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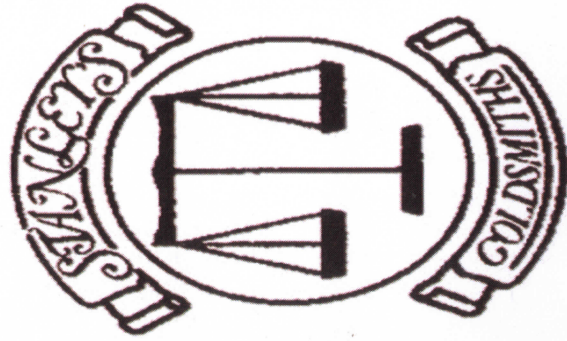
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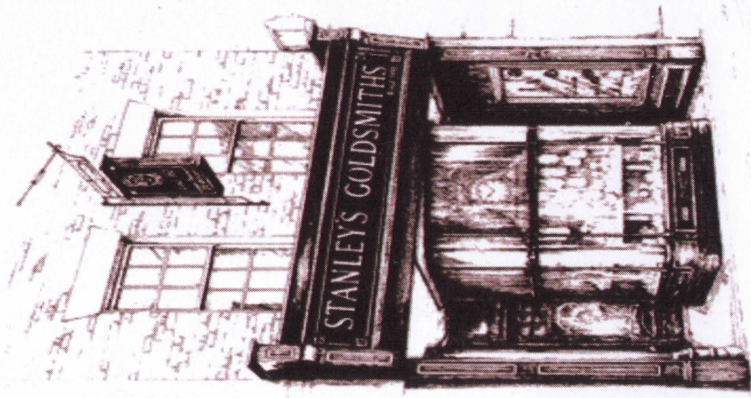
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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. When I first joined Ramsgate Operatic Society in 2006, I was struck by the friendliness and hard work of the people involved, some of whom were involved with the very first production fifty years ago, and since then I have enjoyed every moment of my time with the Society.

Today, we encompass a group of talented people of all ages who continue to enjoy spending their free time preparing two full-scale productions each year. Some of those people you will not see on stage tonight because they work 'behind the scenes' and, without them, we would be unable to present tonight's show to you.

So let us now whisk you off to the town of Titipu, in the Empire of Japan, to take a closer look at the everyday folk who live there. You may even recognise one or two of the local songs!

David Mossman

## NODA

ROS is affiliated to The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) which was founded in 1899 and has a membership of 2500 amateur theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls.

NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the national council (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of regional representatives and officers. These 190 volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre groups themselves. The Association is administered from its Headquarters in Peterborough, with a knowledgeable and friendly staff able to deal with virtually any enquiry relating to amateur theatre.

There is a broad spectrum of ages involved in amateur theatre nationwide, from a burgeoning number of youth groups to adult companies which meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic or musical, and enthusiasts involved backstage, front of house or in administration. Each production created is a genuine community event.

### NODA AIMS:

- To give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector
- To help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance
- To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century

## RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY

(Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association)

# THE MIKADO

OR

## THE TOWN OF TITIPU

BY

W.S. GILBERT

AND

ARTHUR SULLIVAN

### Director

Ian Ulrich

### Musical Director

Bob Drywood

### Choreographer

Sarah Davies

### Stage manager

Andrea Vigo

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## RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY – THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1960, a group of teachers from different schools in Thanet, mainly Chatham House, Clarendon House and Dane Court, met in the Old Library at Clarendon House, to discuss the possibility of forming a society with the object of producing Gilbert and Sullivan operas. During the course of the evening a leader emerged. He was John Hawes of Dane Court School, who became the first chairman and producer of the Ramsgate Amateur Operatic Society. He held the latter position until his untimely death in November 1970.

Although the purpose of that first meeting was to discuss the production of the Savoy operas, the members agreed that the embryo society should not be called a Gilbert and Sullivan Society, thus from the first considering the idea of presenting other types of show. At first, however, and for several years, the enthusiasm for Gilbert and Sullivan showed no signs of abatement.

The company reassembled every October to rehearse on Thursday evenings, excluding school holidays, until the following May, when the shows were presented at the Granville Theatre, Ramsgate. The first production, in May 1961, was the ever-popular *Mikado*. This was followed in the succeeding years by *The Gondoliers*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Iolanthe*, *Trial by Jury* with *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Ruddigore*, *Yeoman of the Guard* and *Princess Ida*.

