



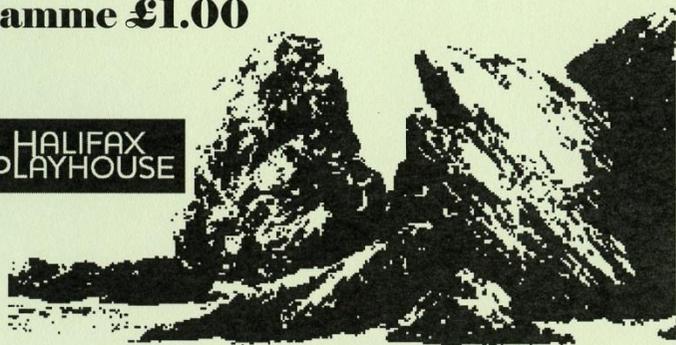
**Halifax
Gilbert and
Sullivan
Society
Presents**

*The Pirates
of Penzance*

Halifax Playhouse

4 November – 8 November 2014

Programme £1.00



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I take great pleasure in welcoming you to our 2014 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, arguably the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Its first run of 100 performances was at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in New York, starting on December 31 1879, prior to its British opening at the Opera Comique in April 1880, where it ran for a further 363 performances (There was a rough-and-ready run through the show at the Royal Bijou Theatre, Paignton, just before the New York première, in order to establish the copyright).

We are pleased this year to welcome three new performers. Louise Foster is making her debut with us as Mabel, while Ryan Jacques and Carl Mitchell join the chorus of pirates. We hope that they have enjoyed their time with us and will stay for future shows. Keeping the other usual suspects in order has been Richard Buxton, helped on both the musical and production front by Philip Sutcliffe. In addition, Philip's piano playing has kept us (more or less) in tune at rehearsals when all seemed lost – what a precious asset is a first-class accompanist.

We have some new costumiers this year. The Boyz of Bacup have somehow managed to cover all our various shapes and sizes, and their offerings should make for a colourful show in stage. Our thanks go to them, to Karl Eaton who has once more taken responsibility for lighting the show, and to all our front-of-house and behind-the-scenes volunteers, who do a fantastic job for us. During the evening you will see on stage some of the results of Deborah Hammond's handiwork – she can handle a needle and thread as well as she can tread the boards.

Finally I should like to thank you, our audience, and I trust that you will have a very enjoyable evening. If you already support us regularly, may you long continue to do so. If you are new to us and have enjoyed the show, please consider becoming a member or a patron and taking part in our all year round activities. You can speak to any of our Front of House staff or visit our web site at www.halifaxgands.org.uk for further information.

Kelvyn Waites

Some cuneiform writing.

It is uncertain whether or not this is the washing bill that Major-General Stanley professes an ability to write.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

THE STORY SO FAR

A band of pirates are singing and sipping sherry on a rocky beach, celebrating the coming-of-age of Frederic, who has completed his apprenticeship with them to become a fully-fledged pirate. Although he has faithfully served his shipmates in accordance with his overpowering sense of duty, he is reluctant to continue his association with them, and his nursemaid Ruth explains the mistake that caused him to become an apprentice in the first place. The pirates, who are not as bloodthirsty as they ought to be, bid him a fond farewell.



Ruth has her own plans for Frederic, but they are thrown into disarray with the unexpected arrival on the beach of a large number of healthy and attractive girls, out for a hike and a picnic. They are awaiting the arrival of their father, Major-General Stanley, and greet Frederic's intrusion on their privacy with a mixture of terror and fascination. Mabel in particular is very keen to express her sympathy with his discomfort at his criminal past, and her sisters feign nonchalance as her and Frederic's mutual interest grows.

They are interrupted by the sudden re-appearance of the pirates, and a mass forced marriage is about to take place when the Major-General himself arrives. He submits a list of his impressive qualifications, and then has recourse to an ignoble lie to help himself and his family escape, thanks to the soft-hearted nature of the pirates.



The story from here on concerns the remorse of Major-General Stanley and Frederic's dilemma as he has to choose between love and duty. Matters are complicated when Ruth and the Pirate King reveal a little contractual difficulty, and the policemen engaged to pursue the pirates turn out to be as tender-hearted as their quarry.

Journey with us through the twists of the plot to discover who will triumph in the end.



