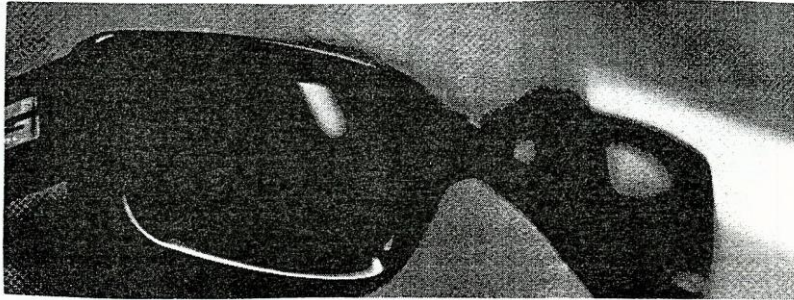


**Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society presents**

# **The Yeomen of the Guard**



**Halifax  
Playhouse**

**November 6  
to  
November 11  
2000**



## A note from the Chairman

For my first show as Chairman I am pleased to have been asked to extend a very warm welcome to all our patrons and supporters and to thank you all for your continued support.

The Yeomen of the Guard, which is a favourite amongst lovers of Gilbert and Sullivan, was first produced at the Savoy Theatre on October 3 1888, and is their most serious work, being the nearest they came to grand opera.

You are about to be transported to London for a brand new production of this work by Giselle Finney. This is Giselle's third production for the Society and promises to be just as spectacular as her previous productions.

Colin Akers has been the Society's very talented accompanist for the last eleven years. This year he is making his first appearance in the new role of Musical Director, and we wish him every success in this venture.

I would also like to pay tribute to all our 'behind the scenes' helpers, and to give a special mention to John Worrihow for the set design and to Mike Whitwam for building a truly magnificent stage centrepiece.

Thank you again for supporting us. Now sit back and enjoy the show, and then please go home and tell your friends to come as well!

Trevor Roberts

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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 principal endeavour, but we also offer a winter season of public concerts, usually between February and April. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield.

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints Church Hall, Skircoat Green, Halifax. Three or four evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are welcome to join us (and sing with us) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with the Society yourself (or if you are a non-singer but would like to help out with our organisation, including publicity, tea-making, accompaniment, and lots of other jobs!), you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 p.m. onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484 301291)

## The Story So Far



The action takes place within the confines and environs of **The Tower** – a circular prison and termination centre built around a central meeting place in the heart of London's regenerated Docklands.

The period is early 21st century and follows a time of political and social upheaval which has seen the overthrow of the monarchy and the investiture of a **People's Republican State**.

After being badly damaged during the **Uprising of 2000**, the original Tower of London has been lovingly rebuilt stone by stone and restored as a museum piece within the inner walls of the new building. The site of the **Millennium Dome**, which suffered an ignoble destruction during the same uprising, has been reclaimed by the **People's Republic** and a Memorial Park created as a tribute to those who died fighting for The Cause.

**The State** is run by the **Higher Council** with its leader nominated as **President** and its members are **Secretaries of State**. They use the **Houses of Parliament** in The City as their headquarters.

Each Secretary of State has a designated responsibility. **Clarence Poltwhistle** is responsible for Defence, and has the power to arrest and terminate the life of anyone convicted of treason against **The State**.

## The Story Develops



There have been a few years of tranquillity during which there has been a renaissance of Elizabethan values.

**Fairfax**, a bachelor – who is now a Colonel in the **People's Republican Army** – has served his country in the **PRA** for many years and has acquired extensive farmland and property in recognition of his bravery and service to **The State**.

Retiring early from the **PRA**, he is to come to London to join the prestigious **Yeomen of the Guard**, now fondly known as **The Men In Black (MIB)** for short), as their uniform suggests.

**Clarence Poltwhistle**, who has never served in the army and who is basically a coward, plans to have his cousin **Fairfax** terminated, so that he can inherit his vast estates.



