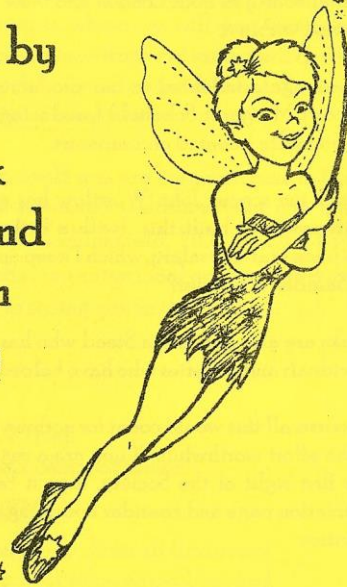


IOLANTHE

Presented by

Halifax
Gilbert and
Sullivan
Society



Tuesday November 2 to
Saturday November 6 2004



HALIFAX
PLAYHOUSE

From the Chairman

I am delighted to welcome you to this year's production of *Iolanthe*.

The Savoy operas have stood the test of time; Sullivan's music is so memorable and Gilbert's words are forever topical, and never more so than in *Iolanthe*, the House of Lords being as much under threat today as it was when Gilbert's fairies took such liberties when they stormed it 121 years ago.

This opera has been a source of enjoyment for audiences since November 1882 when it opened simultaneously in both London and New York and it seems to be just as immortal as the fairies depicted within it.

We are again indebted to our production team of Colin Akers (in his fifth year as Musical Director), Margaret Schofield (producing her fourth show for us) and Catherine Warwick our exceptionally talented accompanist.

Behind the scenes John Worriow has again designed the set for us and both he and Mike Whitwam have built this (with a little help from myself - trying to justify the exorbitant Chairman's fat-cat salary, which I keep on requesting!). What would Gilbert have made of "Fat-Cat Salaries", I wonder?

Thanks are also due to Ian Stead who has again provided the costumes, and to the host of other individuals and societies who have helped behind the scenes.

Of course, all this would count for nothing if it were not for you, who come to support us and make all the effort worthwhile. If you are a regular supporter, you have our grateful thanks. If this is your first sight of the Society, may it be the first of many, and please look at the Society's information page and consider becoming a member or patron and taking part in our year-round activities.

I hope you all enjoy the show as much as the cast will enjoy performing it.

Trevor Roberts

The Society gratefully acknowledges help from:

- IMAGE TRANSFER (G.M.) COMPANY for printing services
- PARADISE GREEN PRODUCTIONS for loan of electrical materials

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 February and April. 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!



Two dates for your diary before Christmas...

Friday November 26, 7.45 p.m.

All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green

PATRONS' EVENING

Come and enjoy an informal concert including music from all thirteen of Gilbert and Sullivan's collaborations. A mixture of solos, ensembles, and choruses that the audience can join in.
Admission free, with retiring collection.

Saturday December 4, 7.30 p.m.

Mytholmroyd Community Centre

HEBDEN BRIDGE BAND and HALIFAX G & S SOCIETY

A FESTIVE MUSICAL FEAST

£5.00 Adults; £2.50 Children - includes supper

Tickets available through members of the Society

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

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



Red

The Law is the true embodiment
Of everything that's excellent.
It has no kind of fault or flaw,
And I, my Lords, embody the Law.

The Constitutional guardian I
Of pretty young wards in Chancery,
All very agreeable girls, and none
Are over the age of twenty-one.

A pleasant occupation for
A rather susceptible Chancellor!

THE STORY SO FAR

One of the main articles of Fairy Law states that any Fairy who marries a mortal must die. Twenty-four years ago Iolanthe gave in to temptation and broke this law, but the Fairy Queen, whose favourite Iolanthe was, could not bear to enforce the capital sentence, and commuted it to banishment.

Shortly after beginning her sentence, at the bottom of a stream, the fruit of Iolanthe's illicit union was born. This was Strephon, who was consequently half Mortal and half Fairy (a conveniently clean join at the waist). He has found employment as an Arcadian Shepherd, and in the course of his daily work has met and fallen in love with Phyllis, an Arcadian Shepherdess.

Phyllis has no convenient close family, and has been made a Ward of Court, under the care of the Lord Chancellor. He is very much attracted to Phyllis, as are his fellow members of the House of Lords, who frequently travel to her neighbourhood for picnics and other pastimes in the hope of catching a glimpse of her.

Strephon has decided that he can wait no longer before marrying Phyllis, but they have a problem in that the Lord Chancellor's consent must be obtained first. To compound this problem, the Lord Chancellor too feels that any delay in realising his ambitions with Phyllis will seriously undermine his constitution. The Peers harbour similar desires.

