

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

October 20, 2019

In attendance were: Stephen Hage, Shawn Holt, Alexander Gerchak, Wally Benbenek, Anna Maher, John Orbison, Malka Key and Barb Hovey

This Board Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Voting in the General Meeting:

First, Lesley Hendrickson will provide a synopsis of *La Belle Helene*. The floor will then be open to a general discussion. The membership in attendance will then vote as to whether the company will produce *La Belle Helene* as a spring show in a year to be determined.

Second, Wally will provide a synopsis of *The Sorcerer*, followed by Malka, Stephen and Alexander who will describe the revisions they are currently making to *Utopia, Limited*. The floor will then be open to a general discussion. The membership in attendance will then vote for the 2021 production, including *The Sorcerer*, *Utopia, Limited* and *La Belle Helene*, if the prior vote to do *La Belle Helene* in the future is successful.

Maggie Burr, Sarah Mehle, Eric Mellum and Lara Trujillo will be casting their votes by proxy.

Utopia, Limited Revision Committee:

Stephen, Malka, and Alexander constitute the committee.

Revised Concept for *Utopia, Limited*: The revised script will be based on the 2008 version. The primary change to the script, to address the issue of race, is that the Utopians are the descendants of English men and women who became stranded on a deserted south pacific island, either in a lost penal colony (Botany Bay / Pitcairn Island) or by shipwreck approximately 100 plus years ago. They've reestablished ties with England and are seeking the benefits of trade and modernization.

The committee estimates that their revisions will constitute changes to the 2008 version of approximately 5 to 10% of the text.

The Sorcerer:

The hero in *The Sorcerer* is a problematic character, and could be perceived as both patriarchal and misogynistic. The Board feel that some sort of revisions will be necessary to make the story palatable for a modern audience.

La Belle Helene:

Wally and John have reservations about producing the show. Wally is concerned about the similarity of the songs and that they were “fluff.” He feels that it is not as strong a show as Orpheus in the Underworld. John was primarily concerned with the cost of the production. There are too many variables about which we don’t know, including royalties and score transcription.

Other Business:

Wally would like to start selling tickets for Fridays and Saturdays on the website starting in November. The flyer would go out at its usual time in January. Gold Star will be offered too. Wally will talk with Julia Ockuly, House Manager, about this.

Alexander suggested the possibility of a “pay what you can” night or a flat rate for people under 30. After much discussion it was determined for now that the company should do a better job advertising rush tickets.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Shawn Holt