## The Story Continues



### ACT ONE

**Prologue** *The Tower - in The Lion Rampant Cocktail Bar. March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.*

It is *Phoebe's* birthday and she has come to meet her father and his boss and a few of her friends for a drink after work. Her admirer, *Wilfred*, is anxiously waiting for her. As the party atmosphere builds up, *Clarence Poltwhistle* arrives with a guard of **Men in Black (MIB)** and immediately puts a damper on the celebrations. His unpopularity is obvious. *Fairfax* arrives, having been invited to meet his cousin there to 'discuss a family matter of grave importance'. This turns out to be a file of bogus photographs and other counterfeit evidence which places *Fairfax* in the frame for treason. Although *Fairfax* denies the evidence and attempts to fight his way out of this frame-up, he is arrested and taken off to The Tower.

**Scene 1** *The Tower – Music Room* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, 11.30 a.m.**  
When maiden loves she sits and sighs (*Phoebe and Singing Tutor*)

**Scene 2** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, mid-day**  
Tower warders, under orders (*Workers, MIB and Yeoman*)  
When our gallant Norman foes (*Jane Carruthers, MIB*)  
Alas! I waver to and fro (*Phoebe, Leonard Meryll, Sergeant Meryll*)

**Scene 3** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, a little later**  
Is life a boon? (*Colonel Fairfax*)

**Scene 4** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, a little later**  
Here's a man of jollity (*Holidaymakers and Workers*)  
I have a song to sing Oh! (*Elsie Maynard and Jack Point*)

**Scene 5** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, even later**  
How say you, maiden, will you wed (*Lieutenant, Elsie, Jack*)  
I've jibe and joke (*Jack*)

**Scene 6** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, later still**  
'Tis done, I am a bride (*Elsie*)  
Were I thy bride (*Phoebe*)

**Scene 7** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, early evening**  
Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true? (*MIB, Meryll, Fairfax, Phoebe, Wilfred*)

**Scene 8** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **July 30<sup>th</sup>, sunset**  
The prisoner comes to meet his doom (*Full company*)

### END OF ACT ONE

## The Story Concludes



### ACT TWO

*Wilfred* has been released on bail pending a full investigation into *Fairfax's* escape, which has caused concern and controversy within the Tower.

**Scene 1** *Tower Tube / Interrogation Centre* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, evening**  
Night has spread her pall once more (*Workers, Jane Carruthers, MIB*)

**Scene 2** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, late evening**  
Oh a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon (*Jack*)  
Hereupon we're both agreed (*Jack, Wilfred*)

**Scene 3** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, a little later**  
Free from his fetters grim (*Fairfax*)  
Strange adventure! (*Kate and Jane Carruthers, Fairfax, Meryll*)

**Scene 4** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, even later**

**Scene 5** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, much later**  
Hark, what was that, sir? (*Meryll, Fairfax, MIB, Company, Lieutenant, Wilfred, Jack*)

**Scene 6** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, very late**  
A man who would woo a fair maid (*Fairfax, Elsie, Phoebe*)  
When a wooer goes a wooing (*Elsie, Fairfax, Phoebe, Jack*)

**Scene 7** *The Tower – Piano Plaza* **August 1<sup>st</sup>, seriously late**  
Rapture, rapture (*Jane Carruthers, Meryll*)

**Scene 8** *The Tower - in The Lion Rampant Cocktail Bar.* **August 2<sup>nd</sup>, early evening**

Comes the pretty young bride (*Full company*)

### END OF ACT TWO

On Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society will hold a **Sullivan Evening** to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sir Arthur Sullivan's death, which falls on the Wednesday of that week.

The evening will take the form of an open rehearsal, interspersed with performances of Sullivan's musical settings of words by other writers as well as Gilbert.

Do come and join us at our rehearsal room in All Saints Church Hall, Skircoat Green, Halifax, starting at 7.45 p.m. Further details from the Secretary, 01484 301291.



