March 13 thru April 5, 1998

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
or, The Slave of Duty

THE CAST

Major General Stanley..........................................................Jim Ahrens
The Pirate King..............................................................Waldyn Benbenek
Samuel (his Lieutenant)......................................................Mikal J. Kraklio
Frederic (the Pirate Apprentice)...........................................Joseph Andrews
Sergeant of Police............................................................Fred Mackaman
Ruth (Piratical Maid-of-all-work)..........................................Lynne Hicks

Daughters of General Stanley:
Mabel ..................................................................................Zoe Carroll
Edith ..................................................................................Mary Gregory
Kate ....................................................................................Tamara Norden
Isabel ..................................................................................Mary Mescher Benbenek

Chorus of Pirates:
Don Barbee .................................................................Peter Erickson
Ernest Brody ...............................................................Roger Evans
Jim Brooks .................................................................Bruce Haas
Ethan Edwards ..........................................................Stephen Hage
Andrew Elfenbein .......................................................Dean Laurance
Randy Lebscock
Warren Loud
Fred Mackaman
Richard Rames
Gordon Staff

Chorus of Daughters of General Stanley:
Stephanie Brody ............................................................Kathy Hering
Adena Brumer ..............................................................Marcia Hill
Karly Christensen ..........................................................Kathryn Larsen
Karin Foy ........................................................................Holly MacDonald
Tiffany Frambers ............................................................Mary Mescher Benbenek
Mary Gregory ...............................................................Charlotte Morrison
Tamara Norden
Kristin Root Robertson
Julie Seykora
Rhea Sullivan
Susan Volkner
Holly Windle

Chorus of Policemen:
Jim Brooks .................................................................Randy Lebscock
Roger Evans .................................................................Warren Loud
Stephen Hage ..............................................................Gordon Staff
Dean Laurance ...........................................................Jack Stuckmayer

Understudies: Donald Barbee, Adena Brumer, Matt Dolph, Bruce Haas, Kathy Hering, Randy Lebscock, Richard Rames, Kristin Root Robertson, Susan Volkner

Act I: A Rocky Sea-shore on the Coast of Cornwall
Act II: A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight

~ No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre ~
~ No smoking is permitted in the building ~
~ The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden ~
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 the Pirates. After he bids a fond farewell to the pirates, Ruth's romantic designs on Frederic 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. Frederic tells of his plan 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 Pirates. Mabel pledges to wait for him (until 1940). The puzzled policemen carry out the attack without him, but are soundly defeated by the pirates. 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.

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY


In the Spring of 1999, we will present The Yeomen of the Guard.

Tax deductible contributions to help support our season are always welcome.

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
P.O. Box 580172, Minneapolis MN 55458
Telephone: (612) 925-9159

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director ......................................................... Matt Dolph
Music Director ....................................................... Steven Michael Utzig
Artistic Director ..................................................... Wendy Evans
Consulting Director ................................................ Sari Ketter
Stage Manager ....................................................... Sharon Pollock
Assistant Stage Managers ....................................... Susan Heinrich, Peggie Kennedy
Set Designer ........................................................... Wendy Waszut-Barrett
Set & Prop Construction ........................................... Laurie Brooks, Terry Brooks, Julie Delton
                      Lee Gartner, Adam Holzschuh, Bob Hunter, Peggie Kennedy
                      Carol Kollander, Juren Raske, Michael Robertson, Stephen B. Sullivan
                      with Ernest Brody, Dean Laurance, and other cast members
Properties Manager .................................................. Cindy Edmon
Costume Design ..................................................... Bill Ingram
Wardrobe Mistress ................................................... Anne Forgaes
Costume Construction ............................................. Wendy Evans, Anne Forsuacs, Lesley Hendrickson
                      Ann Lewis, Kathy Mitchell, Barb Vojtech, and cast members
Lighting Designer .................................................... Kirby Moore
Lighting Crew ........................................................ Adam Holzschuh, Bob Hunter, Colin Mitchell, Juren Raske
Audio-Visual Engineer ............................................ Bob Johanneck
Graphic Design ....................................................... Caroline Christy
Poster Printing ...................................................... Greg Burns, Weston Engraving
Lobby Display & Photography .................................... Roger Evans, Stephen Hage
House Managers ..................................................... L. Mary Kuehborn, Kathy Mitchell
House Staff Recruiter .............................................. Gordon Staff
Ticket Sales ............................................................ Katie Lowry
Ticket Assistants .................................................... Carol Kollander, Ann Lewis
                      Dean Laurance, Kathy Mitchell, Lauren Parnell, Chris Rusin

