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presents

Its 40th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION

The Pirates of Penzance or The Slave of Duty



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24th April - 29th April 1989

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presents



40th Anniversary
Production

Pirates of Penzance



Pirates was first performed on 3rd April 1880. Gilbert and Sullivan's previous collaboration, H.M.S. Pinafore, had been hugely successful. However, because copyright had not been secured many companies, especially in America, pirated it so that in fact Gilbert & Sullivan didn't make much money out of it.

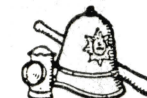
To make sure that piracy did not pay the first performance was given, not, as one might expect, in London, but at the tiny Royal Bijou Theatre in Paignton, Devon by a hastily assembled company who wore Pinafore costumes and carried their libretti.

Even by Gilbertian standards the plot is absurd and was probably inspired by an incident in his childhood when, in the care of his nurse, he was kidnapped by bandits in Naples and only released on payment of £25. Similar themes appear in Pinafore and Gondoliers.

Pirates they may be; but of Penzance ?

Who in their right minds would take their shoes and socks off and paddle in the middle of February ? Pirates of Jamaica ?

But then, who said Gilberts plots were logical ? If they were the charm and fun of the operettas would disappear.





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 (b) All gangways, passages and staircases shall be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions."

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE PRESIDENT

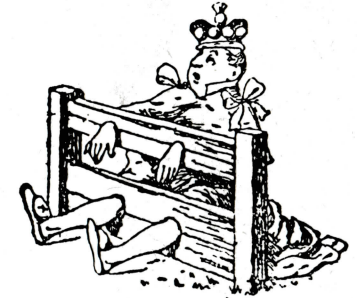
I am delighted to welcome you all to this our 40th Anniversary Production.

It is the fifth time the Society has performed Pirates and the first time we have had Lorryne Harrod as our Producer. I am sure that her infectious enthusiasm will be readily reflected in the performance you see tonight.

My special thanks also to Raymond Wood who has once more taken on the unenviable task of rescoring the whole operetta for the smaller orchestra appropriate for the Arts Centre.

We hope you enjoy your evening with us and make note in your diary that the next production will be The Yeoman of the Guard.

CHRISTOPHER SOWERBY



His "Pretty Committee"

Secretary: Carol Parkinson Treasurer: Leslie Stead
 Vice Presidents: Barry Pearson, Alison Sowerby
 General Members: George Chapman, Judith Gill,
 Andrew James, Dorothy Whitworth.

Introducing . . . LORRAYNE HARROD . . . Producer

Lorryne began her association with the entertainment business at the age of 3 in the field of dance. Two years later she was giving solo performances. Over the next thirteen years she broadened her interests to include speech, singing, music and drama and was involved in numerous school productions both on stage and backstage. However, Lorryne did not consider pursuing a career in the entertainment world until some time later. As a mature student she gained an honours degree in Music and Theatre Studies followed by a Professional Performers Course at the Royal Northern College of Music. As a full-time performer and teacher she has fulfilled contracts with BBC Northern Singers, Granada and Mersey side TV and Opera North where she gained valuable experience working with professional directors. Despite this Lorryne has also found time to co-found and direct a Youth Theatre in Batley.



RAYMOND WOOD Musical Director

Now in his third season with the society Raymond Wood has brought to it vibrance, humour and an encyclopaedic knowledge of music. Formerly music master at the Wheelwright Boys Grammar School he now enjoys a busy life as a committee member of the Friends of Opera North. His preview lectures at the Grand Theatre, Leeds delivered on the first night of each Opera North production are a rare treat !



The limitations of Dewsbury Arts Centre mean that it is not possible to accommodate a full orchestra. Even if it were possible, the noise would be deafening. The Society is therefore hugely indebted to Ray for re-scoring the whole operetta for an ensemble orchestra as he did last year for The Sorcerer.

