

Winchester Musicals and Opera Society

UTOPIA

Limited

by Gilbert & Sullivan

15TH — 18TH MAY 2018

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UTOPIA, LIMITED

We are supporting Abby's Heroes, please give generously at the end of the show.

Thankyou

Abby's Heroes offers financial and practical help to children and families treated at Piam Brown Children's Oncology Ward and the T.Y.A. Ward (teenage and Young Adults) at Southampton General Hospital. Bereaved families also receive support.



Being on these wards can be a traumatic and frightening journey for both the child and their families. The child's life is completely taken over by the diagnosis of childhood cancer and their family's world are thrown into utter chaos. The future these families face includes months or years of treatment, families often separated for long periods as parents need to stay with the child but also may have have siblings that need looking after as well. Jobs are put on hold and inevitable financial implications begin to emerge. Normal life ceases to exist.

Abby's Heroes is here to help and support. Practical help will be given: financial grants to help people through difficult times, grants for bereaved families to help give time to grieve, days out and fun memory making grants which allow families a chance to be together.

So how do we do this? Through continued support form the local community who feel inspired to run, walk, bake, cycle or perform in aid of Abby's Heroes. Can you help?

Please visit www.abbys-heroes.org.uk

A Message from our President Iain Steel

Welcome to **Utopia Limited** (or 'The Flowers of Progress') the 12th collaboration by Gilbert & Sullivan which premiered in 1893. In this week of wedding celebrations for Prince Harry & Meghan Markle, some 125 years later, our Director David Tatnall has given this a distinct 'Royal' lilt, gently poking fun at our beloved first family, under the musical flair of Peter Theobald.



We are especially excited to have been asked to take this performance to the 25th International G&S Festival in Harrogate in August 2018, joining many National and International professional and amateur societies.

Always friendly and welcoming **Winchester Musicals & Opera Society** has been entertaining Hampshire audiences since 1913. **Why not get involved?** Become an acting/performing member; part of the set construction, technical, front of house team; or a WMOS Friend or Sponsor.

Our website is a valuable source of archive material with details of all our shows over the past 105 years. We must say a huge thank you to Simon & Peter Meanwell-Ralph for their hours of work uploading photos, programmes and production material. Visit www.wmos.org.uk

Supporting us, together with the other societies in the area (see our programme adverts) helps maintain a vibrant and local live theatre tradition. Our next production is "Singin' in the Rain" here at the lovely Theatre Royal - 6-10th November 2018.

But before all that autumnal rain allow the sunshine of this tropical (and topical!) island to wash over you instead!

Iain Steel

President

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Director - David Tatnall

Musical Director and Arrangements - Peter Theobald

Vocal Repetiteur - Katie Hickson

Stage Manager - Angie Barks

Production Manager - Amy Leddy

**Costumes - Jo Barker with Claire Smith, Jo Everleigh,
Anne Croudass**

Set Design - Liz Petley-Jones

**Set Construction - David Freemantle, Liz Petley-Jones,
Brian Hurst, Peter Theobald, Hamish McDonald**

Props - Amy Leddy

Lighting - Tony Lawther

Crew - Mark Smith, Brittany Pepper

Hats by Marvellous Millinery, Simon Meanwell-Ralph

Poster and Programme Design - Suzanne Hall

Photos - Peter Sillick

Marketing - Katie Hickson

**Revised Lyrics - Adrian Hickford, Anne Croudass,
Nichola Paterson**

The Band

Violin: Emma Watson

Flute: Barry McGonagle-Daly

Clarinet: Anne Croudass

Accordion, saxophones, steel guitar : Bernard Sully

Keyboard: Lucinda Pillow

Bass: Perri Seymour

Percussion: Paul Lovegrove, Martin Paterson

Music Secretary—Anne Croudass

What is the Story.....?

On the fictional South Pacific island of Utopia, the monarch, King Paramount, has sent his eldest daughter, Princess Zara, to Girton College in England. He hopes that her training there will contribute to his plan to civilise his people. The Public Exploder, Tarara, disturbs the languor of the Utopian maidens to remind them of **her duty to blow up the King** if the two "Wise Men", Scaphio and Phantis, order him to do so. The Wise Men appear, heralded by the chorus and note that their **duty is to spy upon the King to prevent "rascality"**. Phantis proclaims his love for the Princess Zara, and Scaphio promises to help him win her .

