

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society

presents



HMS
PINAFORE

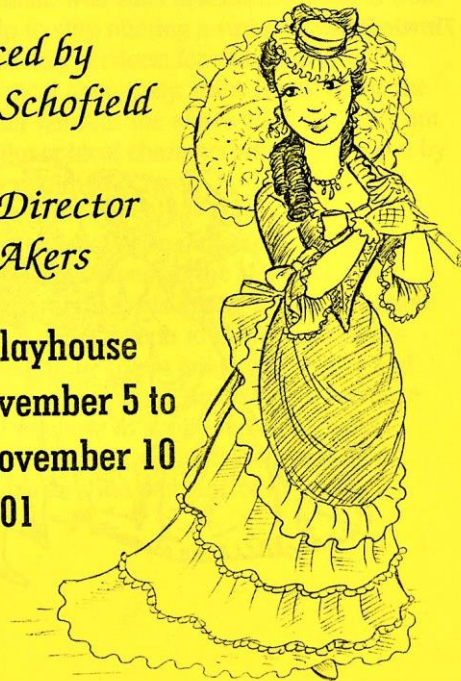
or, The Lass that loved a sailor

by William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

Produced by
Margaret Schofield

Musical Director
Colin Akers

Halifax Playhouse
Monday November 5 to
Saturday November 10
2001



From the Chairman

H.M.S. Pinafore was the first big international success enjoyed by Gilbert and Sullivan. The conflict between the theory of equality for all and the fact of disparity of rank and wealth has never lost its relevance to this day, and the tunes to which Sullivan set this struggle between love and duty are as fresh today as they ever were.

We welcome back Colin Akers as Musical Director following his splendid debut with *Yeomen* last year. John Worrilow and Mike Whitwam have already worked on several of our productions to give the show a fine set to frame our efforts. Our producer, however, is joining us for the first time, although Margaret Schofield did start her G & S career with one of this Society's predecessors, Sowerby Bridge Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Since then she has made a name for herself as performer and latterly as producer with several companies, and we have enjoyed rehearsing with her over the last few weeks. We trust this enjoyment will flow over the footlights into the audience.

And of course all this would go for nothing were it 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 consider strengthening your support by becoming a member or patron, coming to hear our concerts and club nights, or even coming along to sing with us or to help behind the scenes.

I wish you a very happy evening.

Trevor Roberts



The background to the story

H.M.S. Pinafore lies at anchor in Portsmouth Harbour. It is commanded by Captain Corcoran, whose daughter Josephine takes up residence on board whenever the ship is in port. During these sojourns she has attracted the attention of the lovesick Ralph Rackstraw, the best foremast hand in the Navy. She secretly harbours similar feelings for Ralph, but the strict etiquette of the day forbids social contact between the officer class and the lower ranks of the service, and she has to keep her affections well hidden.

Captain Corcoran hopes to enhance his social stature by marrying Josephine off to the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. Paradoxically, Sir Joseph is a self-made man, as he describes to the audience in his opening song, but his position as a cabinet minister makes him a choice target for would-be fathers-in-law. Wherever Sir Joseph travels, he is hampered by an accompanying throng of sisters, cousins and aunts who follow him wherever he goes (although it seems that he doesn't go to sea very often).



Making their own contributions to the story are Little Buttercup and Dick Deadeye. Little Buttercup is a Portsmouth Bumboat woman, who sails around the harbour from ship to ship offering a variety of goods (and probably services) for sale - a sort of nautical Avon Lady. Dick Deadeye, on the other hand, is the ship's misfit, a bitter but philosophical character who is despised by the rest of the crew.

As the opera opens, the crew are going about their daily duties, while the lovelorn Ralph pines on the sidelines. He confesses his secret to the crew, who support him in his efforts to win Josephine (all except for Deadeye, that is). The arrival of Sir Joseph to claim Josephine's hand brings matters to a head, and the rest of the opera follows the twists and turns in Josephine's heart, the efforts of the Captain and Sir Joseph to convince her to follow their plan, and the efforts of Deadeye to spoil Ralph's chances. Buttercup is in regular attendance, dropping mysterious hints here and there, and it is her revelation at the end which resolves the outcome of the story.

