

**SEE AN IDYLIC ISLE
BECOME MORE BRITISH
THAN THE BRITISH.**



**GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S
UTOPIA, LIMITED**

Fridays, April 8, 15, 22 at 8 pm • Saturdays, April 9, 16, 23 at 8 pm
Sundays, April 10, 17, 24 at 2 pm.

Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Adults \$7.50 • Children \$4.50

For information: 925-9159 • For reservations: 333-6841

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

THE CAST

IMPORTED FLOWERS OF PROGRESS:

CHORUS OF UTOPIANS:

UNDERSTUDIES: Ross Erickson, Roger Evans, Stephen Hage,
Kathy Hering, Glenn Payton, Richard Rames, Sue Ann Rawlins,
June Roloff, Stephen B. Sullivan, Mary Tuuri

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

No smoking, eating, or drinking is allowed in the theatre.
The use of flash cameras is strictly forbidden.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Utopia, Limited is one of the least-performed of the Savoy operas and will probably be entirely new and unfamiliar to most of you. Its music is charming and spirited, and you may catch one or two musical references, including one "borrowed" by Sullivan from his own work. In this opera, the subject of parody is civilization itself, and the libretto presents an unusually large number of distinct characters, each satirizing a specific aspect of Western society. The plot is less a cohesive drama than a series of clever vignettes, and we hope you'll find our production amusing and entertaining.

-- Donna Carroll

SYNOPSIS

ACT I: Contrary to appearances, all is not paradise in the South Pacific Island kingdom of Utopia. The Ruling Monarch, King Paramount, finds himself powerless in a unique Utopian "imbalance of power." The two Supreme Court Judges, Scaphio and Phantis, by law can denounce the King for committing any little "immorality." If so denounced, Paramount would face immediate explosion by the Public Exploder, Tarara (as in Boom!) who also happens to be first in line for the throne. Armed with this power, Scaphio and Phantis not only force the King to do their bidding, but they toy with him. They make him write juicy bits of false gossip about himself (detailing explodable offenses) to be published in the local scandal sheet - The Palace Peeper.

King Paramount and his people are such thoroughgoing Anglo-philas that he has sent his eldest daughter Zara to be educated in England. In addition, his twin younger daughters, Nekaya and Kalyba, have been molded into showpieces of well-bred British manners by Lady Sophy, an English governess. Paramount loves this "respectable English Lady," but she has made an unfortunate vow to marry only a "spotless monarch." When the King cannot refute the Palace Peeper stories to Lady Sophy's satisfaction, she refuses him.

Princess Zara returns to Utopia escorted by a small troop of British Life Guards (one of whom, Captain Fitzbattleaxe, has gained her affections during the voyage). Complications ensue when both Scaphio and Phantis end up madly in love with Zara. Meanwhile, the Princess has also brought along various gentlemen, the "Flowers of Progress," as representatives of those elements which have made Britain great. With the help of these gentlemen, Zara plans to model Utopia after England and promises that her planned reforms will also free her father from his persecutors. After the "Flowers of Progress" are introduced to an enthusiastic Utopian populace, King Paramount announces his intention to go England one better. He will make his entire kingdom into a "company limited."

ACT II: After the King holds the first lively meeting of the Cabinet Council of Utopia, Limited (a parody of a minstrel show), he realizes that incorporating his monarchy has actually given him the protection he needs from Scaphio and Phantis. (A corporation can be "wound up" but cannot be "blown up.") The two Wise Men, balked of their object, plot with Tarara to stir up a revolt against the Flowers of Progress. A Royal Drawing Room goes off splendidly despite some Utopian glitches; Lord Dramaleigh and Mr. Goldbury set Kalyba and Nekaya straight on the realities of British girlhood; and the King is able to deceive Lady Sophy. Then the agitated populace, spurred on by Scaphio, Phantis and Tarara, storm the Palace shouting (singing, actually) "Down with the Flowers of Progress!" Zara remembers a vital missing element which will ensure perfection, and all ends in bliss and in a stirring Utopian "Ulahlica!"

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director.....Donna Carroll
Music Director.....Carolyn Davies
Artistic Director.....Wendy Evans
Choreographer.....Donna Carroll
Rehearsal Pianist.....Jennifer Trueman
Show Manager.....Margaret Sullivan
Stage Manager.....Chris Rusin
Costume Designer.....Carole Nagle
Set Designer.....Steven R. McGillivray
Lighting Design.....Floyd Swanson
Lighting.....Floyd Swanson,
Ron Larson, Mike Hoover
Properties Manager.....Cheryl Nelson
Prop Runner.....Raina Brody
Volunteer Coordinator.....Marylou Gibson
Makeup.....Carole Nagle, Mary Mescher
Set Construction Workers.....Steve McGillivray,
Carol Korson, Mark Cramer, Bob
Hunter, Leslie Risberg, Mary Ann
Wiskerchen, and cast members
Costume Construction.....Carole Nagle, Wendy Evans,
Ruby Sholander and cast members
Flagsters.....Dorothea Jensen, Stephanie Brody
Graphic Design.....Dick Fishel Jr.
Additional Graphics.....Peter Erickson
Photography.....Roger Evans
Props construction.....Stephen B. Sullivan
Barbara Webber, Bernie Webber
House Manager.....Mary Kuehborn
House Staff Recruitment.....Rhea Sullivan
Ticket Sales Manager.....Stephanie Brody
Publicity.....Stephen Hage
Treasurer.....Richard Rames
Secretary.....Donna Carroll
Producer.....Waldyn Benbenek
Chorus Representatives.....Stephanie Brody, Phil Grant

