The Grand Duke

or, The Statutory Duel

THE CAST

Theatrical Troupe:
Ernest Dummkopf (A Theatrical Manager)..........................Eric Mellum
Ludwig (His Leading Comedian)........................................Waldyn Benbenek
Dr. Tannhauser (A Notary).............................................Ethan Edwards
Julia Jellicoe (an English Comedienne)............................Amanda Broge
Lisa (A Soubrette)........................................................Betsy Feldkamp
Olga..................................................................................Angie Solomon
Gretchen..........................................................Amy Rebecca Carlson
Bertha..........................................................Rhea Sullivan
Elsa...........................................................Jill Tieskoetter
Martha........................................................Holly Windle

Grand Ducal Court:
Rudolph (Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpfennig)......................Hazen B. Markoe
Baroness von Krakenfeldt (betrothed to Rudolph)..................Kathryn Larsen

Chorus of Chamberlains:
  Stephen Hage ...........................................Jonathan Proctor
  Dean Laurance ............................................Richard Rames
  Matthieu Peterson .........................................Charles Segal

Monte Carlo Entourage:
The Prince of Monte Carlo .............................................Randy Lebsock
The Princess of Monte Carlo .........................................Sara Gustafson
Herald .....................................................................Christopher O. Kidder
Ben Hashbaz (a Costumier) .............................................Jim Brooks

Chorus of “Nobles”:
  Stephen Hage ...........................................Jonathan Proctor
  Dean Laurance ............................................Richard Rames
  Matthieu Peterson .........................................Charles Segal

Chorus of Actors and Actresses:
  Shaun Nathan Baer  Stephen Hage  Charlotte Morrison
  Amy Bonhag  Kristen L. Husby  Eric Pasternack
  Ernest Brody  Christopher O. Kidder  Matthieu Peterson
  Stephanie Brody  Dean Laurance  Jonathan Proctor
  Jim Brooks  Randy Lebsock  Richard Rames
  Doug Dally  Warren Loud  Charles Segal
  Peter Erickson  Holly MacDonald  Julie Seykora
  Sara Gustafson  Mary Mescher Benbenek

Understudies: Shaun Nathan Baer, Jim Brooks, Doug Dally, Sara Gustafson, Stephen Hage, Kristen L. Husby, Christopher O. Kidder, Richard Rames, Angie Solomon, Rhea Sullivan, Jill Tieskoetter

Time: Mid-eighteenth century

Act I: Market Place of Pfennig Halbpfennig

Act II: The Entrance Hall in the Grand Ducal Palace, the next morning

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

~ 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 ~
About *The Grand Duke*

*The Grand Duke* was the final collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan, and met with less than favorable reviews when it opened on March 7, 1896. Gilbert and Sullivan usually “fine-tuned” their operas after their first performance, dropping numbers, tightening dialogue, sometimes rewriting sections. This did not happen with *The Grand Duke*. The D’Oyly Carte company never revived the show, and it was seldom performed. When our company produced it in 1991, we decided to make some revisions, as the creators might have done, had they been on speaking terms. This time, we have also incorporated an extra song in Act II, borrowed from *Utopia, Limited* (another late Gilbert and Sullivan opera) showing the Notary, Ernest, and Rudolph planning a counter-revolution.

**Synopsis**

**Act I**: A theatrical company in the Grand Duchy of Pfennig Halbpfennig is celebrating the upcoming wedding of Ludwig and Lisa, two of their members. The company is also plotting to overthrow the Grand Duke (Rudolph) and place their manager, Ernest, on the throne. (The conspirators’ secret sign is the eating of a sausage roll.) As the court positions are to be filled according to standing in the company, leading lady Julia Jellicoe would be the Grand Duchess.

After Ludwig carelessly discloses their plot to the Grand Duke’s detective, the Notary proposes a “Statutory Duel” in order to avert disaster. Ludwig and Ernest are to “duel” with cards, the loser becoming legally dead (only until the law expires the next day). The winner will denounce the loser as the plot’s instigator and receive a pardon. Ernest loses, and Ludwig goes to find the Grand Duke.

Grand Duke Rudolph, meanwhile, busy planning his wedding to the Baroness von Krakenfeldt, has just learned about the plot against him. Ludwig decides on a new strategy to take advantage of Rudolph’s panic. He offers to relieve Rudolph of the danger by winning a rigged “statutory duel” and taking his place during the coup. They summon the people to see their duel, and Rudolph leaves thinking to return when the law expires the next day. Ludwig, however, revives the law for another century!

Julia points out that she is now forced to wed Ludwig in order to take on her leading role as Grand Duchess. Lisa, Ludwig’s fiancée, leaves in tears as the new Grand Duke’s entourage prepare to don their *Troilus and Cressida* costumes as suitable court attire.

**Act II**: The Greek motif is evident in Ludwig’s court when the Baroness arrives for her wedding with Grand Duke Rudolph. Somewhat dismayed to learn of Rudolph’s “death,” she explains that Ludwig has to take on all of the Grand Duke’s obligations and marry her.

