

# ***H.M.S. Pinafore***

## ***or, The Lass That Loved A Sailor***

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.

(*First Lord of the Admiralty*)..... Tom Berg

Captain Corcoran

(*Commander of the H.M.S. Pinafore*) ..... Waldyn Benbenek

Ralph Rackstraw (*Able Seaman*).....Kai Brewster

Dick Deadeye (*Able Seaman*) ..... Ryan Johnson

Bill Bobstay (*Boatswain's Mate*) ..... Stephen Zehr

Bob Becket (*Carpenter's Mate*) ..... John Orbison

Josephine (*daughter of Captain Corcoran*) ..... Victoria Valencour

Cousin Hebe (*Sir Joseph's First Cousin*)..... Amanda Weis

Little Buttercup (*a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman*) ..... Caitlin Wilkey

### **Chorus of Sailors:**

Joe Allen	Jonathan Flory	Wric Larsen
James Brooks	Alex Gerchak	Jared Mogen
Rick Cedergren	Stephen Hage	Eric Pasternack
Dumont Darsey	Brad Kallhoff	Dave Peichel

### **Chorus of Sir Joseph's Sisters, Cousins and Aunts:**

Mary Mescher Benbenek	Mary Gregory	Charlotte Morrison
Margaret Burton	Shawn Holt	Cassandra Utt
Amanda Carlson	Emily Johnson	Madeline Veenker
Maia Carnicom	Holly MacDonald	Sarah Zuber

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**Understudies:** Joe Allen, Amanda Carlson, Rick Cedergren  
Jonathan Flory, Alex Gerchak, Stephen Hage  
Emily Johnson, Wric Larsen, Cassandra Utt

Portsmouth Harbor, 1942

**Act I:** Morning

**Act II:** Night

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~ **Turn off all cell phones & other electronic devices** ~  
~ No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre ~  
~ No smoking is permitted in the building ~  
~ The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden ~

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*H.M.S. Pinafore* was Gilbert & Sullivan's first full-length hit, opening in 1878. It has remained, with *Mikado* and *Pirates*, among the “big three” of the G&S canon, continually in performance by groups ranging from professional companies to elementary schools. Its story manages to be sweetly romantic while tying logical (and mathematical) granny knots. Half the fun is rolling along with the rapidly rising level of implausibility. Don't ask how old Little Buttercup is supposed to be. Don't even think it.

As originally staged, the work had a contemporary setting. Over the years, the GSVLOC has mounted three productions of *Pinafore*, the first an homage based closely on photos and engravings of the original. Our second was a *very* contemporary ‘Love Boat’ setting. This, our third, is set on a World War II battleship. For a gaggle of blitz-wearied “sisters and cousins and aunts,” a jaunt down to Portsmouth is a jolly distraction, and aiding young love an added treat. So grab your gas mask and your ration book and join us on the *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

## SYNOPSIS

**Act I:** After the chorus of sailors aboard *H.M.S. Pinafore* introduce themselves in song, Little Buttercup comes aboard, to sell provisions to the ship's company. Ralph (pronounced "Rafe") Rackstraw enters and tells his fellow sailors of his love for the Captain's daughter Josephine. She is supposed to marry Sir Joseph Porter, the First Lord of the Admiralty, who is due to arrive this day (along with his accompanying gaggle of sisters, cousins, and aunts). Josephine tells her father, Captain Corcoran, that she has had the misfortune to fall in love with a common sailor (Ralph, of course). Being dutiful and proud, however, she will keep her feelings to herself and marry Sir Joseph. Even after meeting Sir Joseph and finding him pompous and boring, she still has the fortitude to spurn poor Ralph when he confesses his love. Rejected, Ralph is set on suicide, but is interrupted in the nick of time by a repentant Josephine. They plan their elopement, encouraged by Sir Joseph's relatives and the sailors – all but Dick Deadeye, who tries in vain to discourage the union.

**Act II:** The act opens with a worried Captain Corcoran musing on the problems of his daughter and Sir Joseph. Little Buttercup hints to him of mysterious changes to come. When Sir Joseph expresses displeasure at Josephine's coolness, the Captain suggests that she is probably holding aloof because of the difference in rank between a captain's daughter and Sir Joseph. Josephine's soliloquy, however, shows that she's debating about giving up her wealthy home to live in poverty with a lowly sailor. Sir Joseph and her father appear at this critical moment to tell her that “love levels all ranks,” which she takes as encouragement about Ralph. Thanks to a warning from Dick Deadeye about the planned elopement, the Captain is ready when Ralph and Josephine begin to leave the ship. Sir Joseph, shocked by the Captain's use of the “big, big D” word, banishes him to his cabin, and sends Ralph off to the brig in chains. Buttercup steps forward with an improbable tale of babies switched in infancy, and the resulting new identities produce three happy couples united in matrimony!

