

Houston Opera Can Be Proud Of 'Rigoletto'

The Houston Grand Opera Association opened its 4th annual season Monday and Tuesday nights with an excellent performance of Verdi's "Rigoletto," characterized by its consistent quality.

Top-notch performance in the major roles and sound staging were the ingredients of success as Walter Herbert and his associates demonstrated that regional opera can be good.

Particularly outstanding performances were turned in by John Alexander as the Duke of

Mantua, Cornell MacNeil as Rigoletto, and Pauline Stark as Gilda. The quality of Alexander's and MacNeil's performances was as it should be, for in the tradition of regional opera they were imported especially for this production.

More of a very pleasant surprise, however, was the excellent job done by Rice's own Pauline Stark. Miss Stark, in her first major role, showed great talent and a real promise for the future.

(Continued on Page 8)

OPERA . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

Greatest praise, however, should be given Walter Herbert for his splendid casting, staging, and conducting. Due principally to his efforts the raggedness about the edges naturally attendant upon such an enterprise was held to a minimum and more than compensated for by the quality of the rest. It was a pleasant performance of a pleasant work, one that the Grand Opera Association can well be proud of.

—JOE WARD