The complex plot takes yet another turn when the Princess of Monte Carlo shows up with her father and a band of hired “nobles.” It seems she was betrothed in infancy to the Grand Duke Rudolph, and her father has finally obtained money enough to pay off his debts and bring her here just before the betrothal arrangement expires at 3:00. (His money came from roulette, as he explains with a song partly in French.) The claim of the Princess supersedes that of the Baroness, and she is about to marry the bewildered Ludwig when the real Grand Duke appears (with Ernest and the Notary) with some news which quickly resolves the tangled relationships.

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This production of *The Grand Duke* is dedicated to the memory of long-time company members Roger Evans and Jim Streich
PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director .................................................... Randy Winkler
Music Director ........................................................ James Straka
Artistic Director ................................................... Wendy Evans
Costume Designer ................................................. Lynn Farrington
Lighting Designer .................................................. Michael Hoover
Stage Manager ..................................................... Phyllis A. Lam
Set Designer & Scenic Painter .................................. Kate Sutton-Johnson
Assistant Stage Director ......................................... Rob Sutherland
Assistant Music Director .......................................... Steve Kriesel
Associate Costume Designer ..................................... Susan Fick
Assistant Stage Managers .................. Peggie Kennedy, Jennifer Anne McDermott
Set Construction and Painting ................................ Dean Laurance, with
Samatha Bostwick, Dan Hollinger, Phyllis Lam
Bob Hunter, Bob Johanneck, Scott Sandberg
David Seykora, Fredrick Walsh, and cast members

Props .............................................................. Jennifer Anne McDermott
Props Graphic Design ............................................ Hellen Ferguson
Wardrobe Mistress ................................................ Jo Pasternack
Costume Workers ......................... Amber Brown, Wendy Evans, Lesley Hendrickson
Vicky Hinrichs, Carol Sandberg, Evelyne Weinberg,
Claire Zawa, & cast members

Light Board Operator ........................................... Bob Hunter
Spotlight Operators .......... Samantha Bostwick, Lisa Horton, Anne Marie Peterson
Audio-Visual Engineer ......................... Bob Johanneck, Pat Johanneck
Poster Graphic Design ......................... Robert Anderson, Michael Henty
Lobby Display & Photography .......... Wendy Evans, Sara Gustafson, Stephen Hage
Group Photos ........................................... Daniels Studio
House Managers .................. Pat Johanneck, Mary Kuehborn, Carol Paulson
House Staff Recruiter .................. Kathryn Larsen, Mary Mescher Benbenek
Ticket Sales ........................................... Charlotte Morrison, Fred Morrison
Grand Duke Revision Committee ...... Wendy Evans, Stephen Hage, Deedy Jensen
Stephen B. Sullivan, Holly Windle

The Board:

Producer .................................................. Kristefor Lysne
Labour Pool Coordinator ................................ Dean Laurance
Publicity ................................................... Waldyn Benbenek
Treasurer .................................................. Richard Rames
Secretary .................................................. Charles Segal
Chorus Representatives .................. Stephen Hage, Rhea Sullivan
Orchestra Representative ............... Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor ................................................ James Straka
Assistant Conductor .................................... Steve Kriesel
Violin .......................................................... J Michael Compton, Concertmaster
Amy Atzel, Will Bartruff, Greg Bastien, Nancy Birth
June Broeckert, Joe Burling, Jacqui Danner, Joe Dolson
Debbie Feinwachs, Mary Heimerman, Dana Killam
Pat McCarthy, Linda Ruetz, Dan Sadoff, John Weingart
Viola .................................................. Dianna Garvey, Tom Rogsnvoog, Aija Ronis, Brian Vo
Cello ................................................ Coral Bastien, Paul Clark, John Dunham, Karen Rogsnvoog
Bass .................................................. Ann Baumann Johnson, John Kaplan
Flute ........................................... Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Julie Lindstrom, Katie Lowry
Clarinet ................................................... Barb Hovey, Kent Barth
Oboe ................................................. John Hunt, Brian Morris, Andrew Rahn
Bassoon .................. Debbie Clapp, Heather Clark, Neva LaVeer, Holly Leighton
Maggie Rotach, Rebecca Totzke, Tim Wells
Horn ........................................ Michael Engh, Judy Heimerman, Jeffrey Ohlmann, Bob Spector
Trumpet .................................................. Bob Hirtle, Tim Killam, Bob Zobal
Trombone .................. Nathanael Engh, Greg Michnay, Greg Onstad, Lawrence Perry
Perussion ................................. John Litch
Rehearsal Pianists .... Lawrence Henry, Steven Norquist, Jan Scovill, Jean Van Heel
Act I:

**Pfennig Halbf, pfennig** - Literally, penny half-penny. Tuppenny ha'penny is British slang for anything inferior and trivial.