## Characters in the story

Richard Cholmondeley, Lieutenant of the Tower	<b>Colin Fine</b>
Colonel Fairfax	<b>John Tattersall</b>
Sergeant Meryll (Fred)	<b>Fred Shaw</b>
Phoebe Meryll, his daughter	<b>Christine Johnson</b>
Leonard Meryll, his son	<b>Robert Driver</b>
Elsie Maynard, a strolling singer	<b>Stella Whitehouse</b>
Jack Point, a strolling comedian	<b>Richard Buxton</b>
Wilfred Shadbolt, Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor	<b>John Ramsdin</b>
Jane Carruthers, Housekeeper to the Tower	<b>Jane Fellows</b>
Kate Carruthers, her niece	<b>Kathryn Buxton</b>
Music teacher	<b>Ian Roberts</b>
Clarence Poltwhistle, Secretary for Defence	<b>Robert Driver</b>
Executioner	<b>Andrew Stopford</b>
Yeomen	<b>Mike Whitwam</b> <b>Trevor Roberts</b>
Holidaymakers	<b>Paul Matthews</b> <b>Peter Sugden</b>

## Chorus of workers, holidaymakers, Men in Black

<b>De'Anne Ambler</b>	<b>Christine Roberts</b>
<b>Stephanie Bolton</b>	<b>Ian Roberts</b>
<b>Carol Fleming</b>	<b>Janice Roberts</b>
<b>Helen Matthews</b>	<b>Trevor Roberts</b>
<b>Paul Matthews</b>	<b>Chris Sleep</b>
<b>Anne Parry</b>	<b>Stanley Solomons</b>
<b>David Prosser</b>	<b>Marie Sugden</b>
<b>Rachel Prosser</b>	<b>Peter Sugden</b>
<b>Paul Ratcliffe</b>	<b>Mike Whitwam</b>

## Production Team

PRODUCER	<b>Giselle Finney</b>
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	<b>Colin Akers</b>
ACCOMPANISTS	<b>Mavis Dean, Maureen Earl, Colin Fine, Keith Firth, Noreen Galley, Gary Midgley, Barbara Thompson</b>
<b>MEMBERS OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA, SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA, AND FRIENDS</b>	
R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R	
STAGE MANAGER	<b>Andrew Stopford</b>
STAGE CREW	<b>John WorriLOW, Joseph Wood, Ian Henderson, Matthew Ramsdin, Liam Johnson</b>
SET BUILT AND PAINTED BY	<b>John WorriLOW, Mike Whitwam, Andrew Stopford, Christine Johnson</b>
LIGHTING	<b>John O'Rourke</b>
PROPERTIES	<b>Kate McFarlane, Kath Whitwam, Kate Johnson</b>
COSTUMES	<b>W.A. Homburgs, Leeds, and The Cast</b>
PUBLICITY	<b>Peter Sugden, John Ramsdin, Stanley Solomons</b>
MAKE-UP	<b>Rosemary Cain, Janice Roberts</b>
PROMPTERS	<b>Barbara Johnson, Shirley Mitchell, Brenda Priestley</b>
ORCHESTRAL PARTS	<b>James Newby Music</b>
TICKET SALES AND FRONT OF HOUSE	<b>Stephanie Bolton, Stuart Summerscales</b>

THE SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES HELP FROM

**James Chambers (Timber Merchants) Ltd.**, Pellon Lane, Halifax, for assistance with material for the set.  
**Halifax Thespians**, for loan of props

R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

## HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY COMMITTEE

<b>Andrew Stopford</b> , President	<b>Christine Johnson</b>
<b>Trevor Roberts</b> , Chairman	<b>Kate McFarlane</b>
<b>Ian Henderson</b> , Vice-Chairman	<b>Rachel Prosser</b>
<b>Kathryn Buxton</b> , Secretary	<b>Peter Sugden</b>
<b>Richard Buxton</b> , Treasurer	<b>Stuart Summerscales</b>
<b>Stephanie Bolton</b> , Patrons Secretary	[ <b>David Bolton</b> , Honorary Auditor]

HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY  
WILL PRESENT

# H. M. S. PINAFORE

From Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> 2001

Come back and see us then, or even better come and sing with us!  
Auditions for principal parts will be held on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Details available from the Secretary, 01484 301291

## HALIFAX THESPIANS

KING CROSS STREET, HALIFAX; TELEPHONE: 01422 365998

December 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.

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By Terence Rattigan

Directed by David Gilchrist; Assisted by Anne Brook

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November 13 – 18, 2000

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### **The Yeomen of the Guard**

November 21 – 25, 2000