ORCHESTRA

Violin I.....Linda Werner (Concertmistress)
Paula Larson Tom Rognsvoog
Marta Stahl Esme Evans
Elizabeth Weis
Violin II.....Kathleen Wilcox
Gary Rauk Joan Christensen
Viola.....Suzanne Little
Scott Olsen
Cello.....Coral Bastien
Marlys Lund John Litch
Bass.....Bob Salter
Flute.....Carolyn Boxmeyer
Katharine Lowry Greg Peterson
Clarinet.....Barb Hovey
Oboe.....Linnea Schilling
Bassoon.....Debbie Rieke
Horn.....Martha Bentley
Lisa Worcester
Trumpet.....Bob Hirte
Andrew Padula
Trombone.....Sue Roberts
Greg Michnay
Percussion.....Julie Olson
Jim Streich

GLOSSARY

Lalabalele talala! etc. - Gilbert used some actual Polynesian for Tarara's raging: "Idiot, I run around screaming but can't make much noise, since I am hoarse. Crossly I drag myself into the open and go spinning around sweating."

Girton - a women's college at Cambridge University, founded in 1869

Heliogabalian profligates - Heliogabalus was a notoriously decadent Roman Emperor.

Songs of far niente - idleness (in Italian)

Time's teetotum waltz away like a teetotum - a kind of top

you're decidedly de trop - French for superfluous or unwanted

rum-punch as a draught, not a fomentation - medicine to be drunk, rather than applied to the skin

Tontine principle - scheme in which investors deposit money, the whole to be claimed by the last remaining alive

ye South Pacific Island viviparians - those whose young are born live (not hatched)

Ulahlica! - "The Utopian equivalent for Hear, Hear, Hear!"

swell the county rate - increase the local taxes

what contango means and also backwardation - fees paid to postpone settlement of a stock purchase or sale, respectively

K.C.B. - Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Bath (high honor)

Q.C. - Queen's Counsel (senior lawyer)

M.P. - Member of Parliament (elected Politician)

Maxim gun and Nordenfelt - kinds of machine gun

thanks to coke - a fuel made from coal

Company Limited - an incorporated company ("Inc.")

Winding-up - the process of dissolving a business

Joint Stock Companies Act of Parliament '62 - This act made it easier for small investors to pool their resources and incorporate with reduced personal risk (limited liability).
Note: Seven was the required number of founders to establish a company, and the word "limited" (Ltd.) had to be added to the company's name.

Drawing Room - formal reception by a person of rank

Court of St. James's vs. Court of St. James's Hall - confusing the royal palace with the music hall which featured the original "Christy Minstrels" (Royal audience members were not amused)

Don't be unhappy, it's still on the tapis - under consideration

Eleven stone two - a stone equals 14 pounds, so the Goldbury's ideal girl weighs 156 lbs. - of course, she's 5 foot 10

that asinorum pons I have crossed - actually, "pons asinorum," or Bridge of Asses: schoolboy slang for one of Euclid's propositions, due to the difficulty of "getting over" it

A fico for such boons - fig

CONTRIBUTORS

Jack & Jane Allison
Dr. & Mrs. Paul B. Ambrose
Stephen D. Anderson
George & Barbara Barany
Dr. Charles Boltuck
Andy Bowen
Jerry & Audrey Cassidy
James Cron
John & Elizabeth Erickson
Ella & Gilbert Farnell
Robert H. Golder
Katie Grayden
Dorothy E. Horst
Howard & Mary Ann Huelster

Helena & Frank Karr
Barbara & W.D. Kilbourn
Jack & Geraldine King
Eric & Roxie King-Smith
Archie & Ione Libby
Joanne & Rod MacDonald
Michael Mack
Jean & Paul McGough
Dan & Pat Panshin
Margaret & John Parsons
R. N. Quiche
Ruth Radeke
Marvin & Martha Rogers
Cindy Spencer Vennes

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Benson Parking, St. Anne's Episcopal Church (Sunfish Lake), Arline Fobes, Betty Brower, Charlotte Smith, Robert Evans, Duncan Baird, Grayden and Flemmer, Paul and Melcina's Millinery Boutique, The Schubert Club, The Guthrie Theater, Dick Sorensen, and our loyal crew of ushers, ticket sellers, concessionaires, and confectioners.

This production of Utopia, Limited is dedicated to the memory of Charlotte Overend. Charlotte was a founding member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company and was an enthusiastic performer through last year's presentation of The Yeomen of the Guard. She passed away last September.

Thanks to the memorial gifts made in her name, the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center Theater Lighting System has been given as a memorial to Charlotte by the GSVLOC and Plymouth Congregational Church. The system was dedicated April 8, 1988.

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

Founded in 1979 by Dick Fishel and Jim Hart, the company's productions include 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), and The Yeomen of the Guard (1987).

Our next production is scheduled to be HMS Pinafore, in the Spring of 1989. Tax deductible contributions to help support our season are always welcome.

The company is in need of space to rehearse and build sets. If you know of a place where we could do either or both (at low cost), please let us know.

THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY
P.O. Box 172, Minneapolis MN 55458
Telephone: (612) 925-9159