Then in 1969, for the first time, the Society departed from Gilbert and Sullivan to present Edward German's *Merrie England*, which is closely akin to the style of the Savoy operas and was suitable for the company. Following this it was felt that it was time for a repeat of *The Mikado* as many new members had not taken part in either of the two most popular of the Savoy operas, namely *The Mikado* and *The Gondoliers*. So, in 1970, the Society presented *The Mikado* and, in 1971, *The Gondoliers*. During the preparations of the latter, Ramsgate Operatic Society suffered the sad loss of John Hawes. The musical director, all this time and for several more years, was Harold Milsted, Head of the Music department at Chatham House School. By the end of 1971 a decision had to be made. Was the Society to continue a repetitive merry-go-round of the works of those Victorian masters, Gilbert and Sullivan, or should it attempt the works of other composers and librettists? Much enthusiastic discussion took place amongst the members. Some maintained that the Society had originally been formed with the purpose of performing Gilbert and Sullivan operas for which it had built up a large audience. Others claimed that from its inception the Society had not been limited in this way and was free to extend its repertoire.

The latter opinion prevailed and, following a very successful production of Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne* in 1972, it was decided that two productions



would be presented a year; one of these would be a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. So 1973 was a milestone in the annals of Ramsgate Amateur Operatic Society when it presented, in the May, *The Merry Widow*, by Franz Lehar and, in November, *Patience*, one of the few Savoy operas not yet performed. Since that time a wide variety of shows have been offered, including operettas, musical comedies, musicals and revues. Although the Society no longer keeps rigidly to the idea of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera and another production in the same year, there is still emphasis on balance.

Versatility and adaptability are important qualities in a successful society and changes are inevitable. Two of the most recent changes have been the omission of the word "Amateur" from the title of the Society and the use of the Theatre Royal, Margate as well as The Granville Theatre, Ramsgate.