COSTUME SPONSORSHIP

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SAMUEL	: The Poacher 122 Bradford Road Dewsbury
FREDERIC	: D.H. Howarth, Goldsmith Silversmith 114 Huddersfield Road Mirfield
SERGEANT OF POLICE	: Yorkshire Building Society 11/13 Branch Road Batley
MABEL	: Heath Cottage Hotel and Restaurant Wakefield Road Dewsbury
EDITH	: Kingswell Watts Solicitors Cross Street, Batley Church Street, Dewsbury
KATE	: Holophane Europe Limited Bond Avenue Milton Keynes
ISABEL	: Eddisons Estate Agents Foundary Street Dewsbury
RUTH	: The Huntsman Chidswell Lane Dewsbury
POLICEMEN'S CHORUS	: The Black Bull (The Old Courthouse) Birstall



THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE or The Slave of Duty

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY	-	Robert Thurman
THE PIRATE KING	-	Malcolm Parkinson
SAMUEL (his Lieutenant)	-	Neil Bird
FREDERIC (the Pirate Apprentice)	-	Kevin Hardaker
SERGEANT OF POLICE	-	Barrie Close
MABEL	Major	Stephanie Roe
EDITH	General	Pamela Brooke
KATE	Stanley's	Alison Sowerby
ISABEL	Daughters	Carol Parkinson
RUTH (Pirate Maid of all work)	-	Margaret Lister

CHORUS OF PIRATES POLICE AND GENERAL STANLEY'S DAUGHTERS:

Rita Browning, Judith Gill, Jill Haigh, Karen Morton, Sally Roberts, Rachel Roe, Thelma Scott, Tracey Spencer, Verity Thomas, Kathryn Thurman, Ruth Trout, Dorothy Whitworth.

George Chapman, Jeremy Haigh, Keith Horner, Andrew James, Vernon Newman, Barry Pearson, Stephen Roe, Carl Sanderson, Christopher Sowerby, Ian Townend.

Care to join us ?
contact: Carol Parkinson
10 Nook Green,
Thornhill, Dewsbury.
Tel. 456780

*Rehearsals each Wednesday at St. Andrews Church Hall,
Purlwell, Batley*

N.B. Mrs. S. Greenwood does not appear in this production.

The Pirates of Penzance

ACT I

A Rocky Sea Shore on The Coast Of Cornwall

We discover the Pirates exhorting their King to "Pour Oh Pour The Pirate Sherry" so they may celebrate the end of Frederic's indentures.

Ruth confesses that "When Frederic Was A Little Lad" she apprenticed him not to a PILOT but to a PIRATE. Frederic, now duty bound to exterminate his former companions, tries to persuade the King to go back to "the cheating world" with him. The King however is resolved to live and die a Pirate King.

Frederic repels all Ruth's entreaties to stay; "Oh False One You Have Deceived Me!" He realises that far from being fair as gold she is in fact plain and old, a view re-inforced when he spies General Stanley's daughters Climbing Over Rocky Mountains. "Stop Ladies Pray!" he cries.

He opens his heart to them "Is There Not One Maiden Beast" willing to welcome him. Not one, it appears, until Mabel arrives and falls madly in love with him and he with her.

She takes pity on this Poor Wandering One. Meanwhile, Edith Kate and the rest of the gels are all a bit embarrassed by this open display of emotion. "What Are We To Do?" In true British style they decide to talk about the weather. So, as Mabel and Frederic retire to a cave the girls distractedly remark "How Beautifully Blue The Sky."

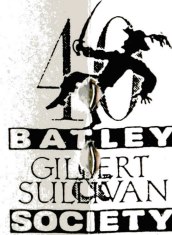
Frederic is not so captivated that he doesn't keep his wits about him. He knows the pirates to be near. "Stay We Must Not Lose our Senses!" he warns, but too late. The pirates arrive and are so gobsmacked by the bevy of beauties before them that they decide to marry them on the spot.

"Hold Monsters" trills Mabel and tells the pirates that before they get carried away they ought to bear in mind that their father is a Major-General.

Major-General Stanley duly arrives and after introducing himself and having heard that the pirates are merciful to orphans, successfully pleads to these Men of Dark And Dismal Fate for his daughters' release on the false ground that he is himself an orphan.