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director ..... Lesley Hendrickson  
Music Director ..... Randal A. Buikema  
Assistant Stage Director ..... Jacob Wellington  
Assistant Music Director ..... Jean Orbison Van Heel  
Stage Manager ..... Denise Brophy  
Set Designer & Scenic Painter ..... Larry Rostad  
Costume Designer ..... Barb Portinga  
Lighting Designer ..... Andrew Kedl  
Set Builder ..... Jack Kravik, Dean Laurance  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Malka Key, Brianna Sullivan  
Follow-spot Operator ..... Jack Kravik  
Wardrobe Mistress ..... Jo Pasternack  
Set Construction ..... Andy Dizon, L. Peter Erickson,  
Ross Gallup, Malka Key, Jack Kravik, Dean Laurance  
Richard Rames, Larry Rostad, Felix Aguilar Tomlinson, and cast members  
Props Master ..... Connor Matthew McEvoy  
Rehearsal Pianists: ..... Jean Orbison Van Heel, Steven Norquist  
Audio-Visual Engineer ..... Bob Johanneck  
Audio-Describer ..... Sharon Bigot  
Poster Design ..... Tom McGregor, Mary Olson  
“Fair Moon” arrangement ..... Mitchell Johnson, Charlie McCarron  
Audio recording ..... Alexander Gerchak  
“Voice of the BBC” ..... Jim Ahrens  
Lobby Display & Photography ..... Stephen Hage  
Group Photos ..... Daniels Studio  
House Managers ..... Trina Morrison, David Morrison, Irene Duong  
Ticket Sales ..... Charlotte Morrison  
Ticket Helpers ..... David Morison, Fred Morrison, Eric Pasternack, Holly Windle  
House Staff Recruitment ..... Shawn Holt

### The Board:

Producer ..... Stephen Hage  
Labour Pool Coordinator ..... Eric Pasternack  
Publicity ..... Waldyn Benbenek  
Treasurer ..... Malka Key  
Secretary ..... Shawn Holt  
Chorus Representatives ..... Mary Gregory, John Orbison  
Orchestra Representative ..... Barb Hovey

## ORCHESTRA

Conductor ..... Randal A. Buikema  
Orchestra Manager ..... Ann Marie McIntire  
Violin I ..... David Kozamchak (*Concertmaster*)  
Amy Atzel, Eva Zorn, Kate Kelly, Mary Hanson, Derick Rehurek  
Karen Kozak, Linda Reutz, Dan Sadoff, Kate Jones, Janelle Lanz  
Violin II ..... Theodora Wynoff, Karen Neinstadt, Beth Henningsen  
Lorine Menzhuber, Nancy Birth, Betsy Lofgren  
Viola ..... Ann Marie Bur, Aija Ronis  
Chris Chelgren, Teresa Mager, Laura Bidgood  
Cello ..... John Dunham, Amy Samelian, Karin Holmberg Kimble  
Katherine Canon, Jesse Berndt, Adam Stiber  
String Bass ..... Ann Marie McIntire, Benjamin Kitt, Doug Nelson  
Flute ..... Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Anne Cheney  
Kathleen Spehar, Alyssa Griggs  
Clarinet ..... Barb Hovey, Ken Gellerman, Brian Krysinski  
Oboe ..... Steve Schellenberg, Stuart Mitchell  
Bassoon ..... Steve Cronk, Elizabeth Brandt  
Horn ..... Jeffrey Ohlmann, Karen Holmes  
Michael Engh, Chris Hahn, Bob Olsen  
Trumpet ..... Betty MacKay, Andy Padula, Robert Zobal  
Trombone ..... Greg Michnay, Scott Soltis, Timothy Jung  
Sarah Cooke, Nathanael Engh  
Percussion ..... John Litch, Charley Rich

## GLOSSARY (in order of occurrence)

### Act I:

#### Buttercup's wares:

jacky - twists of tobacco soaked in rum (for chewing)

