

# Iolanthe

or, The Peer and the Peri

## THE CAST

The Lord Chancellor ..... Donald Barbee  
Lord Mountarat ..... Waldyn Benbenek  
Lord Tolloller ..... Jim Ahrens  
Private Willis (*of the Grenadier Guards*) ..... David Morris  
Strephon (*an Arcadian Shepherd*) ..... Christopher Silsby  
Phyllis (*an Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward in Chancery*) ..... Amanda Broge  
Queen of the Fairies ..... Kathryn Larsen  
Iolanthe (*a Fairy, Strephon's Mother*) ..... Lara Trujillo  
Celia (*a Fairy*) ..... Lauren Asheim  
Leila (*a Fairy*) ..... Robin Sorenson  
Fleta (*a Fairy*) ..... Julie Seykora  
Lord Chancellor's Trainbearer ..... Matthew Benbenek  
Britannia / Nurse ..... Charlotte Morrison

### Chorus of Fairies:

Lauren Asheim	Holly MacDonald	Abigail Shuppy
Katie Crawford	Mary Mescher Benbenek	Robin Sorenson
Jen Cuff	Leah Reddy	Rhea Sullivan
Mary Gregory	Sandy Schoenecker	Sarah Wind
Michelle Jackson	Julie Seykora	Holly Windle

### Chorus of Peers:

Mark Alt	Stephen Hage	Eric Pasternack
Jim Brooks	Dean Laurance	John Persell
Ethan Edwards	Warren Loud	Richard Rames
L. Peter Erickson	Eric Mellum	Scott Sandberg
Peter Erickson	David Morris	Charles Segal

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**Understudies:** Katie Crawford, Jen Cuff, Stephen Hage, Michelle Jackson, Eric Mellum, John Persell, Leah Reddy, Scott Sandberg, Sandy Schoenecker, Charles Segal, Robin Sorenson

**Chorus Understudies:** Ernest Brody, Stephanie Brody

**Act I:** An Arcadian Landscape

**Act II:** Palace Yard, Westminster

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

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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

*Iolanthe* is not one of the best known of the Savoy operas, but is generally acknowledged as the favorite of Gilbert & Sullivan aficionados, and rightly so. It boasts one of Sullivan's most lushly tuneful scores, a compelling plot, delightful characters, and spot-on pacing that makes it a director's joy. Chorus singers give an especially strong vote to *Iolanthe* in gratitude for rewarding roles as the fairies and peers, who serve as protagonists in their own right.

*Iolanthe* is a particularly rich example of Gilbert's famed "topsy-turvydom" of misalliances and contradictions. Fairies trip the halls of Westminster while Peers in full regalia hike the countryside. Titled lords vie to marry a shepherdess while the Fairy Queen swoons for a grenadier guard. As legislators, the peers are proud to do "nothing in particular" (and do it very well!), while the "dainty little fairies" are keen for Parliamentary reform. Strephon, "a fairy to the waist, but whose legs are mortal," is a mass of political and amatory complications. The Lord Chancellor may "embody the law" but admits his susceptibility to "pretty young wards in Chancery" and later reveals an even more deeply romantic side. Passions are quickly ignited, but can be just as quickly diverted. Lovers thwarted are reunited, and seemingly irreconcilable differences vanish with a pencil stroke—and, of course, a wave of the Fairy Queen's magic wand.

—Lesley Hendrickson

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## SYNOPSIS

**Act I:** Twenty-five years ago, the fairy Iolanthe was exiled by the Fairy Queen for the crime of marrying a human. She was spared the requisite death sentence on the condition that she leave her husband and never communicate with him again. The band of fairies misses her and so, in fact, does the Fairy Queen, who decides to pardon her. Iolanthe introduces her half-fairy son, Strephon, who plans to wed Phyllis, a minor under the guardianship of the Lord Chancellor. Unfortunately, the entire of House of Lords (also called the House of Peers) is courting Phyllis and the Lord Chancellor has his eye on her as well. The Lord Chancellor, not knowing that Strephon is the son of his (he thinks) long-dead wife, forbids his marriage to Phyllis. When Strephon, crushed by this refusal, is being comforted by his mother, Phyllis misconstrues their affection and spurns him. (She is ignorant of his unusual family connections.) Phyllis then offers herself to either of the two top-ranking lords, Lord Mountararat and Lord Tolloller, who cannot decide which one is to have her. Strephon, meanwhile, summons fairy assistance. The Queen, indignant over the insult to Iolanthe and Strephon, makes Strephon a member of Parliament and proceeds to dismantle the House of Peers' cherished privileges of rank. (A dukedom will be obtained through "competitive examination!") The peers resort to foreign phrases to hide their discomfiture, as the fairies mock them.

