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Les Misérables School Edition™

Performed entirely by students



WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

Monday 16th – Saturday 21st February 2009
Nightly at 7.30 PM Saturday Matinee 2.30 PM

WAOS' Next Production

Mid-End April, 2009

Final dates to be confirmed

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**WITHAM AMATEUR
OPERATIC SOCIETY**
Presents



"The PIRATES of PENZANCE"



Witham Public Hall
27th October – 1st November 2008

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY was inaugurated in 1921, is a registered charity (number 265029) and is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA)

Witham Amateur Operatic Society

President: Mr R Howe

Hon. Life members:

Mrs K. M. Adams,
Mrs P. Briggs,
Mr N. H. O. Clough,
Mrs C. M. Draper,
Mr J. E. Gunson,
Mrs J. Hawkes,
Mr R. Howe,
Mrs H. Jones,
Mrs A. R. Lawfield,
Mrs P. Page,
Mrs A. Sheppard,
Mr T. J. Sheppard

Committee

Hon Chairman: Jim Wilson
Hon Secretary: Anne Marsden
Hon Business Manager: Trevor Drury
Hon Treasurer: Helen Temperley
Hon Membership Sec: Anne Howe
18 Saxon Drive, Witham
Hon Production Manager: Liz Watson
Publicity Manager: Patsy Page
Committee Members:
Nicholas Clough
Graham Green (WOW Chairman)
Cynthia Stead
Hon Social Secretary: Kathryn Adkins

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Mr C Watson
Mr J. Wilson
Ms S. Wilson
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For further details about becoming a Friend of the Society, please contact our Hon. Membership Secretary, Anne Howe (01376 519629)

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REASONABLE RATES



A Message from the President – Ron Howe



May I warmly welcome you to another WAOS production at the Public Hall. For this the Society returns after a few years to Gilbert & Sullivan. *The Pirates of Penzance* was first staged at Fifth Avenue Theatre in New York in 1879 and in London in 1880. It has been popular around the world ever since and is my personal favourite of the Savoy Operas. We are pleased to have as our Director Nicholas Clough who as a member has appeared on stage many times for us over the years and who brings his knowledge of and passion for G&S to the stage tonight. Our Musical Director Susannah Edom is also well known to us having previously worked with WAOS and with many choirs and societies throughout the area. I would like to thank both

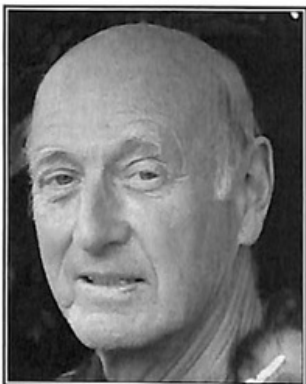
Nick and Susannah and all the cast for the commitment and hard work they have shown in putting together this production. Thank you all for your support, especially those of you who are attending for the first time. We wish you an enjoyable evening.

Ron Howe
President

The Origin of Pirates of Penzance

Pirates was the sixth of the fifteen operas from the pens of Gilbert & Sullivan but the only one to have its worldwide premiere outside England. *Pirates* followed *HMS Pinafore*, which was a huge success in London as well as spawning two authorized touring companies playing in large English towns. However, the unauthorized versions of *HMS Pinafore* playing the US were troubling to D'Oyly Carte and so it was decided that the next opera would open in New York to thwart the "pirates". Perhaps it was the thought of copyright "pirates" while sailing off the Cornish coast near Penzance, that inspired Gilbert to create *The Pirates of Penzance*. A plan was hatched to open in New York on New Year's Eve 1879, amidst much secrecy. The score was even kept in a locked safe between rehearsals. But first, to attune the American audiences to how an authentic G&S should be performed D'Oyly Carte and his team put on *HMS Pinafore* from Dec 1st 1879 in New York. When Sullivan arrived in New York to conduct "*Pirates*" he had only completed the music for part of Act II and also managed to leave the libretto and score for Act I back in London. He had to recreate the music for Act I from memory as well as complete the score for Act II in time for opening night. Meanwhile, back in England it was necessary to establish British copyright so members of an English D'Oyly Carte production team did a scratch matinee performance of *Pirates* at the Royal Bijou Theatre in Paignton, just hours before the performance in New York. *Pirates* was hugely successful in New York, earning G&S \$4000 per week for the six week run, before authorized touring companies were allowed to reproduce the show throughout the US. Gilbert was particularly admired in the US for his wit, and one anecdote tells of a conversation between a social climbing woman and Gilbert in which she says, "Dear Mr Gilbert, your friend Sullivan's music is too delightful. It reminds me so much of dear *Baytch*. Do tell me what is *Baytch* doing now. Is he still composing?" To which Gilbert snapped, "No madam. Just now Bach is by way of decomposing."

