

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

May 23, 2010

In Attendance: Waldyn Benbenek, Mary Benbenek, Jim Brooks, L. Peter Erickson, Mary Gregory, Stephen Hage, Shawn Holt, Barb Hovey, Jack Kravik, Dean Laurance, Holly MacDonald, Carol Manning, Christopher Micaela, John Orbison, Eric Pasternack, Jo Pasternack, Richard Rames, Steve Schellenberger, Brianna Sullivan, Rhea Sullivan, Lara Trujillo, Holly Windle

Stephen Hage called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report for *The Sorcerer*: Richard Rames distributed the Treasurer's report for the past year. We made \$2,760.07 on *The Sorcerer*; current profit for the year ending 5/31/2010 is \$1,346.73. We have not received the MTN bill for last year (approximately \$670/year). Other items of interest: We spent more this year on publicity – including 3 ads in local small newspapers. The review in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* seemed to be our biggest help in terms of increasing attendance. Our current holdings are \$83,572.37, compared to \$75,728.89 last year. Rhea Sullivan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jo Pasternack seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lake Harriet Summer Show – Waldyn Benbenek reported that rehearsals for the Lake Harriet Summer show, *The Mikado*, will begin on June 21, 2010. Stephen Hage announced the cast. There will be a dress rehearsal Saturday morning with the orchestra. Performances will be Saturday, July 17, 2010 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, July 18, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

Surveys from *The Sorcerer* – Waldyn Benbenek reported on the results from *The Sorcerer* survey. He said that everyone loved Music Director Courtney Lewis. Most felt that Doug Scholz-Carlson (Stage Director) should have been involved sooner. Opinions were divided on the rewrites, though most agreed that the audiences loved the rewrites. Costumes were disorganized and came together too late. Concern was expressed about casting someone whom we knew was going to miss a show. Some orchestra members complained about cramped quarters, especially the string players. There was also some concern that the TV located above the Music Director was a distraction. Other concerns: Green room arrangements were less than ideal.

Someone requested a designated costume room. It was also requested that understudies be announced sooner, ideally by the time we start rehearsals in January (or soon thereafter).

Dates for 2011 Production – *The Pirates of Penzance* – Stephen Hage reported that auditions for *Pirates* will likely be held Sunday, November 14, 2010 and Monday, November 15, 2010.

There are currently two schedule options for *Pirates*. One would be to open March 18, 2011 and close April 10, 2011. The other would be to open a week later on March 25, 2011 and close April 17, 2011. The earlier dates would allow us to close the show closer to our usual closing date. It would also likely be best for performers. The later dates would allow us to move in on a Saturday (rather than a Monday) and would allow us to design our own set without considering YPC's set design. It would also be best for our set building crew in terms of having volunteers to help with set building. It is difficult to find volunteers who can work on the set during the week. One partial solution might be to hire Kirby (former janitor) to assist with set building. Those present at the meeting almost unanimously preferred the earlier dates. The Board will make the final decision.

Election of the Board for the 2010 – 2011 Season: Rhea Sullivan presented the slate of candidates standing for election.

Positions	Declared Candidates
Producer	Stephen Hage
Secretary	Rhea Sullivan
Treasurer	Richard Rames
Publicity	Waldyn Benbenek
Labour Pool Coordinator	Eric Pasternack
Orchestra Rep.	Barb Hovey
Female Chorus Rep.	Mary Gregory
Male Chorus Rep.	L. Peter Erickson

The slate was accepted by acclamation.

Selection of 2012 Show: Stephen Hage presented the Board's suggestion of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Jim Brooks suggested a double bill of *Thespis* and *Trial by Jury*. There was some discussion about *Thespis*. Jim found a version with a new score written in the style of Sir Arthur Sullivan. He had a score and DVD. Waldyn proposed that we perform *The Yeomen of the Guard* in 2012, with the expectation that we will

take the necessary steps to perform *Thespis* in 2013. This would likely include having some kind of sing-through in the coming year (and the opportunity to watch DVDs of the various versions of the show.) The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

After the meeting was adjourned, the Board scheduled their first meeting for Sunday, June 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Stephen Hage's home.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Sullivan