



Our First production in the New Millennium
Watch out for explosions! AND Flares! in

"BLITZ"

by Lionel Bart
in this theatre

2nd May to 6th May 2000

(Lionel Bart died in 1999 and we are
promoting one of his musicals
in memory of him)



The Company of Ramsgate Operatic Society

Our Autumn production
in the New Millennium will be

"The Gondoliers"

by Sir W.S. Gilbert and Sir A. Sullivan
in this theatre

31st October to

4th November 2000

PRODUCTION TEAM AND CREDITS

COMPANY STAGE MANAGER.....Mr. Michael Smith
STAGE CREWMr. Keith Bostock
WARDROBEMs. Pam Hayfield,
Mrs Edith Smith and Mr. Robert Drywood
COSTUMES.....Crescendo Costumes
of Reading
MAKE-UP TEAMMrs. Marjorie Corden
Mrs. June Dixon
and Mrs. Eve Hall
SCENERYScenic Design (Wales)
and George Martin
PROPERTIESMrs. Ann Mulcahy and
members of the Company
PROMPTMrs. Jean Tilley
PUBLICITYMrs. Edith Smith
PROGRAMME DESIGNMr. Robert Drywood
and Truprint Ltd
PHOTOGRAPHSMr. Robert Drywood
TICKET SALESMrs. June Dixon
and Mr. Dudley Gore
FRONT OF HOUSE.....Mrs. Jane Gore and
Mrs. Margaret Woods
PROGRAMME PRINTING.....Truprint Ltd
TICKET PRINTINGTheatre Royal, Margate
WIG DRESSING
AND STYLINGMrs. Pauline Booker

SPECIAL THANKS

Father Guss for the use of rehearsal facilities at St. Ethelbert's Church Hall, the local press and radio for the coverage and reporting of our news, George Martin and Mary Patten and others whom we may have forgotten and to you for supporting us tonight.

Please come again in May 2000 to see the Thanet Amateur Premiere of Lionel Bart's "BLITZ".

FOR THE THEATRE

MARGATE THEATRE ROYAL TRUST MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Theatre Director/
LicenseeMichael Wheatley-Ward
Co-Licensee/
Front of House ManagerVeronica Cox
Co-Licensee/
ConsultantMike Vickers
Technical DirectorRichard Thomas
Assistant to the
Technical DirectorJustine Thomas
Office ManagerRon Sheldrake
Box Office.....Yvonne Araffa
MarketingLiz Turner
MaintenanceBrian Wallace
plus our loyal band of volunteers.

RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY

Affiliated to:
The National Operatic and Dramatic Association
Thanet Arts Council
Friends of D'Oyly Carte

Committee

President.....Mr. G. Martin
ChairmanMr. D. Gore
Honorary TreasurerMr. W. Bennett
Honorary SecretaryMr. R. Drywood
Committee MembersMrs. S. Blogg LRAM
Mrs. P. Bowling Mrs. P. Hayfield Mr. M. Kendrick
Mr. J. Relfe Mrs. B. Reid Mrs. E. Smith
Honorary Auditor.....Mr. J. Frampton
Social Committee
ChairmanMrs. B. Reid
Mrs. E. Frampton Mr. D. Pottle Mrs. E. Smith



The National Operatic and Dramatic Association

(Patron: HRH Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother)



The crown over the logo indicates that NODA has reached its 100 yr anniversary(1999). We are active members of it as we know that in times of trouble it will always be there to help us. NODA has been serving amateur theatre since 1899 and is the largest Association of its kind in the world. Amateur theatre is under threat as never before in this commercial world and like all such groups we run a business. Although we don't pay ourselves, we have to pay substantial sums to third parties from whom we hire items such as: the theatre, the orchestra, scenery, costumes, tickets, this programme and so on. In so doing we run commercial risks. NODA provides political, technical, legal, servicing, library and other support at any time of the day or night through its unique local representation, support and national organisation. Our secretary is currently Area Councillor for the SE of England.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome once again to the Theatre Royal for our current productions. This delightful theatre is certainly an ideal venue for Gilbert and Sullivan opera. No doubt some of you will remember our last production of HMS Pinafore here in March 1992.

It has become increasingly difficult for our committee to select suitable shows which will appeal to our company members as well as our audiences which, at the same time, will be relatively inexpensive to produce. Every year or so therefore we tend to go back to our G and S roots and we find that Gilbert's clever and witty libretto and Sullivan's memorable tunes "never, well — hardly ever!", fail to delight and amuse audiences even more than 120 years ago.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my own and the whole society's thanks to our Director, Pam Martin, and Musical Director, Bob Drywood, for their hours of hard work over the last few months. Likewise I would like to thank everyone else who is or has been involved with this production.