As the curtain opens, the Fairies are bemoaning Iolanthe's continued absence from their revels, and implore the Queen to grant her parole. The Queen agrees, and Iolanthe introduces her Fairy son with Mortal legs to a fascinated Fairy band. They promise to help Strephon with any problems he might meet in winning the hand of Phyllis, and depart just before the arrival of the Peers for one of their regular sporting picnics.

At this point some serious conflicts of interest are revealed, which leads to a battle of wills between the Fairies and the Peers, observed later on by Private Willis, a sentry at Westminster who has a singular line in political philosophy. Eventually an unexpected revelation almost leads to disaster, averted only by a resourceful piece of legal manipulation.

Now let the opera take you there...

THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

The Fairies

Hannah Brian (Queen of the Fairies)
Christine Roberts (Iolanthe, Strephon's mother)
Stephanie Bolton (Celia)
Kate Johnson (Leila)
Christine Johnson (Fleta)
Carole Engel, Jean Greenwood, Jane Hanmer, Penny McGoverin,
Helen Matthews, Louise Moore, Janice Roberts (The Queen's Herald),
Marie Sugden, Kath Whitwam

The Arcadians

Michael Templeton (Strephon, an Arcadian Shepherd)
Clare Williams (Phyllis, an Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward in
Chancery)

The Peers

Colin Fine (The Lord Chancellor)
Steven Greenwood (Earl Tolloller)
Richard Buxton (Earl of Mountararat)
Harold Galley, Ian Hillas, Liam Johnson, Paul Matthews,
Trevor Roberts, Leyland Smith, Peter Sugden, Mike Whitwam

In attendance, and observing the goings-on in the Second Act

Leyland Smith (Private Willis, of the Grenadier Guards)
Gemma Saul (at the Bar of the House of Lords)

THE MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

- Tripping hither, tripping thither (*Fairies, with Celia, Leila*)
- Invocation: Iolanthe! (*Queen, Celia, Leila, Fairies, Iolanthe*)
- Good morrow, good mother (*Strephon, Fairies*)
- Fare thee well, attractive stranger (*Queen, Fairies*)
- Good morrow, good lover (*Phyllis, Strephon*)
- None shall part us from each other (*Phyllis, Strephon*)
- Loudly let the trumpet bray (*Peers*)
- The law is the true embodiment (*Chancellor, Peers*)
- My well-loved lord ... Of all the young ladies I know (*Phyllis, Peers, Tolloller, Mountararat*)
- Nay, tempt me not (*Phyllis, Peers*)
- Spurn not the nobly born (*Tolloller, Peers*)
- My Lords, it may not be ... A shepherd I of Arcady (*Phyllis, Peers, Chancellor, Strephon, Tolloller, Mountararat*)
- When I went to the Bar as a very young man (*Chancellor*)
- Finale to Act One: When darkly looms the day ... Oh shameless one, tremble ... In babyhood upon her lap I lay ... For riches and rank I do not long ... The lady of my love has caught me talking to another ... Go away, madam ... Oh, Chancellor unwary ... Henceforth, Strephon, cast away ... With Strephon for your foe, no doubt

Act Two

- When all night long a chap remains (*Willis*)
- Strephon's a member of Parliament (*Fairies, Peers*)
- When Britain really ruled the waves (*Mountararat, Fairies, Peers*)
- In vain to us you plead (*Leila, Celia, Fairies, Tolloller, Mountararat, Peers*)
- Oh foolish fay (*Queen, Fairies*)
- Though p'haps I may incur your blame (*Tolloller, Mountararat, Phyllis, Willis*)
- Love, unrequited ... When you're lying awake (*Chancellor*)
- If you go in you're sure to win (*Mountararat, Tolloller, Chancellor*)
- If we're weak enough to tarry (*Phyllis, Strephon*)
- My Lord, a suppliant ... He loves (*Iolanthe*)
- It may not be, for so the fates decide ... Once again thy vows are broken (*Chancellor, Iolanthe, Fairies, Queen*)
- Finale to Act Two: Soon as we may, up and away

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER Margaret Schofield
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Colin Akers
PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL PIANIST Catherine Warwick
ASSISTANT PIANIST Colin Fine

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

SET DESIGNED BY John Worriow
AND MADE BY Mike Whitwam, Trevor Roberts
PAINTING BY John Worriow
ASSISTANCE WITH SET Members of the Society