The king arrives and presents his two younger daughters, Nekaya and Kalyba, as **models of English-style deportment**. Their English governess, Lady Sophy, explains how young ladies should behave when approached by amorous gentlemen. The king joins the two Wise Men, commenting that life is a farce. The king is quite upset about the Wise Men's power over him: he is unable to marry the Lady Sophy because of self-mocking articles that Scaphio and Phantis have forced him to write and publish in the newspaper under a pseudonym. He hopes that neither Sophy nor Zara will see the pieces, although he feels they are witty and well-written. Lady Sophy discovers the articles to her horror.

Princess Zara now returns to Utopia with **six members of the British Royal Family** in tow. She has become romantically involved with one of them, Prince Harry. Scaphio and Phantis, seeing her, are **both smitten with love for the princess** and argue jealously, finally agreeing to duel one another for her hand. Prince Harry comes up with a clever way to stall the Wise Men, by saying that, in England, two rivals must entrust the lady at the centre of a controversy to a member of the Royal Family "as stakeholder" until the argument is resolved. Thus, he and Zara can remain together.



Soon, the Utopians assemble, and Zara introduces the Royal Family one by one. The Utopian people are duly impressed, and they listen as each of the Royal Family gives a piece of advice about how to improve the country. Prince Charles explains, at some length, the British limited liability companies law. The **King decides to transform his entire country into a limited liability corporation** – an innovation that even England herself has not yet accepted. Everyone but Scaphio, Phantis and Tarara is enthusiastic.

There's more.....ACT 2

Prince Harry is concerned that the fervour of his love has affected his singing voice. He and Zara share a tender scene. Utopia has transformed itself into a "more perfect" **replica of Britain** – it has built an army, a navy, and courts, purified its literature and drama, and wholeheartedly adopted Prince Charles's proposal, so that every person now is a limited liability entity.

The king and the Royals exult in their success and the people, pleased with English fashions and customs, sing of the country's newfound glory . Scaphio and Phantis are furious because the **change poses a threat to their power** . They demand that the King revoke the changes, and when he refuses, they remind him of their power over his life. But the King points out that they cannot blow up a limited company. Scaphio and Phantis plot with Tarara on how to reverse the course of events and retire.

The younger princesses, Nekaya and Kalyba, meet with Prince Charles and Camilla, who explain that English girls are not so demure and are instead **hearty and fun-loving**. The princesses are pleased at the prospect of abandoning some of the "musty, fusty rules" that they have been living under. Meanwhile, Lady Sophy bemoans the King's flaw that prevents her loving him. The King, his dignity rediscovered, approaches Lady Sophy and tells her the truth about the articles written about him, and she now **happily agrees to marry him**.

Scaphio and Phantis, however, have succeeded in convincing the people of Utopia that the **changes are for the worse**. For example, there has been an end to war, making the army and navy useless; sanitation is so good that the doctors are unemployed; and so perfect are the laws that crime has all but ended, emptying the courts and leaving lawyers jobless. The people demand that the **changes be revoked**. The King asks his daughter for a solution, and, after a little prodding from Prince William, she realizes that she has forgotten "the most essential element" of British civilisation: Government by Party! Under the two-party system, each party will so confound the efforts of the other that no progress will be made, leading to the happy result that everyone seeks. The crowd is overjoyed, Scaphio and Phantis are thrown in prison, and the curtain falls as the people sing their praises of "a little group of isles beyond the wave" – Great Britain.



The Utopians



King Paramount
Peter Barber



Princess Zara
Lisa Axworthy

Peter is a retired commercial solicitor. He has played many principal roles for WMOS including *Bottom*, *Teveye*, and *Judge Turpin* in 'Sweeney Todd'. Peter enjoys trying to master strange accents for the stage and trying not to damage body parts whilst skiing.