Director – Nicholas Clough



Nicholas first performed in G&S at the age of fourteen, when he played the part of Iolanthe at Tonbridge School. After leaving school he joined "The Grosvenor Light Opera Company" in London where he met his future wife, Lydia, and played many of the principal baritone roles in their productions. He performed G&S in Italy, Malta, Ireland and Wales with The South Anglia Savoy Players and has been a member of WAOS since 1975. His directing experience has previously been at Witham and with Platform Musicals in Colchester, and he has relished the challenge of directing this most popular of G&S Operas, *Pirates of Penzance*, for WAOS.

Musical Director – Susannah Edom

Susannah studied music at Bulmershe College, Reading. She continued her piano studies under Eric Parkin and sang in the internationally famous Girls Choir under Gwyn Arch. She returned to Suffolk to begin her teaching career and became well known locally as Musical Director of an amateur operatic society and as Artistic Director of Stagestruck in Bury St Edmunds. She also worked as choral specialist at the County Music School which led to involvement in the National Festival of Music for Youth and the Aldeburgh Festival as a conductor. At this time, Susannah also continued with her piano studies and was accompanist for the Olive Quantrill Singers and the Ipswich Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Susannah now lives in Chelmsford and is Head of Newland Springs Primary School and was also head of the Chelmsford County Music School until the birth of her daughter Jessica. She continues to work with young people and adults locally and regularly both as a conductor and pianist. Susannah has appeared five times as conductor for the Barnardo's Young Supporters concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in addition to previous performances there both as a chorister and accompanist. She will be conducting another such concert in November. Susannah has performed as Musical Director for WAOS once before, in their recent performance of Iolanthe. Susannah is delighted to be working with the society again in this year's performance of *Pirates of Penzance*.



Synopsis

The Pirates of Penzance tells the story of a young pirate apprentice named Frederic who has come to the end of his indentured period. As it turns out, Frederic was indentured by mistake. His half-deaf nurse had been instructed to apprentice him to a "pilot" but got it a little wrong. At any rate, Frederic has decided to leave the pirate life forever and, though he loves his comrades dearly, devote his life to the extermination of their kind. However, since he is until the stroke of midnight still one of them, he feels obliged to point out the pirates' weakness—they are too soft-hearted. Apparently, all a captive must do is plead to being an orphan and he is immediately released!

Once upon the shore, Frederic, who has never seen any woman other than his old nurse, stumbles upon a bevy of beautiful maidens. He immediately falls in love with the most beautiful of the bunch, Mabel, who graciously offers to reclaim the "Poor Wandering One." What Frederic has forgotten, however, is that there are pirates about! Suddenly his old comrades are upon them! The lonely pirates are delighted by the beauty of their captives and recognize the situation as a "first rate opportunity of getting married with impunity." But the girls' father, Major-General Stanley, arrives just in the nick of time and claims untruthfully to be an orphan, thus winning a brief reprieve for his daughters. The General is terrified that the pirates will uncover his lie, but Frederic eases his fears, promising to apprehend the band of pirates and put an end to their plundering. However, when Frederic learns that, due to a technicality, he is still indentured to the pirates, the complications abound.

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Principal Characters

Character

Name

The Pirate King.....	David Slater
Frederic.....	Matthew Lecznar
Samuel.....	Tom Whelan
Ruth - A Piratical Maid of All Work.....	Anne Wilson
Kate.....	Natalie Hawkes
Edith.....	Judy Fishwick
Isabel.....	Shelly Fisher
Mabel.....	Sarah Fletcher
The Major General.....	Patrick O Brien
Sergeant of Police.....	Stewart Adkins
James – A Pirate.....	Timothy Sheppard
Chaperone of General Stanley's Daughters	Pam Whelan

Chorus of General Stanley's Daughters

Janet Hawkes, Anne Howe, Marea Irving, Helene Jones, Muriel Loveridge, Patsy Page, Julie Slater, Veronica Smith, Elizabeth Watson, Natalie Wilson.

Chorus of Policemen and Pirates

Stewart Adkins, Tom Ashbey, Gary Bruce, Richard Cowen, Steve Draper, Ron Howe, Richard Herring, Danny Mullane, Tim Sheppard, James Simpson, Nathan Wilson

Musical Synopsis

Act One

Pour, Oh, Pour the Pirate Sherry
 When Frederic Was a Little Lad
 Oh, Better Far To Live and Die
 Oh False One, You Have Deceived Me
 Climbing Over Rocky Mountain
 Stop, Ladies, Pray!
 Oh, is there not one Maiden Breast
 Poor Wandering One
 What Ought We Do
 How Beautifully Blue The Sky
 Stay, We Must Not Lose Our Senses
 Hold, Monsters!

