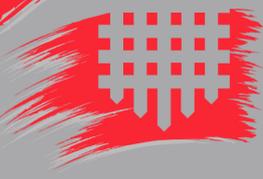


Winchester Musicals and Opera Society
Present Gilbert and Sullivan's

The **P**irates of
Penzance



An Open-air production in the gardens of Wolvesey Palace



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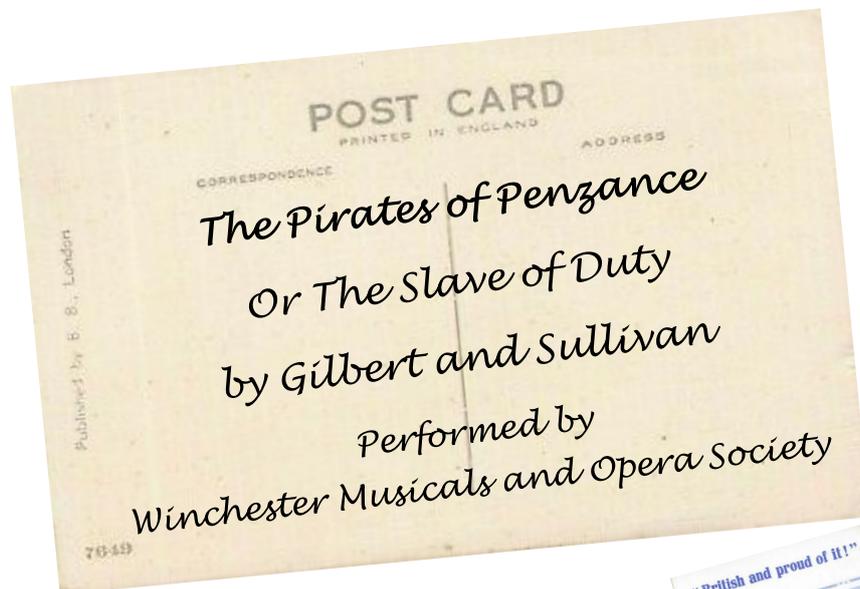
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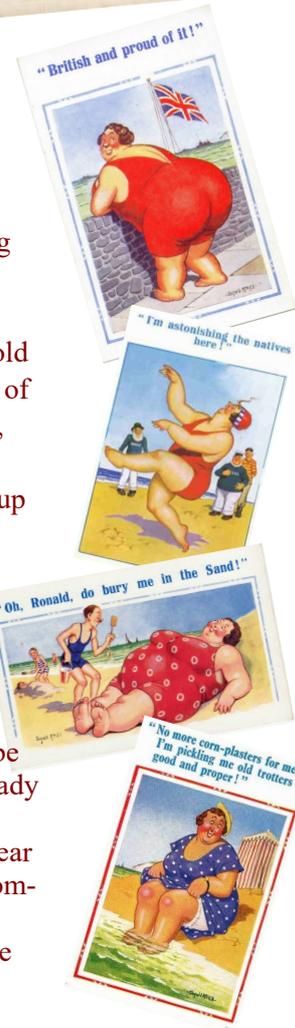
A Short Synopsis

Act 1 – A Rocky Cove 1957 ish

It's Frederic's birthday and now that he is 21 he can leave the pirates band. He detests piracy and is dedicated to wiping out his former comrades. He was not meant to be a Pirate, it was through an error. An unfortunate mistake made by his nurse Ruth, who now claims to be a very attractive 47 year old and a perfect mate for Frederic. When Frederic sees a group of lovely young women he realises that Ruth has deceived him, and quickly falls in love with Mabel, the daughter of Major General Stanley. The Pirates spy Frederic with the large group of girls and ambush them, only stopping when their father appears. To escape the Pirates clutches the Major declares himself an orphan as he knows that these dimwitted Pirates never attack orphans.

Act 2 – The Ruins of Tremordon Castle

The Major General is anxious that his lie to the pirates will be discovered so is delighted that Frederic has a police force ready to fight them. Before he can do so, the Pirate King and Ruth come to him to tell him that he was actually born in a leap year and on a technicality, is still a pirate. Frederic is therefore committed to do his duty and joins them to fight against Major General Stanley. Luckily, we discover that Pirates all do love their Queen and a happy ending ensues.



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WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A huge and rollicking 1950s (yet still very Cornish) welcome to this open air performance of Pirates – a first for WMOS – and like you I am sure, have missed live theatre so much over the past 17 months.

With clever use of technology and social distancing the cast have worked creatively since April, under the excellent and enthusiastic direction of Suzanne Hall to rehearse the show – although we do admit learning by Zoom can be a challenge!