Desert Island Luxury: A three manual/full pedalboard 44 stop electronic organ

Lisa is a singing teacher for Winchester Theatre Arts and with her husband founded 'Offbeat Limited', a vegan restaurant. She appeared in WMOS's 'Sweeney Todd'. Lisa has taken many lead roles for Pocket Theatre including *Iolanthe*, *Mabel*, and *Angelina*

Desert Island Luxury: Tofu! (and chocolate)



Phantis
Wesley Buckeridge

Wesley works as a Projects Liaison. This is his third show for WMOS having been in 'Sweeney Todd' and memorably as *Mike* in 'White Christmas'. Wesley enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons.

Desert Island Luxury: Pina Colada whilst dancing in the rain, That or a boat.

Mark works by day in the Shirley Sainsbugs! He appears regularly with Pocket Theatre and is delighted to be working with WMOS for the first (and hopefully not the last!) time.

Desert Island Luxury: Mary Schneider Yodels the Classics CD



Scaphio
Mark Ponsford

Princess Nekaya
Lucy Whiteman

Lucy is a primary school teacher. She has taken many principal roles for WMOS notably *Helena* in a 'Midsummer Nights Dream' and *Barbara* in 'Billy'. Lucy is waiting for knee surgery, she will then resume normal schedule of Eat, sleep, gym, sing, repeat.

Desert Island Luxury: A frothy vanilla latte and a sweet potato or two.



Lyndsay is a veterinary animal care assistant. She play one of the leads in our last show 'White Christmas', and has also appeared in 'The Merry Widow', 'Anything Goes' and '42nd Street'. Lyndsay enjoys playing football and running.

Desert Island Luxury: Harry Potter book series, chocolate brownies.



Liz Petley Jones—Calynx

Liz joined WMOS in 1975 and has acted, directed, set designed and most other things that make a show run smoothly. She enjoys painting and photography.

Desert Island Luxury: A camera and computer to store and edit photos

Suzanne Hall—Tarara, The Public Exploder

Suzanne is a freelance drama practitioner. She directed 'Oh What a Lovely War', 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and will direct our next production 'Singin' in the Rain'. Suzanne enjoys swimming in the sea and eating cake.

Desert Island Luxury: Inflatable tent and pump.



The Visitors



Prince Harry
Simon Meanwell-Ralph

Simon is a Millinery Designer He has taken many comedy roles for WMOS in 'Billy', 'Oh What a Lovely War', 'Calamity Jane' and 'Sweeney Todd'. Simon took great pleasure in re-designing the WMOS website to include the archives from 1913.

Desert Island Luxury: A wig stand.



Lady Sophy
Katie Hickson

Katie is a singing teacher. She has taken many principal roles including *Mrs Lovett* in 'Sweeney Todd', *Tracey Lord* in 'High Society' and *Titania* in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' She was the Musical Director of 'White Christmas'. Katie enjoys baking.

Desert Island Luxury: A piano



Adrian is a university researcher. He has appeared in the last 25 WMOS shows notably as *Sweeney Todd*, *Darryl Van Horn* in 'The Witches of Eastwick' and *Phil Davis* in 'White Christmas'. In his spare time he loves being in the kitchen

Desert Island Luxury: A bridge to the mainland.

Lorraine is an obsessive golfer, lover of Irish Terriers and a keen walker. She has appeared in many WMOS shows including 'La Vie Parisienne', 'Oklahoma', 'Gondoliers', 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and 'White Christmas'.

Desert Island Luxury: A set of golf clubs and limitless balls.



Prince Charles
Adrian Hickford

James is an Entrepreneur. This is his 2nd show for WMOS having played *Anthony* in 'Sweeney Todd'. He performs with Pocket Theatre and has been involved in 'Ruddigore', 'The Magic Flute', 'Princess Ida' and 'The Mikado'

Desert Island Luxury: A piano.



Prince William
James Rosser



Princess Kate
Kimberley James

Kimberley works as a museum marketing manager. She played *Hippolyta* in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and *Katy Brown* in 'Calamity Jane'. For some unknown reason, Kimberley attracts ladybirds.

