

La Bohème

1947

Sunday, September 28, 1947 2:00 PM  
Wednesday, October 15, 1947 8:00 PM

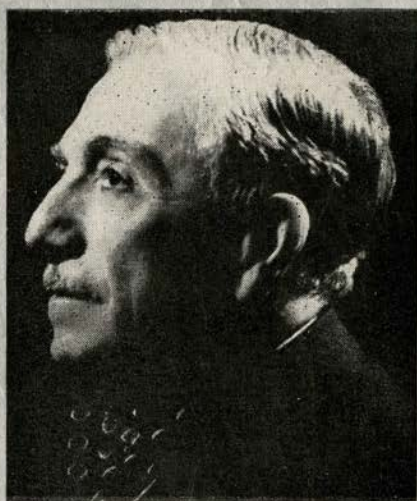
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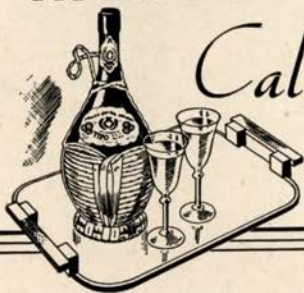
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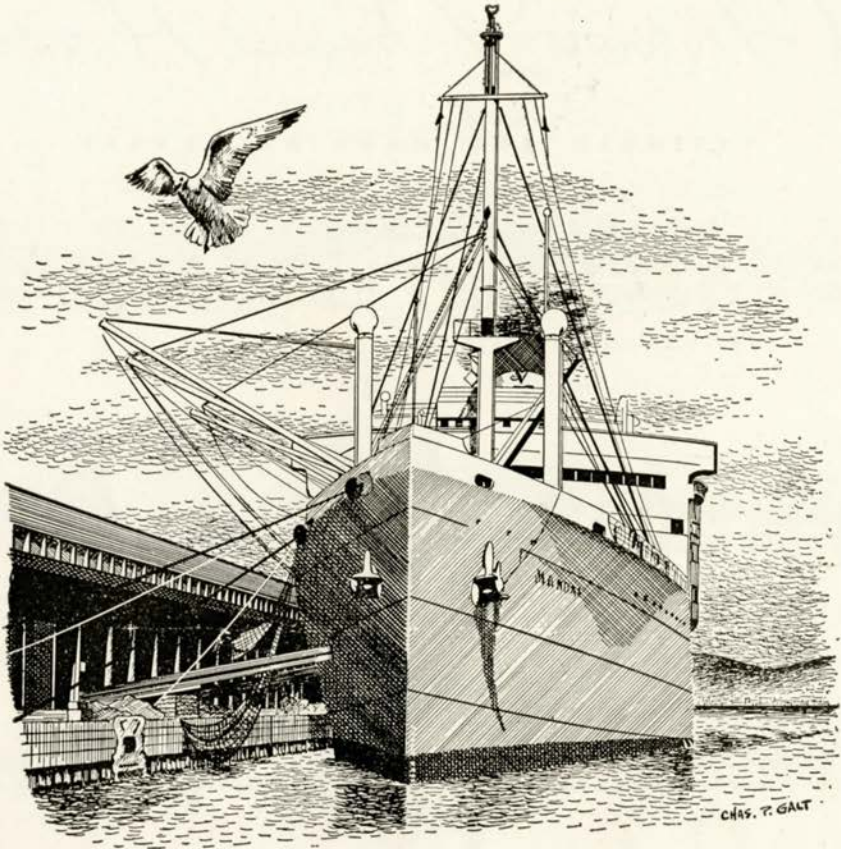
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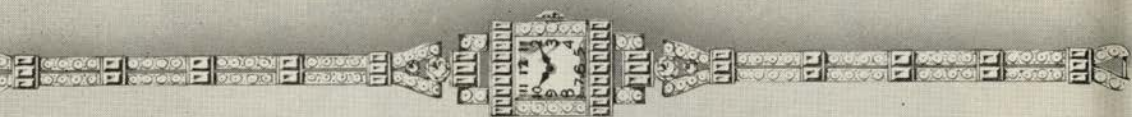
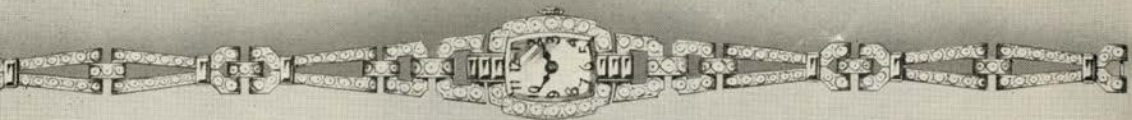
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*No other city, with the single exception of New York, can cite such an unbroken record in grand opera. And yet, the San Francisco Opera Company no longer belongs to this city alone, but to the entire Pacific Coast. Annually, a number of these cities look forward to being host to the company. All of this, we feel, is a tribute not alone to the artistry and good management of the company, but to the people of San Francisco whose support has made this accomplishment possible.*