THE CAST

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B.
(First Lord of the Admiralty)Mr. Ian Ulrich

Captain Corcoran
(Commanding HMS Pinafore)Mr. Dudley Gore

Ralph Rackstraw
(Able Seaman)Mr. Derry Martin

Dick Deadeye
(Able Seaman)Mr. Michael Kendrick

Bill Bobstay
(Boatswain's Mate)Mr. William Bennett

Bob Beckett
(Carpenter's Mate)Mr. John Relfe

Josephine
(the Captain's Daughter).....Miss Stacey Prentice

Hebe
(Sir Joseph's First Cousin)Mrs. Pamela Hayfield

Mrs. Cripps (Little Buttercup)
(A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman)Mrs. June Redford

Marine DrummerMr. Brian Faulkner

First Lord's Sisters, his Cousins, his Aunts, Sailors and
Marines etc.

Bob Aird, Tim Baker, Jill Baxter, Sylvia Blogg, Pauline
Booker, Patti Bowling, Betty Dale, John Dixon, Pat
Drywood, Brian Faulkner, Joni Goût, Maverick Hayre,
Aldwyth Humphries, Anne Jones, Roger Lee, Jodi Lewis,
Melanie Little, Sarah Miles, Deborah Percy, Don Pottle,
Natalie Prior, Betty Reid, John Relfe, Frances Shaw,

DIRECTOR: Mrs. Pamela Martin

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Mr. Robert Drywood

ORCHESTRA

LeaderIvor Croker
Violins.....Bob Gill, Denise Coe and Christopher Brown
Cello.....Nancy White
Bass.....Harry Cook
FluteChristine Chappell
ClarinetMary Macleod
OboeKeith Sharpe
TrumpetKeith Davies
TromboneOwen James
PercussionBob Spoore
Rehearsal Pianists ..Mary Patten LRAM & George Martin

**Scene: The Quarter Deck of HMS Pinafore
Off Portsmouth**

ACT I — Noon

ACT II — Night

NAME OF COURT

Court of Chancery,
LONDON

CASE NUMBER

COC/75/012348

DETAILS OF PARTIES

Plaintiff: Miss Jodie Lewis

against

Defendant: Mr. Derry Martin



Brief to Counsel:

To attend at 10.00 am on
25th. March 1875 on behalf of the
Plaintiff (Miss Jodie Lewis)

to conduct a

TRIAL BY JURY

of a Breach of Promise of Marriage

Name and Address of Solicitors:

Dolittle and Dally
3, Chancery Lane,
LONDON

THE CAST

The Learned Judge.....Mr. John Dixon
The PlaintiffMiss Jodie Lewis
The Defendant.....Mr. Derry Martin
Counsel for the PlaintiffMr. Ian Ulrich
UsherMr. Roger Lee
Foreman of the Jury.....Mr. John Relfe
First Bridesmaid.....Mrs. Patricia Drywood
BridesmaidsMrs. Jill Baxter
Miss Sarah Miles
Mrs. Frances Shaw

Gentlemen of the Jury and the General Public

Bob Aird, Tim Baker, Bill Bennett, Sylvia Blogg, Pauline Booker, Patti Bowling, Betty Dale, Brian Faulkner, Joni Goût, Maverick Hayre, Pam Hayfield, Aldwyth Humphries, Anne Jones, Michael Kendrick, Melanie Little, Deborah Percy, Don Pottle, Natalie Prior, Betty Reid, John Relfe,

DIRECTOR: Mrs. Pamela Martin

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Mr. Robert Drywood

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PercussionBob Spoore
Rehearsal Pianists.....Mary Patten LRAM
and George Martin

Scene: Court Room at 10.00am

FACTS OF THE CASE

The time is 10 o'clock and the court is preparing for the first case of the day. The court will hear the case of Angelina who is suing Edwin for breach of promise of marriage. The Usher advises the jury of the need for them to give bias-free decisions. Despite this lecture, Edwin has to endure a torrent of abuse from the jury when he enters court. Edwin explains his youthful adoration for Angelina but that he became bored with her and eventually fell in love with someone else. The jury are in no mood to accept this explanation. The Learned Judge arrives to a rapturous welcome. He explains how he became a judge by promising to marry the ugly daughter of a rich Attorney only to throw her over when he reached his position as a judge (Is this really going to be an unbiased trial?).

