**H.M.S. Pinafore**

*or, The Lass That Loved A Sailor*


*(First Lord of the Admiralty)*

- Tom Berg

Captain Corcoran

*(Commander of the H.M.S. Pinafore)*

- Waldyn Benbenek

Ralph Rackstraw *(Able Seaman)*

- Kai Brewster

Dick Deadeye *(Able Seaman)*

- Ryan Johnson

Bill Bobstay *(Boatswain's Mate)*

- Stephen Zehr

Bob Becket *(Carpenter's Mate)*

- John Orbison

Josephine *(daughter of Captain Corcoran)*

- Victoria Valencour

Cousin Hebe *(Sir Joseph's First Cousin)*

- Amanda Weis

Little Buttercup *(a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman)*

- Caitlin Wilkey

### Chorus of Sailors:

- **Joe Allen**
- **Jonathan Flory**
- **Wric Larsen**
- **James Brooks**
- **Alex Gerchak**
- **Jared Mogen**
- **Rick Cedergren**
- **Stephen Hage**
- **Eric Pasternack**
- **Dumont Darsey**
- **Brad Kallhoff**
- **Dave Peichel**

### Chorus of Sir Joseph’s Sisters, Cousins and Aunts:

- **Mary Mescher Benbenek**
- **Mary Gregory**
- **Charlotte Morrison**
- **Margaret Burton**
- **Shawn Holt**
- **Cassandra Utt**
- **Amanda Carlson**
- **Emily Johnson**
- **Madeline Veenker**
- **Maia Carnicom**
- **Holly MacDonald**
- **Sarah Zuber**

**Understudies:**

- Joe Allen, Amanda Carlson, Rick Cedergren
- Jonathan Flory, Alex Gerchak, Stephen Hage
- Emily Johnson, Wric Larsen, Cassandra Utt

Portsmouth Harbor, 1942

**Act I:** Morning

**Act II:** Night

~ *Turn off all cell phones & other electronic devices* ~

~ *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**

_H.M.S. Pinafore_ was Gilbert & Sullivan's first full-length hit, opening in 1878. It has remained, with _Mikado_ and _Pirates_, among the “big three” of the G&S canon, continually in performance by groups ranging from professional companies to elementary schools. Its story manages to be sweetly romantic while tying logical (and mathematical) granny knots. Half the fun is rolling along with the rapidly rising level of implausibility. Don't ask how old Little Buttercup is supposed to be. Don't even think it.

As originally staged, the work had a contemporary setting. Over the years, the GSVLOC has mounted three productions of _Pinafore_, the first an homage based closely on photos and engravings of the original. Our second was a very contemporary ‘Love Boat’ setting. This, our third, is set on a World War II battleship. For a gaggle of blitz-weathered “sisters and cousins and aunts,” a jaunt down to Portsmouth is a jolly distraction, and aiding young love an added treat. So grab your gas mask and your ration book and join us on the _H.M.S. Pinafore_.

**SYNOPSIS**

**Act I:** After the chorus of sailors aboard _H.M.S. Pinafore_ introduce themselves in song, Little Buttercup comes aboard, to sell provisions to the ship's company. Ralph (pronounced "Rafe") Rackstraw enters and tells his fellow sailors of his love for the Captain's daughter Josephine. She is supposed to marry Sir Joseph Porter, the First Lord of the Admiralty, who is due to arrive this day (along with his accompanying gaggle of sisters, cousins, and aunts). Josephine tells her father, Captain Corcoran, that she has had the misfortune to fall in love with a common sailor (Ralph, of course). Being dutiful and proud, however, she will keep her feelings to herself and marry Sir Joseph. Even after meeting Sir Joseph and finding him pompous and boring, she still has the fortitude to spurn poor Ralph when he confesses his love. Rejected, Ralph is set on suicide, but is interrupted in the nick of time by a repentant Josephine. They plan their elopement, encouraged by Sir Joseph's relatives and the sailors – all but Dick Deadeye, who tries in vain to discourage the union.

