The Pirates of Penzance

or The Slave of Duty

THE CAST

Major-General Stanley ...................................................... Mather Dolph
The Pirate King ................................................................. Waldyn Benbenek
Samuel (his Lieutenant) ..................................................... Joe Hendren
Frederic (the Pirate Apprentice) ........................................ Eric Mellum
Sergeant of Police ............................................................. Christopher Michela
Ruth (Piratical maid-of-all-work) ......................................... Therese Walth

(Major-General Stanley’s wards or “daughters”):
Mabel ............................................................................. Alice McGlave
Edith ................................................................................. Victoria Valencour
Kate .................................................................................. Molly Shields
Isabel .................................................................................

Chorus of Pirates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark Alt</th>
<th>Benjamin Hills</th>
<th>Richard Rames</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Barbee</td>
<td>Dean Laurance</td>
<td>Bruce Stasch</td>
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<td>Jim Brooks</td>
<td>Michael K. Mlinar</td>
<td>Jason Vogen</td>
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<td>Stephen Hage</td>
<td>John Orbison</td>
<td>Roger Wayne</td>
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<td>Eric Pasternack</td>
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Chorus of Daughters of General Stanley:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Willow Bousu</th>
<th>Shawn Holt</th>
<th>Charlotte Morrison</th>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Cossette</td>
<td>Ashley Larson</td>
<td>Molly Shields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Gregory</td>
<td>Holly MacDonald</td>
<td>Rhea Sullivan</td>
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<td>Helen Hassinger</td>
<td>Mary Mescher Benbenek</td>
<td>Victoria Valencour</td>
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Chorus of Policemen:

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<tr>
<th>Benjamin Hills</th>
<th>John Orbison</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Laurance</td>
<td>Bruce Stasch</td>
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<td>Michael K. Mlinar</td>
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Understudies:
Crystal Cossette, Stephen Hage, Helen Hassinger, Benjamin Hills, Ashley Larson, Michael K. Mlinar, Richard Rames, Rhea Sullivan, Jason Vogen

Act I: A Rocky Sea-shore on the Coast of Cornwall

15-Minute Intermission

Act II: A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight

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~ Please turn off all cell phones & pagers ~
~ No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre ~
~ No smoking is permitted in the building ~
~ The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden ~
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

If you are one of the few members of our audience who has never seen The Pirates of Penzance, we are delighted to be initiating you. However, odds are that there are not many neophytes out there. And if our auditions are anything to go by, there are an awful lot of people who have actually been in a production of Pirates. Pretty impressive, in terms of both longevity and ubiquity, for a work of light entertainment from 1879!

The task for an intrepid company taking on this well-known and widely-produced operetta is avoiding the ‘been-there, done-that’ trap. Not that we’re keen to innovate just to be different. Frankly, that’s been done, too: a recent Chicago production planted the plot in modern Key West (pirate margaritas, anyone?). So how about we just tell the story as clearly and honestly as we can — and try very hard to forget that we know what’s going to happen next?

That is our duty — and we are the slaves of duty, after all. Our pirates (“all noblemen who have gone wrong”), the sisters Stanley (“all of whom are beauties”), and lovers (“true till they are wed, and even after”) have a story to tell and we hope it is not too onerous a duty for you to sit back, enjoy, and indulge your inner pirate. Arrrrgh!

— Lesley Hendrickson

SYNOPSIS

Act I (A Rocky Sea-shore on the Coast of Cornwall):

A band of pirates is celebrating a combination of Birthday and Graduation Party to honor Frederic, as he turns twenty-one and completes his apprenticeship to the trade of piracy. He rather spoils the party by revealing that he had only been made a pirate-apprentice due to a mistake by his nurse-maid, Ruth, and now that he has fulfilled the terms of his contract (for he is the Slave of Duty), he intends to fight to eradicate his former comrades. After Frederic bids a fond farewell to the pirates, Ruth’s romantic designs on him are demolished by the arrival of a bevy of beautiful girls, the wards of Major-General Stanley. The girls are fascinated by Frederic, but much too pragmatic to engage themselves to one with negative social standing. An exception appears: Mabel, apparently the one true romantic, pledges her love. The pirates re-appear to capture the girls, but are temporarily stopped by the arrival of the Major-General. He has heard of these tender-hearted “Pirates of Penzance” and knows the trick of escaping from them: claim to be an orphan. The ploy succeeds, and at the end of Act I, the pirates reluctantly relinquish their prey.

