

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

March 5-28, 1999



THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN
VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
~ 20TH ANNIVERSARY ~

HOWARD CONN FINE ARTS CENTER

The Yeomen of the Guard

or, *The Merryman and His Maid*

Music by Arthur S. Sullivan, Libretto by William S. Gilbert

First performed October 3, 1888

THE CAST

Colonel Fairfax (<i>under sentence of death</i>)	Joseph Andrews
Sergeant Meryll (<i>of the Yeomen of the Guard</i>)	Waldyn Benbenek
Phoebe Meryll (<i>his Daughter</i>)	Adena Brumer
Leonard Meryll (<i>his Son</i>)	Mathias Anderson
Jack Point (<i>a Strolling Jester</i>)	Matt Dolph
Elsie Maynard (<i>a Strolling Singer</i>)	Carissa Atnip
Wilfred Shadbolt (<i>Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor</i>)	Mikal J. Kraklio
Sir Richard Cholmondeley (<i>Lieutenant of the Tower</i>)	Donald Barbee
Dame Carruthers (<i>Housekeeper to the Tower</i>)	Lynne Hicks
Kate (<i>her Niece and Sir Richard's daughter</i>)	Alyssa K. Linger
First Yeoman	Bruce Haasl
Second Yeoman	Jeremy Bierlein
First Citizen	Randy Lebsock
The Headsman	David Morrison, Fred Morrison

Chorus of Yeomen of the Guard:

Jeremy Bierlein	Bruce Haasl	Richard Rames
Jim Brooks	Stephen Hage	Scott Sandberg
Ethan Edwards	Dean Laurance	Daniel E. Szymczak
Roger Evans	Randy Lebsock	Craig Voegeli

Chorus of Citizens:

Ernest Brody	Stephen Hage	Tamara Norden
Stephanie Brody	Kathy Hering	Scott Sandberg
Jim Brooks	Marcia Hill	Richard Rames
Melanie Cooperman	Randy Lebsock	Julie Seykora
Rob Davis	Warren Loud	Gordon Staff
Michele Enderle	Kristefor Lysne	Rhea Sullivan
Peter Erickson	Holly MacDonald	Daniel E. Szymczak
Mary Gregory	Mary Mescher Benbenek	Holly Windle
Judi Gronseth	Ann Michels	Craig Voegeli
Sara Gustafson	Charlotte Morrison	

Understudies: Jeremy Bierlein, Melanie Cooperman, Ethan Edwards,
Judi Gronseth, Bruce Haasl, Ann Michels, Tamara Norden, Randy Lebsock,
Richard Rames, Scott Sandberg, Daniel E. Szymczak, Craig Voegeli

Act I: The Tower of London

Act II: The same, by moonlight, two days later

Time: The Early Sixteenth Century

A shot will be fired during the performance

~ No eating or drinking is allowed in the theatre ~

~ No smoking is permitted in the building ~

~ The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden ~

**The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company
Twentieth Anniversary Season**

SYNOPSIS

The plot of *The Yeomen of the Guard* might better be called "plots," because it consists of a series of interlocking conspiracies. Before the opera opens, there has already been a plot resulting in the gallant Colonel Fairfax's being sentenced to death for sorcery. This false charge was brought by his cousin, who, after Fairfax's imminent beheading, stands to inherit the victim's sizable estate.

Act I: The opera opens on the day that Colonel Fairfax is to be executed. We first meet Phoebe Meryll (who thinks she is in love with Fairfax, although she has never spoken with him) and Phoebe's jealous admirer, Wilfred Shadbolt (the head-jailer at the Tower). A desperate counter-conspiracy is undertaken by Sergeant Meryll, his son Leonard (both former comrades-at-arms of the condemned prisoner) and daughter Phoebe. The three Merylls devise a stratagem to rescue the Colonel by disguising him as Leonard – a hero in his own right who has just arrived to be made a Yeoman of the Guard.

Meanwhile, with the assistance of the Tower's Lieutenant, Fairfax plots to forestall his dastardly cousin's inheritance by a last-minute marriage of convenience to a blindfolded maiden, Elsie Maynard. This secret arrangement, for "an hundred crowns" (to help Elsie's sick mother) is reluctantly endorsed by Elsie's suitor, the jester Jack Point. Soon thereafter, Phoebe and Sergeant Meryll succeed in freeing Fairfax, by stealing the prison keys from Wilfred. Fairfax is given a warm welcome to the Tower Guard as Leonard Meryll. When it is discovered that Fairfax has "miraculously" disappeared, there is much disturbance at his escape from the impregnable fortress. There is, moreover, great private distress on the part of Elsie – whose unknown husband is now at large, and Jack Point – who cannot marry Elsie while her husband lives.

