

**The Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company
Annual Company Meeting**

June 5, 2016

In Attendance: Stephen Hage, Holly Windle, Barb Hovey, Jo Pasternack, Eric Pasternack, Alex Gerchak, Malka Key, Richard Rames, Wally Benbenek, Mary Benbenek, Tom Berg, Maureen Berg Kane, Shawn Holt, Rhea Sullivan, Brianna Sullivan, Mary Gregory, Charlotte Morrison

Stephen Hage called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, welcoming all and explaining the proceedings.

Malka Key gave the Treasurer's report for Iolanthe. A discrepancy in total expenses was the result of vendors not being paid during *H.M.S. Pinafore*, therefore total profits seemed larger than normal for 2015. A brief discussion was had around the question of ticket prices. Normally, the GSVLOC raises prices when one of the "Big Three" (*Pirates*, *Pinafore*, and *Mikado*) is done. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

Wally Benbenek gave the report on the Lake Harriet Summer Concert. The cast has been chosen: Eric Mellum as Nanki poo, Sarah Richens as Yum Yum, Sarah Miehle as Peep Bo, Maggie Burr as Pitti Sing, Wally Benbenek as Pooh Bah, Tom Berg as Pish Tush, Felix Aguilar Tomlinson as Ko Ko and Deb Haas as Katisha. The concerts will be Saturday, July 16 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, July 17 at 5:30 pm with rehearsals beginning in June.

Stephen Hage brought up the controversy with *The Mikado* and its future plans. Stephen has been in touch with Rick Shiomi, the former director with Mu Performing Arts, and asked if he would consider doing *The Mikado* with the GSVLOC. Stephen will get in touch with him again and bring a report back to the board. The company discussed the issue of doing *The Mikado* for the 2019 season, but will not vote on the measure until Stephen's report back to the company.

Malka Key and Eric Pasternack have asked the company to consider what to do with all of the costumes at Acorn. Acorn is very expensive and there are a lot of costumes / props that need to be weeded out. A plan was made to ask Lesley Hendrickson to cull the inventory with the help of other company members. A signup sheet was passed around for volunteers.

Stephen Hage announced that a new section has been added on the GSVLOC website: "Gilbert & Sullivan in Popular Culture."

Barb Hovey announced the proposed dates for the 2017 production of *The Gondoliers*.

Auditions will be Sunday, November 6 and Monday, November 7, 2016

The rehearsal schedule will begin on Monday, January 16, 2017 with rehearsal times on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 10:00 .m and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The load in schedule at the Howard Conn will be Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26, 2017.

The Sitzprobe will be on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

The performance schedule begins on Thursday, March 9, 2017 and runs until Sunday, April 2, 2017.

Shawn Holt presented the slate of board members to be elected for the 2016 - 2017 season.

Producer	Stephen Hage
Secretary	Shawn Holt
Treasurer	John Orbison
Publicity	Waldyn Benbenek
Labour Pool Coordinator	Malka Key
Orchestra Rep.	Barb Hovey
Female Chorus Rep.	Mary Gregory
Male Chorus Rep.	Alex Gerchak

The company unanimously approved the election of the board members for the 2016 - 2017 season.

Stephen Hage led the discussion of future shows. The company approved the production of *Orpheus and the Underworld* for the fall of 2017 and *Princess Ida* for the spring of 2018.

Discussion was held regarding the 2019 production of *The Mikado*, but a vote was not taken for its approval until Stephen speaks with Rick Shiomi, former theater director with Mu Performing Arts

Mary Benbenek asked that the GSVLOC Board be advocates for the women in the cast due to ageism that was felt during the run of *Iolanthe*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Holt