I Am the Very Model Of A Modern Major General

Oh, Men of Dark And Dismal Fate

Pirates and Samuel
 Ruth
 Pirate King & Pirates
 Frederic & Ruth
 Girls, Edith & Ruth
 Frederic, Edith & Kate
 Frederic, Mabel & Girls
 Mabel & Girls
 Edith, Kate & Girls
 Girls, Mabel & Frederic
 Frederic, Girls & Pirates
 Mabel, Samuel, Major General,
 Girls & Pirates
 Major General,
 Girls & Pirates
 Major General,
 Pirate King & Ensemble

Act Two

(Strobe lights will be used in Act 2)

Oh, Dry the Glistening Tear
 Then, Frederic, Let Your Escort Lion-Hearted
 When the Foeman Bares His Steel

Now For the Pirates' Lair
 When You Had Left Our Pirate Fold
 My Eyes Are Fully Open
 Away, Away! My Heart's On Fire
 All Is Prepared
 Stay, Frederic, Stay!
 Sorry Her Lot
 No, I'll be Brave
 A Rollicking Band Of Pirates We
 With Cat-Like Tread, Upon Our Prey we Steal

Hush, Hush! Not a Word
 Sighing Softly To the River
 Poor Wandering One

Girls & Mabel
 Major General & Frederic
 Sergeant, Mabel, Edith,
 Major General, Police & Girls
 Frederic, Pirate King & Ruth
 Pirate King, Ruth & Frederic
 Frederic, Pirate King & Ruth
 Pirate King, Ruth & Frederic
 Mabel & Frederic
 Mabel & Frederic
 Mabel
 Mabel, Sergeant & Police
 Pirates, Sergeant & Police
 Pirates, Police, Samuel,
 Frederic & Pirate King
 Frederic, Pirates & Police
 Major General & Ensemble
 Ensemble

Production Credits

Director
Assistant Director
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Stage Crew

Scenery
Lighting
Sound
Properties Manager
Properties Team

Wardrobe
Costumes
Make-Up
Wigs
Prompt
Front of House Manager
Publicity Manager

Bar Manager
Publicity Photos
Programme
Foyer Display

Nicholas Clough
Angela Briley
Gary Bruce
Ghislaine Stuart-Brace
Peter Buckley, Mark Bundock,
Nikki Grainger, Graham Green,
Steve Hill, Keith Radley,
Donna Stevenson, Craig Watson
Paul Lazell
Nigel Northfield
Paul Galley Event Sound & Light
Helen Temperley
Janice Hawkes, Chris Willison,
Denise Scrivener, Kate Dawson
Pat Briggs and Patsy Page
The Costume Store
Liz Watson, Marea Irving
Patsy Page
Anne Sheppard
Colin Turner
Patsy Page assisted by Tim Sheppard,
Cynthia Stead and Anne Wilson
Kathryn Adkins
Patsy Page
Stewart Adkins
Liz Watson & Patsy Page

Orchestra

Musical Director
1st violin (leader) -
2nd Violin
Viola
'Cello
Double Bass
Flute
1st Clarinet
2nd Clarinet
Oboe
French Horn
Trumpet
Trombone
Percussion
Rehearsal Accompanists;

Susannah Edom
Anton Archer
Bryony Rees
Hilary Cheek
Nick Tate
Lesley Ellis
Kerrie Bassil
David Adams
Sandy Tate
Janet Brook
Rob Diamond
Jonathan Brierley
David Healey
Graham Brown
David Mitchell, Richard Reed,
Hans Montanana and Claire Merrill

- Please ensure your mobile phone is switched off.
- Please do not take videos, photographs or sound recordings of this production.
- Hearing Aids: Wearers of suitably equipped hearing aids should select the T position.

The Company



Susannah and Judy Mastermind the attack



Pirate Queens at the Carnival



Natalie begs Matthew for a lift home



David and Patrick argue frequently



Nick pulls his weight



Sarah, Judy and Shelley implore Patrick for more pocket money



Pirates invade Witham during the Carnival



What is NODA?

Witham Amateur Operatic Society is proud to be affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Society.

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) was founded in 1899 "to protect and advance the interests of Operatic and Dramatic Art, and of Societies engaged therein." It has a membership of some 2,300 amateur societies and 2,500 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to tiny village halls. Members have access to a wide range of benefits.