ACT II: Despite the days of searching, and to the chagrin of Dame Carruthers (managing Housekeeper of the Tower), the Yeomen have failed to find the missing Fairfax. (Fairfax, still disguised as Leonard Meryll, has also been diligently seeking himself!)

Jack Point, now serving as the Lieutenant's jester, hatches a scheme with Wilfred to convince everyone that Wilfred has courageously slain the escaped Fairfax (thus, Elsie is now a widow and Jack Point can get her back). Fairfax upsets this plan, however, by wooing his own "widow" Elsie, who thinks he really is Leonard Meryll. Meanwhile, Wilfred and Dame Carruthers discover the Merylls' complicity in freeing Fairfax (surely a capital offense in itself) and confront Phoebe and the Sergeant.

In the final scene, Elsie enters for her wedding to the supposed Leonard. But the delayed reprieve has arrived – Fairfax is alive, and free. Once more Elsie believes she is married to a complete stranger, but soon recognizes that the man she married, Fairfax, is in fact the man she cares for and knows as Leonard. All is set for a happy wedding when the disconsolate Jack Point arrives...

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

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), and *The Pirates of Penzance* (1998)

In the Spring of 2000, we will present Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

Tax deductible contributions to help support our season are always welcome.

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

P.O. Box 580172, Minneapolis MN 55458

Telephone: (612) 925-9159

Visit the GSVLOC home page at: <http://members.aol.com/gsvloc>

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director and Choreographer.....	Sari Ketter
Music Director	Steven Michael Utzig
Artistic Director.....	Wendy Evans
Stage Manager.....	Lisa Horton
Assistant Stage Managers	Janice Barbee, Peggie Kennedy, Hellen Kriesel
Set Designer	Wendy Waszut-Barrett
Set & Prop Construction and Painting	Julie Delton, Mark Ellenberger Adam Holzschuh, Christopher Holzschuh, Herb Holzschuh Bob Hunter, Sari Ketter, Hellen Kriesel, Ross Matson, Larry Rostad Christine Spiritwolf, Jack Stuckmayer, Stephen B. Sullivan Mike Tennesen, Susan Volkmer, Wendy Waszut-Barrett with Ernest Brody, Dean Laurance, and other cast members
Properties Manager.....	Jen James
Costume Designer	Owen Romo
Costume Design Assistant	Bil Ingram
Costume Coordinator.....	Katie Wehr
Costume Workers	Wendy Evans, Lesley Hendrickson, Ellen Holzschuh Jan Juergens, Betty Kennedy, Ann Lewis Diana Schwartz, Barb Vojtech, and cast members
Makeup Advisor	Carissa Atnip
Lighting Designer	Marcus Dilliard
Lighting Crew	Adam Holzschuh, Bob Hunter, Mike Tennesen
Audio-Visual Engineer.....	Bob Johanneck, Pat Johanneck
Poster Graphic Design	Leslie Hacking, <i>Creative Resource Center</i>
Poster Illustrator.....	Tom Rosborough
Poster Printing.....	Greg Burns, <i>Weston Engraving</i>
Lobby Display & Photography	Roger Evans, Stephen Hage
House Managers	Kathy Mitchell, Mary Kay Murray
House Staff Recruiter.....	Gordon Staff
Ticket Sales	Katie Lowry
Ticket Assistants	Janice Barbee, Ruth Erickson, Carol Kollander Ann Lewis, Dean Laurance, Fred Morrison, Chris Rusin

The Board:

Producer	Stephen Hage
Labour Pool Coordinator	Ernest Brody
Publicity	Don Barbee
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Secretary	Lesley Hendrickson
Chorus Representatives.....	Gordon Staff, Charlotte Morrison
Orchestra Representative	Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor.....	Steven Michael Utzig
Violin.....	Milton Wright (<i>Concertmaster</i>), Michael Compton Debbie Feinwachs, Kathleen Green, Gary Rauk, Agnes Wolf, Eva Zorn
Viola	Tom Rognsvoog, Aija Ronis
Cello.....	Coral Bastien, Paul Jansen, John Litch Wendy Lukaszewski, Renee Merton
Bass.....	Ron Rasmussen
Flute.....	Ruth Erickson, Julie Lindstrom, Katie Lowry
Clarinet	Barb Hovey, Julie Piper
Oboe.....	Jean Beyer
Bassoon	Holly Leighton
Horn	Mike Engh, Ellen Sorenson, Bob Spector
Trumpet	Mike Hillman, Bob Hirte, Betty Mackay, Andrew Shellenbarger
Trombone.....	Greg Michnay, Larry Perry
Percussion	Julie Schmid, Jim Streich
Rehearsal Pianists.....	Sally Reynolds Darin Tysdal, Jean Van Heel