**Act II** begins with more mocking on the part of the fairies, but clearly they are becoming interested in these haughty humans. The Fairy Queen, despite her own interest in the grenadier guard on duty, chides them for such weakness. Meanwhile, Lord Mountararat and Lord Tolloller have an ultimately touching confrontation about the disposition of Phyllis. The Lord Chancellor, who has been tossing and turning over the legal points of his awarding Phyllis to himself, is reassured by Mountararat and Tolloller. Iolanthe, unable to bear her son's unhappiness, arrives to plead his case. Despite her veiled allusions to the Lord Chancellor's love for his long-dead bride, she is unable to convince him to let Strephon and Phyllis marry. Desperate, she reveals herself as his wife. He is stunned by her revelation and horrified that her disclosure now ensures her death. When the Fairy Queen arrives to deal the death blow, the Lord Chancellor uses his legal expertise to resolve the crisis and pave the way for the "uplifting" happy ending.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director ..... Lesley Hendrickson  
Music Director ..... James Straka  
Artistic Director ..... Wendy Evans  
Costume Designer ..... Jody Liedholm  
Lighting Designer ..... Michael Hoover  
Stage Manager ..... Phyllis A. Lam  
Set Designer & Scenic Painter ..... Michael Hoover  
Assistant Music Director ..... Steve Kriesel  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... Peggie Kennedy, Ernest Brody  
Set Construction and Painting ..... Dean Laurance, with  
Jim Carroll, Lawrence Evans, Dan Furlong, Mark Gitch  
Madeleine Hage, Paul Hardt, Lisa Horton, Bob Hunter  
Bob Johanneck, Phyllis Lam, Randy Lebsock  
Jo Pasternack, Mathew Sand, Herman Swanson  
Fredrick Walsh, Feifei Wei, and cast members  
Props ..... Cynthia Edmon  
Costume Workers ..... Marlene Doll, Wendy Evans, Lesley Hendrickson  
Jenny Lind-Sadow, Carol Sandberg, Judy Wehrwein  
Evelyne Weinberg, & cast members  
Wardrobe Mistress ..... Jo Pasternack, Judy Wehrwein  
Master Electrician ..... Eric Johnson  
Light Board Operator ..... Bob Hunter  
Spotlight Operators ..... Cynthia Edmon, Ivar Hendrickson  
Audio-Visual Engineer ..... Bob Johanneck, Pat Johanneck  
Audio-Describer ..... Judy Baldwin  
Poster Graphic Design ..... Michael Hefty  
Lobby Display & Photography ..... Stephen Hage  
Group Photos ..... Daniels Studio  
House Managers ..... Mary Kuehborn, Carol Paulsen, Stephanie Digby, Paul Hardt  
Ticket Sales ..... Charlotte Morrison, Fred Morrison  
House Staff Recruitment ..... Kathryn Larsen, Rhea Sullivan  
Mary Mescher Benbenek

### The Board:

Producer ..... Julie Seykora  
Assistant Producer ..... Stephen Hage  
Labour Pool Coordinator ..... Kathryn Larson  
Publicity ..... Waldyn Benbenek  
Treasurer ..... Richard Rames  
Secretary ..... Ethan Edwards  
Chorus Representatives ..... Charles Segal, Holly MacDonald  
Orchestra Representative ..... Barb Hovey

## ORCHESTRA

Conductor ..... James Straka  
Assistant Conductor ..... Steve Kriesel  
Violin ..... J Michael Compton, Concertmaster  
Amy Atzel, Will Bartruff, Lorine Bidgood, Nancy Birth  
Jacqui Danner, Debbie Feinwachs, Mary Heimerman, Dana Killam  
Miyuki Onishi, Theodora Wynhoff  
Viola ..... Emily Hagen, Tom Rognsvoog, Aija Ronis, Brian Vo, Ed Wharton  
Cello ..... Coral Bastien, Jesse Berndt, John Dunham  
Karen Rognsvoog, Amy Samelian  
Bass ..... Ann Baumann Johnson, John Kaplan  
Flute ..... Kristen Kinnear-Ohlmann, Julie Lindstrom, Joe Wypych  
Clarinet ..... Kent Barth, Debbie Clapp, Barb Hovey  
Oboe ..... John Hunt, Steve Schellenberg  
Bassoon ..... Debbie Clapp, Heather Clark, Rebecca Totzke  
Horn ..... Michael Engh, Judy Heimerman, Jeffrey Ohlmann, Bob Spector  
Trumpet ..... Bob Hirte, Tim Killam, Betty MacKay, Bob Zobal  
Trombone ..... Nathanael Engh, Greg Michnay, Lawrence Perry  
Percussion ..... John Litch, Paul Madore