**Comedian/Comédienne** - terms used to refer to actors (not necessarily comic ones)

**Soubrette** - an actress who plays the young and saucy roles.

quite a dashing *sposo* - Italian for male spouse

But it's **bilious on the whole** - upsetting to the liver

D will attempt to “square the press” - Bribe a reviewer

F claims all **hoydens** - roles of spirited, tomboyish girls

like turtle her first love confessing - turtle-dove

what folly fell - what dreadful folly

*castle gibbet* - gallows

may not fight with *falcions bright* - sword, esp. a broad curved one

orthography foregoes her spells - a pun about bending the rules of spelling

*ipso facto* - Latin for "by the very act" (that is automatically)

**King's evidence** - evidence provided by an accused person about his alleged partners in crime (like Slate's evidence)

compromising *bonhomie* - French word for geniality

as o' er our *penny roll we sing* - a cheap type of bread

rich *mock turtle, thick and clear* - namely a soup (also cheap)

two-shilling gloves - even these are expensive by the Duke and Baroness's standards

*Waterbury watches* - cheap watches made in Waterbury, Connecticut

give this man his gruel - make him take his punishment

this *plebian man of shoddy* - "plebian" means "of the masses" and "shoddy" is a kind of inferior woolen cloth

when two *doughty heroes thunder* - valiant

*verbatim sal* - more legal language from the Notary; this is an abbreviation for a Latin phrase meaning a word to the wise is sufficient (*verbatim sat sapienti*)

I'm not an *ascetic* - one who denies himself the creature comforts

the *jolly jinks* - merry-making (as in "high jinks")

as merry as a *grip* - A phrase that may mean "as merry as a cricket" (and just how merry is that?) or "grip" may be a corruption of "Greek," making this a reference to *Troilus and Cressida* where a character is called "a merry Greek indeed."

**Act II:**

*Eloia! and Opoponax!* - Fake Greek-sounding exclamations. Opoponax from the Greek for "all-healing", was medicinal plant, and in Gilbert's day, trade name of a line of perfumes

I'll pay 'em (if they'll back me) all in *oboloi and drachmae* - Greek coins

with a *dithyrambic lecture* - in the style of a boisterous Greek hymn to Dionysus

in the period Socratic, every dining room was *Attic* - that is, from Attica, a region in eastern Greece (where Athens is)

*periphrastic methods spurning* - rejecting long-winded methods

steady "*cram*" - the way students often prepare for an exam

*Mrs. Grundy* - a character mentioned in an 18th century play, now used as a symbol of prudish British propriety

*dress of Coan silk* - silk from the Greek isle of Cos

*hoity-toity xenixen viragoes* - snooty, ill-tempered, overbearing women

*ingenue* - the role of sweet, naive young thing

hard as the *millstone nether* - the nether millstone is the lower of the two millstones used to grind flour (it’s quite hard)

lily-white laughing *leman* - paramour

as sulky as a *super* - (actor lingo) short for “supernumerary” an actor with a non-speaking part who, if not in something as jolly as G&S, might get surly

"*tol the riddle lot!*" - nonsense words

*technical bogie* - a frightening apparition, although in this case only legally, not literally

*magnun of merry champagne* - a double-sized bottle

*Pommery '74* - the 1874 vintage of the fine French champagne

Come, *bumpers, aye ever so many* - glasses filled to the brim

*a pretty job-lot of second-hand nobles* - a group of diverse articles bought as a unit, often of inferior quality

*rook the pigeon and the gull* - a bird pun about taking advantage of suckers

*Allons, encore, garçons, fillettes, vos louis d'or, etc.* - Come now, again, boys and girls, your 20-frank gold coins, etc.

the law forbids the *banns* - announcement of a proposed marriage

**Contributors**

*Princes and Princesses* ($100 and over)
Anonymous ❖ Philip Asgian ❖ Michael Dunham ❖ Gretchen & Jim Fogo ❖ Ed Grayden ❖ Mary & Steven Kennedy ❖ Jack & Geraldine King ❖ John Litch ❖ In loving memory of Elsie MillerJohn & Dianne Orbison ❖ Garry & Mary Ann Peterson ❖ R. N. Quiche ❖ Jim Quinn ❖ Marvin & Martha Rogers ❖ Tom & Beverly Rogers ❖ Paul & Patricia Sackett ❖ The family of Steven and Mary Schier ❖ James Schwarz ❖ Doris Skalstad ❖ Richard Evan Stone ❖ In Memory of Jim Streich, from his family ❖ Connie Waterous

**Grand Dukes and Duchesses** ($50 - $99)


**Actors and Actresses (Conspirators)** (up to $50)


♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Hobart United Methodist Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, Child Garden Montessori School, Guthrie Theatre, St. Anne’s Episcopal Church, St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, and for our courting troupe of ushers, ticket sellers, and concessionaires, Opoponax!


We will again be joining the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra at the Lake Harriet Band Shell this summer – for *HMS Pinafore*, on July 12 & 13

In the Spring of 2004, we will present *Iolanthe*. 
The Gilbert & Sullivan
Very Light Opera Company

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Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
March 7-30, 2003