This show would not be possible without an array of brilliant people ... our sponsors Portcullis Hampshire, Winchester's local building company (from concept to completion), The Bishop of Winchester for the use of this wonderful garden setting, our in house set design & build team (always looking for willing, creative and handy people to join) and David Small and all the team at The Chesil Theatre for letting us share their equipment and vision.

Sit back, hum along, enjoy your picnics (but not too loudly!) and maybe see how many 1950s songs you can recognise cleverly woven into this classic Gilbert & Sullivan operetta by our hugely talented team of Katie Hickson, Martin Patterson and our band.

Thank you so much for your support and please enjoy the show and we look forward to seeing you in back in the Theatre Royal Winchester in November for A Chorus of Disapproval.

Iain Steel

WMOS President

(and third Pirate from the left in the chorus)



WMOS First Production

and History Repeats itself...

On Saturday May 24th 1913 the Hampshire Chronicle devoted a whole page to the newly formed Winchester Amateur Operatic Society and their very first production.



**PIRATES OF PENZANCE AT
WINCHESTER.
AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY'S FIRST
VENTURE.**

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

One of the most inspiring sights in the world is the launching of a ship. It is an event which is always fraught with great anxiety. In all its pride and beauty, with flags and pennons gaily fluttering, the good ship stands in dock, a monument of labour, of great forethought, of patient skill, of mathematical science, ready to take the water. Will she prove a success? Will she ride the water safely and do all that is expected of her? Then comes the supreme moment, the ribands are cut, and away she slides on the bosom of the water, and with Longfellow those who have been concerned with her fate may well exclaim—

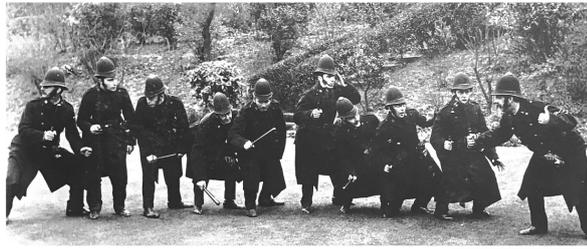
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,—
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee!

In May 1913 Winchester Amateur Operatic Society made it's maiden voyage performing *The Pirates of Penzance* to packed audiences in Winchester's Guildhall.



The Chronicle wrote:

'It was decided to select 'The Pirates of Penzance'...with which to celebrate the launching of the ship and although time was short and the difficulties ahead were great it was the magic word **'enthusiasm'** which carried the society through.'



'Everyone who was selected as acting and singing members had to pass a voice test, and merit and ability were the determining factors in the decision as to the principals. Those who witnessed the performances must have readily noted the fact. To use a theatrical term, there were no 'duds' such as one often sees in amateur performances...'

A Winchester name still in the city today:

'Ever popular Mr Whitwam made the famous Policeman's song 'When a felon's not engaged in his employment' exceedingly droll, and he had the distinction of scoring a treble encore. He sang the last verse as a coster would sing it, then as it would be sung by a 'nut' and then as it might be sung by a circumspect parson. No wonder emblems such as a bouquet of evergreens, another of vegetables with showers of onions, and cookie's little pie were showered upon him'

Praise for the chorus:

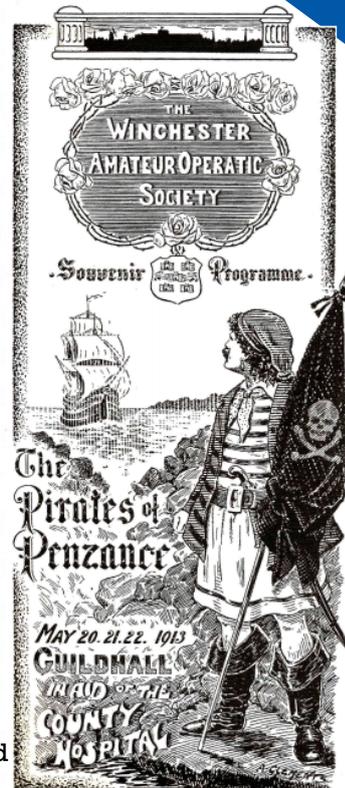
'Of the chorus we have nothing but praise. We could have wished there had been more pirates in the second act for they not only looked sparse in numbers but at times there singing was weak.'



'Otherwise both they and the police...did excellently. The ladies proved a great success, and their chorus dance in the first act was so much appreciated that it was rapturously encored. And they all looked charming...**The Society has added a new interest to Winchester social life and we wish it continued and increasing prosperity and success.'**

To access the whole online WMOS archive from 1913 including programmes, posters, photographs and reviews, please visit

www.wmos.org.uk/full-list-past-shows





I started work on this show two years ago and was imagining a fairly traditional version of *The Pirates of Penzance* set in Victorian England. As the pandemic hit, all plans were put on hold and this gave me time to reassess the story that I wanted to tell. We needed something uplifting, with an optimism that things were going to get better. This made me look at the period after WWII when rationing was at last ending, and a new exciting Britain was emerging. There was a surge in popular culture with the arrival of Rock and Roll and mass produced fashion.