Desert Island Luxury: A very big book



Prince Andrew—**Alan Morgan**

Alan is a chartered accountant but more importantly a rugby-mad Welshman. He has appeared in many WMOS shows notably as *Snug* in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and *Zeke* in 'White Christmas'. He is also a member of Pocket Theatre

Desert Island Luxury: A computer to watch rugby and prepare spreadsheets.



King Paramount - *Peter Barber*
Scaphio - *Mark Ponsford*
Phantis - *Wesley Buckeridge*
Tarara - *Suzanne Hall*
Calynx - *Liz Petley-Jones*
Prince Harry - *Simon Meanwell-Ralph*
Prince Charles - *Adrian Hickford*
Camilla - *Lorraine Morgan*
Prince William - *James Rosser*
Princess Catherine - *Kimberley James*
Prince Andrew - *Alan Morgan*
Princess Zara - *Lisa Axworthy*
Princess Nekaya - *Lucy Whiteman*
Princess Kalyba - *Lyndsay Smith*
Lady Sophy - *Katie Hickson*
Phylla - *Charlotte Upfold*
Melene—*Louise Hodson*
Salata—*Alexandra Grieve*

Utopian Ladies:

**Jan Baerselman, Penny Bullough, Zoe Croune,
Alexandra Grieve, Louise Hodson, Kimberley
James, Amy Leddy, Lorraine Morgan,
Denise Truscott, Charlotte Upfold**

First Life Guards:

**John Burgess, Stephen Gleed,
Adrian Hickford, Alan Morgan,
James Rosser, Charles Quinn**

David Tatnall—Director

David is a Primary School Teacher. For WMOS he has directed 'Patience', 'Sweeney Todd' and 'Gondoliers'. He has appeared in 'Kiss Me Kate' and 'Merrie England'. David is the Producer of Pocket Theatre and he completes the challenge of producing all the G and S Operettas in two weeks time when Pocket Theatre perform 'Yeomen of the Guard' and 'The Mikado'



Desert Island Luxury: Simpsons box set

Peter Theobald—Musical Director

Peter is a retired primary school teacher. He arranged the music for 'Oh What a Lovely War' in 2014 then went on to write all the music for our 2016 production of 'A Midsummer Nights Dream'. Peter also works closely with West Meon Theatre, writing and arranging for 'Cider with Rosie', 'Dark Earth Light Sky' and various Shakespeare productions. He enjoys baking for our over-hungry cast.



Desert Island Luxury: Computer with Sibelius

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in Utopia, or Hampshire, or wherever!"***

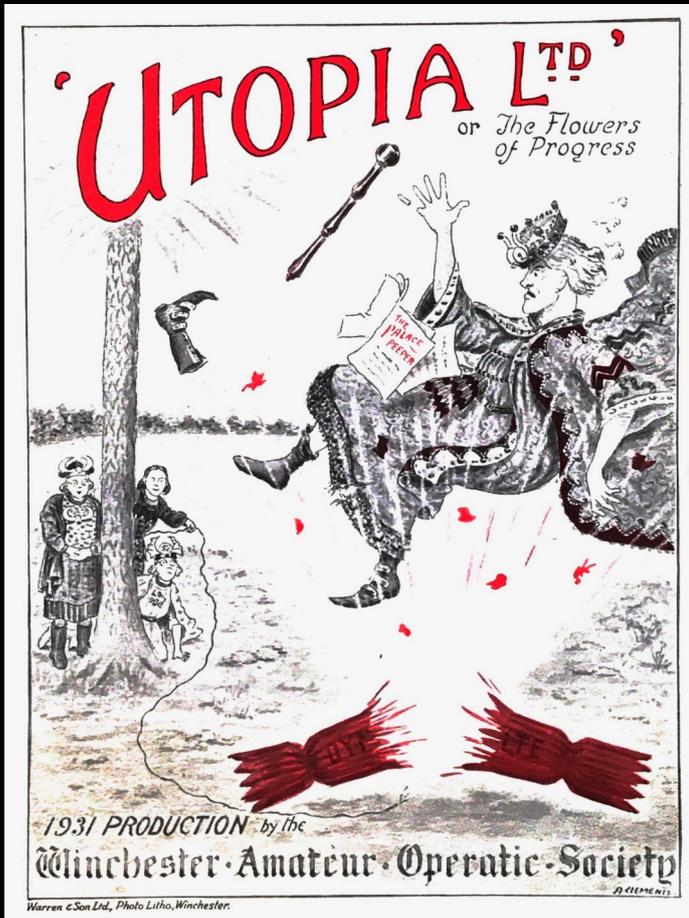
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Photograph by Helen Rushton