OR

The Slave of Duty



General Stanley is discovered seated pensively surrounded by his daughters who ask him to "Dry The Glistening Tear". He calls upon Frederic: "Let Your Escort Lion Hearted" go forth to capture the pirates. In come the police. "When The Foeman Bares His Steel" they confess to feeling a little uncomfortable but, goaded by the girls, show a superficial bravery.

"Now For The Pirates' Lair" declares Frederic only to meet the Pirate King and Ruth. They unravel the paradox that although Frederic has lived twenty-one years, as he was born on 29th February in leap year, going by birthdays he is only a little boy of 5! He is therefore still apprenticed to the pirates and confesses that the Major-General is no orphan. All three vow: "Away Away, My Hearts On Fire" and that night the traitor dies.

But what is he going to tell Mabel? For her, "All Is Prepared Your Gallant Crew Await You." He tells her of his paradox, and it all comes as a bit of a shock to be told that she will have to wait a further 64 years "It Seems So Long!" Nonetheless she resolves "I'll Be Brave!"

Re-enter the police. A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One, still constabulary duty must be done.

When the pirates are heard across the manor singing "A Rollicking Band of Pirates We!" the police promptly hide leaving the pirates to prowl "With Cat Like Tread." They in turn hide "Hush! Not A Word" as the Major-General comes.

Oblivious to all these people hiding in his shrubbery the Major-General can only hear the loving breeze "Sighing Softly To The River."

In a rousing finale the police ultimately capture the pirates who are, it appears, really noblemen who have gone wrong and thus just the people to marry Major Stanley's daughters, "all of whom are beauties!!"



Batley Gilbert &

TOGETHER NOW FOR FORTY YEARS

In March 1949 Hanover Congregational Church Augmented Choir decided to extend its activities and present a "Fully Costumed Production" of The Mikado. That it should be a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta was due in no small part to Stanley Lockyer who was an ardent Gilbert and Sullivan fan.

In the company were two people who are still active members today; John Whitehead, who was in the chorus, and Irene Richardson who was Pitti-Sing. However, far from being a little maid from school all unwary Irene was pregnant at the time. Both later became presidents of the society. In fact, Irene was the first lady to hold the position.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The 1949 programme is interesting as a historical document. H. Hamer, family grocer of Mount Pleasant declared "New Registrations Welcome." Maison Mitchell of Henrietta Street were "Experts in all the Leading Systems of Permanent Waving" and Hepworth and England Limited boasted a modern kitchen where washing demonstrations were given every Wednesday to Saturday at 2.30 p.m. The advert went on:- MOTHER'S UNION -Please note: Why not visit our demonstration as a party?

PIRATES I

In 1951 the now called Batley Congregational Operatic Society presented The Pirates of Penzance for the first time. The programme contained a message from Leo Sheffield, late D'Oyly Carte Co. Having given 20 years in working out his 22 parts in the operas he confessed to being keen on "Keeping rigidly to tradition." Goodness knows what he would have thought of the Broadway Pirates. The President the Rev. J. Baker outlined the Society's aims being: to provide musical and dramatic entertainment of a high standard; to offer its members an opportunity for enjoyable cultural activity and to give maximum support to Hanover Street Church. The church may have gone but the first two objectives are as relevant as ever today.

By 1962 when the society presented Pirates for a second time the price of admission was still 3/6d (17½p) and 1/6 for children who could it seems be (unreserved). The practice of having "Openers", invariably The Worshipful The Mayor of Batley on the first night and thereafter various dignitaries, persisted.

END OF AN ERA

By 1973, the practice of "openers" had been discontinued. Batley Corporation was soon to disappear. Pirates, the Society's choice for its 25th anniversary was to be the last production at Hanover Street. Later that year the church closed and along with it the school room which had been home for 25 years.

POOR WANDERING ONES

In 1974, after considerable alterations to the stage and decorations Cross Bank was the venue, not for Ruddigore as planned but Trial By Jury and HMS Pinafore. By 1977 the adoption of the name Batley Gilbert and Sullivan Society showed the weakening allegiance to the church. In 1982 Iolanthe was presented at Batley Town Hall and for a time the society benefited from better facilities and bigger audiences. Today Cross Bank has closed and home is St. Andrews Church Hall at Purlwell.

