GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

THE SORCERER

Fridays, November 8, 15, & 22, at 8:00 pm
Saturdays, November 9, 16, & 23, at 8:00 pm
Sundays, November 10, 17, & 24, at 3:00 pm

Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Avenue South Minneapolis

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
Cast

John Wellington Wells (The Sorcerer)........... Mark D. Williams
Sir Marmaduke Pointdexdre (A Baronet)........ Patrick D. Cottington
Alexis (His Son)............................. Don Shier
Dr. Daly (The Vicar)............................ Troy J. Stanley
Notary........................................ Sid Konikoff
Annabella, Lady Sangazure...................... Dorothea Jensen
Aline (Her Daughter)........................... Kristy Lynn Conrad
Mrs. Partlett (A Pew Opener).................. Deanna DuComb
Constance (Her Daughter)....................... Gale Madsen

Marmaduke's Manservant......................... Stephen B. Sullivan
Lady Sangazure's Maid........................... Mary Mescher
The Housekeeper............................... Charlotte Overend
The Butler..................................... Dean Lawrance
The Cook....................................... Barbara Webber
The Footman.................................... Peter Erickson
The Parlour Maid............................... Rhea Sullivan
The Chamber Maid............................... Marylou G. Gibson
The Dairy Maid................................ Margaret Sullivan
Hercules (The Page)............................ Raina Brody
Grenadier Guards.............................. Waldyn Benbenek
Their Lady Friends............................. Barbara Bloom
.............................................. Carol Manning
An Earl......................................... Gary Siemers
A Countess..................................... Sue Ann Loomis
A Beau Brummell............................... Steve Rawlins
A Fashionable Lady............................. Holly MacDonald
The Notary's Assistant......................... Vern Harman
The Baker's Shopgirl......................... Rita Stough
The Delivery Boy.............................. Andy Powell
The Bobby...................................... Richard Rames
The Scamp...................................... Marcia Hill
The Bumpkin.................................... Ernest Brody
The Schoolgirl................................. Holly Windle
Her Nanny...................................... Charlotte Morrison
The Gardener.................................... David Jensen
The Old Porter................................. Warren Loud
The Stable Boy................................. Stuart Horwitz
The Carpenter.................................. Roger Evans

Sprites, Fiends, Hags and Imps............... Stephanie Brody
.............................................. Raina Brody
.............................................. Christie Van House
.............................................. Charlotte Morrison
Synopsis

The Victorian village of Ploverleigh prepares to celebrate the betrothal of Alexis Pointdexter (son of Sir Marmaduke) to Aline Sangazure (daughter of Lady Sangazure). Romance is not confined to the young and the wellborn, however. Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure, the vicar and his lowly born Constance; in short, everyone in the village is suitably wooing or wooed and ready to celebrate. Instead of blithely joining in the betrothal festivities, however, Alexis has a plan to ensure that Aline will love him forever - a plan which has the added benefit of putting his own theories about "pure love" into practice throughout the village. He hires sorcerer John Wellington Wells to administer a magical love potion to the unsuspecting populace. The resulting comic havoc is not at all what Alexis had expected, and takes even John Wellington Wells aback (and some other places!).

Setting

The Exterior of Sir Marmaduke Pointdexter's Mansion, in Dorset

ACT I - 11:00 A.M.
ACT II - Midnight

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There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

No smoking, drinking or eating is allowed in the theatre.

The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden, as it is a hazard to the performers.

Contributors

Stephen D. Anderson
Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Beek
Barbara Bloom
Dr. Charles Boltuck
Jerry & Audrey Cassidy
Mark K. Digre
English-Speaking Union
Warren Erickson
Silas B. Foot III
Robert & Virginia Gartner
Gayle Gaskill
Robert H. Goldner
Joan Guggemos
Florence Halvorson
David Hanson
Edward Hathaway

Barbara Hauser
Dorothy E. Horst
Mary Ann Huelsstep
Frank J. & Helena Karr
Ione Libby
Marjorie A. Loeffler
Warren Loud
Joanne & Roderick MacDonald
Doris Northenscold
R. N. Quiche
Ellen & Michael Rosewall
George & Ellen Schulte
Jaclyn Schwab
Orrin & Linda Shane
J. Morgan Wilson
Seth & Leone Witts
Production Staff

Stage Director.................. Yale Marshall
Music Director.................. Carolyn Davies
Artistic Director............... Wendy Evans
Scenery.......................... Larry Kauschansky
Costume Designer.............. Brigitte Heaney
Production Manager........... Waldyn Benbenek
Choreography................... Yale Marshall, Barbara Bloom
Rehearsal Accompanist........ Joanne Thrash Phelan
Lighting......................... Floyd Swanson
Stage Manager................... Chris Rusin
Prop Construction.............. Yale Marshall, Barb Webber
Prop Manager..................... Cheryl Nelson
House Managers................ Sandra Irwin, Mary Kuehborn
House Staff Recruitment........ Rhea Sullivan, Mary Mescher
Tickets/Treasurer.............. Charlotte Morrison
Publicity......................... Dorothea Jensen, Peter Erickson
Publicity Photography......... Brigitte Heaney
Lobby Photography............... Bruce Stough, Rita Stough
Costume Construction.......... Wendy Evans, Jane McGraith,
                             Brigitte Heaney, Barbara Bloom
Secretary......................... Rita Stough
Chorus Representatives........ Peter Erickson, Holly MacDonald
Labour Pool Coordinator........ Steve Rawlins
Video Taping...................... Tanya Brody, Chuck Geise,
                                Maury Jensen