I've treacle and toffee - molasses, or a similar syrup

soft tommy - a kind of bread

chicken and conies - wild rabbits

pretty polonies - smoked sausages named, like the sandwich meat, after

Bologna, the Italian town where they were first made

reddest beauty in all Spithead - body of water off Portsmouth

Dick Deadeye, Bill Bobstay (boatswain) - the last names of these sailors refer to parts of a ship's ropes or rigging

to do her menial's duty - to be her humble servant

foremast hands - those sailors who serve "before the mast" (those below the rank of officer) [see Quarter-deck]

quarter-deck - the deck to the aft of the mainmast where only commissioned officers may promenade

ship a selvagee - a hank of rope yarn made into a strap or sling

he would commit solecisms that society would never pardon - gaffes, or breaches of etiquette

Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B. - Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Bath (high honor)

bang the loud nine-pounders go - the smallest of the battery of the cannons carried on Royal Navy ships (which also include 18 and 32-pounders)

pocket borough - refers to a parliamentary seat controlled by a single individual (usually wealthy landowner); these seats were abolished by the Great Reform Act of 1832

grog - rum diluted with water (from the nickname of the Admiral who began the custom of issuing the drink to sailors, "Old Grog," so called for the grogram cloak he usually wore)

British tar - slang for sailor

Cimmerian darkness - according to Homer's *Odyssey*, the Cimmerians lived in a land where the sun never shines

I am but a living ganglion of irreconcilable antagonisms - a bundle of nerves

### Act II:

either at sixes or at sevens - to be "at sixes and sevens" is to be confused

bumboat woman - boat used to peddle provisions to ships in port

storks turn out to be but logs; bulls are but inflated frogs - references to Aesop's fables

turbot is ambitious brill - kinds of fish, turbot being preferred

gild the farthing - lowest denomination of British coin at the time

the prospect is Elysian - in Greek mythology, Elysian fields were the home of the blessed

cat-o'-nine-tails - (or simply "the cat") - a whip with nine knotted lashes used for punishment

fo'c'sle - short for "forecastle," the forward part of the ship, usually containing the crew's quarters

no telephone - the first telephone transmission was in 1876, and the first London exchange opened in June of 1878, a month after *Pinafore* did

Go, ribald, get you hence - a vulgar person using coarse language

to your cabin with celerity - haste

the consequence of ill-advised asperity - harshness of manner; ill temper

I practiced baby-farming - took in foster children

## CONTRIBUTORS

### Gilded Lordlings (\$250 and over)

Anonymous ❖ Rolf & Chris Bolstad ❖ Stephen Hage & Lara Trujillo ❖ Lorraine Mitchell  
❖ Holly MacDonald & John Orbison

### Sisters, Cousins, and Aunts (\$100 - \$249)

Tom & Arlene Alm ❖ Suzanne Ammerman ❖ Philip Asgian ❖ Paul & Ruth Bauhahn ❖ Western Wisconsin Ear Nose & Throat Center ❖ Barbara De Cosse ❖ Mark Ellenberger and Janet Zander ❖ Gary Engstrand and Kathy Jensen ❖ in memory of Peter Erickson ❖ Richard Fishel ❖ Carol & Greg Gross ❖ John Hanlon ❖ Douglas O. Happe ❖ Jean Holten ❖ Bill & Nancy Jones ❖ Kenneth Kauffman ❖ Marion Levy ❖ R. Jeffrey McLeod ❖ Riley Owens, Jr. ❖ Derrill M. Pankow ❖ Garry & Mary Ann Peterson ❖ Nancy & Bert Poritsky ❖ David & Mary Ruch ❖ Paul & Patricia Sackett ❖ Heidi Schellhas ❖ The family of Steven and Mary Schier ❖ Radonna & Jim Schwarz ❖ Alice & Yale Sherman ❖ Dennis Shogren ❖ Doug Siems ❖ Glenn Skoy ❖ Richard Evan Stone ❖ Connie Waterous