Last year the society left the rather impersonal and uncomfortable Town Hall at Batley and performed the Sorcerer at Dewsbury Arts Centre. It is generally agreed that the smaller and more intimate surroundings enhanced the show's success. Whether that is appropriate for the grandeur and majesty of say Gondoliers or Yeoman of The Guard remains to be seen.

Sullivan Society

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Mr. and Mrs. L. Stead

Honorary Life Members

Mrs. M. Price	Mrs. D. Farquharson	Mr. J. Farquharson	Mrs. M. E. Harrap
Mrs. I. Richardson*	Miss. H. Smales*	Mr. A. N. Haigh	Mrs. M. Lockyer
	Mr. J. Whitehead*		

*Hold N.O.D.A. Long Service Medals as does Mr. R. B. Pearson.

Previous Productions

The Society has performed all 13 Gilbert and Sullivan operettas plus Cox and Box.

The Mikado	1949	1959	1968	1977	1985
Iolanthe	1950	1960	1972	1983	
Pirates of Penzance	1951	1962	1973	1979	
The Gondoliers	1952	1961	1970	1981	
Ruddigore	1953	1963	1975	1987	
H.M.S. Pinafore	1954	1966	1974	1984	
Princess Ida	1956	1964	1976	1982	
Patience	1958	1971	1985		
Trial By Jury	1966	1974	1984		
The Sorcerer	1967	1980	1988		
Yeomen of The Guard	1955	1965	1978		
Utopia Limited	1957				
Grand Duke	1969				
Cox and Box	1962				

There is a 14th Gilbert & Sullivan operetta called Thespis. Most of the music has been lost. Only "Little Maid of Arcady" and "Climbing Over Rocky Mountains" survive.

OBITUARIES

Hannah Smailes

Hannah was a founder member of the Society. For many years she sang in the chorus and then helped with costumes. In her later years at Woodwell House she enjoyed hearing about the society's activities and was delighted to give the vote of thanks when the society gave concerts there. M.E.H.

Mary Lockyer

During the past year the society has been saddened by the death of one of its founder members, Mary Lockyer, who was also an honorary life member. Mary was a keen enthusiast of Gilbert and Sullivan operas as was her husband the late Stanley Lockyer.

During the early years of the society Mary sang contralto in the chorus but for many years enjoyed being in the dressing room as wardrobe mistress.

Society members who knew her will remember her for the quiet encouragement she gave to us in the early days.

I.R.

Pirates of Penzance 1989 Roll of Honour

The Society is particularly indebted to the following and extends its sincere thanks to anyone and everyone who has contributed in any way to the production

Producer	Lorraine Harrod	Musical Director	Raymond Wood
Stage Manager	Nicholas Cuncliffe	Accompanists	Arnold Swallow, Keith Horner, Susan Wilkinson, Christopher Sowerby
Set built by	Verity Thomas Barrie Close, Neil Bird, Rita Browning, Carl Sanderson, Daniel Browning, Andrew James, Rebecca Browning, Ruth Trout, John Hardy	Set designed by	Verity Thomas and Lorraine Harrod
Prompters	Jacky Fletcher, David Fletcher	Costumes	W. A. Homburg Limited Dewsbury Arts Group and The Society
House Manager	John Whitehead	Wardrobe assisted by	Stephanie Roe the Ladies Chorus
Catering Manageress	Marjorie Harrop	Booking	Alison and Christopher Sowerby
Publicity	Ruth Trout	Secretaries	Sowerby
Properties	Dorothy Whitworth	Programme	Malcolm Parkinson, Ruth Trout

Programme printed by: Coryph Design and Print, 71 Commercial Road, Kirkstall.

We are sorry for missing out any names not available at time of going to press.

Thanks to:-

Irene Richardson, John Whitehead and Geoffrey Greenwood for invaluable memorabilia to enable the history of the society to be researched.

