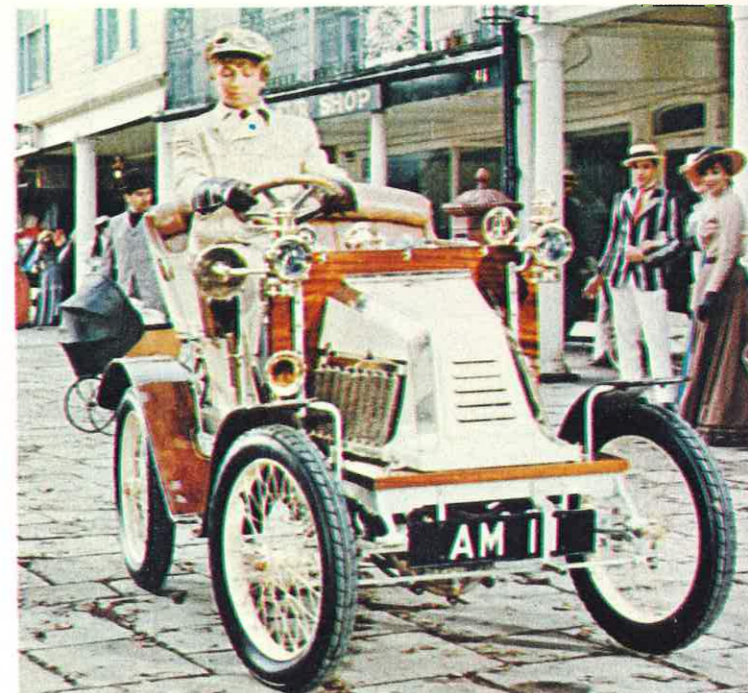
Finally, there is the musical creativity of David Heneker, who wrote the words and music—the heart of the most lavish musical numbers ever put on film—and the choreographic excellence of Gillian Lynne, combining with Heneker to captivate the hearts of moviegoers everywhere.

Truly, HALF A SIXPENCE counts its blessings by the pound. It's everything a musical can possibly be!



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If ever in the history of motion pictures there has been "perfect casting" it is Tommy Steele as Kipps. He was literally born for the role, for, like Kipps, he began life on the wrong side of the tracks, having been born to working-class parents in the slum district of London.

It is fairly certain that not even Tommy himself would have dared dream of one day becoming an international star. He began his career as a pantry boy on Cunard liners plying between Southampton and London when he was 15 and remained as a sailor for almost five years, becoming assistant steward and gym instructor before finding himself out of work at the age of 20.

But Tommy had begun to think of show business before he left the sea, or the sea left him. He had taken part in every ship's concert at the end of each run and had learned to play the guitar. After a few weeks of idleness at home, waiting for another ship, he took himself down to a Soho coffee house where the teenagers gathered and there auditioned with his guitar before this knowing audience. He made a hit and within two weeks was on his way to becoming a sensation, with a hit record. He was really one of the founders of Britain's rock 'n roll hysteria that swept the nation and spilled over into the U.S.

From this start this boy, who had never had a singing, dancing or acting lesson in his life, was soon playing the top music halls of England and the night clubs of Europe. The BBC put on an hour-long television show built around his career, and he became the idol of teenagers.

He also proved he could act, too, by accepting the role of Tony Lumpkin in a West End revival of "She Stoops to Conquer." Then came "Half A Sixpence," and Tommy Steele had reached the top. Without doubt, Tommy is an electrifying personality—his brash grin lighting up the screen, his dancing a delight to see.



Julia Foster

Director George Sidney's selection of Julia Foster for the key role of Ann in "Half A Sixpence" is another key step in this vivacious young actress's rise to international stardom. After making her stage debut at the age of four, Julia spent a long time preparing herself for the success that has now come to her. She made her film debut at the age of 18 with Sir Laurence Olivier and since then she has appeared in a dozen films but it was her electrifying portrayal in "Alfie" that won her world acclaim and attracted George Sidney who felt she would be the perfect Ann for "Half A Sixpence."

Cyril Ritchard

A listing of Cyril Ritchard's credits would fill up many pages and would be a chronology of the modern musical theatre. His creation of the role of Henry Chitlerlow, bon vivant, raconteur, showman—will undoubtedly be added to the roster of great characterizations that he had created in his (40) years on the stage. Perhaps his most famous stage role was the villainous but lovable Captain Hook in "Peter Pan." Aside from his stage and film roles Ritchard has directed many Broadway plays & musicals and has staged 5 works for the Metropolitan Opera.



Penelope Horner

If beautiful Penelope Horner had followed her original inclinations she might well have become one of England's Prima Ballerinas instead of one of the rising young actresses of the British stage, screen and television. Penelope, a real English beauty, with golden hair and green eyes, made her stage debut at the famed London Palladium and after numerous television appearances decided that she should perfect her acting with a repertory company. Her first film role was in "The Admirable Crichton" and she later appeared in "The Nun's Story." Now, it's the demanding role of Helen Walsingham in Paramount's "Half A Sixpence" which promises to add more luster to her already lustrous career.

Grover Dale

The high-stepping antics of Grover Dale as Pearce in "Half A Sixpence" are but another step in an amazing career. From operating his own dance school in McKeesport, Pa. to his co-starring role in "Half A Sixpence," he has appeared in numerous Broadway and London stage productions including "Call Me Madam," "Greenwillow," "West Side Story," "Li'l Abner," "Sail Away" and the Broadway production of "Half A Sixpence." He has appeared in many roles as an actor-singer-dancer on television and his film appearances include "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and "The Young Girls of Rochefort."