GLOSSARY (in order of occurrence)

Act I :

Tower of London - or simply, The Tower - refers to the complex of about 20 towers covering 18 acres, a fortress which in its history has housed the Royal Court, a prison, a menagerie, the Royal Mint and the Crown Jewels.

Yeomen of the Guard (Tower Warders) - Gilbert is guilty of some inaccuracies when he used these terms interchangeably, The Yeomen of the Guard were established by Henry VII in 1485 to serve as the Sovereign's personal bodyguard. The Yeomen Warders were set up in 1548 as guards (and now also serve as tour guides) of the tower. Popularly known as "Beefeaters," they are selected from non-commissioned officers and warrant officers on the basis of merit.

The Little Ease - a Tower dungeon cell wherein one could not stand or lie in comfort (a cube about 4 feet per side)

Tower Green - A grassy space within the Tower, site of special executions

Beauchamp Tower - (pronounced "beecham") - often used as a lodging for prisoners of rank

Cold Harbor Tower - no longer standing

Old Blunderbore - the giant in the fairy story "Jack and the Giant Killer" who grinds men's bones to make his bread

I was born in the old keep - the strong, innermost structure in a fort or castle

the screw may twist and the rack may turn - refers to tortures

Is life a boon? ... I have a boon to beg - a favor

a hundred crowns - about £25 - more than a laborer might earn in a year

give us quip and quiddity - witty remark and trifling point

love-lorn loon - man of low birth

peacock popinjay, bravely born - an overly proud person

buy an electuary for her - a medicinal preparation made with sugar and honey

like some of my jests, out of place - second meaning is "unemployed"

He who'd make his fellow creatures wise should always gild the philosophic pill - same sentiment as "a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down"

Were as a carrion's cry to lullaby such as I'd sing to thee - short for carrion crow

halbert or halberd - a 15th or 16th century weapon - pike or battle axe mounted on a long staff

standard lost in last campaign - battle flag or banner

The consequences fell no mortal can foretell - dire, evil

a thousand marks - about £666 (more than 6 years' salary for the well-paid Lieutenant!)

Act II :

is not the world a big butt of humor, into which all who will may drive a gimlet - a butt is a barrel; a gimlet is a tool to bore holes

consider each person's auricular - sense of hearing

solemn D.D. - Doctor of Divinity

a tail of cock and bull - an extravagant tale presented as if true

gyves that no smith can weld - leg-irons, fetters, or hand-cuffs

or I'll swallow my kirtle - woman's gown, shirt, or outer petticoat

an arquebus - early portable firearm

consumed with a parlous jealousy - extremely bad

that none may gainsay - contradict

his twig he'll so carefully lime - refers to a method of catching birds by smearing twigs with a sticky substance (bird-lime)

Ods bodikins ... Ods Bobs - two versions of an oath meaning, literally, "Gods little body"

sweets that never cloy - become sickeningly sweet

'tis but mickle sister reaps - old Scottish word, here meaning "little"

kissing, clinging cockatrice - mythical serpent with a deadly glance

I'll cleave thee to the chine - backbone; he means he'll split his head, down to the body

When love's notary seeks the notary - devotee or worshiper

Courting privity, down declivity, seeks captivity - perhaps Gilbert dredged this word up from his legal background; it means a legal connection or interest (here, marriage)

“TO THE STORY OF OUR GLORY, EACH A BOLD CONTRIBUTORY”

Peacock Popinjays (\$100 and over)

Anonymous ❖ Patricia & Mark Bauer ❖ Gretchen & Jim Fogo ❖ Priscilla Paine Fuller ❖ Donald & Marion Hall ❖ Donald F. Johnson ❖ Thor Lyford ❖ Jack & Vivian Mason ❖ Shirley Moore ❖ Garry & Mary Ann Peterson ❖ R. N. Quiche ❖ Marvin & Martha Rogers ❖ Tom & Beverly Rogers ❖ Richard Evan Stone ❖ Connie Waterous ❖

