



1979

PRODUCTION OF THE  
**HALIFAX**  
**GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY**

**The Yeomen  
of the Guard**

or

**THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID**

by

**W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN**

Printed by Reuben Holroyd Ltd., Halsey Hill, Halifax

*DRAMATIS PERSONAE*

		<b>Chorus Ladies</b>	<b>Chorus Men</b>
Sir Richard Cholmondeley (Lieutenant of the Tower)	... BRIAN PRIESTLEY	Wendy Sanders	Edgar Brook
Colonel Fairfax ... .. (under sentence of death)	STUART HUNTER	Jean Sanders	John Child
Sergeant Meryll ... .. (of the Yeomen of the Guard)	JOHN RAMMELL	Audrey Manger	Brian Bach
Leonard Meryll ... .. (his Son)	IAN HENDERSON	Jane Fellows	Geoffrey Seed
Jack Point ... .. (a Strolling Jester)	ROLY ROBERTSHAW	Carol Fleming	Norman Fisher
Wilfred Shadbolt ... .. (Head Jailer and Assistant Tormenter)	PAUL SANDERS	Shirley Mitchell	Keith Worsman
The Headsman ... ..	BRIAN MUSEANGESS	Rhonda Normanton	Steven Greenwood
First Yeoman ... ..	DONALD McCLOUGHLIN	Angela Child	John Thompson
Second Yeoman ... ..	LESLIE BOLLAND	Penelope Reeve	David Templeton
Elsie Maynard ... .. (a Strolling Singer)	ANGELA HORNER	Ann Reeve	Victor Reeve
Phœbe Meryll ... .. (Sergeant Meryll's Daughter)	JUDITH SMITH	Lily Seed	
Dame Carruthers ... .. (Housekeeper to the Tower)	MARY NORMANTON	Pamela Page	
Kate ... .. (her Niece)	DEIRDRE HARROP	Mary Mitchell	
		Barbara Thompson	
		Sheila Priestley	

# MUSICAL ITEMS

## Overture

### ACT I

No.										
1.	Introduction and Song (Phœbe) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"When maiden loves she sits and sighs"
2.	{ Double Chorus (People and Yeomen) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Tower warders under orders"
	{ Solo (Second Yeoman) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"This the autumn"
3.	Song with Chorus (Dame Carruthers and Yeomen) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"When our gallant Norman foes"
4.	Trio (Phœbe, Leonard and Meryll) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Alas! I waver to and fro"
5.	Ballad (Fairfax) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Is life a boon?"
6.	Chorus (Entrance of Crowd, Elsie and Point) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Here's a man of jollity"
7.	Duet (Elsie and Point) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"I have a song to sing, O"
8.	Trio (Elsie, Point and Lieutenant) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"How say you, maiden, will you wed?"
9.	Recit. and Song (Point) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"I've jibe and joke and quip and crank"
10.	Recit. and Song (Elsie) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"'Tis done! I am a bride"
11.	Song (Phœbe) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Were I thy bride"
12.	Finale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true—"

### ACT II

1.	{ Chorus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Night has spread her pall once more"
	{ Solo (Dame Carruthers) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Warders are ye?"
2.	Song (Point) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon"
3.	Duet (Point and Wilfred) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Hereupon we're both agreed"
4.	Ballad (Fairfax) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Free from his fetters grim"
5.	Quartet (Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax and Sergeant Meryll) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Strange adventure!"
6.	Scene (Elsie, Phœbe, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, Wilfred, Point, Lieutenant, Sergeant Meryll and Chorus) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Hark! What was that, sir?"
7.	Trio (Elsie, Phœbe and Fairfax) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"A man who would woo a fair maid"
8.	Quartet (Elsie, Phœbe, Fairfax and Point) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"When a wooer goes a-wooing"
9.	Finale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"Comes the pretty young bride"

## OFFICIALS and COMMITTEE

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## PRODUCTION

Producer ... ..	JOHN MOORE
Musical Director ... ..	PETER BLAMIRE
Accompanist ... ..	KEITH FLESHER STEVEN MELLOR
Stage Manager ... ..	ALAN HINKLES
Lighting ... ..	STUART CROOKES
Wardrobes ... ..	{ JOYCE LUMB { DOROTHY TURNER
Costumes ... ..	S. B. WATTS & Co. Ltd.

