

'NEW MOON' AT HORNINGLOW

Two leading ladies for price of one

TWO leading ladies for the price of one entertained the first night audience of Burton Operatic Society's six-day run of "New Moon" produced by Roy Johnson at Horninglow last night.

Joy Appleby as Marianne, aristocratic captive of French revolutionaries in the New World, caught a throat infection on Saturday and lost her voice. She was sufficiently recovered last night to speak her lines but her songs were sung for her by her understudy Ann Hamp-Gopsill from the side of the stage.

They worked so well together that it was hard to believe there were two of them, the singing voice dovetailing perfectly with the expressive face

and actions of the accomplished actress on stage.

Now can we see Ann Hamp-Gopsill in a principal role of her own, please?

FULL ROLE TONIGHT

Joy Appleby hopes to be able to take the full role from tonight.

Sigmund Romberg's 41-year-old tunes, as fresh and sparkling as when he wrote them, made this show a happy choice.

And a comedy foursome of Ken Lowe, Keith Gould, Joan Burman and Peggy Borlace did justice to that much neglected light-hearted masterpiece "Love is Quite a Simple Thing"—a favourite of the lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II but never, like the four great romantic songs from the show, a concert standard.

Alan Thompson as Robert, the aristocrat turned revolutionary, and Alan Mitchell as his enemy, a scheming royalist detective, gave outstanding performances.

GREAT PART

Daphne Gould's team of dancers and the Society's 18-piece orchestra directed by Arthur Ormerod assisted by Coral Gould, played a great part in the success of the show.

The 55-strong cast should sing an extra chorus of "Stout-hearted men" dedicated to the eight strong, incredibly silent and speedy scene-shifters.

In nearly 12 months of hard work all the scenery has been designed, constructed and painted in the society's own workshop by a team headed by artistic designer Mrs. "Jimmie" Harvey and stage manager Ray Welton—and it's all tailor made to make the best use of the small space available on and behind the Horninglow Secondary School stage.

One other backroom boy earned a mention—baby Andrew Paul Jackson whose recorded crying added realism to a domestic scene. **D.S.**