*The San Francisco Opera Association is grateful for this support and the untiring efforts and genius of Gaetano Merola, General Director of the company since its inception.*

*Kenneth Monteagle*

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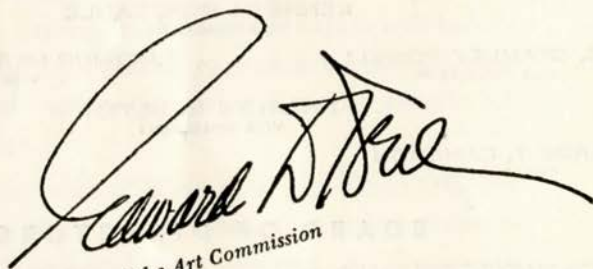
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TO GAETANO MEROLA AND THE MEMBERS OF  
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On this, the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Opera in San Francisco, we desire to mark that epoch and to pause and hear, in memory, the hundred arias that have enchanted the music-loving people of San Francisco, and to appraise the renown and distinction which the Opera has brought to the City of San Francisco.

To you, and to the men and women who have made possible this great and graceful contribution to the life of our community, we present at this hour our tribute of praise and offer the warmth of our cordial regard.

Sincerely,



President of the Art Commission

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## *To Gaetano Merola...*

The Musical Association of San Francisco happily participates in this 25th Anniversary celebration.

Through your patience, sagacity, and artistic aims the San Francisco Opera has become an institution of lasting value to the collective musical activity of the nation as well as to the audiences of the Pacific Coast.

Your great spirit, manifesting itself in behalf of music which shall have lasting importance to its public, is an asset we pay homage to—with the sincere wish that you will continue to guide us for many years to come.

May the future bring you the fulfillment of your fondest dreams.

*Leonora Wood Armsby*

## *Congratulations!*

San Francisco owes an immense debt of gratitude to the San Francisco Opera Association, and to General Director Gaetano Merola. May I add my personal congratulations to the City's thanks on the occasion of the Association's 25th Anniversary.

*Elmer E. Robinson*

Judge of the Superior Court

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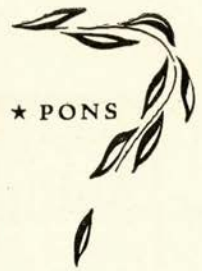
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Pinza, Ezio  
Podolsky, Leo  
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Ponselle, Rosa  
Posselt, Ruth  
Quartararo, Florence  
Rosenthal, Manuel  
Sanroma, Jesus Maria  
Schmitz, E. Robert  
Shure, Leonard  
Spivakovsky, Tossy  
Stravinsky, Igor  
Szigeti, Joseph  
Tapia-Caballero  
Tansman, Alexander  
Tetley-Kardos, Richard  
Thibaud, Jacques  
Traubel, Helen  
Weede, Robert  
Wittgenstein, Paul

