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◆ RAMSGATE AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY ◆ **HMS PINAFORE**

or
THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

by W. S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan



GRANVILLE THEATRE, RAMSGATE

Wednesday, 4th November, to
Saturday, 7th November, 1987



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by W. S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan

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HMS PINAFORE

or
THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

by W. S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan

May 28th 1878, the launching of HMS Pinafore created a sensation. W. H. Smith, the publisher who had recently been appointed First Lord of the Admiralty by the Prime Minister, Disraeli, was quite blatantly ridiculed and satirised. Within three days in the USA the show was a great success — hundreds were turned away from the box office and in three weeks, five New York theatres were staging the opera simultaneously.

Act I opens with a lively chorus on the quarter deck. Little Buttercup (Mrs Cripps) the 'bumboat' woman appears selling her wares and although she seems 'round and rosy', she does hide 'a dark secret'. Dick Deadeye comes forward, ugly, deformed, and exactly the opposite of Ralph Rackstraw — 'the smartest lad in all the fleet'. Ralph harbours a secret, his hopeless love for Josephine the Captains daughter. Captain Corcoran enters, but in spite of being 'loved' by all his crew, he is sad because his daughter is reluctant to marry Sir Joseph Porter KCB, First Lord of the Admiralty. She swears that she will never disclose her love for a common sailor ("so ignobly born"). Sir Joseph comes aboard, accompanied as always by admiring Sisters, Cousins and Aunts. He sings of his rise from Office Boy to his present exalted position and tells Captain Corcoran to be polite to his crew, since 'a British Sailor is any man's equal'. Whilst he and the Captain withdraw to discuss their plans for Josephine, Ralph declares his love to Josephine who rejects him. But as Ralph threatens suicide, she cannot restrain her true feelings and an elopement is planned.

Act II Night has fallen — Captain Corcoran sings sadly of his daughters reluctance to marry Sir Joseph. Buttercup sympathises, the Captain is grateful but maintains that any relationship between them is impossible because of the discrepancy in their stations in life. Yet Buttercup claims a secret knowledge which would change the situation. Sir Joseph complains of Josephine's attitude, and the Captain suggests that she is dazzled by his rank. Sir Joseph assures her that "Love levels all ranks". She immediately seizes on the statement and decides to marry Ralph secretly. Deadeye however reveals their plans to the Captain who intercepts them but is dismissed by Sir Joseph for 'swearing'. Ralph is taken to the dungeons but when Buttercup reveals her secret all is resolved.

The opera is brought to a happy ending by the wit and humour of Gilbert's libretto coupled with the inventive and melodic genius of Sullivan's score. The curtain, we hope, will fall on a smiling company and a smiling audience.

The Society acknowledges with thanks the assistance of The Ramsgate Sea Cadet Corps C/O Townsend.

HMS PINAFORE

OR
THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

by W. S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan

Cast

The Rt.Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, KCB (First Lord of the Admiralty) **John Dixon**
 Captain Corcoran (Commanding Officer HMS Pinafore) **John McCrae**
 Ralph Rackstraw (Able Seaman) **David Vannerley**
 Dick Deadeye (Able Seaman) **Bill Bennett**
 Bill Bobstay (Boatswains Mate) **Doug Wells**
 Bob Becket (Carpenters Mate) **Jim Connell**
 Josephine (The Captain's daughter) **Jill Baxter**
 Hebe (Sir Josephs first cousin) **Samantha Gambrill**
 Little Buttercup (Mrs Cripps) (A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman) **Sylvia Blogg**
 Marine Drummer Boy **Simon Walker**

Crew of HMS Pinafore:

Bob Aird, Richard Bowden, Dennis Howdle, Mike Corden, Tony Gummer, Dudley Gore, Ron James, Harry Winsdale, Toby Ells, Cedric Winterton.

Sister, Cousins and Aunts:

Gwen Fuller, Delia Butterworth, Eve Frampton, Betty Dale, Aldwyth Humphries, Margaret Wisdom, Sally Bowden, Betty Wells, Mary Patten, Patricia Parkins, Pauline Booker, Margaret Bowden, Beverly Smith, Margaret Woods, Ann Jones, Heather Sawney.

Dancers:

Victoria Beugg, Alex Beugg, Karen Diplock, Jenny Dexter, Karen Burridge, Caroline Arnold.

Orchestra:

Lead Violin Louise Leask	Bass R.Kennedy	Trumpet A. Vardy
1st Violin C. Herbert	Flute E. Ward	Trombone M. Andrew
2nd Violin A. L. Upton	Oboe K. Sharpe	Electric Piano R. Scarth
Cello Nancy White	Clarinet Mary McLeod	Percussion R. Spoore
	Clarinet A. Cunningham	Piano Mollie Tearle



Duncan McCrae — Director



Violet Graham — Musical Director



Jill Bell — Choreographer

Musical Synopsis

Scene — The Quarter Deck of HMS Pinafore, anchored off Portsmouth.

Act I — Noon

We sail the ocean blue Chorus
 Hail! men o' war's men Mrs Cripps
 But tell me who's the youth Mrs Cripps and Boatswain
 The nightingale sighed for the moon's bright ray Ralph and Chorus
 A maiden fair to see Ralph
 My gallant crew, Good-morning Captain Corcoran
 Sir, you are sad Mrs Cripps and Captain Corcoran
 Sorry her lot who loves to well Josephine
 Over the bright blue sea Ladies Chorus
 Sir Joseph's barge is seen Sailors
 Now give three cheers Sir Joseph Porter, Cousin Hebe,
 Boatswain and Chorus
 When I was a lad Sir Joseph Porter and Chorus
 For I hold that on the seas Ladies Chorus
 A British tar is a Ralph, Boatswain and Boatswain's Mate
 Refrain, audacious tar Josephine and Ralph
 Can I survive the overbearing Cast

Act II — Night

Oh, is there not one maidens breast Ladies Chorus
 Fair moon, to thee I sing Captain Corcoran
 Things are are seldom what they seem Mrs Cripps and
 Captain Corcoran
 The hours creep on apace Josephine
 Never mind the why and wherefore Josephine, Captain Corcoran and
 Sir Joseph Porter
 Kind Captain, I've important information Captain Corcoran
 and Deadeye
 Carefully on tiptoe stealing Cast
 Farewell my own Cast
 A many years ago Mrs Cripps and Chorus
 Oh joy ! Oh rapture unforeseen Finale

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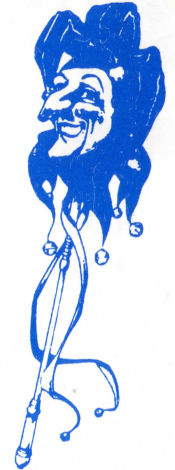
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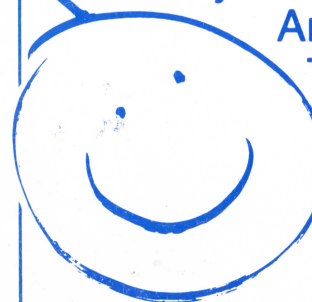
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