Act II (A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight):

General Stanley is tormented by having lied to escape from the pirates. Meanwhile, Frederic plans to attack the pirates, with a company of police constables, that very night. When the police arrive, they are not cheered by the rather bloodthirsty encouragement of the ladies. After they leave, Frederic is accosted by the Pirate King and Ruth, who convince him that he is still bound to the pirates, due to a legal technicality: his indentures state that he must serve them until his twenty-first birthday, but, since he was born in leap-year, on February 29, he won’t reach that birthday for another sixty-seven years. His sense of duty compels him to rejoin the pirate band, but Mabel pledges to wait for him (until 1980!). The puzzled policemen carry out the attack without him, but are soundly defeated. This victory is reversed when the Sergeant of Police finds another soft spot in the pirates’ hearts, leading to explanations which permit the happy ending for all.
**PRODUCTION STAFF**

Stage Director ......................................................... Lesley Hendrickson  
Music Director .................................................... Marina Liadova  
Stage Manager ....................................................... Laura Bidgood  
Set Designer & Scenic Painter .................................. Larry Rostad  
Costume Designer .................................................. Sonya Berlovitz  
Lighting Designer ................................................... Andrew Kedl  
Seamstress ............................................................... Virginia A. Brenna  
Assistant Stage Manager ......................................... Trina Morrison  
Crew ................................................................. Malka Key, Jack Kravik, Brianna Sullivan  
Wardrobe Mistress ................................................... Jo Pasternack & Malka Key  

Set & Prop Construction ........... Andy Dizon, Mark Ellenberger, L. Peter Erickson  
Ross Gallup, Giles Guggemos, Malka Key, Jack Kravik  
Ann Marie McIntire, Larry Rostad, Genevieve Woodward  
Dean Laurance, and other cast members  

Props ................................................................. Laura Bidgood  
Costume Construction ................. Jennie Berlovitz, Lesley Hendrickson, Malka Key  
Trina Morrison, Jo Pasternack, and cast members  

Follow Spot Operator ......................... Jack Kravik  
Audio-Visual Engineer ........................................ Bob Johanneck  
Audio-Descriptor ................................................ Judy Baldwin  
Poster/Program Graphic Design .......... Imagewürks Marketing  

Lobby Display & Photography .......... Stephen Hage  
Group Photos ...................................................... Daniels Studio  
House Managers ................................................. David Morrison & Fred Morrison  
Ticket Sales ........................................................ Charlotte Morrison  
Ticket helpers ............... L. Peter Erickson, Malka Key, Jack Kravik, Fred Morrison  
Trina Morrison, Eric Pasternack, Richard Rames, Jason Vogen, Holly Windle  

House Staff Recruitment ................. Rhea Sullivan  

**The Board:**  
Producer ......................................................... Stephen Hage  
Labour Pool Coordinator ...................... Eric Pasternack  
Publicity ............................................................ Waldyn Benbenek  
Treasurer ............................................................ Richard Rames  
Secretary ............................................................ Rhea Sullivan  
Female Chorus Representative .......... Mary Gregory  
Male Chorus Representative ............... L. Peter Erickson  
Orchestra Representative ................. Barb Hvey  

**ORCHESTRA** (Includes Substitutes)  

Conductor ....................................................... Marina Liadova  
Orchestra Manager ........................................ Ann Marie McIntire  
Violin ........................................................... David Kozamchak, Amy Tobin, Concert Master  
Victoria Athmann, Amy Atzel, Will Bartruff, Maria Claudia Benaros, Nancy Birth  
Jonathan Flory, Christina Hall, Nikkia Hall, Kate Kelly, Jill Lestina-Warner  
Lorine Menzhuber, Miyuki Onishi, Daniel Welr, Theodora Wynhoff, Eva Zorn  
Viola ......................................................... Victoria Athmann, Ann Marie Bur, Antigone Delton  
Karen Krueger, Teresa Mager, Aija Ronis  

Cello ..................................................... John Dunham, Coral Bastien, Karin Holmberg Kimble  
Janis Nash, Amy Samelian, Jesse Berndt  

Bass .......................................................... Benjamin Kitt, Ann Marie McIntire  