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The Casting Committee

John Davies, David Fletcher, David Hann, Ronald Whittam

Honoured Guests

Sylvia Broadhead
Malcolm Kenyon
David Wood
Judith Wood

President of Batley Thespians
President of Dewsbury Collegians
Chairman of Dewsbury Arts Group
Secretary of Dewsbury Arts Group

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Batley Recreation Centre Karate Club
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Robin Hood Watersports, Heckmondwike
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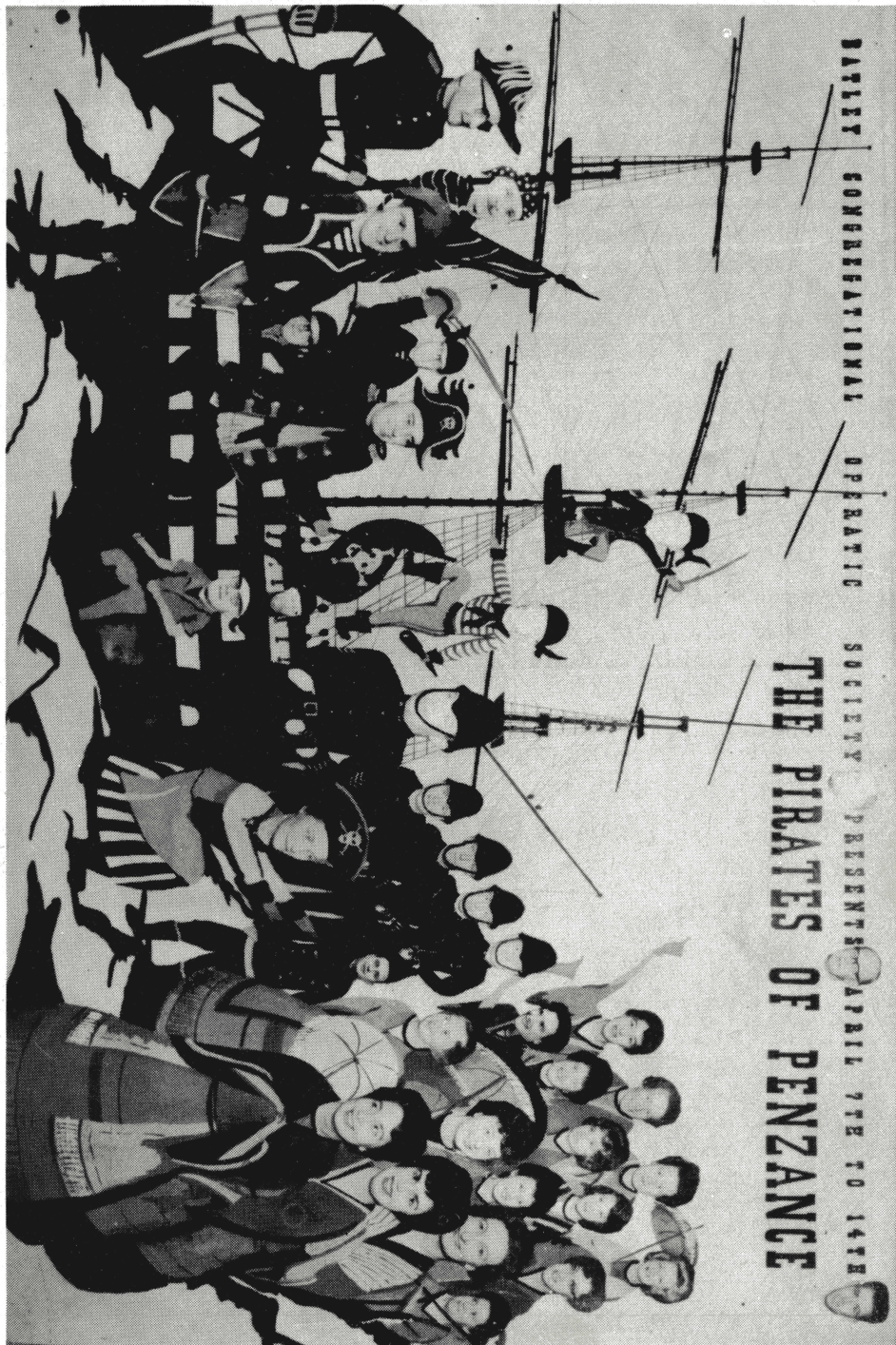


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