

The Pirates of Penzance

or The Slave of Duty

THE CAST

Major-General Stanley Mather Dolph
The Pirate King Waldyn Benbenek
Samuel (*his Lieutenant*) Joe Hendren
Frederic (*the Pirate Apprentice*) Eric Mellum
Sergeant of Police Christopher Michela
Ruth (*Piratical maid-of-all-work*) Therese Walth

(*Major-General Stanley's wards or "daughters"*):

Mabel Alice McGlave
Edith Victoria Valencour
Kate Molly Shields
Isabel Crystal Cossette

Chorus of Pirates:

Mark Alt	Benjamin Hills	Richard Rames
Donald Barbee	Dean Laurance	Bruce Stasch
Jim Brooks	Michael K. Mlinar	Jason Vogen
Stephen Hage	John Orbison	Roger Wayne
	Eric Pasternack	

Chorus of Daughters of General Stanley:

Willow Bousu	Shawn Holt	Charlotte Morrison
Crystal Cossette	Ashley Larson	Molly Shields
Mary Gregory	Holly MacDonald	Rhea Sullivan
Helen Hassinger	Mary Mescher Benbenek	Victoria Valencour

Chorus of Policemen:

Benjamin Hills	John Orbison
Dean Laurance	Bruce Stasch
Michael K. Mlinar	

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## Understudies:

Crystal Cossette, Stephen Hage, Helen Hassinger, Benjamin Hills, Ashley Larson,  
Michael K. Mlinar, Richard Rames, Rhea Sullivan, Jason Vogen

**Act I:** A Rocky Sea-shore on the Coast of Cornwall

*15-Minute Intermission*

**Act II:** A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight

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~ *Please turn off all cell phones & pagers* ~
~ *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

If you are one of the few members of our audience who has never seen *The Pirates of Penzance*, we are delighted to be initiating you. However, odds are that there are not many neophytes out there. And if our auditions are anything to go by, there are an awful lot of people who have actually been in a production of *Pirates*. Pretty impressive, in terms of both longevity and ubiquity, for a work of light entertainment from 1879!

The task for an intrepid company taking on this well-known and widely-produced operetta is avoiding the 'been-there, done-that' trap. Not that we're keen to innovate just to be different. Frankly, that's been done, too: a recent Chicago production planted the plot in modern Key West (pirate margaritas, anyone?). So how about we just tell the story as clearly and honestly as we can – and try very hard to forget that we know what's going to happen next?

That is our duty – and we are the slaves of duty, after all. Our pirates (“all noblemen who have gone wrong”), the sisters Stanley (“all of whom are beauties”), and lovers (“true till they are wed, and even after”) have a story to tell and we hope it is not too onerous a duty for you to sit back, enjoy, and indulge your inner pirate. Arrrrgh!

— Lesley Hendrickson

SYNOPSIS

Act I (*A Rocky Sea-shore on the Coast of Cornwall*):

A band of pirates is celebrating a combination of Birthday and Graduation Party to honor Frederic, as he turns twenty-one and completes his apprenticeship to the trade of piracy. He rather spoils the party by revealing that he had only been made a pirate-apprentice due to a mistake by his nurse-maid, Ruth, and now that he has fulfilled the terms of his contract (for he is the Slave of Duty), he intends to fight to eradicate his former comrades. After Frederic bids a fond farewell to the pirates, Ruth's romantic designs on him are demolished by the arrival of a bevy of beautiful girls, the wards of Major-General Stanley. The girls are fascinated by Frederic, but much too pragmatic to engage themselves to one with negative social standing. An exception appears: Mabel, apparently the one true romantic, pledges her love. The pirates re-appear to capture the girls, but are temporarily stopped by the arrival of the Major-General. He has heard of these tender-hearted “Pirates of Penzance” and knows the trick of escaping from them: claim to be an orphan. The ploy succeeds, and at the end of Act I, the pirates reluctantly relinquish their prey.

Act II (*A Ruined Chapel by Moonlight*):