This page is dedicated to the memory of Caroline Saul

CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

The Pirates

The Pirate King	Steven Greenwood
Samuel, his Lieutenant	David Prosser
Frederic, the Pirate Apprentice	Leon Waksberg
Ruth, a Pirate Maid-of-all-work	Penny McGoverin

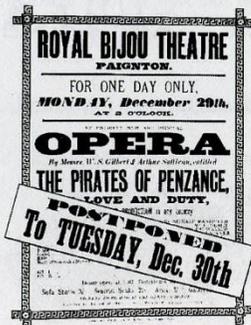
Ryan Jacques	Trevor Roberts
Paul Matthews	Peter Skelton
Carl Mitchell	

The Policemen

Sergeant of Police	John Morgan
Harold Galley	Peter Sugden
Fintan O'Shea	Kelvyn Waites
Andrew Stopford	Tim Widdop

The Stanley Family

Major-General Stanley	Colin Fine
His daughters :	
Mabel	Louise Foster
Edith	Christine Roberts
Kate	Deirdre O'Shea
Isabel	Deborah Hammond
Stephanie Bolton	Helen Matthews
Carole Engel	Rachel Prosser
Jean Greenwood	Sally Stopford



To protect the British copyright, *Pirates* was given in the Bijou Theatre, Paignton, the day before the New York opening. The reason for the venue was that the D'Oyly Carte touring company were in Torquay at the time performing *HMS Pinafore*. The cast read from handwritten sheets of music newly arrived from America (where Sullivan was still finishing the music), and wore their Pinafore costumes with minimal changes, like scarves round the heads of those playing pirates. The music for a number of the songs had still not reached Paignton when the performance took place, and the Major-General was one of several who had to introduce himself in verse rather than song.

(Ian Bradley : *The Complete Annotated Gilbert and Sullivan*, 1996)

This page is sponsored by Huddersfield G & S Pirates (13-16 May 2015)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

- Pour, oh pour the pirate sherry (*Pirates, Samuel*)
- When Fred'ric was a little lad (*Ruth*)
- Oh, better far to live and die (*Pirate King, Pirates*)
- Oh! False one, you have deceived me (*Frederic, Ruth*)
- Climbing over rocky mountain (*Daughters*)
- Stop, ladies, pray! ... Oh, is there not one maiden breast (*Frederic, Daughters, Edith, Kate, Mabel*)
- Poor wandering one (*Mabel, Daughters*)
- What ought we to do? ... How beautifully blue the sky (*Edith, Kate, Mabel, Frederic, Daughters*)
- Stay, we must not lose our senses ... Here's a first-rate opportunity ... Hold, monsters! (*Frederic, Daughters, Pirates, Mabel, Samuel, Major-General*)
- I am the very model of a modern Major-General (*Major-General, Chorus*)
- Finale to Act One : Oh, men of dark and dismal fate ... I'm telling a terrible story ... Hail Poetry ... Oh happy day, with joyous glee ... Oh master, hear one word, I do implore you ... Pray observe the magnanimity.



Act Two

- Oh, dry the glistening tear (*Daughters, Mabel*)
- When the foeman bares his steel (*Sergeant, Policemen, Daughters, Mabel, Edith, Major-General*)
- Now for the pirates' lair! ... When you had left our pirate fold (*Paradox Trio (Frederic, Ruth, Pirate King)*)
- Away, away, my heart's on fire (*Pirate King, Ruth, Frederic*)
- All is prepared ... Stay, Frederic, stay! (*Mabel, Frederic*)
- No, I'll be brave! (*Mabel, Sergeant, Policemen*)
- When a felon's not engaged in his employment (*Sergeant, Policemen*)
 - A rollicking band of pirates we ... With cat-like tread (*Pirates, Policemen, Sergeant, Samuel*)
 - Hush, hush, not a word! ... Sighing softly to the river (*Frederic, Pirates, Policemen, Major-General*)
 - Finale to Act Two : Now what is this and what is that ... With base deceit you worked upon our feelings ... To gain a brief advantage you've contrived ... Poor wandering ones.