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# R E P E R T O I R E

## REGULAR SERIES

- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) . . . . . Tuesday Night, September 16, at 8:00  
 With Albanese, Votipka, Lawlor, Pearce, Warren, Cehanovsky, De Paolis, Olitzki, Ligeti,  
 Lorenzini MEROLA, Conductor
- DON GIOVANNI (*Mozart*) . . . . . Friday Night, September 19, at 8:00  
 With Roman, Quartararo, Albanese, Pinza, Baccaloni, Kullman, Alvary, Ligeti  
 BREISACH, Conductor
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*) . . . . . Monday Night, September 22, at 8:00  
 With Albanese, Glaz, Votipka, Pearce, Valentino, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Lazzari, Olitzki,  
 Harvey CIMARA, Conductor
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (*Wagner*) . . . . . Friday Night, September 26, at 7:30  
 With Traubel, Resnik, Harshaw, Glaz, Turner, Votipka, Hartzell, Popper, Svanholm,  
 Czaplicki, Alvary, Olitzki, Guenter, Benson, Daneluz STEINBERG, Conductor
- LA GIOCONDA (*Ponchielli*) . . . . . Tuesday Night, September 30, at 8:00  
 With Roman, Thebom, Harshaw, Baum, Warren, Moscona, Chabay, Ligeti, Benson, Nelson,  
 Alibertini, Tallone MARZOLLO, Conductor
- LOUISE (*Charpentier*) . . . . . Friday Night, October 3, at 8:00  
 With Kirsten, Turner, Pinza, Jobin, Hartzell, Popper, Gray, Votipka, Zubiri, Coryell,  
 Lawlor, Heitman, Phillips, Campbell, Harper, Hessling, Baldwin, Browne, Spry, Bish,  
 Nathanson, De Paolis, Lazzari, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Olitzki, Chabay, Nesbitt, Martin, Davis,  
 McVey, Lawrence, Schmidling, Harvey, Lorenzini, Daneluz  
 BREISACH, Conductor
- OTELLO (*Verdi*) . . . . . Tuesday Night, October 7, at 8:00  
 With Albanese, Votipka, Svanholm, Tibbett, De Paolis, Lazzari, Chabay, Cehanovsky,  
 Nelson STEINBERG, Conductor
- PELLEAS ET MELISANDE (*Debussy*) . . . . . Friday Night, October 10, at 8:00  
 With Sayao, Harshaw, Zubiri, Singher, Tibbett, Alvary, Ligeti  
 PELLETIER, Conductor
- L'AMORE DEI TRE RE (*Montemezzi*) . . . . . Tuesday Night, October 14, at 8:00  
 With Kirsten, Turner, Lawlor, Turnbull, Baldwin, Pinza, Kullman, Weede, De Paolis,  
 Nesbitt MONTEMEZZI, Conductor
- LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR (*Donizetti*) . . . . . Friday Night, October 17, at 8:00  
 With Pons, Votipka, Pearce, Valentino, Lazzari, Chabay, Tallone  
 CIMARA, Conductor

## POPULAR SERIES

- ROMEO AND JULIET (*Gounod*) . . . . . Thursday Night, September 18, at 8:00  
 With Sayao, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Singher, Moscona, De Paolis, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Harvey,  
 Tallone PELLETIER, Conductor
- AIDA (*Verdi*) . . . . . Thursday Night, September 25, at 8:00  
 With Roman, Thebom, Votipka, Baum, Warren, Moscona, Alvary, Chabay  
 BREISACH, Conductor
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (*Wagner*) . . . . . Thursday Night, October 2, at 8:00  
 With Traubel, Thebom, Svanholm, Czaplicki, Alvary, Ligeti, Olitzki, Chabay  
 STEINBERG, Conductor
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (*Wagner*) . . . . . Thursday Night, October 9, at 7:30  
 With same cast as Regular Series performance
- LA GIOCONDA (*Ponchielli*) . . . . . Thursday Night, October 16, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Regular Series performance

## EXTRA PERFORMANCES

- FAUST (*Gounod*) . . . . . Sunday Matinee, September 21, at 2:00  
 With Claudia Pinza, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Ezio Pinza, Valdengo, Cehanovsky  
 PELLETIER, Conductor
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*) . . . . . Sunday Matinee, September 28, at 2:00  
 With Sayao, Hartzell, Hessling, Pearce, Valentino, Moscona, Baccaloni, Cehanovsky,  
 Lorenzini, Vannucci, Tallone MEROLA, Conductor
- MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (*Mozart*) . . . . . Sunday Matinee, October 5, at 2:00  
 With Quartararo, Sayao, Thebom, Glaz, Zubiri, Phillips, Gray, Pinza, Baccaloni, Singher,  
 De Paolis, Ligeti, Chabay STEINBERG, Conductor
- RIGOLETTO (*Verdi*) . . . . . Sunday Matinee, October 12, at 2:00  
 With Pons, Glaz, Votipka, Heitman, Lawlor, Tibbett, Pearce, Alvary, Cehanovsky, Chabay,  
 Harvey, Ligeti  
 CIMARA, Conductor
- LOUISE (*Charpentier*) . . . . . Sunday Matinee, October 19, at 2:00  
 With same cast as Regular Performance