The Bridesmaids arrive suitably attired for the wedding ceremony and their effect on the jury is electric, not least the Learned Judge, who sends the Usher to give the First Bridesmaid a note of endearment. This he immediately countermands when the lovely Angelina appears. Council for the Plaintiff then presents the case for the prosecution to the cheers of the jury. When Edwin tries to reply he is shouted down by the "unbiased jury". In the confusion he offers to marry Angelina today and the other tomorrow.

The final solution arrives when the Learned Judge, tired of the proceedings, sends the Usher to "Russia" and announces his intention of marrying Angelina himself an idea readily accepted by the lady in question, the jury and the Court in general.

RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY

Honorary Life Members

Mrs.V.Hawes, Mr.D. Howdle, Mrs. O.M.Tearle

Life Vice Presidents

Mrs. V. Armsitead, Miss R.A. Armistead, Mrs. S. Blogg, Mr. J. Bracewell. Mrs. B.M.Butcher, Mr. M. Butler, FRCS & Mrs. M. Butler, Mrs. D. Butterworth, Mrs. I. Cherry, Mr. & Mrs. J. Connell, Mr. P. Dallinson, Mr. & Mrs. J. Dixon, Miss E. C. Dove, Mr. B. Fagg, Mr. J. Frampton, Mrs. G. Fuller, Mr. G. Gransbury, Mrs. L. Groombridge, Mr. & Mrs. G. Hemmings, Mrs. H. Johnstone, Mrs. F. Lockwood, Mrs. M. Milstead, Mrs. M. Patten, Miss N. Seabrook, Mr. D. Wells, Mrs. B. Perry-Wells, Mr. S. Humphries

Vice Presidents

Mrs. A. Archer, Mrs. A. Coustance, Mr. S. R. Collins, Mrs. M. C. Davies, Dr. J. Eddington, Mrs. J. Edwards, Mr. J. P. Edwards, Mrs. M.E.Gore, Mrs. G.M.J. Hughes-d'Aeth, Mrs. A.E. Hodgson, Dr. C.R. Kirkpatrick, Mr. H. Lawrence, Miss M. Lees, Mrs. P. Martin, Mr. G. Martin, Mrs. B.A. May, Mrs. E. D. Platt, Miss J. Roach, Lady E.F. Rugg, Dr. A. Stephen, Dr. H. Sterndale, Mrs. J. M. Tilley, Mr. A. R. Tilley, Mr. H. Winsdale, Mr. D. Woods

If you would like to hear more about becoming a Vice President and enjoying the benefits of being one, please contact our Secretary on 01843 862522 or write to him at 10, Marlborough Close, BROADSTAIRS, Kent CT10 2HF.

Previous productions

1961	The Mikado	1983	Oklahoma!
1962	The Gondoliers		The Pirates of Penzance
1963	The Pirates of Penzance	1984	Guys and Dolls
1964	Iolanthe		Sound of Music
1965	HMS Pinafore	1985	Fiddler on the Roof
	Trial by Jury		Vienna, City of Song
1966	Ruddigore	1986	Carousel
1967	Yeomen of the Guard		Yeomen of the Guard
1968	Princess Ida	1987	Calamity Jane
1969	Merrie England		HMS Pinafore
1970	The Mikado	1988	Chu Chin Chow
1971	The Gondoliers		The Mikado
1972	La Vie Parisienne	1989	The Pajama Game
1973	The Merry Widow		The Sorcerer & Trial by Jury
	Patience	1990	Oh! What a lovely war
1974	Desert Song		Half a Sixpence
	The Pirates of Penzance	1991	The Gondoliers
1975	Die Fledermaus		Brigadoon
	Iolanthe	1992	HMS Pinafore
1976	My Fair Lady		Oklahoma!
	Yeomen of the Guard	1993	The Pirates of Penzance
1977	Song of Norway		A Century of Song
	HMS Pinafore	1994	Showboat
1978	Bless the Bride		The Mikado
	The Sorcerer & Trial by Jury	1995	Kiss Me Kate
1979	Orpheus in the Underworld		The Merry Widow
	The Mikado	1996	Ruddigore
1980	No, No, Nanette		My Fair Lady
	The Gondoliers	1997	White Horse Inn
1981	White Horse Inn		Anything Goes
	Cowardy Custard	1998	Iolanthe
1982	The Mountebanks		Gipsy Baron
	Ruddigore	1999	Annie Get Your Gun

SHIPS' LOG

As sailors interrupt their deck duties to buy wares from a Portsmouth Bumboat woman named Little Buttercup, they are further interrupted by Dick Deadeye — an unattractive sailor for whom no one has any time and Ralph Rackstraw, a handsome sailor obviously known to Buttercup. Ralph explains that he loves the Captain's daughter but the difference in their stations(class) is a problem. Captain Corcoran reveals that he rules by politeness rather than by tough discipline. He tells Buttercup that his daughter Josephine is sought in marriage by Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B, the First Lord of the Admiralty. She is anything but enthusiastic and the captain's fears are realised when Josephine tells him that she is in love with a common sailor. However being a dutiful daughter she accepts her fate. Sir Joseph arrives and describes how he has reached his exalted position. He hands a musical composition to the crew for them to sing. When they depart Ralph and Josephine are left on deck and in spite of her love for him she spurns him. As a result he prepares to shoot himself.