**Rehearsal Pianists** .. Randi Grundahl, Steven Norquist, Jan Scovill, Jean Van Heel

## GLOSSARY (*in order of occurrence*)

*The Peer and the Peri* — a Peer is a high-ranking nobleman, and a Peri is a fairy  
*Arcadian Shepherd* — an idealized rustic, the standard hero of the 18th-century genre of pastoral, mythological drama  
*A Ward in Chancery* — a minor under the guardianship of the Courts of Chancery  
*to gambol upon gossamer* — to leap about playfully, to frolic  
*with flageolet accompaniment* — small fipple flute resembling the treble recorder  
*I've a borough or two at my disposal* — analogous to a congressional district  
*to sit upon a woosack which is stuffed with such thorns...* — traditional seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords; an oversized hassock stuffed with wool  
*I'll stick to my pipes and my tabors* — pastoral instruments; flutes and drums  
*In lowly cot alone is virtue found* — cottage  
*Belgrave Square... Seven Dials* — a fashionable area and a slum, respectively  
*never throw dust in a juryman's eyes* — same as pulling the wool over his eyes  
*When tempests wreck thy bark* — your ship, i.e. 'when you are in trouble'  
*let us pipe our eye* — weep  
*Taradiddle, Tol-lol-lay* — Taradiddle is a fib, Tol-lol may mean languid or so-so (as in the name of the character Lord Tolloller), but may be just nonsense syllables here

**Foreign Phrases** — The Peers flaunt their linguistic learning in the following:  
*taking of his Dolce far Niente* — Italian for blissful dalliance, "sweet nothing"  
*as the ancient Romans said "festina lente"* — Latin for "hurry slowly"  
*Of a sudden, which is English for "Repente"* — from either Italian or Latin  
*will be carried, nobody at all contradicente* — Latin for "contradicting"  
*with base canaille* — as the Fairies note, "That word is French" for low rabble  
*a herd of vulgar plebs* — "a Latin word" for the common people  
*'Twould fill with joy... the Hoi Polloi* — "a Greek remark" meaning common folk

*Bearded by these puny mortals* — taunted, or defied (as in "beard the lion in his lair," which is quoted by the Lord Chancellor and the two senior Lords later)  
*a fairy, from Andersen's library* — refers to Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales  
*Marriage with deceased wife's sister* — refers to a longstanding legislative feud between the two houses of Parliament. A bill permitting this was finally passed in 1907.

*When all night long a chap remains on sentry-go* — sentry duty  
*When in that House M.P.s divide* — Members of Parliament, voting by physically going to one side of the House or the other  
*Yet Britain won her proudest bays* — laurel wreaths, given to victorious heroes  
*Oh, foolish fay* — yet another word for fairy  
*Oh, amorous dove, type of Ovidius Naso* — the Fairy Queen is apostrophizing the dove as a symbol of love, and likening it to the Latin amatory poet, Ovid.

### Lord Chancellor's Nightmare Song:

*nothing 'twixt you and the ticking* — material covering a mattress or pillow  
*a large bathing machine* — wheeled changing-room used by modest beachgoers  
*the ship's now a four-wheeler* — a type of horse-drawn carriage  
*the black silk with gold clocks* — decorative stitching on socks  
*he's telling the tars all the particulars* — sailors  
*Apple puffs, and three-corners, and Banburys* — various pastries  
*shares... taken by Rothschild and Baring* — two major banking establishments

*Be your law the ancient saw* — old saying. This song, like "Things are seldom what they seem" in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, strings together many 'old saws.'

