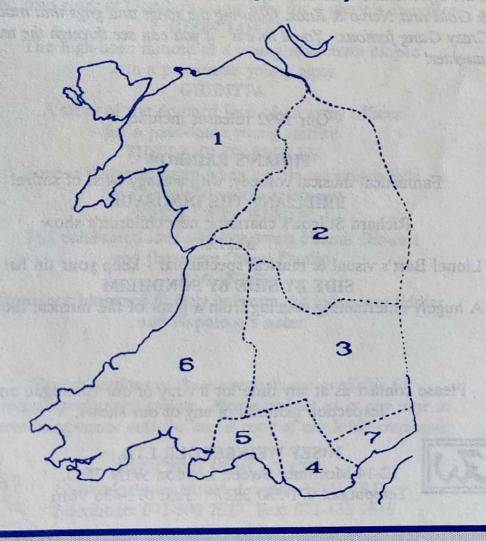


RICODA NIEWS Western Area

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CARMARTHEN YOUTH OPERA - "KING AND I"

Artistic Director - Elizabeth Evans MBE. Musical Director - John Morgan.

Choreographer - Michael Wray.

To celebrate the re-opening of the new look Lyric Theatre, we were entertained to a great "King and I". Both cast and orchestra combined in a performance standing a head and shoulders above anything I've seen this year. It was hard to believe that the demanding role of Anna Leonowens was being played by a fourteen year old - Rhian Kirby - but it merely illustrates the great strength of this company. As the King, Marc Williams dominated the whole show. To me, there wasn't a weak link anywhere and I particularly enjoyed the singing of Wynne Evans as Lun Tha. Let's face it, I enjoyed all the singing with the superb voice of Dervla Ransay as Lady Thiang an added bonus. Scenery - a beautiful new set by Dennis Williams - costumes, superb orchestral playing were all there in abundance with the "Small House of Uncle Thomas" ballet scene a little gem. The whole show, well directed by Liz Evans added up to a super night out.