## ADDED PERFORMANCES

- ROMEO AND JULIET (*Gounod*) . . . . . Wednesday Night, September 24, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Popular Series performance
- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) . . . . . Saturday Matinee, October 4, at 2:00  
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Kullman will be Alfredo Germont  
 and ADLER, Conductor
- FAUST (*Gounod*) . . . . . Monday Night, October 6, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Extra performance except Weede will be Valentine
- DON GIOVANNI (*Mozart*) . . . . . Wednesday Night, October 8, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Resnik will be Donna Elvira and  
 Conner, Zerlina
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (*Wagner*) . . . . . Monday Night, October 13, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Popular Series performance
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*) . . . . . Wednesday Night, October 15, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Extra performance except Lazzari will be Colline
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*) . . . . . Saturday Night, October 18, at 8:00  
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Kullman will be Pinkerton and  
 Alvary The Bonze

## OPERAS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) . . . . . Presented by the San Francisco Opera Guild  
 Friday Matinee, October 10 and 17, at 1:00  
 With Conner, Votipka, Lawlor, Kullman, Tibbett, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Ligeti, Olitzki,  
 Lorenzini MEROLA, Conductor





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SUNDAY MATINEE, SEPTEMBER 28, at 2:00

# †LA BOHEME

Opera in four acts. Music by Giacomo Puccini.

Text by Giacosa and Illica.

## THE CAST

Mimi, an embroideress.....		BIDU SAYAO
Musetta, a grisette.....		LOIS HARTZELL
Rudolph, a poet.....	} The Four Bohemians	} JAN PEERCE FRANCESCO VALENTINO GEORGE CEHANOVSKY NICOLA MOSCONA
Marcel, painter.....		
Schaunard, musician.....		
Colline, philosopher.....		
Benoit, an importunate landlord	}	} SALVATORE BACCALONI
Alcindoro, state councilor and admirer of Musetta		
Customhouse Sergeant.....		MAX LORENZINI
Customhouse Guard.....		EDWIN VANNUCCI
Parpignol .....		GEORGE TALLONE
A Boy.....		ESTER HESSLING

*Students, Work-Girls, Grisettes, Shopkeepers, Vendors, Waiters, Soldiers, etc.*

Children's Chorus from San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Reba Kay, director.



### STAGE DIRECTOR

ARMANDO AGNINI

### CONDUCTOR

GAETANO MEROLA

### CHORUS DIRECTOR

KURT HERBERT ADLER



**TIME AND PLACE:** About 1830; Paris

- Act I: Garret of the Bohemians
- Act II: Terrace of the Cafe Momus
- Act III: A City Gate of Paris
- Act IV: Same as Act I

*Because of copyright the story of the opera cannot be printed.*

†Added performance of "La Boheme," October 15

TICKETS FOR EXTRA PERFORMANCES  
AT OPERA BOX OFFICE, CITY OF PARIS

*Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises*

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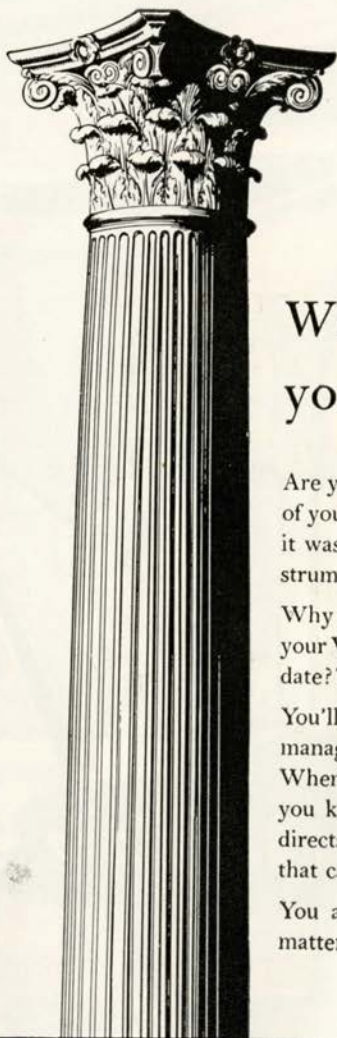
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- ★ CEHANOVSKY