Orchestra

Violin I.......................... Elizabeth Weis (Concertmistress)
                                Kim Mitchell
Violin II......................... Sue Schultz, Diane Folland
Viola.............................. Linda Warner
Cello.............................. Coral Bastien
Bass............................... Bob Salter
Flute.............................. Julie Smythe
Oboe............................... Linnea Schilling
Clarinet......................... Barb Hovey
Bassoon......................... Pat Leverty
Horn............................... Lisa Worcester, Martha Bentley
Trumpet......................... Bob Hirte
Trombone......................... Ron Larson
Percussion....................... Rich Pehrson, Jr.

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Contributions to the Company (and tickets donated for resale)
are tax-deductible and much appreciated.
Once the career of a composer or a team like Gilbert and Sullivan is finished and the body of works is fixed and reviewable, then the public can relax and enjoy each stage of that career as its own entity. Knowing that the fully perfected jewels of Pirates, Patience, Mikado, and Yeomen were still ahead does not mean that we can't appreciate Gilbert and Sullivan's earliest extant full-length operetta, The Sorcerer, on its own merits.

In fact, I have been guilty of being somewhat blind to the joys of this work myself, against the splendid aura the others give off. The last time I seriously looked at it, I was a much younger man, and the characters seemed, on the whole, a stodgy bunch of oldsters. But now as an old fogy (a very old fogy indeed) I am ready to appreciate their quiet charm and fullness of character.

Take the question of heroines, for instance. In all the operas after Sorcerer and Pinafore, Gilbert seems to have decided that to avoid sentimentality he had to play the heroines for comedy; so he made them paper-doll cut-outs, usually driven by absurd, feather-headed manias (Patience and Rose Maybud) or exhibiting an almost horrifying callousness (Mabel and Yum-Yum).

Only in Aline and Josephine do we have fully developed and admirable women. In fact, all the characters in The Sorcerer are sympathetic (no Katsishas, Pooh-Bahs, or Lord Chancellors). Alexis is not really a villain, though he has the one serious fault of wanting to assure love through artificial means; he is more the blind classical hero brought down by one lapse into insensitivity.

So let us allow ourselves to be beguiled by this work which came before the team had solidified its "formula." In fact, let us treasure most those divergences from the later tried-and-true patterns (which we all love so much). In not having solidified the "Pooh-Bah role" yet, for instance, they have presented us with the delightful bonus of that gentle second-hero, the Vicar, Dr. Daly.

Special Thanks To:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Faith United Methodist Church, Rob Jungmann, Mark Cramer, Marjorie Moore, Turnquist Paper Company, Steve and Rob Kisch; and to our Lord High Ushers, Ticket Sellers, Concessionaries, and Confectioners.

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PIRATES Principal and Chorus Auditions: December 8-9, 1985; 7:00-10:00 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 46th & Colfax, Mpls.
Glossary

a pew opener - an attendant who opens the elaborate "box seats" for the gentry at church services

I was a pale young curate then - a clergyman who assists a vicar (19th century curates usually were young bachelors, often well-connected, who fluttered provincial maiden hearts accordingly)

But tush, I am puling - whining

not a navvy dissented - an unskilled laborer (as in ditch digger)

St. Mary Axe - a street in the City of London (pronounced Simmery Axe)

philtre - a potion or charm to make a person fall in love

our Abudah chests - from a pseudo-Persian tale in which a Baghdad merchant named Abudah was haunted by a hag in a little box

a rise in Unified - a rise in the value of Government stock

the resident Djinn - a genie

tetrapods - verses of 4 metrical feet, often used in Greek tragedy

gay Sally Lunn - a tea cake named for an 18th century street vendor in Bath

stiff jorum of tea - a bowl used for serving punch (stiffer than tea)

a baronet and K.C.B. - the former is the lowest hereditary titled order (abbreviated Bart - as in Bad Bart); the latter stands for Knight Commander of the Bath; both refer to Sir Marmaduke

respectable Q.C. - Queen's Counsel, a senior barrister, in this case the Notary, a very senior barrister

Eh, but oi du loike you - Gilbert's version of a West Country accent as sung by a thoroughly philtre'd chorus

why do you gaze at me with visage lowering - a scowling face

One Tree Hill - out of seven possibilities, the most likely reference is to an amusement at Greenwich Fair

Rosherville - an amusement garden (with a zoo and theatrical entertainments) in Kent, popular with working class Londoners

yield up his life to Ahriman - the Zoroastrian spirit of evil, i.e., the Persian personification of perdition