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Anonymous ❖ Suzanne Ammerman ❖ Philip Asgian ❖ George Barany ❖ Benjamin Bayman ❖ Dean & Amy Carlson ❖ James Cullen ❖ Jim Dreher ❖ Marilee Ennis ❖ Joan Forester ❖ Robert Gartner ❖ Wilbert Harri ❖ Kris Hahn Henderson ❖ Mary Jones ❖ Jack & Geraldine King ❖ Robert Linde ❖ John Litch ❖ Michael Mack ❖ Jeanne & Jeff McLean ❖ John & Marge Pollack ❖ Nancy & Bert Poritsky ❖ Mr. & Mrs. A. X. Robbins ❖ Paul Sackett ❖ James Schwarz ❖ Leon Shaw ❖ William K. Sheffield ❖ William J. & Ruth Smith ❖ Mathew Streater ❖

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Arlene & Tom Alm ❖ Valarie C. Anderson ❖ Phillip & Katherine Bergem ❖ Maggie Berget ❖ Ruth Berman ❖ Ronald Bonnicksen ❖ Marv Bookin ❖ Armine Boyadjian ❖ Phil Bremmer ❖ Beth, Laurie & Terry Brooks ❖ Jeffrey R. Brown ❖ Mary Bursek ❖ Ruth Cardinal ❖ Hatim Carim ❖ Audrey Cassidy ❖ Peter Coffey ❖ Mary J. Cole ❖ Jim Cotter ❖ Frank Dowding ❖ John J. & Mary Ann Doyle ❖ David Duggan ❖ Michael Dunham ❖ Ginger Dunivan ❖ Jean Eastman ❖ Elizabeth B. Erickson ❖ Leonard & Karen Erickson ❖ Robert Erikson ❖ Constance Evans ❖ John E. Evans ❖ Betty Ewens ❖ Sharon Feuer ❖ Arlene Flemmer ❖ David & Anna Lou Ford ❖ W. & Gwen Forsline ❖ Frank & Arleen Garay ❖ Wendell J. Garwood ❖ Howard & Eunice Gelb ❖ Bruce Gottsche ❖ Ed Grant ❖ Robert Gravrok ❖ Arthur Gropen ❖ Greg S. Gross ❖ Barbara Gudmanson ❖ Marianne D. Hageman ❖ Madeline Hamermesh ❖ Dorothy Hansen ❖ David & Mim Hanson ❖ Margaret Harder ❖ Bob & Marge Hennessy ❖ Del Holmes ❖ Tom & Margaret Holzinger ❖ Dorothy E. Horst ❖ Margaret Howes ❖ Mary Ann Huelster ❖ Alice Hughes ❖ John & Nancy Hughes ❖ John S. Huizinga ❖ Bette Jacobs ❖ Marjorie A. R. Jacobsen ❖ Tom Jones ❖ George Francis Kane ❖ Marita Karlisch ❖ Kenneth Kauffman ❖ Jake Koller ❖ Grey D. Krieger ❖ Thomas A. Lennan ❖ Sanford Lipsky ❖ Roderick & Joanne MacDonald ❖ Dr. Merle Mark ❖ C. Paul Martin ❖ Jean McCampbell ❖ Jan McLandsborough ❖ Sue Midness ❖ Don Mittelstadt ❖ Richard N. Naylor ❖ Riley Owens ❖ Dan & Pat Panshin ❖ Elsa Peterson ❖ Catherine M. Pitz ❖ Ann Pollack ❖ Kent & Cynthia Powers ❖ Molly Redmond ❖ Miriam Reibold ❖ Bob & Elie Reid ❖ Louise & William Rondano ❖ Ruth Rosendahl ❖ Michael & Susan Sackett ❖ Carol & Scott Sandberg ❖ David Sattinger ❖ Myrtle Schmidt ❖ Spencer Schuldt ❖ Judith Shalaby ❖ Pat Rosaves & Dan Sholl ❖ Stacey & David Smith ❖ Margaret Erickson Spurgeon ❖ Arthur Sternberg ❖ Mike Stone ❖ Kitty Taylor ❖ Sara Trautz ❖ Frank & Shirley Ungar ❖ Lillian Wallis ❖ Alice G.T. Williams ❖ Maryann Witkop ❖ Richard Woellner ❖ Lorraine Zauft ❖

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