*not worth a maravedi* — a Spanish coin of very little value

*As an old Equity draughtsman* — a barrister who draws up complex legal documents

*two strings go to every bow... grief 'twill bring if you've two beaux to every string* — a pun on the phrase 'to have two strings to your bow,' meaning to be prepared for emergencies (when you resort to your *second string*), and the french word 'beaux,' meaning boy-friends, whom one may have 'on a string'

## CONTRIBUTORS

### Influential Fairies (\$100 and over)

Arlene & Tom Alm ❖ Philip Asgian ❖ Ray & Susan Devogel ❖ Michael Dunham and John Giordano ❖ Gretchen & Jim Fogo ❖ Robert Gartner ❖ Perry & Barbara Gilfillan ❖ Ed Grayden ❖ Barb Hovey ❖ Mary & Steven Kennedy ❖ Jack & Geraldine King ❖ R. N. Quiche ❖ John Litch ❖ Jack & Vivian Mason ❖ Shirley Moore ❖ Derrill M. Pankow ❖ Garry & Mary Ann Peterson ❖ Nancy & Bert Poritsky ❖ Jim Quinn ❖ Martha Rogers ❖ Tom & Beverly Rogers ❖ Paul & Patricia Sackett ❖ The family of Steven and Mary Schier ❖ Radonna & Jim Schwarz ❖ Joe & Kristina Shaffer ❖ Doris Skalstad ❖ Richard Evan Stone ❖ Connie Waterous ❖ Amy Zitzer & Dyanne Ostlind

### Peers of Highest Station (\$50 - \$99)

Suzanne Ammerman ❖ Helen Bergren ❖ Jerome and Sharon Berkowitz ❖ Joann Boraas ❖ Jeffrey R. Brown ❖ Dean & Amy Carlson ❖ Carolyn & Ric Davies ❖ Mary Ann Doyle ❖ Cinda Dumas ❖ Robert Erikson ❖ Carol & Greg Gross ❖ Elizabeth Hawn ❖ Kris Henderson ❖ Arthur & Joan Higinbotham ❖ Kenneth Kauffman ❖ Rachel Levitt ❖ Jean Cameron & Robert Linde ❖ Michael Mack ❖ Dr. Merle Mark ❖ Riley Owens, Jr. ❖ Dan Peterson ❖ Redleaf Family Foundation ❖ Louise & William Rondano ❖ Doug Siems ❖ Brett D. Wagner ❖

### Shepherds and Shepherdesses (up to \$50)

Greg W. & Meredith M. Anderson ❖ Valarie C. Anderson ❖ Roger & Jane Arndt ❖ Jim Ashworth ❖ Benjamin & Aroti Bayman ❖ Phillip & Karen Bergem ❖ Ben & Terri Boardman ❖ Marv Bookin ❖ Robert R. Burns ❖ Carol Carberry ❖ Hatim Carim ❖ Craig Carlson & Carole Whitney ❖ Anita Corrigan ❖ Tom Decker ❖ Frank Dowding ❖ Jean Eastman ❖ Sally J. Economon ❖ David Eggen ❖ Gary & Patricia Engstrand ❖ Marilee Ennis ❖ Elizabeth B. Erickson ❖ David & Anna Lou Ford ❖ Tamami Fukushi ❖ Gayle Gaskill ❖ Robert H. Golder ❖ Gail Gordon ❖ Joan Guggemos ❖ Madeline & Morton Hamermesh ❖ Linda Dexter Hancher ❖ David & Mim Hanson ❖ Pat Hart ❖ Bob & Marge Hennesy ❖ Bob & Lois Holtz ❖ C. Joseph & Katherine Howard ❖ Mary Ann Huelster ❖ Mary Helen Inskoop ❖ Bill & Nancy Jones ❖ George Francis Kane ❖ Marita Karlisch ❖ Jake Koller ❖ Thomas Lanzatella ❖ Mary Leahy ❖ Roderick & Joanne MacDonald ❖ C. Paul Martin ❖ Louis Martin ❖ Donald & Shirley Maxwell ❖ Jean McCampbell ❖ Jan McLandsborough ❖ Jeanne & Jeff McLean ❖ Adele Mehta ❖ Don Mittelstadt ❖ Lynda Myers ❖ Barbara Nussbaum ❖ Mr. & Mrs. George Peer ❖ Pat Pennington ❖ Elsa Peterson ❖ Catherine M. Pitz ❖ John & Marge Pollack ❖ Leila D. J. Poullada ❖ Molly Redmond ❖ Miriam Reibold ❖ Sydney Rice ❖ Edis & Larry Risser ❖ Jack Ross ❖ Elaine Savick ❖ Russell G. Schroedl ❖ Judith Shalaby ❖ William K. Sheffield ❖ Glenn Skoy ❖ Stacey & David Smith ❖ Peggy Spurgeon, in memory of Blake Jones ❖ Catherine & Stan Stegemeyer ❖ Lillian Wallis ❖ Frederick & Dorothy Waltz ❖ Richard G. Wilson ❖