**Act II:** The act opens with a worried Captain Corcoran musing on the problems of his daughter and Sir Joseph. Little Buttercup hints to him of mysterious changes to come. When Sir Joseph expresses displeasure at Josephine's coolness, the Captain suggests that she is probably holding aloof because of the difference in rank between a captain's daughter and Sir Joseph. Josephine's soliloquy, however, shows that she's debating about giving up her wealthy home to live in poverty with a lowly sailor. Sir Joseph and her father appear at this critical moment to tell her that “love levels all ranks,” which she takes as encouragement about Ralph. Thanks to a warning from Dick Deadeye about the planned elopement, the Captain is ready when Ralph and Josephine begin to leave the ship. Sir Joseph, shocked by the Captain's use of the “big, big D” word, banishes him to his cabin, and sends Ralph off to the brig in chains. Buttercup steps forward with an improbable tale of babies switched in infancy, and the resulting new identities produce three happy couples united in matrimony!
PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director .......................................................... Lesley Hendrickson
Music Director .......................................................... Randal A. Biukema
Assistant Stage Director ............................................. Jacob Wellington
Assistant Music Director .............................................. Jean Orbison Van Heel
Stage Manager .......................................................... Denise Brophy
Set Designer & Scenic Painter ...................................... Larry Rostad
Costume Designer ...................................................... Barb Portinga
Lighting Designer ....................................................... Andrew Kedl
Set Builder ............................................................... Jack Kravik, Dean Laurance
Assistant Stage Manager ............................................ Malka Key, Brianna Sullivan
Follow-spot Operator .................................................. Jack Kravik
Wardrobe Mistress ..................................................... Jo Pasternack
Set Construction ....................................................... Andy Dizon, L. Peter Erickson,
                              Richard Rames, Larry Rostad, Felix Aguilar Tomlinson, and cast members

Props Master .......................................................... Connor Matthew McEvoy
Rehearsal Pianists: ...................................................... Jean Orbison Van Heel, Steven Norquist
Audio-Visual Engineer ............................................... Bob Johanncke
Audio-Describer ........................................................ Sharon Bigot
Poster Design .......................................................... Tom McGregor, Mary Olson
“Fair Moon” arrangement .......................................... Mitchell Johnson, Charlie McCarron
Audio recording ......................................................... Alexander Gerchak
“Voice of the BBC” ..................................................... Jim Ahrens
Lobby Display & Photography ..................................... Stephen Hage
Group Photos .......................................................... Daniels Studio
House Managers ....................................................... Trina Morrison, David Morrison, Irene Duong
Ticket Sales .............................................................. Charlotte Morrison
Ticket Helpers ........... David Morison, Fred Morrison, Eric Pasternack, Holly Windle
House Staff Recruitment ............................................... Shawn Holt

The Board:
Producer ................................................................. Stephen Hage
Labour Pool Coordinator ........................................... Eric Pasternack
Publicity ................................................................. Waldyn Benbenek
Treasurer ................................................................. Malka Key
Secretary ................................................................. Shawn Holt
Chorus Representatives .............................................. Mary Gregory, John Orbison
Orchestra Representative ............................................. Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor ............................................................... Randal A. Biukema
Orchestra Manager .................................................... Ann Marie McIntire
Violin I ................................................................. David Kozamchak (Concertmaster)
                        Amy Atzel, Eva Zorn, Kate Kelly, Mary Hanson, Derick Rehurek
                        Karen Kozak, Linda Reutz, Dan Sadoff, Kate Jones, Janelle Lanz
Violin II .................. Theodora Wynoff, Karen Neinstadt, Beth Henningsnes
                        Lorine Menzhuber, Nancy Birth, Betsy Lofgren
Viola ................................................................. Ann Marie Bur, Aija Ronis
                        Chris Chelgren, Teresa Mager, Laura Bidgood
Cello ................................................................. John Dunham, Amy Samelian, Karin Holmberg Kimble
                        Katherine Canon, Jesse Berndt, Adam Stiber
String Bass .................. Ann Marie McIntire, Benjamin Kitt, Doug Nelson
Flute .......................... Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Anne Cheney
                        Kathleen Spehar, Alyssa Griggs
Clarinet ........................ Barb Hovey, Ken Gellerman, Brian Krysinski
Oboe .......................... Steve Schellenberg, Stuart Mitchell
Bassoon .......................... Steve Cronk, Elizabeth Brandt
Horn ...................................................... Jeffrey Ohlmann, Karen Holmes
                        Michael Engh, Chris Hahn, Bob Olsen
Trumpet .......................... Betty MacKay, Andy Padula, Robert Zobal
Trombone .................. Greg Michnay, Scott Solitis, Timothy Jung
                        Sarah Cooke, Nathanael Engh
Percussion ............................. John Litch, Charley Rich
GLOSSARY (in order of occurrence)