STAGE MANAGER Andrew Stopford
LIGHTING DESIGNED BY Stuart Render

COSTUMES AND WIGS Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes, Neil Smith
PROPERTIES Christine Johnson, Kathryn Buxton, Nancy Kirby
PROMPTERS Shirley Mitchell, Brenda Priestley
ORCHESTRAL PARTS James Newby Music

TICKET SALES Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER Kathryn Buxton
PUBLICITY Paul Matthews, Peter Sugden
FOYER DISPLAY Kathryn Buxton
POSTER AND PROGRAMME ARTWORK Kate McFarlane, Richard Buxton



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

PRESIDENT Andrew Stopford
CHAIRMAN Trevor Roberts
VICE-CHAIRMAN Sheila Simpson
SECRETARY Kathryn Buxton
TREASURER Richard Buxton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Colin Akers, Stephanie Bolton, Jane Fellows, Christine Johnson, Paul Matthews, Sheila Simpson, Peter Sugden

A POETICAL SOURCE

Gilbert's first thoughts about relationships between fairies and mortals were realised in the Bab Ballad *The Fairy Curate*. This fairy was however unencumbered with a law-enforcing Fairy Queen.

Once a fairy
Light and airy
Married with a mortal;
Men, however
Never, never
Pass the fairy portal.
Slyly stealing,
She to Ealing
Made a daily journey;
There she found him,
Clients round him
(He was an attorney)



The happy couple have a son, Georgie, who grows up to be a curate. After a while Georgie's clerical practice leans a little too much towards Rome for his mother's liking, and she flies down to earth to remonstrate with him. While she is with him his Bishop suddenly walks in, to a scene not unlike the Act One finale of *Iolanthe*.



"Who is this, sir -
Ballet miss, sir?"
Said the Bishop coldly.
" 'Tis my mother,
And no other,"
Georgie answered boldly.
"Go along, sir!
You are wrong, sir,
You have years in plenty;
While this hussy
(Gracious mussy!)
Isn't two-and-twenty!"

So Georgie and Strephon each find different problems associated with having a "young" mother. Read the Bab Ballad to find out how Georgie dealt with it.

Captain Shaw

In her Second Act song the Fairy Queen invokes the name of Captain Shaw, Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade. In this extract from *The Times* of September 30 1882, we see news of a report made by the said Captain into the safety of London Theatres, just two months before he was sitting in the audience for the first night of *Iolanthe*.



FIRES AND THE LONDON THEATRES.—The Fire Brigade Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works a short time ago resolved that the chief officer (Captain Shaw) should make an examination of all the London theatres, and that he should report to the committee the result of his investigations, with a view to the Board making certain requirements to the owners of such theatres as they should think necessary for the safety of the public. In accordance with these instructions, Captain Shaw made an inspection of the theatres, assisted by several of his officers, and drew up a separate report as to each theatre.



IAN STEAD

**THEATRICAL
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For another Great Night Out at Halifax Playhouse...

Oscar Wilde's - 'An Ideal Husband'

Saturday 4 December to Saturday 11 December

A dazzling blend of farce and morality, this play deals with corrupt politicians and the threat of press exposure – appropriate for today. This is Oscar Wilde at his best. Don't miss it. A *Halifax Thespians* production.

Ben Elton's - 'Popcorn'

Saturday 15 January to Saturday 22 January

Set in the Beverley Hills home of Tarantino-style, Oscar-winning, movie director Bruce Delamitri, *Popcorn* is a satirical comedy thriller with the firing capacity of a hit squad. Note that the play contains some swearing, gunfire and the occasional lack of outer garments. A *Halifax Thespians* production.

Bookings now being taken. Box Office: 01422 365998



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Madame Williams (alias Phyllis) on: (01422) 886675

Or visit our website on: www.leclubfrancais.com

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Next Year,
HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY
will present for the first time

The Grand Duke

From Tuesday November 1st to Saturday November 5th 2005

Come back and see us then, or better still come and sing with us!
Auditions for principal parts will be held towards the end of
April 2005.

Details available from the Secretary, 01484 301291

Coming soon locally:

Haworth West Lane A.O.S. Trial by Jury / HMS Pinafore Haworth West Lane Baptist Chapel November 16 - 20 at 7.30 p.m. £7.00 Concessions £6.00 Bookings 01535 643425	Meltham Parish Church G & S Princess Ida Church Hall, Meltham November 23 - 27 at 7.30 p.m. Matinee Saturday 2.15 p.m. £6.50 Concessions £5.50 / £3.00 Bookings 01484 303591
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Bingley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Would like to wish every success to
Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan's

Production of
'IOLANTHE'

and would invite you to join us at our forthcoming 2005 production of

'Utopia Limited'

at
Bingley Arts Centre
18th to 23rd April, 2005