General Stanley is tormented by having lied to escape from the pirates. Meanwhile, Frederic plans to attack the pirates, with a company of police constables, that very night. When the police arrive, they are not cheered by the rather bloodthirsty encouragement of the ladies. After they leave, Frederic is accosted by the Pirate King and Ruth, who convince him that he is still bound to the pirates, due to a legal technicality: his indentures state that he must serve them until his twenty-first birthday, but, since he was born in leap-year, on February 29, he won't reach that birthday for another sixty-seven years. His sense of duty compels him to rejoin the pirate band, but Mabel pledges to wait for him (until 1980!). The puzzled policemen carry out the attack without him, but are soundly defeated. This victory is reversed when the Sergeant of Police finds another soft spot in the pirates' hearts, leading to explanations which permit the happy ending for all.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director Lesley Hendrickson
Music Director Marina Liadova
Stage Manager Laura Bidgood
Set Designer & Scenic Painter Larry Rostad
Costume Designer Sonya Berlovitz
Lighting Designer Andrew Kedl
Seamstress Virginia A. Brenna
Assistant Stage Manager Trina Morrison
Crew Malka Key, Jack Kravik, Brianna Sullivan
Wardrobe Mistress Jo Pasternack & Malka Key
Set & Prop Construction Andy Dizon, Mark Ellenberger, L. Peter Erickson
Ross Gallup, Giles Guggemos, Malka Key, Jack Kravik
Ann Marie McIntire, Larry Rostad, Genevieve Woodward
Dean Laurance, and other cast members
Props Laura Bidgood
Costume Construction Jennie Berlovitz, Lesley Hendrickson, Malka Key
Trina Morrison, Jo Pasternack, and cast members
Follow Spot Operator Jack Kravik
Audio-Visual Engineer Bob Johanneck
Audio-Describer Judy Baldwin
Poster/Program Graphic Design Imagewerks Marketing
Lobby Display & Photography Stephen Hage
Group Photos Daniels Studio
House Managers David Morrison & Fred Morrison
Ticket Sales Charlotte Morrison
Ticket helpers L. Peter Erickson, Malka Key, Jack Kravik, Fred Morrison
Trina Morrison, Eric Pasternack, Richard Rames, Jason Vogen, Holly Windle
House Staff Recruitment Rhea Sullivan

The Board:

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

ORCHESTRA (Includes Substitutes)

Conductor Marina Liadova
Orchestra Manager Ann Marie McIntire
Violin David Kozamchak, Amy Tobin, Concert Master
Victoria Athmann, Amy Atzel, Will Bartruff, Maria Claudia Benaros, Nancy Birth
Jonathan Flory, Christina Hall, Nikkia Hall, Kate Kelly, Jill Lestina-Warnest
Lorine Menzhuber, Miyuki Onishi, Daniel Werl, Theodora Wynhoff, Eva Zorn
Viola Victoria Athmann, Ann Marie Bur, Antigone Delton
Karen Krueger, Teresa Mager, Aija Ronis
Cello John Dunham, Coral Bastien, Karin Holmberg Kimble
Janis Nash, Amy Samelian, Jesse Berndt
Bass Benjamin Kitt, Ann Marie McIntire
Flute Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Joe Wypych, Anne Cheney
Clarinet Dave Clark, Barb Hovey, Andrea Estrem
Oboe Steve Schellenberg, Elizabeth Berry, Kristen Cooper
Bassoon Steve Cronk
Horn Michael Engh, Chris Hahn
Teresa Herbert, Lisa Lang, Jeffrey Ohlmann
Trumpet Betty MacKay, Andy Padula, Bob Zobal
Trombone Greg Michnay, Benjamin Bussey, Tim Jung
Greg Onstad, Erika Richter, Scott Soltis, Teresa Herbert
Percussion John Litch, Charley Rich
Rehearsal Pianists: Steven Norquist, Jean Orbison Van Heel

GLOSSARY (*in order of occurrence*)

ACT I

let the pirate **bumper pass** – a bumper is a cup or glass filled to the brim, as for a toast

scuttling a **Cunarder** – sinking a passenger ship of the Cunard line

cutting out a **White Star** – separating a passenger ship of the White Star line from the surrounding ships in order to capture it (the Titanic was a ship of the White Star line)

on breakers always steering – always making mistakes and getting into trouble; as when steering a ship toward waves breaking on rocks

can it be **Custom House** – customs enforcement patrol, like our Coast Guard

the **glass is rising very high** – weather-glass: a barometer (rising indicates fair weather)

your pirate **caravanserai** – as “caravanserai” is a sort of inn for caravans and their occupants, the only excuse for applying this word to a group of men is that it rhymes with Chancery (almost)

Wards in Chancery – minors under the protection of the Court of Chancery

from **Marathon to Waterloo** – in 490 BC. the Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon (the messenger who died after running the 26 miles to Athens with the news somehow inspired modern “marathons”). Napoleon’s final defeat was at Waterloo in 1815.

the scientific names of beings **animalculous** – an animalcule is a microscopic animal

I answer hard **acrostics** – a parlor game similar to charades, with acted-out words, whose first letters then spell out the real message to be discovered

quote in **elegiacs all the crimes of Heliogabolus** – even the use of a verse form (elegiacs) could not soften the awful deeds of this most appalling Roman emperor (212 -222 AD)

In **conics I can floor peculiarities parabolous** – conics is the study of geometric properties of a cone cut by imaginary planes, producing parabolas, ellipses, and hyperbolas. To floor is to defeat (as in wrestling). Parabolous is Gilbert’s adjective variant of parabolic.