NODA is divided into eleven Areas, each headed by an Area Councillor who sits on the National Council (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of Regional Representatives. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies. The Association is administered from a Headquarters in Peterborough, with a knowledgeable and friendly staff able to deal with virtually any enquiry relating to amateur theatre.

There is a broad spectrum of ages involved with amateur theatre nationwide, from a burgeoning number of youth groups to adult companies which meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic or musical, and enthusiasts involved backstage, front of house or in administration.

Your Regional Representative is Ann Platten. Contact her at 01787 374069 or email her at theplattens@f2s.com. Alternatively, check out NODA's website directly www.NODA.org.uk

The Society's grateful thanks are extended to:

not only the individuals and organisations credited in this programme, but also to the many others who have contributed in any way to the preparation or production of our show.

In particular:

- all the Friends of the Society for their financial support;
- those involved with box office, stewarding and programme distribution;
 - those involved with refreshments and the bar;
 - those involved backstage or with transportation;
- Witham Dramatic Club for the use of the raised seating;
 - John Mann and David Sawyer at the Public Hall;
 - Spring Lodge for their rehearsal facilities;
 - Pat Day of CYGAMS for loan of props;
- Witham Library for permission to display photographs;
 - Sound effects - mm productions;
 - the media;
- those who have freely donated window space for the display of our posters;
 - ...and anyone else who has helped in any way.

Previous Productions of the Society

1922	HMS Pinafore	1968	The Desert Song	1988	Kismet
1923	The Pirates of Penzance	1969	Patience (CV)	1989	Half a Sixpence
1924	Ruddigore	1970	Rose Marie	1989	Fiddler on the Roof
1925	Patience	1970	Mikado	1990	The Gondoliers
1926	Yeomen of the Guard	1971	Free As Air	1990	Die Fledermaus
1927	Dorothy	1971	The Pirates of Penzance	1991	The King and I
1928	Les Cloches de Corneville	1971	Oklahomal	1991	Carousel
1929	Mikado	1972	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1992	Patience
1930	The Gondoliers	1972	The Merry Widow	1992	Annie Get Your Gun
1931	Falka	1972	The Gondoliers	1993	Bless the Bride
1932	HMS Pinafore	1973	Carousel	1993	Brigadoon
1933	Merric England	1973	Iolanthe	1994	Ruddigore
1934	Tom Jones	1974	The Pajama Game	1994	My Fair Lady
1935	The Geisha	1974	Yeomen of the Guard	1995	South Pacific
1936	Dorothy	1975	Pink Champagne	1995	Kiss Me, Kate
1937	The Maid of the Mountains	1975	Patience	1996	Oliver!
1938	The Street Singer	1976	South Pacific	1996	Anything Goes
1939	Goodnight Vienna	1976	Ruddigore	1997	Guys & Dolls
1947	Miss Hook of Holland	1977	Guys & Dolls	1997	Orpheus in the Underworld
1948	Maritza	1977	Utopia Ltd	1998	The Pirates of Penzance
1949	Katinka	1978	The White Horse Inn	1998	The Pajama Game
1950	The Lilac Domino	1978	Mikado	1999	The Merry Widow
1951	Rio Rita	1979	Brigadoon	1999	Kismet
1952	Wild Violets	1979	Princess Ida	2000	Calamity Jane
1953	Magyar Melody	1980	Orpheus in the Underworld	2000	Mikado
1954	Carissimá	1981	Iolanthe	2001	The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas
1955	Rose Marie	1981	Summer Song	2001	The Gondoliers
1956	Tulip Time	1982	The Quaker Girl	2002	Can-Can
1957	The White Horse Inn	1982	The Desert Song	2002	Die Fledermaus
1958	The Gipsy Princess	1982	Cox & Box & The Sorcerer	2003	Oklahomal
1959	The Merry Widow	1983	Oklahomal	2003	A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
1960	Bless the Bride	1983	The Pirates of Penzance	2004	Show Boat
1961	The Boy Friend	1984	Grab Me a Gondola	2004	Me and My Girl
1962	The Quaker Girl	1984	Free As Air	2005	Sweet Charity
1963	The New Moon	1985	Showboat	2005	Fiddler on the Roof
1964	Mikado (CV)	1985	La Vie Parisienne	2006	Iolanthe
1965	The Maid of the Mountains	1986	Yeomen of the Guard	2006	Carousel
1966	Gipsy Love	1986	The Sound of Music	2007	South Pacific
1967	HMS Pinafore (CV)	1987	The Merry Widow	2007	How to Succeed in Business
	Call Me Madam		Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	2008	My Fair Lady
	Iolanthe (CV)				Follies