Full WMOS archive available at www.wmos.org.uk



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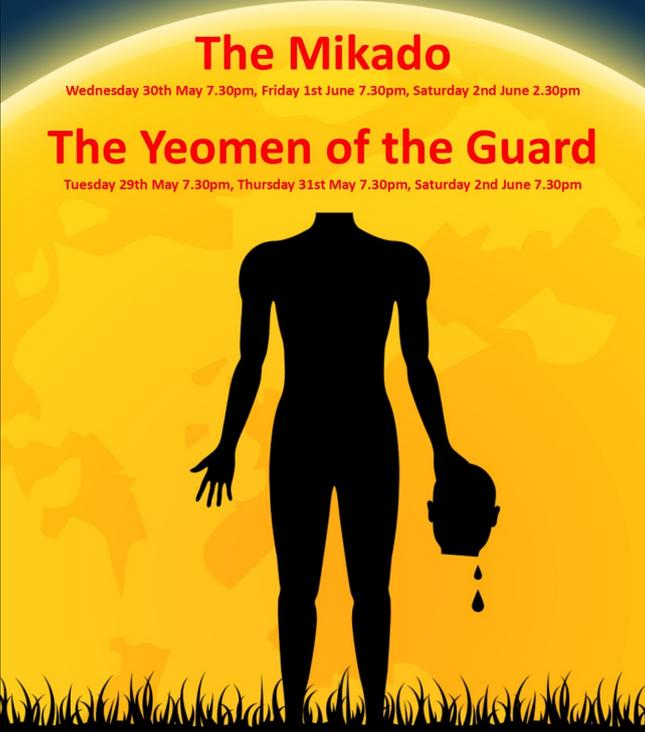
Tickets and more information:

www.gsfestivals.org

Pocket Theatre presents a Gilbert and Sullivan Double Bill

The Mikado
Wednesday 30th May 7.30pm, Friday 1st June 7.30pm, Saturday 2nd June 2.30pm

The Yeomen of the Guard
Tuesday 29th May 7.30pm, Thursday 31st May 7.30pm, Saturday 2nd June 7.30pm



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Title suggested by Ted Allan. This amateur production of "Oh What a Lovely War"
is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, LTD. Southampton
Operatic Society is registered charity no. 257305.

Executive Committee 2017 Chair—Suzanne Hall, Vice Chair—Katie Hickson, Treasurer—Adrian Hickford, Secretary—Heather Reid, Simon Meanwell-Ralph, Kimberley James, Sally Male, Amy Leddy, Peter Theobald, Wesley Buckeridge.

Council of Management President—Iain Steel, Secretary—Martin Larcombe, Brian Hurst, Anne Croudass, Adrian Hickford, Suzanne Hall

Honorary Vice-Presidents and Life Members Derek Beck, Geoffrey & Jo Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Suzanne Hall, Brian Hurst, Bob & Pam Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, Richard Steel, Christine Walters, David Weait.

Friends of WMOS—Janet Bird, Richard Chisnell, Muriel Fisher, Nathalie Gordon, Austin Hooker, Irene Johnston, Ann Lake, Sue Larcombe, John Murray, Brenda Pomeroy, Lady Jane Portal, Tony Reid, Joyce Sadd, Carole Steel, Tim Stevens, Paul Tipple, Vernon Tottle, David Weait, Margaret Williams and Angela Winteridge.

Calling All Budding Performers!

We are looking for new members (particularly men!), to be involved in our Autumn production of



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Theatre Royal Winchester

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For more information or to register your interest, please contact Simon at rain@wmos.org.uk or visit our website

www.wmos.org.uk

