



HALIFAX
PLAYHOUSE

Halifax Gilbert and
Sullivan Society
presents

THE
PIRATES OF PENZANCE

By Messrs. A. SULLIVAN and W. S. GILBERT.

November 6 - 10, 2007

Box Office open daily
from 11 to 5.

No Booking Fees.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2007 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, arguably the most popular of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. The opera had its first run of 100 performances at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in New York, starting on December 31 1879, prior to its British opening at the Opera Comique on April 3 1880, where it ran for a further 363 performances.

We are very pleased this year to welcome three debutant principals. Jonathan Wilby (Frederic), well known to Huddersfield audiences and a leading player with Leeds Youth Opera, Heather Seekins (Mabel), adding Gilbert and Sullivan to her operatic experience with West Riding Opera, and Andrea Widdison (Ruth) who moved to Halifax from Penzance, where she also performed the role.

Equally welcome are three friends from previous shows. Robert Thurman (Major-General Stanley) was a memorable Pooh-Bah and Grand Duke, Michael Templeton (Samuel) was our Strephon three years ago, and John Ramsdin (Pirate King) has given us King Hildebrand, Wilfred Shadbolt and Captain Corcoran.

Keeping the other usual suspects in order have been Colin Akers with the baton and Richard Buxton with the director's riding crop. Catherine Warwick has kept us in tune at rehearsals when all seemed lost – what a precious asset is a first-class accompanist. To disguise the whole shady-looking company Ian Stead has once more proved an attentive and helpful costumier. I must also thank all our front-of-house and behind-the-scenes volunteers, who do a fantastic job for us.

Our thanks go also to you, our audience, who are the final and essential ingredient in the recipe for a successful show. We may work and rehearse all we like, but without somebody to respond to our efforts and spark off the essential reaction, it would all count for nothing. If you support us regularly, may you long continue to do so. If you are new to us, please look at the Society's information page later in the programme, and consider becoming a member or a patron and taking part in our year-round activities. You can also visit our website at www.halifaxgands.org.uk for further information.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy evening.

Trevor Roberts

THE STORY SO FAR

A band of pirates are singing and drinking 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.

CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

The Pirates

The Pirate King	...	...	...	...	John Ramsdin
Samuel, his Lieutenant	...	...	...	...	Michael Templeton
Frederic, the Pirate Apprentice	...	...	...	...	Jonathan Wilby
Ruth, a Pirate Maid-of-all-work	...	...	...	...	Andrea Widdison
Steven Greenwood					Trevor Roberts
Paul Matthews					Leyland Smith
David Prosser					

The Policemen

Sergeant of Police	...	...	...	...	Colin Fine
David Eaves					Peter Sugden
Harold Galley					Kelvyn Waites
Andrew Stopford					

The Stanley Family

Major-General Stanley	...	...	...	...	Robert Thurman
His daughters :					
Mabel	...	...	...	...	Heather Seekins
Edith	...	...	...	...	Christine Roberts
Kate	...	...	...	...	Helen Matthews
Isabel	...	...	...	...	Stephanie Bolton
Carole Engel					Penny McGoverin
Nicola Green					Janice Roberts
Jean Greenwood					Sally Roberts
Chris Hanson					Marie Sugden
Kate Loughe					
And their hard-pressed chaperone	...	...	...	...	Pat Dean

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*)
- 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, Pirate King, Ruth*)
- 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.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Colin Akers
STAGE DIRECTOR Richard Buxton

PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL PIANIST Catherine Warwick
ASSISTANT PIANISTS Philip Sutcliffe, Jonathan Wilby, Colin Fine

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

STAGE MANAGER	Andrew Stopford
SET PROVIDED BY	West Yorkshire Savoyards Appreciation Society
ASSISTANCE WITH SET	Joe Wood, John Worrilow
LIGHTING	Stuart Render, Martyn Stead
COSTUMES	Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes, W A Homburg Ltd.
PROPERTIES	Nancy Kirby, Christine Johnson
ORCHESTRAL PARTS	James Newby Music
PROMPT	Brenda Priestley, Shirley Mitchell
TICKET SALES	Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE	Kathryn Buxton
PUBLICITY	Peter Sugden, Paul Matthews
FOYER DISPLAY	Kathryn Buxton
FOYER PHOTOGRAPHS	Andrew Stopford
PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS	James Smithies
PROGRAMME	Richard Buxton



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Ian Stead Theatrical Costumier

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THE SOCIETY

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was 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 series 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, Godfrey Road, 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!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.halifaxgands.org.uk



THE COMMITTEE

Andrew Stopford (*President*), Trevor Roberts (*Chairman*), Sheila Simpson (*Vice-Chairman*), Kathryn Buxton (*Secretary*), Richard Buxton (*Treasurer*), Colin Akers, Stephanie Bolton, Christine Johnson, Penny McGoverin, Paul Matthews, Peter Sugden.

Maskerade

by Terry Pratchett

adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs

Directed by Gerard Marescaux

Assisted by Matt Coates

Saturday 8th December

then Monday 10th to Saturday 15th September

at 7.30pm

'The Phantom of the Opera' meets the 'Witches of Eastwick' in Terry Pratchett's comic tale teeming with wonderfully weird characters. A cheese-maker, who has bought an Opera house, finds that it is haunted by a ghost who is blighting their success, while two witches who go in search of forgotten royalties on a cookery book, end up hunting down the ghost. Can they solve the mystery before the next victim is murdered?

A Halifax Thespians production



Coming soon locally :

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

Ruddigore

at The Barn,
East Riddlesden Hall

November 13 – 17 at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£10.00. Children £6.00

Bookings : 01535 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

The Sorcerer

Church Hall
Meltham

November 20 – 24 at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£7.00. Concessions £6.00

Children £3.50.

Bookings : 01484 349037