In recent years the Society productions apart from Gilbert and Sullivan Operas have included a wide variety of productions: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Me and My Girl*, *The Beggar's Opera*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Anything Goes*, *Carmen the Musical*, *Calamity Jane* and *South Pacific*.

~~~~~

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## THE STORY

Nanki-Poo has fled the court of his father, the Mikado of Japan, because he does not want to marry Katisha, the elderly lady who is in love with him. Disguised as a wandering minstrel he has met and fallen in love with Yum-Yum, a ward of Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner. Nanki-Poo arrives in Titipu only to be told to forget Yum-Yum because she is leaving school that day and is to marry Ko-Ko. Nanki-Poo is devastated as he has been travelling for a month to find her. Ko-Ko arrives on the scene and tells everyone how he became the Lord High Executioner.

A train of ladies escort the three sisters from school. The girls sing of how pleased they are to have escaped from the seminary and how much fun they are going to have because, after all, youth must have its fling!

Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum meet and mourn the fact that she is engaged to Ko-Ko so they cannot declare their love for one another; however, help is at hand.

Ko-Ko has received a letter from the Mikado stating that he is concerned that there have been no recent executions in Titipu and that he expects one to take place within a month, even if it is Ko-Ko himself! Ko-Ko and Nanki-Poo strike a bargain, Ko-Ko will allow Nanki-Poo to marry Yum-Yum now and in return will allow Ko-Ko to behead him after a month and then marry his widow. Everyone gathers to hear the name of the person Ko-Ko has decided to execute; Ko-Ko is delighted to announce that he has found a volunteer, Nanki-Poo. Joy reigns - but it is soon interrupted by the arrival of Katisha who has come to claim Nanki-Poo! She attempts to reveal his true identity but the people will not listen and she flounces off, threatening revenge.

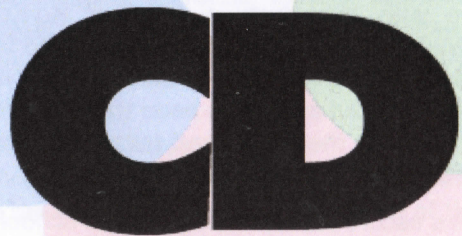
Yum-Yum is prepared for the wedding and the day dawns but, of course, things do not run smoothly. Someone has discovered that when Nanki-Poo dies she must too and her enthusiasm for the union diminishes rapidly! To make matters worse the Mikado and Katisha arrive - terror strikes, particularly for Ko-Ko who still hasn't executed anybody. However, all is not lost as there are those with the ability to tell an amazing story.

How do they get out of this muddle?

All will be revealed.



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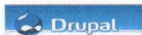
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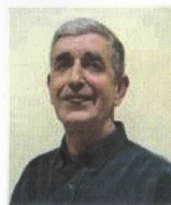


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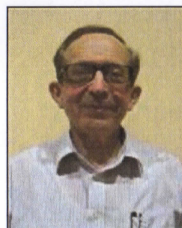
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Ian Ulrich

Ian has been a regular performer with R.O.S. for many years and has frequently taken leading roles. Among his favourites are Alfred P. Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*), Lord Mountararat (*Iolanthe*), and Sir Joseph Porter (*HMS Pinafore*). More recently he has taken on the mantle of director (*The Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Carmen* and *The Sorcerer*). Ian is looking forward to directing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of the *Mikado*.



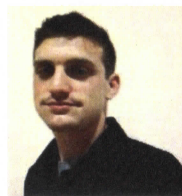
Bob Drywood

"35 years as a Musical Director and 63 years in total in amateur theatre and still going strong. This will be my 8<sup>th</sup> *Mikado* but I still find G and S delightful. I share my experience of theatre as a Life member and Trustee of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. It is an organisation dedicated to serving and supporting its members and influencing central and local government on behalf of Amateur Theatre. We were and still are very active in influencing the legislation regarding Children in Theatre and Health and Safety (I represent the Association on the Joint Advisory Committee for Entertainment). Our current concerns are centred on the escalating costs of theatre hire: an issue which is being addressed through a campaign presently under development."



Sarah Davies

Sarah has been a member of R.O.S. for 9 years and has taken part in 14 productions; this will be her third show as choreographer. Sarah has taken a number of small roles including Sukey Tawdrey (*The Beggar's Opera*), Frou-Frou (*The Merry Widow*), Chastity (*Anything Goes*) and Isabel (*Pirates of Penzance*). Sarah loves acting and singing but her main passion is dancing. She has danced since she was 3 years old, training in Tap, Modern and Ballet at Susan Town's Academy of Dancing. Sarah loved *The Mikado* the first time she took part in it in November 2003 and is looking forward to playing Peep Bo in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production.



Nathan Drake

At 22, Nathan already has a long list of credits to his name. Principal roles include: Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*), Enjolras (*Les Miserables*), John Utterson (*Jekyll & Hyde*) and Cyril (*Summer Holiday*). Leading roles with R.O.S. include: Boatswain (*HMS Pinafore*), Defendant (*Trial by Jury*), Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin (*Calamity Jane*), Frederic (*Pirates of Penzance*) and most recently as Commander William Harbison (*South Pacific*).



Sarah Miles

Sarah has been a member of R.O.S. for 15 years, as well as being in the chorus Sarah has had various roles, including Constance in *The Sorcerer* and Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*. Sarah is a big fan of G & S and she is especially delighted to be playing Yum-Yum in R.O.S.'s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production.



## THE CAST

The Mikado of Japan .....	Dudley Gore
Nanki - Poo ( <i>his son disguised as a wandering minstrel</i> ) .....	Nathan Drake
Ko-Ko ( <i>Lord High Executioner of Japan</i> ) .....	Tony Matthews
Pooh-Bah ( <i>Lord High Everything Else</i> ) .....	Iain Kilty
Pish-Tush ( <i>a Noble Lord</i> ) .....	Mick Gore
Yum-Yum .....	Sarah Miles
Pitti-Sing } <i>Three sisters - Wards of Ko-Ko</i> .....	Erin Taylor
Peep-Bo } .....	Sarah Davies
Katisha ( <i>an elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo</i> ) .....	Maggie Cannon