### Foremast Hands (up to \$100)

Anonymous ❖ Valarie & Howard Anderson ❖ Thomas Bagott ❖ George & Barbara Barany ❖ Benjamin & Aroti Bayman ❖ Waldyn Benbenek ❖ Melissa Bergack ❖ Phillip & Karen Bergem ❖ Maggie Berget ❖ Jerome and Sharon Berkowitz ❖ Patricia McGowan and Jack Brondum ❖ Laurie Brooks ❖ Judith & Richard Brownlee ❖ Sarah Canon ❖ Jean Carlson ❖ Marcia Carlson ❖ Carole Christensen ❖ Jeanne Cornish ❖ Virginia Craig ❖ Calvin Dahl ❖ Ginger Dunivan ❖ Connie Earl ❖ Jean McDonald Eastman ❖ L. Peter Erickson ❖ Patricia Erlandson ❖ Max Fallek ❖ Teena B. Fletcher ❖ Gretchen Fogo ❖ Anna Lou Ford ❖ Amy Frankfurt ❖ Art Galbraith ❖ Ross Gallup & Julie Soderburg ❖ Mary Carol Gannon ❖ Gayle Gaskill ❖ Vance Gerchak ❖ Randall Gingiss ❖ Robert H. Golder ❖ Kathleen & Anthony Green ❖ Aaron Greenberg ❖ Marianne Hageman & Michael Dorn ❖ Vicky Hagens ❖ Judith Halverson ❖ Linda Dexter Hancher ❖ Rebecca Handlerspitz ❖ Jack & Grace Harkness ❖ Elizabeth Hawn ❖ Kris Henderson ❖ Del Holmes ❖ Richard Horton ❖ Katherine Howard ❖ Joan Howland ❖ Marjorie and James Jacobsen ❖ Heather Jerrie ❖ Diedre Jones ❖ Mary S. Jones ❖ Catherine Jordan ❖ Susan Kamper ❖ George Francis Kane ❖ Ruth Ellen Katz ❖ Eleanor Kendall ❖ Steven & Mary Kennedy ❖ Margaret Kirkpatrick ❖ Ann Klein ❖ Jake Koller ❖ Ralph & Judith Larson ❖ Mary Leahy ❖ Jack & Rachel Levitt ❖ Sanford Lipsky ❖ Roderick & Joanne MacDonald ❖ Michael Mack ❖ Ron MacKenzie ❖ Chris Martin ❖ Adele Mehta ❖ Doris Gay Moldow ❖ Marie Naftalin ❖ Colleen Netzell ❖ Daniel P. O'Neill ❖ Pat Pennington ❖ Timothy Perry ❖ Polly Jo Peterson ❖ Robert Pierson ❖ Molly Redmond ❖ Ron and Diane Reimann ❖ Brenda Richens ❖ Joe Rine ❖ Louise & William Rondano ❖ Jack Ross ❖ Mary & David Sandberg ❖ Elaine Savick ❖ Pat Rosaves & Dan Sholl ❖ Jean Smith ❖ Joan T. Smith ❖ Lawrence Smith ❖ Stacey & David Smith ❖ Farrell Stiegler ❖ Mike Stone ❖ Janet & Craig Swan ❖ Ruthann Swanson ❖ Harlan Sween ❖ Leslie Swenson ❖ Claire Anne Thoen ❖ Clyde & Pat Thurston ❖ Katherine Tilney ❖ Charlie Title ❖ Rhett Tompkins ❖ Laura & Hans Weinberger ❖ Alice G. T. Williams ❖ Elizabeth M. Williams ❖ Robert Wilyat ❖ Richard Woellner

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Since its founding in 1979 by Dick Fishel and Jim Hart, the company has produced all the Gilbert and Sullivan shows: *Trial By Jury* (1979), *Patience* (1980), *Iolanthe* (1981), *Princess Ida* (1982), *Ruddigore* (1983), *The Gondoliers* (1984), *The Mikado* (Spring 1985), *The Sorcerer* (Fall 1985), *The Pirates of Penzance* (1986), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (1987), *Utopia, Ltd.* (1988), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1989), *Patience* (1990), *The Grand Duke* (1991), *Iolanthe* (1992), *Princess Ida* (1993), *The Gondoliers* (1994), *Ruddigore* (1995), *The Mikado* (Spring 1996), *The Zoo and Trial By Jury* (Fall 1996), *The Sorcerer* (1997), *The Pirates of Penzance* (1998), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (1999), *Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld* (2000), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (2001), *Patience* (2002), *The Grand Duke* (2003), *Iolanthe* (2004), *The Gondoliers* (2005), *Princess Ida* (2006), *The Mikado* (2007), *Utopia, Limited* (2008), *Ruddigore* (2009), *The Sorcerer* (2010), *The Pirates of Penzance* (2011), *Patience* (2012), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (2013), and *The Grand Duke* (2014)

In the Spring of 2016, we will present *Iolanthe*

We are performing *H.M.S. Pinafore* in Summer 2015 at the Lake Harriet Bandshell, on July 11 at 7:30 pm and July 12 at 5:30 pm

We will also be presenting *Trial By Jury* at the Minneota Fringe Festival, between July 30 and August 9



*Presents*

*Gilbert & Sullivan's*

# **H.M.S. PINAFORE**

*or The Lass That Loved a Sailor*



**March 6 – March 29, 2015**

Howard Conn Fine Arts Center  
1900 Nicollet Avenue South  
Minneapolis

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**THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY**

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