

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

**October 9, 2016**

In Attendance: Stephen Hage, Alex Gerschak, Malka Key, Barb Hovey, Wally Benbenek, Mary Gregory, Shawn Holt, John Orbison

The meeting began at 7:04 pm.

Stephen opened: H.M.S. Pinafore DVDs are here and cost \$15.00. MTN will return to record the Gondoliers with the date yet to be set.

The poster is out on the website and will be printed. Stephen plans to order fewer post cards this year. Wally Benbenek will help with adding the calendar to the postcards.

There are new dates and times for The Gondoliers auditions:

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm  
Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm  
Call Backs: Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm

The understudy rehearsal will be on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be obligatory for all cast members.

The Tech Week schedule will be as follows:

Rehearsals will be Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, with NO rehearsal on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dress rehearsal will be Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Preview will be Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

A proposal to increase ticket prices by \$2.00 was approved and will be as follows:

Adults: \$22.00  
Children (under 12): \$12.00  
Preview Performance: \$12.00

The result will be additional revenue of \$5600.00.

A proposal to add an additional performance, either a Thursday or a Saturday matinee was discussed, with adding a 7:30 performance on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> confirmed.

The result will be additional revenue of \$4400.00, minus expenses.

A letter to the Grandparents is to be issued as soon as possible with five important details for all to consider:

1. The chorus plays a particularly significant role in *The Gondoliers* and Lesley intends to call the chorus on more Tuesdays than usual, in addition to our usual Mondays and Thursdays.
2. Dancing will be a very significant part of the show and Lesley intends to have everyone actively involved in the dancing.
3. The Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Understudy Rehearsal will be a mandatory rehearsal for everyone. We will have the orchestra at this rehearsal and the understudies can invite friends and family to be in the audience. We are doing this in order to provide our understudies with a more realistic experience of doing the show.
4. The Tech Week rehearsal schedule has been altered and will include a piano dress rehearsal on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, while Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> will be a night off.
5. There will be an additional Thursday night performance, on the last weekend of the run, on March 30<sup>th</sup>. We are doing this to accommodate the many potential audience members who are turned away by the time of our last weekend of performances.

The auditions emailing will be sent out on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Stephen will contact Richard Rames regarding this.

Posting for auditions will be on Minnesota Playlist on Mondays with the first posting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Wally Benbenek will update the form and re-post as necessary on subsequent Mondays.

The Gondoliers production staff will not include Jon Brophy. Stephen is in communication with Alex Flinner who was recommended by the Jon and Denise Brophy.

Box Office: Wally will acquire a pay pal machine which will allow us to accept credit card payments at the box office door.

Storage space: Malka: The Acorn storage space is much cleaner now. Malka is making inquiries into a smaller (200 sq ft.) storage space. The result will be a potential savings of \$800 - 1200 / year.

Fall Sing in: Malka: 41 people attended with revenues of \$100.00 cleared.

Green Room renovation: Barb Hovey: Good comments were heard regarding the Green Room contribution that G&S gave to Plymouth Congregational Church. The money was very much appreciated.

T-shirts: Mary: The design of two gondolas on the shirts was discussed. Wally will configure the look. Some colors that were considered: Salmon, Burnt orange, gold and cerulean blue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Holt