I can tell undoubted **Raphaels from Gerard Dows and Zoffanies** – three painters, from three different centuries and countries, and with quite distinct styles

the **croaking chorus from The Frogs of Aristophanes** – a comedy produced in Athens in 405 B.C. (the croaking chorus goes “Berkekekex, koax, koax”)

a washing-bill in **Babylonian cuneiform** – a laundry-list, in ancient wedge-shaped writing

ev’ry detail of **Caractacus’s uniform** – this Welsh king who resisted the Roman invasion of Britain had a limited uniform: it consisted of woad, a blue dye... and nothing else!

whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense **Pinafore** – *H.M.S. Pinafore* was the Gilbert & Sullivan show which preceded *The Pirates of Penzance*. It was their first great success.

mamelon and **ravelin** – terms for strategic earthworks: mamelon is a mound used in fortifications, ravelin is a sort of ridge

such affairs as **sorties and surprises** – sudden troop movement outward when besieged

has never **sat a gee** – never ridden a horse (“gee-gee” being a childish way of referring to a horse, derived from a word of command to horses)

Divine Emollient! – something that softens, as poetry apparently does, even for pirates

Pray observe the magnanimity we display to lace and **dimitiv** – a thin cotton fabric

ACT II

dishonor on the family **escutcheon** – shield displaying heraldic insignia; family crest

threatened with **emeutes** – a French term for riots or brawls

when the **coster’s finished jumping on his mother** – costermongers (street vendors of fruit, fish, etc.) were sometimes rather rough characters

life preserver – a stick or bludgeon loaded with lead, intended for self-defense, but all too often used by evil-doers (as in this case)

unshriven, unannealed – without having made confession or having received extreme unction

with humbled **mien** – manner, or general bearing

we love our **House of Peers** – the House of Lords, one of the two Houses of Parliament. A peer has at least one of the following titles: duke, marquis, earl, viscount, and baron.

Hymeneally coupled – Hymen was the Greek god of marriage ceremonies

CONTRIBUTORS

Divine Emollients (\$100 and over)

Suzanne Ammerman ❖ Philip Asgian ❖ Paul & Ruth Bauhahn ❖ Jerome and Sharon Berkowitz ❖ Rolf & Chris Bolstad ❖ Bruce Bruemmer ❖ Mark Ellenberger and Janet Zander ❖ Wendy Evans ❖ In memory of Jim Fogo ❖ Carol & Greg Gross ❖ Stephen Hage & Lara Trujillo ❖ Douglas O. Happe ❖ Pamela Haiden and Ted Hathaway ❖ Jack & Geraldine King ❖ Holly MacDonald & John Orbison ❖ Riley Owens, Jr. ❖ Derrill M. Pankow ❖ Garry & Mary Ann Peterson ❖ Nancy & Bert Poritsky ❖ Tom & Beverly Rogers ❖ Paul & Patricia Sackett ❖ Leon Satran, MD ❖ The family of Steven and Mary Schier ❖ Radonna & Jim Schwarz ❖ Doris Skalstad ❖ Richard Evan Stone ❖ Connie Waterous

Honorary Members of Our Band (\$50 - \$99)

Benjamin & Aroti Bayman ❖ Marv Bookin ❖ Jeffrey R. Brown ❖ Richard T. Crane ❖ James and Nancy Cullen ❖ Ginger Dunivan ❖ L. Peter Erickson ❖ Margaret Erickson ❖ Gayle Gaskill ❖ Eric Newman & Janice Gepner ❖ Elizabeth Hawn ❖ Del Holmes ❖ Barb Hovey ❖ Marjorie and James Jacobsen ❖ Bill & Nancy Jones ❖ Mary S. Jones ❖ Susan Kamper ❖ Mr. & Mrs. E. K. Lehmann ❖ Rachael Lininger ❖ Michael Mack ❖ Dr. Merle Mark ❖ R. Jeffrey McLeod ❖ Colleen Netzell ❖ Dan & Pat Panshin ❖ Timothy Perry ❖ James Peter ❖ Dan Peterson ❖ Peter Roen ❖ Glenn Skoy ❖ Dick Thomas ❖ Brett D. Wagner ❖ James Wall ❖ Laura & Hans Weinberger

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Special Contributions in Honor of the Marriage of Holly MacDonald & John Orbison

Waldyn & Mary Mescher Benbenek ❖ Beth & Bill Duncliffe ❖ Roger Frandrup ❖ Mary E. Gaffney ❖ Maureen Gaffney ❖ Howard & Mary Ann Huelster ❖ Lynn & Steve Maier ❖ Jo & Eric Pasternack ❖ Bev Ramolae ❖ The Sala Family ❖ Stacey & David Smith ❖ Curt & Colleen Sponberg ❖ Carol Stone ❖ Mary T. Wilson ❖ Marge Wezeman ❖ Brenda & Wade Woodson

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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), and *The Sorcerer* (2010)

In the Spring of 2012, we will present *Patience*.

Our next Lake Harriet Bandshell performance will be *The Pirates of Penzance*, on July 16 (7:30) & 17 (5:30) of 2011

The Gilbert & Sullivan
Very Light Opera Company

presents

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
presents

The **PIRATES** 
of Penzance

MARCH 18 - APRIL 10, 2011

DIRECTOR *Lesley Hendrickson*
MUSIC DIRECTOR *Marina Litadova*

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