- ★ HARTZELL
- ★ TURNER
- ★ VALDENG0
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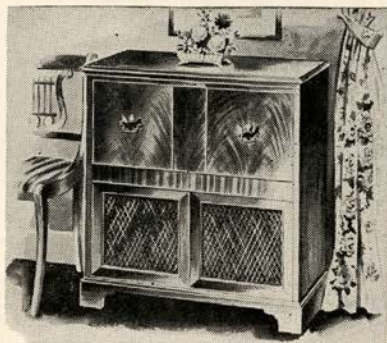


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# †LA GIOCONDA

Opera in four acts. Music by Amilcare Ponchielli. Text by Arrigo Boito.

*First performance by the San Francisco Opera Company.*

## THE CAST

La Gioconda, a ballad singer.....	STELLA ROMAN
La Cieca, her blind mother.....	MARGARET HARSHAW
Alvise, a leader of the Inquisition.....	NICOLA MOSCONA
Laura Adorno, his wife.....	BLANCHE THEBOM
Enzo Grimaldo, a Genoese noble.....	KURT BAUM
Barnaba, a spy of the Inquisition.....	LEONARD WARREN
Zuane, a boatman.....	**NORMAN BENSON
A Cantor.....	**PATRICK McVEY
Isepo, a public letter-writer.....	GEORGE TALLONE
A Pilot .....	ROBIN NELSON
A Monk .....	DESIRE LIGETI
Two Voices.....	EVARISTO ALIBERTINI, GEORGE TALLONE

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*\*\* San Francisco Opera Company debut*

*\* San Francisco debut*



### STAGE DIRECTOR

ARMANDO AGNINI

### CONDUCTOR

\*DICK MARZOLLO

### CHORUS DIRECTOR

KURT HERBERT ADLER



**TIME AND PLACE:** Seventh Century; Venice

Act I: Courtyard of Ducal Palace

Act II: Lagoon near City—Night

Act III: Scene 1: Room in Palace of Alvise

Scene 2: Great Hall in the Ca D'Or

Act IV: A Ruined Palace on an Island near Venice

Settings designed by Armando Agnini and Eugene B. Dunkel.

Painted by Dunkel and constructed in the Studios of the  
San Francisco Opera Association.

†Popular Series performance of "La Gioconda," October 16.

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TICKETS FOR EXTRA PERFORMANCES  
AT OPERA BOX OFFICE, CITY OF PARIS

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*Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises*

## The Story of "La Gioconda"

ACT I—It is in the court of the ducal palace, "The Lion's Mouth," that letters for the Inquisition are received. Men and maidens in holiday attire, gathered for a regatta, sing while Barnaba looks on. He is infatuated with Gioconda who now arrives leading La Cieca, her blind mother. Gioconda is seeking Enzo whom she loves. She is stopped by Barnaba who declares his love. Infuriated she hurries away. Barnaba plans a dire revenge. He tells Zuane, defeated in the regatta, that La Cieca has thrown a spell of ill-luck over him. Zuane and his friends attack the old woman but she is saved by the arrival of Enzo. Alvisè also arrives with Laura, who is loved by Enzo. Alvisè orders the release of La Cieca who in gratitude, gives Laura her rosary. Barnaba, noting the meaningful glances between Enzo and Laura, tells Enzo that Laura is planning to visit his ship that night. Enzo hurries off to receive her. Barnaba dictates an anonymous letter to Alvisè informing him of the coming meeting between Enzo and Laura. Gioconda overhears and is heart broken at the faithlessness of Enzo.