This page is sponsored by Steven and Jean in memory of Audrey Greenwood

PRODUCTION TEAM

MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND STAGE DIRECTOR
Richard Buxton, assisted by Philip Sutcliffe, who also
played the piano for all rehearsals

Members of the WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA,
SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA and FRIENDS

STAGE MANAGER	Paul Matthews
SET PROVIDED BY	West Yorkshire Savoyards Appreciation Society
LIGHTING DESIGNED BY	Karl Eaton
COSTUMES	The Boyz Theatre Costumes, Bacup
PROPERTIES	Deborah Hammond, Christine Noble-Doyle
ORCHESTRAL PARTS	James Newby Music
TICKET SALES	Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Kathryn Buxton
PUBLICITY	Peter Sugden
FOYER DISPLAY	Kathryn Buxton
PROGRAMME	Richard Buxton



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

PRESIDENT	Andrew Stopford
CHAIRMAN	Kelvyn Waites
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Stephanie Bolton
SECRETARY	Kathryn Buxton
TREASURER	Richard Buxton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deborah Hammond, Christine Noble-Doyle, Fintan O'Shea, Marie Sugden, Peter Sugden

In Aristophanes' play *The Frogs*, the god Dionysus is travelling to Hades to bring the playwright Euripides back from the dead (Dionysus despairs of the current literary state of affairs in Athens). He reaches the water where Charon the boatman makes him row the boat, telling him that he will have wonderful music to help him on his way. This turns out to be a chorus of frogs, whose refrain "Brekekekéx Koáx Koáx" drives Dionysus to distraction. This is the croaking chorus that has its place in Major-General Stanley's repertoire, although he doesn't demonstrate it here.



This page is sponsored by Kelvyn and Pam

THE SOCIETY

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was originally formed in 1968, and gave its first public full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's major public appearance, but we also offer a season of public concerts in the spring, usually between March and June. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield, and anyone wishing to organise a concert should contact the Secretary (see below).

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints Church Hall, Skircoat Green, Halifax. Three or four of these Friday evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera, or perhaps another piece from the same period, with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with us, although that's not compulsory!) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with or support the Society yourself, you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484-301291). If you don't sing yourself, but can perhaps offer organisational or other practical skills, you will be equally welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

We will be singing Christmas music at Red House Museum, Gomersal, on the afternoon of Sunday 7 December.

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society present their

Christmas Pot-pourri

at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green
on Friday 13 December at 7.45 pm

Free admission with retiring collection. Bring along your party piece!
Ring 01484 301291 for information

But who are you, sir? Speak!

I am a pirate!

A pirate! Horror!



This page is dedicated by Penny McGoverin to the memory of Marj Barton

PIRATES BEFORE *PIRATES*

A review from *The Era*, 22 December 1867, of Sullivan's first dabble with a pirate theme

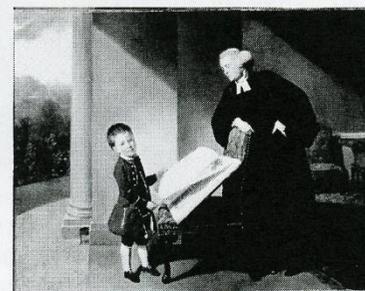
Mr Arthur Sullivan, on entering the orchestra to conduct his comic opera, *The Contrabandista*, was greeted most cordially. He has enjoyed the co-operation of Mr. F. C. Burnand as librettist, and this gentleman's talent for inventing amusing situations and writing humorous dialogue is once more proved beyond dispute. The plot of the opera is slight indeed, as will be seen from the following sketch: Inez de Roxas, the young widow of a defunct brigand chief, holds in captivity a forlorn Spanish damsel named Rita. The prisoner's rescue is determined upon by her lover, Count Vasquez. His efforts are for some time foiled, and the persecuted Rita is constantly watched by San Jose and Sancho. The two amiable Iberian thieves are nick-named respectively the Wolf and the Lion. They are deadly enemies, and candidates for the hand of Inez de Roxas. Anyone fortunate enough to captivate this dusky Queen of banditti immediately becomes captain of the band. "Such is the law of the Ladrones," and the Wolf and the Lion being equally unsuccessful, compel a tourist photographer, one Mr. Grigg to sue the robber's widow. He is condemned to be married in four days, and is forthwith invested with the "sacred hat" worn by the successive leaders of the Ladrones. The game of cross purposes is still industriously played by the Wolf and the Lion, and they both terrify poor Grigg in the most cruel manner. The Lion at last turns traitor, and leads a party of Spanish soldiers to the rescue of Rita and the photographer, and to the very camp of the Ladrones. Such is the plot, which is elaborated and worked out by the aid of wild absurdities too numerous to recount.