The players in this production

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. (First Lord of the Admiralty)	Richard Buxton
Captain Corcoran (Commanding H.M.S. Pinafore)	John Ramsdin
Ralph Rackstraw (Able Seaman)	Robert Driver
Dick Deadeye (Able Seaman)	Colin Fine
Bill Bobstay (Boatswain's Mate)	Ian Roberts
Bob Becket (Carpenter's Mate)	Paul Ratcliffe
Midshipmites	Liam Johnson
	Matthew Ramsdin

Josephine (The Captain's Daughter)	Stella Whitehouse
Hebe (Sir Joseph's First Cousin)	Rachel Prosser
Mrs Cripps (known as Little Buttercup) (a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman)	Patricia Castle



Chorus of Sir Joseph's sisters, cousins and aunts

Stephanie Bolton	Sarah Haigh	Helen Matthews
Kathryn Buxton	Christine Johnson	Anne Parry
Carol Engel	Kate Johnson	Janice Roberts
Julia Haigh	Kate McFarlane	Marie Sugden
		Clare Williams



Chorus of sailors

Harold Galley	Paul Matthews	Peter Sugden
Steven Greenwood	Trevor Roberts	Leon Waksberg



Musical numbers

Act One

- Overture
- We sail the ocean blue (Chorus of Sailors)
- Hail! Men-O'-War's men ... I'm called Little Buttercup (Buttercup)
- The nightingale sighed ... A maiden fair to see (Ralph and Sailors)
- My gallant crew, good morning ... I am the Captain of the Pinafore (Captain and Sailors)
- Sir, you are sad (recitative) (Buttercup and Captain)
- Sorry her lot who loves too well (Josephine)
- Over the bright blue sea ... Sir Joseph's barge is seen (Chorus of Ladies and Sailors)
- Now give three cheers ... I am the monarch of the sea (Captain, Sir Joseph, Hebe and Chorus)
- When I was a lad I served a term (Sir Joseph and Chorus)
- A British tar is a soaring soul (Ralph, Boatswain's Mate, Carpenter's Mate and Sailors)
- Refrain, audacious tar (Josephine and Ralph)
- Finale to Act One - Can I survive this overbearing? ... The maiden treats my suit with scorn ... My friends, my leave of life I'm taking ... Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen ... This very night with bated breath and muffled oar ... Let's give three cheers for the sailor's bride

Act Two

- Fair moon, to thee I sing (Captain)
- Things are seldom what they seem (Buttercup, Captain)
- The hours creep on apace (Josephine)
- Never mind the why and wherefore (Captain, Sir Joseph, Josephine)
- Kind Captain, I've important information (Deadeye, Captain)
- Carefully on tiptoe stealing (Sailors, Deadeye, Captain, Josephine, Ralph)
- Pretty daughter of mine (Captain, Ralph, Josephine, Sailors)
- He is an Englishman (Boatswain's mate, Sailors)
- In uttering a reprobation (Captain, Hebe, Sir Joseph, Chorus)
- Farewell, my own (Octet with Chorus)
- A many years ago (Buttercup and Chorus)
- Finale to Act Two - Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER Margaret Schofield
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Colin Akers
ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR Richard Buxton
PIANISTS Catherine Warwick, Noreen Galley, Philip Sutcliffe,
Mavis Dean

MEMBERS OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA,
SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA, AND FRIENDS



STAGE MANAGER Andrew Stopford
STAGE CREW Kath Whitwam, Mike Whitwam
SET DESIGNED BY John Worrilow
AND BUILT AND PAINTED BY Mike Whitwam, John Worrilow,
Kath Whitwam, Trevor Roberts, Andrew Stopford, Christine
Johnson, Kate McFarlane, Richard Buxton, Kate Johnson
LIGHTING Martyn Stead
PROPERTIES Christine Johnson, Kathryn Buxton
COSTUMES W.A. Homburgs, Leeds; West Yorkshire
Playhouse, Leeds
PUBLICITY Kathryn Buxton, John Ramsdin
MAKE-UP The Society Team
PROMPTERS Brenda Priestley, Shirley Mitchell
ORCHESTRAL PARTS James Newby Music
TICKET SALES Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER Stuart Summerscales



THE SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES HELP FROM
Halifax Thespians, for loan of properties
Timber Specialists (Huddersfield) Ltd., for help with set
materials
Messrs. Westholme Ltd., Elland, for loan of hoist

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, or perhaps another piece from the same period, 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 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).



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Andrew Stopford, President	Christine Johnson
Trevor Roberts, Chairman	Kate McFarlane
Stuart Summerscales, Vice-Chairman	Rachel Prosser
Kathryn Buxton, Secretary	Sheila Simpson
Richard Buxton, Treasurer	[David Bolton, Hon. Auditor]
Stephanie Bolton, Patrons Secretary	

HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY
WILL PRESENT

RUDDIGORE

From Monday November 4th to Saturday November 9th 2002

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
2002.

Details available from the Secretary, 01484 301291

HALIFAX THESPIANS
KING CROSS STREET, HALIFAX; TELEPHONE: 01422 365998

December 8th - 15th at 7.30 p.m.

COMFORT AND JOY

By Mike Harding
Directed by Lynn Lord

Sponsored by Corus Imperial Crown Hotel

Box Office open 12 noon - 4 p.m. daily
From Wednesday in the week before the production

Coming soon locally:

Haworth Gilbert and Sullivan Society
The Yeomen of the Guard
November 19 - 24, 2001

Meltham Parish Church Gilbert and Sullivan Society
Ruddigore
November 20 - 24, 2001 (Tickets 01484 303591)