The Board:
Producer ............................................................... Stephen Hage
Labour Pool Coordinator ......................................... Ernest Brody
Publicity ............................................................... Don Barbee
Treasurer ............................................................... Richard Rames
Secretary .............................................................. Lesley Hendrickson
Chorus Representatives .......................................... Gordon Staff, Susan Volkmer
Orchestra Representative .......................................... Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor ............................................................. Steven Michael Utzig
Violin ................................................................. Milton Wright (Concertmaster), Dorothy Boen
                     Phil Bremmer, Sarah Button, Michael Compton
                     Gary Rauk, Janet Schmidt, Agnes Wolf, Eva Zorn
Viola ................................................................. Dianna Garvey, Tom Rognsvogt, Aija Ronis
Cello ................................................................. Coral Bastien, Paul Jansen, John Litch
                    Renee Merton, Anne Swarts
Bass ................................................................. Ron Rasmussen
Flute ................................................................. Ruth Erickson, Julie Lindstrom, Katie Lowry
Clarinet .............................................................. Mary Albachten, Barb Hovey
Oboe ................................................................. Jean Beyer
Bassoon .............................................................. Holly Leighton
Horn ................................................................. Mike Engh, Ellen Sorensen, Bob Spector
Trumpet .............................................................. Mike Hillman, Bob Hirte, Tim Killam, Betty Mackay
Trombone .......................................................... Greg Michnay, Larry Perry
Percussion .......................................................... Julie Schmid, Jim Streich
Rehearsal Pianists ................................................ Florian Keller, Sally Reynolds
                      Darin Tysdal, Jean 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 it that it rhymes with Chancery (almost)
Wards in Chancery - minors under the protection of the Court of Chancery
from Marathon to Waterloo - in 490 B.C. 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 animalculus - 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 Heliogabalus - even the use of a verse form (elegiacs) could not soften the awful deeds of this most appalling Roman emperor (212 - 222 AD)
In comics I can floor peculiarities parabolous - comics 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 "Berkekeke, kox, kox")
a washing-bill in Babylonic cuneiform - a laundry-list, in ancient wedge-shaped writing
every 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 Pirates. It was their first great success.
mamelon and ravelin - terms for strategic earthworks: mamelon is a mound used in fortifications, ravelin is a sort of ridge
such affairs as sorties and surprises - sudden troop movement outward when besieged
has never sat a gee - never ridden a horse ("gee-gee" being a childish way of referring to a horse, derived from a word of command to horses)
Divine Emollient! - something that softens, as poetry apparently does, even for pirates
Pray observe the magnanimity we display to lace and dimity - a thin cotton fabric.

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 mein - 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.
CONTRIBUTORS

Divine Emoliants ($100 and over)
Anonymous • Patricia & Mark Bauer • Mark R. Ellenberger • Priscilla Paine Fuller • Donald F. Johnson • Thor Lyford • Jack & Vivian Mason • Jan F. Nolan • Don Olson • Garry & Mary Ann Peterson • R. N. Queche • Marvin Rogers • Tom & Beverly Rogers • Constance Waterous

Honorary Members of Our Band ($50 - $99)
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Hobart United Methodist Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, The Guthrie Theatre, Minnesota Opera, En Garde! Unlimited, Child Garden Montessori School, Minnetonka Symphony, and our rollicking band of ushers, ticket sellers, and concessionaires, who are all the Slaves of Duty.