As we listened to the music from 1955 -1958, Katie (the Musical Director) and I were struck with how similar the rhythms and melodies were to Arthur Sullivan's original score, and when played along side each other, were a perfect fit. Katie has cleverly woven some of these into the score whilst not compromising Sullivan's musical masterpiece.

If you want to be surprised by songs that pop up, stop reading now, but if you want to know what they are and who originally sung them....

Hound Dog—Elvis Presley 1956

Fever—Peggy Lee 1958

Love Me Tender—Elvis Presley 1956

Que Sera Sera—Doris Day 1956

The Great Pretender—The Platters 1955

On The Beach—Cliff Richard 1963

We know that this is slightly later but is such a wonderfully joyous song!

Rehearsing this show has not been easy at times with self isolation, masks and social distancing, but we are extremely proud of what we have achieved.

I know that you will enjoy the show and join with us in celebrating the return of live theatre.

Suzanne Hall
Director and Chairman of WMOS



Cast

Major General Stanley - *David Tatnall*
The Pirate King - *Rob Preston*
Samuel - *Daniel Williams*
Frederic - *Dan Hickson*
Sergeant of Police - *Alan Morgan*
Mabel - *Annie Tatnall*
Ruth - *Katie Hickson*
Edith - *Kimberley James*
Kate - *Jess Eades*

Pirates

*Peter Barber, Alex Frisby, Harry Frisby,
Steve Glead, Adrian Hickford,
Simon Meanwell-Ralph, Iain Steel*

Daughters

*Funke Akiboye, Lisa Axworthy, Emma Colbourne,
Shannon Cronin Amy Leddy, Lyndsay Smith,
Charlotte Upfold, Izzy Wylde*

WI Police Force

*Jan Baerselman, Penny Bullough, Debbie Cleary,
Marina Humphrey, Alex Lawrence, Sally Male,
Lorraine Morgan, Juliet Surrige, Denise Truscott*

Band

Conductor/Keyboard: Martin Paterson
Reeds: David Anderson, Paul Stiles,
Anne Croudass
Bass: Adrian Osman
Percussion: Paul Lovegrove



Mabel—Annie Tatnall

Annie is a singing teacher and has played Mabel three times before! For WMOS she has played Adelaide Adams in *Calamity Jane*, Beggar Women in *Sweeney Todd* and Mrs Beaconsfield in *Jekyll and Hyde*. She also performs with Pocket Theatre. Annie enjoys singing, baking, running and being a mum to Polly and Elsie.

Favourite Picnic item: The fruit in a Pimms



Ruth—Katie Hickson

Katie is a singing teacher and has taken many principal roles for WMOS. Favourites include Tracey Lord in *High Society*, Mrs Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Barbara Castle in *Made in Dagenham*, Lina Lamont in *Singin' in the Rain*. She enjoys performing with Pocket Theatre. In her spare time she likes to bake, walk and garden.

Favourite Picnic item: Sausage Roll



Edith—Kimberley James

Kim is the collections and marketing manager at Gilbert White's House. Principal roles for WMOS include Katie Brown in *Calamity Jane*, Lisa Hopkins in *Made in Dagenham* and Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She enjoys boring people with history facts and lately embroidery.

Favourite Picnic item: Cake (always cake)



Kate—Jess Eades

Jess works as an Environmental Strategy Project Officer at HCC. She was a dancer in *Made in Dagenham* then took on the role of choreographer for the critically acclaimed *Jekyll and Hyde* in 2019. She trained at the Sally Johnson Academy of Dance. Jess enjoys going to the gym and walking Stanley the Schnoodle.

Favourite Picnic item: Strawberries





The Pirate King—Rob Preston

Rob works in hospitality and joined WMOS to play the lead in *Made in Dagenham*, his first time on stage. He now takes on the iconic Pirate King and loves the WMOS vibe. Rob likes to play golf and get to the gym once a year. This show has been workout enough!

Favourite Picnic item: Can of Stella and a scotch egg

Frederic—Dan Hickson

Dan works in insurance and is an avid Saints fan. He has played many principal roles for WMOS including Don Jose in *Carmen*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Dexter in *High Society* and Bob Wallace in *White Christmas*. Dan also performs with Pocket Theatre.

Favourite Picnic item: Pork pie with salad cream



Major General Stanley—David Tatnall

David is a junior school teacher and a lover of cricket, Shakespeare, Pantomime and Music Hall. For WMOS he has directed *The Gondoliers*, *Patience*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Utopia Ltd* which was performed at the International G & S Festival. David has performed most Baritone roles in G&S with his company Pocket Theatre,

Favourite Picnic item: Cheese and jam sandwiches

Samuel—Daniel Williams

Daniel is a final year Chemistry Masters Student at Southampton Uni. This is his WMOS debut but he has performed many G&S principal roles with LOpSoc (University of Southampton Light Opera Society). He enjoys National Trust properties and museums.