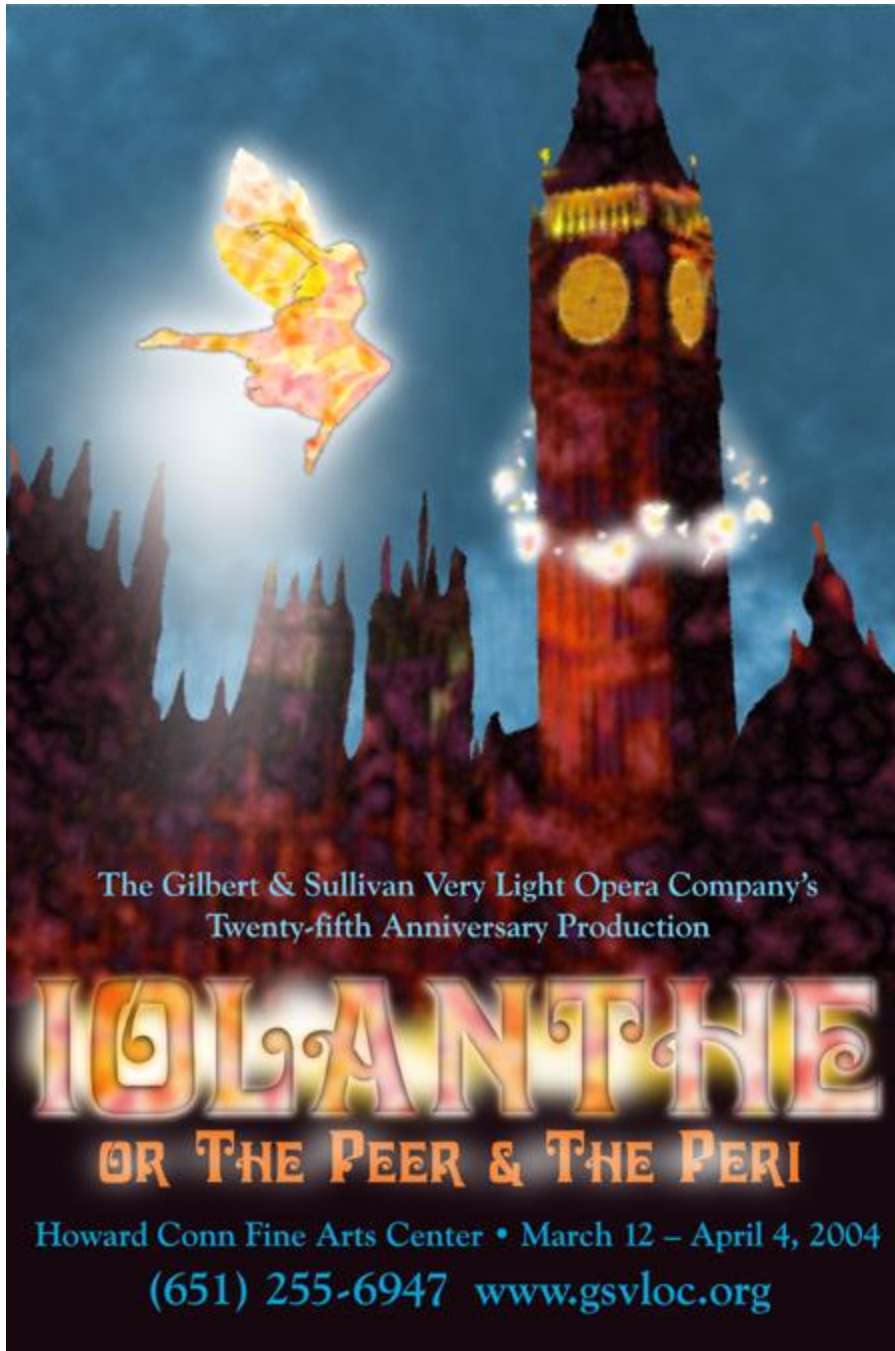
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Since its founding in 1979 by Dick Fishel and Jim Hart, the company has produced all the Gilbert and Sullivan shows: *Trial By Jury* (1979), *Patience* (1980), *Iolanthe* (1981), *Princess Ida* (1982), *Ruddigore* (1983), *The Gondoliers* (1984), *The 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), and *The Grand Duke* (2003)

We will again be joining the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra at the Lake Harriet Band Shell this summer – for **Ruddigore**, on July 10 & 11

In the Spring of 2005, we will present **The Gondoliers**.



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