Act I:
Buttercup's wares:
  - **jacky** - twists of tobacco soaked in rum (for chewing)
  - I've **treacle** and **toffee** - molasses, or a similar syrup
  - **soft tombly** - a kind of bread
  - **chicken and conies** - wild rabbits
  - **pretty polonies** - smoked sausages named, like the sandwich meat, after Bologna, the Italian town where they were first made

**Reddest beauty in all Spithead** - body of water off Portsmouth

Dick **Deedeye**, Bill **Bobstay** (boatswain) - the last names of these sailors refer to parts of a ship’s ropes or rigging

**To do her menial's duty** - to be her humble servant

**Foremost hands** - those sailors who serve "before the mast" (those below the rank of officer) [see Quarter-deck]

**Quarter-deck** - the deck to the aft of the mainmast where only commissioned officers may promenade

**Ship a selvagee** - a hank of rope yarn made into a strap or sling

**He would commit solecisms that society would never pardon** - gaffes, or breaches of etiquette

**Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.** - Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Bath (high honor)

**Bang the loud nine-pounders go** - the smallest of the battery of the cannons carried on Royal Navy ships (which also include 18 and 32-pounders)

**Pocket borough** - refers to a parliamentary seat controlled by a single individual (usually wealthy landowner); these seats were abolished by the Great Reform Act of 1832

**Grog** - rum diluted with water (from the nickname of the Admiral who began the custom of issuing the drink to sailors, "Old Grog," so called for the grogram cloak he usually wore)

**British tar** - slang for sailor

**Cimmerian darkness** - according to Homer's *Odyssey*, the Cimmerians lived in a land where the sun never shines

**I am but a living ganglion of irreconcilable antagonisms** - a bundle of nerves

Act II:

**Either at sixes or at sevens** - to be "at sixes and sevens" is to be confused

**Bumboat woman** - boat used to peddle provisions to ships in port

**Storks turn out to be but logs; bulls are but inflated frogs** - references to Aesop's fables

**Turbot is ambitious brill** - kinds of fish, turbot being preferred

**Gild the farthing** - lowest denomination of British coin at the time

**The prospect is Elysian** - in Greek mythology, Elysian fields were the home of the blessed

**Cat-o'-nine-tails** - (or simply "the cat") - a whip with nine knotted lashes used for punishment

**Fo'c'sle** - short for "forecastle," the forward part of the ship, usually containing the crew's quarters

**No telephone** - the first telephone transmission was in 1876, and the first London exchange opened in June of 1878, a month after *Pinafore* did

**Go, ribald, get you hence** - a vulgar person using coarse language

**To your cabin with celerity** - haste

**The consequence of ill-advised asperity** - harshness of manner; ill temper

**I practiced baby-farming** - took in foster children
Gilded Lordlings ($250 and over)

Anonymous ♦ Rolf & Chris Bolstad ♦ Stephen Hage & Lara Trujillo ♦ Lorraine Mitchell ♦ Holly MacDonald & John Orbison

Sisters, Cousins, and Aunts ($100 - $249)

Tom & Arlene Alm ♦ Suzanne Ammerman ♦ Philip Asgian ♦ Paul & Ruth Bauhahn ♦ Western Wisconsin Ear Nose & Throat Center ♦ Barbara De Cosse ♦ Mark Ellenberger and Janet Zander ♦ Gary Engstrand and Kathy Jensen ♦ in memory of Peter Erickson ♦ Richard Fishel ♦ Carol & Greg Gross ♦ John Hanlon ♦ Douglas O. Happe ♦ Jean Holten ♦ Bill & Nancy Jones ♦ Kenneth Kauffman ♦ Marion Levy ♦ R. Jeffrey McLeod ♦ Riley Owens, Jr. ♦ Derrill M. Pankow ♦ Garry & Mary Ann Peterson ♦ Nancy & Bert Poritsky ♦ David & Mary Ruch ♦ Paul & Patricia Sackett ♦ Heidi Schellhas ♦ The family of Steven and Mary Schier ♦ Radonna & Jim Schwarz ♦ Alice & Yale Sherman ♦ Dennis Shogren ♦ Doug Siems ♦ Glenn Skoy ♦ Richard Evan Stone ♦ Connie Waterous

Foremost Hands (up to $100)


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In the Spring of 2016, we will present Iolanthe

We are performing H.M.S. Pinafore in Summer 2015 at the Lake Harriet Bandshell, on July 11 at 7:30 pm and July 12 at 5:30 pm

We will also be presenting Trial By Jury at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, between July 30 and August 9
Presents

Gilbert & Sullivan’s
H.M.S. PINAFORE
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March 6 – March 29, 2015
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
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Minneapolis

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