



1984

PRODUCTION OF THE
**HALIFAX
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY**
(supported by Calderdale Arts Council)

IOLANTHE

OR

THE PEER AND THE PERI

by

W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN

SYNOPSIS

The scene opens on an Arcadian landscape with fairies flitting aimlessly. Their sole purpose is to hover around lovers, but they are bored. They reminisce about Iolanthe, who committed a crime by marrying a mortal. She was punished by the Fairy Queen, and is serving her sentence on her head at the bottom of a stream. The fairies beg the Queen to forgive her, which she does. Iolanthe explains she has a son, Strephon (an Arcadian Shepherd), who is engaged to Phyllis (a Ward in Chancery). He is half a fairy - down to the waist! Strephon enters and declares that the Lord Chancellor forbids him to marry Phyllis but he is going to anyway. The fairies offer him help whenever he needs it. Phyllis enters and, although worried about their marriage, declares 'None shall part us from each other...'. The Peers enter and, with the Lord Chancellor, declare their own love for Phyllis. They are to decide who will marry her, but despite their assurances as to what good husbands they would make Phyllis declares her love for Strephon, who now enters. The Lord Chancellor has 'words' with Strephon who then applies to his mother for help. They are discovered but Strephon explains Iolanthe is his mother although she only looks 17. Phyllis does not believe him and says she will marry Mountararat or Tolloller instead. Strephon calls on the fairies for their help. The Queen puts Strephon into Parliament and states that all his bills will be passed without question.

Act 2 opens with Private Willis standing guard outside the Houses of Parliament. The Peers and fairies are at loggerheads. The Peers are annoyed about Strephon in Parliament, the fairies quite like the Peers and wished they had not been so stupid to let it all happen. The Queen tells off the fairies for their love showing how she can suppress her feelings towards Willis. Mountararat and Tolloller fight over Phyllis but decide neither of them is really interested. The Chancellor has not been sleeping because of his love for Phyllis. Mountararat and Tolloller help him to try again at making it possible for him to marry her. However Strephon, tired of politics, makes it up with Phyllis and tells her of his fairyhood. Iolanthe reveals she is in fact the wife of the Lord Chancellor who is thus Strephons' father. The Chancellor has, meanwhile, succeeded in engaging himself to Phyllis but is thwarted by Iolanthe who reveals herself to him as his long lost wife. This admission puts her under penalty of death from the Queen but all the fairies have since married the Peers. The Queen cannot kill everybody so she marries Willis and everyone goes to live, happily ever after, in Fairyland.

ACT 1 - An Arcadian landscape. ACT. 11 - Palace Yard, Westminster

Date - between 1700 and 1882

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The Lord Chancellor ANDY HEADFORD
Earl of Mountararat DAVID WARD
Earl Tolloller DONALD McLOUGHLIN
Private Willis JOHN THOMPSON
 (of the Grenadier Guards)
Strephon RICHARD BUXTON
 (an Arcadian Shepherd)
Queen of the Fairies PATRICIA BRENNAN
Iolanthe ANGELA BURGESS
 (a fairy, Strephon's Mother)
Celia } JUNE POWELL
Leila } Fairies JANE FELLOWS
Fleta } HELEN ATKINSON
Phyllis PENELOPE WADSWORTH
 (an Arcadian Shepherdess and a Ward in Chancery)
Attendants of the Queen ANN REEVE, CAROL FLEMING
Chancellor's Page GARRY STASIULEVICUIS

Chorus of Fairies

Kathryn Priestley
Shirley Mitchell
Helen Stasiulevicuis
Jane Harmer
Gillian Robinson
Jill Tyas
Lesley Henderson
Valerie Gawn
Mary Ward
Barbara Thompson
Barbara Johnson
Stephanie Lough

Chorus of Peers

Richard Fellows
Steven Greenwood
Brian Bach
David Alpin
Leyland Smith
Vic Reeve
Andrew Mann
Harold Galley
John Child
John Thompson
Leslie Bolland

Pat Howden Dancers

MUSICAL ITEMS

Overture

ACT I

1. Opening Chorus of Fairies, Soli (Celia and Leila) "Tripping hither, tripping thither"
2. Invocation (Queen, Iolanthe, Celia and Leila and Chorus of Fairies) "Iolanthe from thy dark exile"
3. Solo (Strephon and Chorus of Fairies)..... "Good-morrow, good mother"
4. Solo (Queen and Chorus of Fairies) "Fare thee well, attractive stranger"
- 4a. Soli (Phyllis and Strephon)..... "Good-morrow, good lover"
5. Duet (Phyllis and Strephon)..... "None shall part us"
6. Entrance and March of Peers (Tenors and Basses) "Loudly let the trumpet bray"
- 6a. Entrance of Lord Chancellor
7. Song (Lord Chancellor and Chorus of Peers)..... "The Law is the true embodiment"
8. Trio and Chorus of Peers (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller, and Lord Mountararat) "My well-loved Lord"
9. Recit (Phyllis) "Nay, tempt me not"
10. Chorus of Peers and Song (Lord Tolloller) "Spurn not the nobly born"
11. Ensemble (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller Lord Mountararat, Strephon, Lord Chancellor, and Chorus of Peers)..... "My Lords, it may not be"
12. Song (Lord Chancellor) "When I went to the Bar"
13. Finale, Act I (Phyllis, Iolanthe, Queen, Leila, Celia, Strephon, Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat,
Lord Chancellor and Chorus of Fairies and Peers) "When darkly looms the day"

ACT II

1. Song (Sentry) "When all night long a chap remains"
2. Chorus of Fairies and Peers "Strephon's a Member of Parliament"
3. Song (Lord Mountararat and Chorus)..... "When Britain really ruled the waves"
4. Duet (Leila, Celia with Chorus of Fairies, Lord Mountararat and Lord Tolloller) "In vain to us you plead"
5. Song (Queen with Chorus of Fairies) "Oh, foolish fay"
6. Quartet (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat and Sentry)..... "Tho'p'r'aps I may incur your blame"
7. Recit and song (Lord Chancellor)..... "Love unrequited robs me of my rest"
8. Trio (Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat and Lord Chancellor)..... "If you go in"
9. Duet (Phyllis and Strephon)..... "If we're weak enough to tarry"
10. Recit and Ballad (Iolanthe) "My lord, a suppliant at your feet"
11. Recit (Iolanthe, Queen, Lord Chancellor and Fairies)..... "It may not be"
12. Finale (Phyllis, Iolanthe, Queen, Leila, Celia, Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat, Strephon,
Lord Chancellor, and Chorus of Fairies and Peers) "Soon as we may, off and away"

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HALIFAX THESPIANS NEXT PRODUCTION

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

by GEORGE F. KAUFMAN
& MOSS HART

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

NEXT YEARS PRODUCTION IS

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

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