Flute ......................................................... Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Joe Wypych, Anne Cheney  
Clarinet ....................................................... Dave Clark, Barb Hovey, Andrea Estrem  

Oboe ...................................................... Steve Schellenberg, Elizabeth Berry, Kristen Cooper  

Bassoon ....................................................... Steve Cronk  

Horn ........................................................ Michael Engh, Chris Hahn  
Teresa Herbert, Lisa Lang, Jeffrey Ohlmann  

Trumpet .................................................. Betty MacKay, Andy Padula, Bob Zobal  
Trombone ............................................. Greg Michnay, Benjamin Bussey, Tim Jung  
Greg Onstad, Erika Richter, Scott Soltis, Teresa Herbert  

Percussion ............................................... John Litch, Charley Rich  

Rehearsal Pianists: ......................... Steven Norquist, Jean Orbison Van Heel
GLOSSARY (in order of occurrence)

ACT I

let the pirate bumper pass – a bumper is a cup or glass filled to the brim, as for a toast
scuttling a Cunarder – sinking a passenger ship of the Cunard line
cutting out a White Star – separating a passenger ship of the White Star line from the surrounding ships in order to capture it (the Titanic was a ship of the White Star line)
on breakers always steering – always making mistakes and getting into trouble; as when steering a ship toward waves breaking on rocks
can it be Custom House – customs enforcement patrol, like our Coast Guard
the glass is rising very high – weather-glass: a barometer (rising indicates fair weather)
your pirate caravanserai – as “caravanserai” is a sort of inn for caravans and their occupants, the only excuse for applying this word to a group of men is that it rhymes with Chancery (almost)
Wards in Chancery – minors under the protection of the Court of Chancery
from Marathon to Waterloo – in 490 BC, the Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon (the messenger who died after running the 26 miles to Athens with the news somehow inspired modern “marathons”). Napoleon’s final defeat was at Waterloo in 1815.
the scientific names of beings animalculous – an animalcule is a microscopic animal
I answer hard acrostics – a parlor game similar to charades, with acted-out words, whose first letters then spell out the real message to be discovered
quote in elegiacs all the crimes of Heliogabulus – even the use of a verse form (elegiacs) could not soften the awful deeds of this most appalling Roman emperor (212-222 AD)
In conics I can floor peculiarities parabolous – conics is the study of geometric properties of a cone cut by imaginary planes, producing parabolas, ellipses, and hyperbolas. To floor is to defeat (as in wrestling). Parabolous is Gilbert’s adjective variant of parabolic.
I can tell undoubted Raphael’s from Gerard Dows and Zoffanies – three painters, from three different centuries and countries, and with quite distinct styles
the croaking chorus from The Frogs of Aristophanes – a comedy produced in Athens in 405 B.C. (the croaking chorus goes “Berkekekex, koax, koax”)
a washing-bill in Babylonic cuneiform – a laundry-list, in ancient wedge-shaped writing
ev’ry detail of Caractacus’s uniform – this Welsh king who resisted the Roman invasion of Britain had a limited uniform: it consisted of woad, a blue dye… and nothing else!
whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense Pinafore – H.M.S. Pinafore was the Gilbert & Sullivan show which preceded The Pirates of Penzance. It was their first great success.

ACT II

dishonor on the family escutcheon – shield displaying heraldic insignia; family crest
threatened with emeutes – a French term for riots or brawls
when the coster’s finished jumping on his mother – costermongers (street vendors of fruit, fish, etc.) were sometimes rather rough characters
life preserver – a stick or bludgeon loaded with lead, intended for self-defense, but all too often used by evil-doers (as in this case)
unshriven, unannealed – without having made confession or having received extreme unction
with humbled men – manner, or general bearing
we love our House of Peers – the House of Lords, one of the two Houses of Parliament. A peer has at least one of the following titles: duke, marquis, earl, viscount, and baron.
Hymeneally coupled – Hymen was the Greek god of marriage ceremonies

In the Spring of 2012, we will present \textit{Patience}.

Our next Lake Harriet Bandshell performance will be \textit{The Pirates of Penzance}, on July 16 (7:30) & 17 (5:30) of 2011.
The Gilbert & Sullivan
Very Light Opera Company
presents

March 18 – April 10, 2011
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Avenue South
Minneapolis

For tickets visit www.gsvloc.org // $15 for adults and $8 for children
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center // 1900 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis

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