Favourite Picnic item: Fruit Scones (jam first!)



Sergeant of Police—Alan Morgan

Alan is a retired accountant and a proud Welshman. For WMOS he specialises in the comedy character roles: Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Zeke in *White Christmas*, Harold Wilson in *Made in Dagenham* and the infamous policeman in the *Singin' in the Rain* rain sequence. He is passionate about Rugby.

Favourite Picnic item: Cornish pasties with leeks (obviously)

Director/choreographer- Suzanne Hall

Musical Director - Katie Hickson

Stage Manager—Angie Barks

Production Manager—Katie Hickson

Lighting and Sound Design—Tony Lawther

Costumes—Costume Workshop

Props—Amy Leddy

Set Design—Liz Petley-Jones

Set Construction—David Freemantle, Hamish McDonald

Liz Petley-Jones, Peter Theobald, Ian White

Orchestra Secretary—Anne Croudass

Rehearsal Pianist—Martin Paterson

Publicity—Kimberley James

Programme and poster design —Suzanne Hall

Photos—Peter Sillick

Front of House—Jan Baerseleman

Policewomen Dance Captain—Juliet Surridge

Daughters Dance Captain—Jess Eades

Orchestrations: Martin Paterson

www.pattersong.co.uk

Arrangement of A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy
One : Vincent Lindsey-Clark. Additional Lyrics
for the Major General song: Nichola Paterson,
Iain Steel, David Tatnall

Thanks to... Corhampton

Lane Farm and The Morgans for
rehearsal space, David Small and
all his team at Chesil Theatre, Nick
Kilroy at the Bishop's Garden,
Barbershop Botanicals for loan of
bicycle, all friends and family of
WMOS who have helped with
front of house duties.



Suzanne Hall—Director

Suzanne is currently Chairman of the Society and has directed, choreographed and performed with WMOS over the last 18 years. Directed : *Singin in the Rain*, *Billy*, *Oh What A Lovely War*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Pajama Game*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Performances: Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Erma in *Anything Goes* and Liz in *High Society*. Suzanne works as a drama teacher in two schools . She also performs and directs with West Meon Theatre. Suzanne loves being a farmer's wife, baking and spending time in Devon.

Favourite picnic item: Homemade cheese and onion quiche

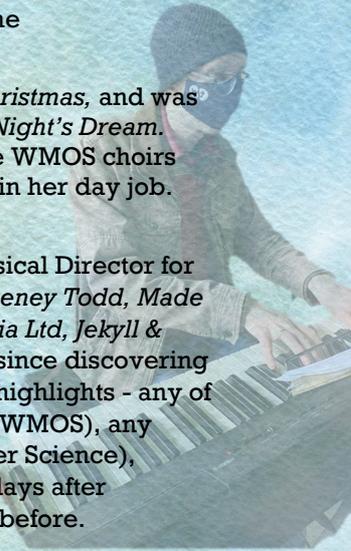
Katie Hickson—Musical Director

Katie took the role of Musical director for WMOS's *White Christmas*, and was assistant musical director for *Utopia Ltd*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She was vocal repetiteur for *Singin' in the Rain* and leads the WMOS choirs when singing at events in the city. She leads several choirs in her day job.

Martin Paterson—Arrangements and Band Leader

Martin is a software developer. For WMOS he has been Musical Director for *The Sorcerer*, *42nd Street*, *Billy*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Made in Dagenham* and *The Sound Of Musicals*. WMOS Band: *Utopia Ltd*, *Jekyll & Hyde*. This is Martin's 9th 'Pirates' and his 149th production since discovering musical theatre at university nearly 30 years ago. Previous highlights - any of the four *Sweeney Todd* productions (SOS, RAODS, Pocket & WMOS), any Pocket Panto, graduating (in 1995, in Electronics & Computer Science), being on stage at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton a few days after painting it black after being in a production there the week before.

Favourite picnic item: Merlot



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Amy Leddy
Jan Baerselman
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Suzanne Hall
Brian Hurst
Bob & Pam Jones
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Christine Walters
David Weait
Liz Petley-Jones

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President: Iain Steel
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Liz Petley-Jones
Anne Croudass
Alan Morgan
Suzanne Hall

Pandemic rehearsing:
coat, mask, camping chair



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Alan Ayckbourn's classic

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL

Wednesday 10th - Saturday 13th November 2021

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Alan Ayckbourn's

A
CHORUS
of **Disapproval**

10th - 13th November 2021

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Information Evening

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Wednesday 4th August - Audition Evening

For more information please contact disapproval@wmos.org.uk