The deck is bathed in moonlight for Act II. Captain Corcoran explains his worries concerning Josephine and is joined on deck by Little Buttercup, who tells of her ability to read destinies. She foretells that the Captain is in for a major change. In the famous trio, Sir Joseph attempts to re-assure Josephine that love can level all ranks. Little does he realise that he has pleaded the case of his rival in love. Ralph and Josephine decide to elope but are overheard by Dick Deadeye who swiftly summons the Captain. Ralph proudly declares that he is an Englishman. At Sir Joseph's orders, Ralph is placed in the cells and, due to his indiscretion with certain words, the Captain is banished to his cabin.

At the climax of the opera, Buttercup reveals that the Captain is really Ralph and vice versa, ex-Captain Corcoran proposes to Buttercup and Sir Joseph turns to Cousin Hebe for solace.

THANET ARTS COUNCIL (TAC)

Thanet Arts Council is funded with a small grant by Thanet District Council. It encourages Arts Groups (Arts being defined in its broadest sense) to be affiliated to it. We are active members of the Council and support as many of its activities as we can. It organises very successful annual photographic and art exhibitions and tries every year to organise an Arts Taster Day. The purpose of the Taster Day is to give local people an opportunity to see and experience some of the local arts activities and to join any such group that takes their fancy.

Occasionally it is able to provide a small grant to groups who have fallen on hard times or who have suffered a loss on their activities.

FRIENDS OF D'OYLY CARTE

This organisation exists to support the work of the D'Oyly Carte Trust. The copyright on the G and S Operas has long since expired and as a consequence, no income goes to the trust from that source. The Friends enable Societies such as ours to hire vocal scores, libretti and band parts from them so that we can use the original versions of the operas both on stage and in the orchestra pit.

COME AND JOIN US

Don't think for one moment that the term "Operatic" in our title indicates elitism. Far from it, we are a sociable crowd and enjoy our rehearsals. We put on a wide variety of musicals as you can see from the list of our previous productions.

We are always looking for people to join us either on stage or helping out with many other activities such as stage helpers, scenic designers, prompt, properties, front of house and so on.

We meet every Thursday at St. Ethelbert's Church Hall, Hereson Road, Ramsgate at 7.30 pm. Why not look us up, you will receive a friendly welcome. Ring our Secretary if you wish, Bob Drywood on 01843 862522.

SOME INTERESTING SNIPPETS ABOUT HMS PINAFORE and TRIAL BY JURY

TRIAL BY JURY

First performance 25th. March 1875
Royal Theatre, London
131 performances

The Lord Chief Justice went to see Trial by Jury only once and decided not to go again in case the people thought that he was encouraging the performance. He feared that the opera would make people ridicule the Bench. It was also the case that the Learned Judge at the time (Fred Sullivan-Yes, Sullivan's brother) was made up to look like the then Lord Chief Justice., Sir Alexander Cockburn. The Daily Telegraph reported "The greatest hit was made by Mr. Fred Sullivan, whose blending of official dignity, condescension and, at the right moment, extravagant humour, made the character of the Judge stand out with all the requisite prominence, and added much to the interest of the piece".

HMS PINAFORE

Sub-titled: The lass who loved a sailor

First Performance 25th. May 1878
Opera Comique, London
571 performances

Sullivan scored the opening , and then, from his sketched notes, the remainder was probably written by Hamilton Clarke or Alfred Cellier.

Although Pinafore ran for 571 initial performances, the summer of 1878 was very hot and it became uncomfortable for audiences to sit through a performance. There were in fact many closures due to the heat. Audiences were encouraged (early Marketing!) by Sullivan playing tunes from HMS Pinafore in Promenade Concerts in Covent Garden.

The comic lead in this opera, Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B. had never been to sea. At that time, the First Lord of the Admiralty in Disraeli's Government was W.H.Smith, MP for Westminster. He was the founder of that famous bookseller. W.H.Smith became dubbed with the name of "Pinafore Smith". The name Pinafore was probably chosen because it rhymed with "one cheer more" from the Finale.