Mr. Arthur Sullivan's music is melodious and captivating to a degree. ... In the concerted music especially Mr. Sullivan displays a light, graceful fancy, and a facility of writing nothing less than admirable, and *The Contrabandista*, taken on its own merits, is a triumphant vindication of the fact that musical talent is not denied to the English. In every instance the music is in perfect keeping with the spirit of the words, and, while a necessary richness of harmony and orchestral colouring is preserved, that tendency to excessive modulation, which cloys rather than enchants, is most successfully avoided. Mr. Sullivan knows as well as anyone the above failing is common to young composers, though it is a fault after all on the right side. The opening duet, "Hush! Hush!" for Sancho and Jose, with chorus, and the trio in the first act, for the two brigands and Grigg, are models of composition that would lose but little by any comparisons which could be made. A capital buffo song, "From rock to rock" is given by the Photographer, and the melody is worked into the *finale* of the act the first. ... A song interpolated for Rita was unaffectedly sung by Miss Arabella Smyth, and, in the course of this scene, occurs another excellent trio, "Of that man we all require." The *finale*, formed on a valse-like subject, brought down the curtain with loud applause.

From the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive, <http://math.boisestate.edu/gas>, where you can also find a vocal score and libretto, as well as piano accompaniment to the songs.

THE STANLEY ART QUIZ

Major-General Stanley boasts that he can "tell undoubted Raphaels from Gerard Dows and Zoffanias". Here are two examples each of paintings by Raphael (1483-1520), Gerrit Dou (1613-1675) and Johann Zoffany (1733-1810). Can you tell which is which? (answers over the page)





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The pictures on the previous page are

Top row : Dou - *The Extraction of Tooth* (1635); Zoffany - *Self-portrait as David with the Head of Goliath* (1756)

Middle row : Raphael - *The Small Cowper Madonna* (1505); Dou - *Artist in his Studio (self-portrait)* (1632)

Bottom row : Zoffany - *The Reverend Randall Burroughs and his Son Ellis* (1769); Raphael - *Portrait of Tommaso Inghirami* (1516)

Among the items of burglary equipment carried by the pirates in Act Two are "silent matches". These were coated with sulphur and tipped with chlorate of potash. They were ignited not by being struck (thus creating noise) but by being dipped into a bottle of asbestos and sulphuric acid. It is difficult to imagine the pirates carrying all this paraphernalia around, and it's more likely that they had a box of these "Radium" matches, whose composition, however, remains uncertain.



This page is sponsored by the ravishing (but not ravished ... yet) daughters of Major-General Stanley

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We do a lot of work around local history: our Toffee Town project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, continues to collect recordings of Mackintosh's workers to help put Halifax on the map – if you can help, please get in touch.

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Previous productions of Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society

1971	HMS Pinafore	1993	The Sorcerer
1972	Iolanthe	1994	Iolanthe
1973	The Sorcerer	1995	The Mikado
1974	The Pirates of Penzance	1996	Patience
1975	The Gondoliers	1997	The Pirates of Penzance
1976	Princess Ida	1998	The Gondoliers
1977	The Mikado	1999	Princess Ida
1978	Ruddigore	2000	The Yeomen of the Guard
1979	The Yeomen of the Guard	2001	HMS Pinafore
1980	Patience	2002	Ruddigore
1981	Trial by jury / HMS Pinafore	2003	The Mikado
1982	The Sorcerer	2004	Iolanthe
1983	The Gondoliers	2005	The Grand Duke
1984	Iolanthe	2006	The Zoo / Cox and Box / Trial by Jury
1985	The Mikado		
1986	Princess Ida	2007	The Pirates of Penzance
1987	Cox and Box / Pirates of Penzance	2008	The Sorcerer
1988	Ruddigore	2009	The Gondoliers
1989	Utopia Limited	2010	The Yeomen of the Guard
1990	The Gondoliers	2011	HMS Pinafore
1991	The Yeomen of the Guard	2012	Princess Ida
1992	The Zoo / HMS Pinafore	2013	The Mikado

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