Set designed and made by

SCENIC DISPLAYS LTD., BRADFORD

Baskets loaned by R. J. CASSON

Spinning wheel loaned by

OLICANA CRAFTS, PIECE HALL, HALIFAX

B.S.A. Knevel

## THE STORY OF "THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD"

The curtain rises on Tower Hill in the sixteenth century and Phoebe, daughter of Sergeant Meryll of the Yeomen of the Guard, is at her spinning wheel singing. She admires Colonel Fairfax, a young soldier imprisoned in the Tower, who is to be beheaded that evening for witchcraft. Wilfred Shadbolt, the repulsive Head Jailer, enters and taunts her with the Colonel's approaching doom. Sergeant Meryll, who has previously served under Colonel Fairfax and twice been saved from death by him, is ready to do anything to keep his friend alive. His son, Leonard Meryll, is due to arrive from Windsor to possibly bring a reprieve, but only brings a despatch for the Lieutenant of the Tower. Sergeant Meryll, however, has a plan to pass Fairfax off as his own son.

It transpires, meanwhile, Fairfax has been condemned falsely by his cousin Sir Clarence Poltwhistle, heir to his estate, and who has the right of succession provided the Colonel dies unmarried. A strolling singer, Elsie Maynard, and her betrothed, Jack Point, a Jester, enter and after entertaining the crowd, Elsie is eventually persuaded to marry Fairfax for only a few hours to thwart the plans of Poltwhistle. The plan to rescue Fairfax now moves quickly—Phoebe wheedles the cell key from Wilfred and Meryll introduces the Colonel as his son Leonard. Meanwhile the execution time approaches, the headsman arrives, the crowd assembles and some Yeomen go to bring Fairfax from his cell. They return empty-handed and the Lieutenant, in his rage, makes Wilfred's life forfeit instead, but Elsie is now the legal wife of a fugitive she has never even seen.

Act II opens with Dame Carruthers mocking the Yeomen for allowing Fairfax to escape, whilst Jack Point and Wilfred enter, both in low spirits. The jester, looking for a way out of their troubles, suggests Wilfred discharge an arquebus by the river-bank, then rush in and say he has shot Fairfax as he tried to swim across the river. A shot is heard, and Wilfred and Point rush in and tell their cock and bull story of the killing of Fairfax. Fairfax, still disguised as Leonard, offers to show the jester how to woo Elsie, but his demonstration is so ardent Point realises he will have to find another partner.

The real Leonard Meryll now reappears with the Colonel's reprieve and Fairfax is able to come to life again. Dame Carruthers, however, has got wind of Meryll's plot to save Fairfax and he promises to marry her as the price of her silence. Elsie is escorted on stage to meet her Bridegroom, Leonard Meryll, but the Colonel enters to claim her. Elsie sings of her love for Leonard and raises her eyes to see there the man who had wooed and won her. They embrace, and all would end happily, but for Jack Point, who is heartbroken, and falls insensibly at her feet as the curtain descends.

Scene — Tower Green. Date — 16th Century.

It is again my pleasure to welcome you to our annual show. This year the Society is performing perhaps the most operatic of Sullivan's scores, THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD, which is full of splendid music.

The YEOMEN is our ninth full production and we trust we will do justice to the work. I thank you all who have made the effort to turn out and support us.

The year has been a sad one for the Society in that GEOFF BECK, our producer of the last two years and scenery designer of all our shows, passed away in the summer.

It is with pleasure that we introduce our new producer, JOHN MOORE, who took over at very short notice.

If the show is anything like the rehearsals you are in for a first class production; never have I known such "harmony" at rehearsals.

I hope you enjoy your evening with us and come back to see us next year when our production will be "PATIENCE".

K. WORSMAN (President).

**P.S.** Please remember our club nights on the last Friday every month at Harrison House, Harrison Road.

HALIFAX THESPIANS' NEXT PRODUCTION  
"BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE"

a comedy

By Leonard Gershe

12th-19th January, 1980

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