ACT II—Barnaba, disguised as a fisherman, sings to the sailors and leaves after sending for police galleys. Enzo arrives and is royally greeted by the sailors. Laura reaches the ship and the lovers passionately embrace. Enzo goes below deck to make ready for their departure at dawn. Gioconda unexpectedly appears and denounces Laura. Each declares her love for Enzo. Gioconda attempts to stab Laura. Alvisè is seen approaching in a boat and Laura, in despair, holds aloft her rosary in prayer. Gioconda recognizes the rosary as her mother's and generously aids Laura to escape. Enzo comes on deck and is greeted by the vengeful Gioconda. Trapped by Alvisè and Barnaba he sets fire to his ship.

ACT III—Scene 1—Alvisè decides that the unfaithful Laura shall die. He orders her to drink poison. Gioconda, remembering how Laura befriended her mother, substitutes a narcotic for the poison. Laura drinks and goes into a deep sleep. Scene 2: For the entertainment of his guests Alvisè has provided a grand masque ball. He greets the arriving guests and announces the ballet "Dance of the Hours." At the conclusion of the dance Barnaba rushes in dragging La Cieca whom he accuses of performing her magic rites. But she vows that she was but praying for the soul of the dead. Barnaba whispers to Enzo that Laura is dead. Enzo un.masks and denounces Alvisè. The murderous husband draws aside a curtain showing the presumably dead Laura. Enzo attempts to kill Alvisè and Barnaba is placed over him as a guard. Gioconda then promises herself to Barnaba if he arrange for the release of Enzo.

ACT IV—Gioconda is alone with the unconscious Laura. She persuades the men who have brought them to the island to search for her mother. Suicide seems her only recourse. Enzo, released from prison, arrives. Laura revives and Gioconda aids them to escape. Gioconda is about to swallow poison when Barnaba appears to claim his reward. She seems to yield but instead stabs herself with the dagger she carries. But Barnaba still has his revenge—he cries into Gioconda's ears that he has murdered her mother.

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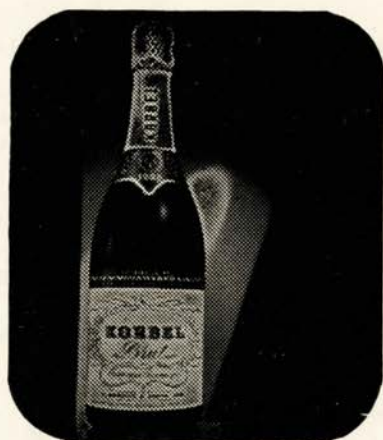
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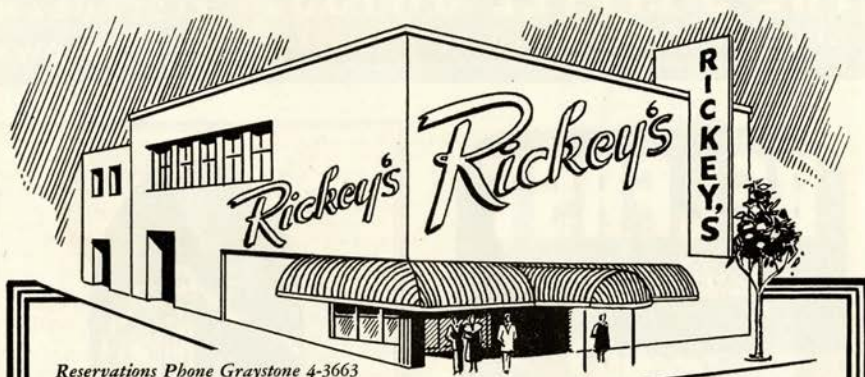
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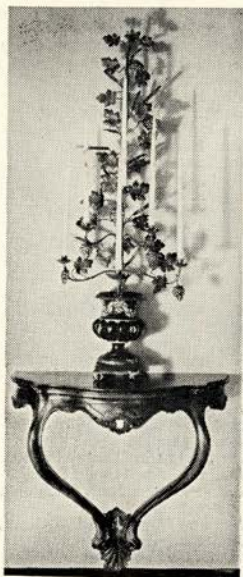
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**TIME AND PLACE:** About 1830; Paris

Act I: Garret of the Bohemians

Act II: Terrace of the Cafe Momus

Act III: A City Gate of Paris

Act IV: Same as Act I

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