George Sidney

George Sidney, one of Hollywood's most brilliant filmmakers, has many firsts to his credit, but the one that he is particularly proud of is being the co-producer and director of the first spectacular musical film ever produced in England. Sidney has been responsible for such film hits as "Show Boat," "Pal Joey," "Anchors Aweigh," "The Harvey Girls," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Kiss Me Kate" and "Annie Get Your Gun" in his long and illustrious career and now "Half A Sixpence" is added to his list of hits.



Gillian Lynne

Trim and lovely Gillian Lynne is a dancer and choreographer of international renown, famous both on Broadway and in London. Her varied background as a dancer and choreographer includes stints with the Ballet Guild, the world-famous Sadlers Wells Ballet, and innumerable appearances in Covent Garden and on the West End stage. The musical numbers for "Half A Sixpence" make her one of the prime film choreographers.



Beverley Cross

A long string of successes on the stage have marked the career of Beverley Cross who wrote the book for the original London & Broadway versions of "Half A Sixpence." A winner of the coveted Drama Award of the Arts Council of Great Britain, Cross has contributed to many films both in England and America. He has taken his original stage-play of "Half A Sixpence" and made it come alive on the screen.



Irwin Kostal

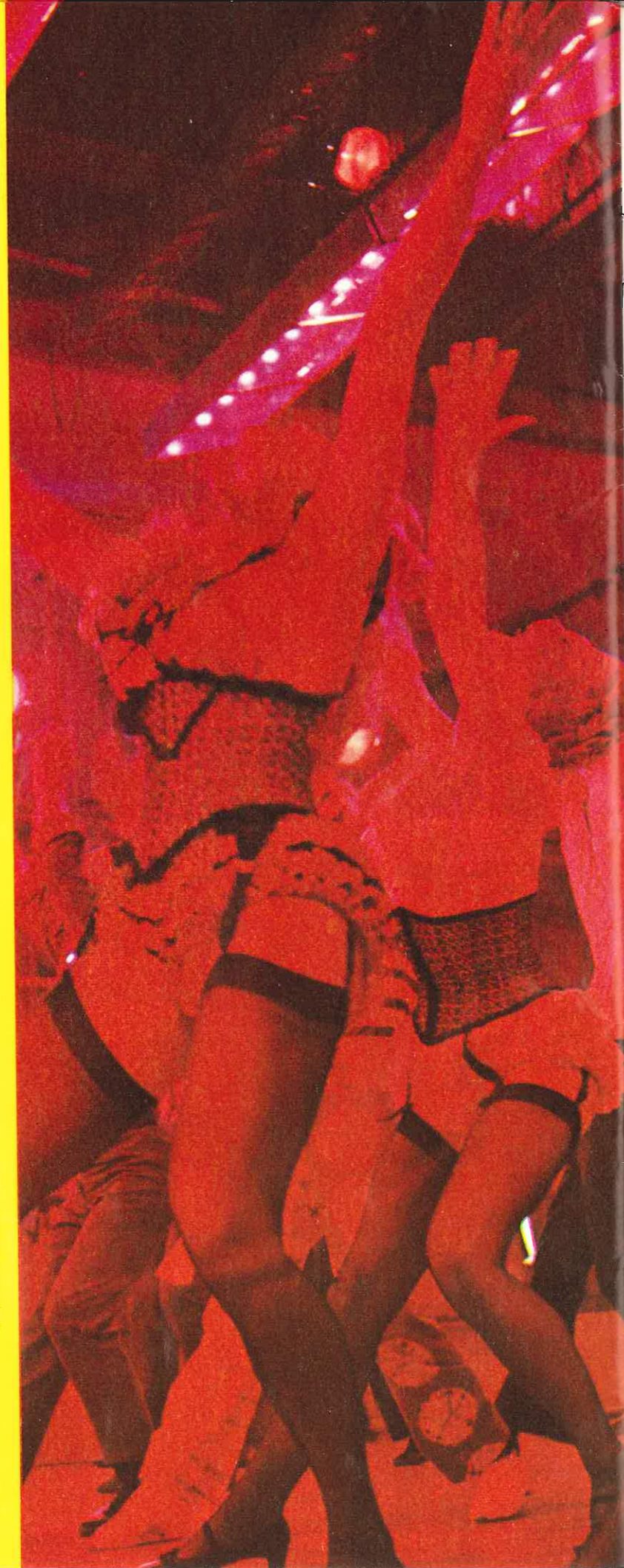
Irwin Kostal brings to "HALF A SIXPENGE" a diverse musical background that includes scoring music for Broadway, television and motion pictures. In the capacity of musical supervisor, arranger and conductor he adds to "HALF A SIXPENGE" the lively touch that he brought to such film hits as "West Side Story," "The Sound of Music," and "Mary Poppins."



David Heneker

David Heneker is one of the most successful songwriters in the world, yet he never wrote a note until he had retired from the British Army after 25 years of service. Heneker, the son of a famous British General, was born into the service, but upon his retirement he has turned out many musical scores including, "Irma La Douce" and the original "Half A Sixpence." For the film version he has written two additional numbers — the sprightly "Regatta" number "They're Off" and the liltingly tuneful "This is My World." The Army's loss is the stage and film world's gain.

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