### CHORUS OF LADIES AND NOBLE LORDS

Melanieann Aster, Jill Baxter, Pauline Booker, Patti Bowling,  
 Julia Branch-Evans, Pat Drywood, Carol Evans, Eve Frampton,  
 Pam Hayfield, Aldwyth Humphries, Linda Humphrys, Melanie Little,  
 Fran Shaw, Gloria Withers,  
 Peter Berry, Chris Clark, Eddie Draper, Joe Eddington, Noel Ensoll,  
 Dean Fitzpatrick, Maverick Hayre, Mike Kendrick, David Mossman,  
 David Paine,

## THE ORCHESTRA

Violin .....	Ben Jones
Flute/Piccolo .....	Christine Chappell
Oboe .....	Catherine Smith
Clarinet .....	Mary MacLeod
Horn .....	Sally Hannan
Bassoon .....	William Ward
Double Bass .....	Michael Philpot
Percussion .....	Bob Spooore
Piano .....	Ute Bühler

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## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT 1 - THE COURTYARD OF KO-KO'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

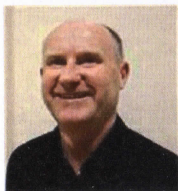
Overture .....	The Orchestra
If you want to know who we are .....	Chorus of Men
A wand'ring minstrel I .....	Nanki-Poo & Chorus
Our great Mikado, virtuous man .....	Pish-Tush & Chorus
Young man despair .....	Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo & Pish-Tush
And have I journey'd for a month .....	Nanki-Poo & Pooh-Bah
Behold the Lord High Executioner .....	Ko-Ko & Chorus
As some day it may happen .....	Ko-Ko & Chorus
Comes a train of little ladies .....	Chorus of Ladies
Three little maids from school .....	Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo & Chorus
So please you sir, we much regret .....	Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo, Pooh-Bah & Chorus
Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted .....	Yum-Yum & Nanki-Poo
I am so proud .....	Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah & Pish-Tush
With aspect stern .....	The Company

**There will be an interval of 20 minutes**

### ACT 2 - KO-KO'S GARDEN

Braid the raven hair .....	Pitti-Sing & Chorus
The sun, whose rays are all ablaze .....	Yum-Yum
Brightly dawns our wedding day .....	Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing Nanki-Poo & Pish-Tush
Here's a how-de-do .....	Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo & Ko-Ko
Mi-ya-sa-ma, .....	Mikado, Katisha & Chorus
A more humane Mikado .....	Mikado & Chorus
The criminal cried as he dropped him down .....	Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko Pooh-Bah & Chorus
See how the Fates .....	Pitti-Sing, Katisha, Ko-Ko Pooh-Bah & Mikado
The flowers that bloom in the spring .....	Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing & Pooh-Bah
Alone, and yet alive .....	Katisha
On a tree by a river .....	Ko-Ko
There is beauty in the bellow of the blast .....	Katisha & Ko-Ko
Finale Act 2 .....	The Company





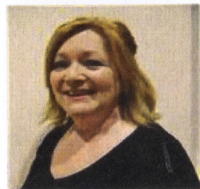
Tony Matthews

After playing the Major General in last year's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, Ko-Ko has presented Tony with another challenge in the Gilbert & Sullivan pantheon - if only he can remember the 'little list.' His leading roles have included Tony (*The Boyfriend*), Nanki-Poo (*The Mikado*), Don Basilio (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Barinkay (*The Gipsy Baron*), Orpheus (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Perchik (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and Luiz (*The Gondoliers*); but, you are just as likely to see him in the chorus!



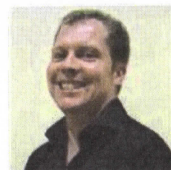
Dudley Gore

Dudley has been a member of the society for more than 25 years and during that time he has had many principal parts ranging from Count Danilo in *The Merry Widow* to Macheath in *The Beggar's Opera*, as well as many Gilbert & Sullivan characters. This is the fourth time that he has been in *The Mikado* and the third time as the Mikado himself. Dudley first played a G & S role whilst still at school, that was Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1960. Dudley is also a member of Thanet Festival Choir and Canterbury Operatic Society.



Maggie Cannon

This is Maggie's third show with ROS; she played a WPC in the modern *Pirates of Penzance* in May 2010 and Bloody Mary in *South Pacific* in November of that year. Maggie sings in a duo with her husband ..... and in the bath!



Iain Kilty

Iain has appeared in many R.O.S. shows, playing a range of roles from the arrogant Escamillo in *Carmen the Musical*, to the upper class buffoon Sir Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes* and the repulsive, yet popular Dick Deadeye in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. He is looking forward to once again appearing in a G&S classic in our anniversary year.



Erin Taylor

Erin joined R.O.S. as a member of the chorus for *Die Fledermaus*, since then she has taken on a number of leading roles including Jenny Diver (*Beggar's Opera*), Sarah Brown (*Guys and Dolls*), Reno Sweeney (*Anything Goes*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), Adelaide Adams (*Calamity Jane*) and Kate (*Pirates of Penzance*). She is looking forward to playing Pitti-Sing in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production.

## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager .....	Andrea Vigo
Deputy Stage Manager .....	Brian Booker
Wardrobe Mistress .....	Pam Hayfield
Costumes .....	Haselmere Wardrobe
Wigs .....	Pauline Booker
Scenery .....	Scenery Hire Ltd & Brian Booker
Lighting .....	Phillip Shaw & Trudi Kingham
Sound .....	Alex Jolly
Properties .....	Patti Bowling
Prompt .....	Terrie Wheatley-Ward
Rehearsal Pianist .....	Ute Bühler
Stage Crew .....	Barbara Aster, Lee Reynolds Nick Hollowday, Ann Harmes
Front of House .....	Karen Palmer & Trevor Withers
Orchestra Arranger .....	Jill Baxter
Publicity .....	Sam Grant, David Mossman Mike Kendrick, Andi Vigo, Mark Stinton
Website .....	Nathan Drake
Posters .....	Noel Ensoll
Programme .....	Noel Ensoll & Carol Evans
Raffle .....	Friends of the Society



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ROS would like to thank the following:

- The milk persons of Dairy Crest for distributing leaflets
- Father Holden at St Ethelbert's Church for our rehearsal rooms
- The staff at the Granville Theatre for their help
- The Margate Handbook
- Springers Operatic Society of Chelmsford for chorus fans
- Orchestral arrangement supplied by Martin Patterson of Pattersong Music - for further information see [www.pattersong.co.uk](http://www.pattersong.co.uk)
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**The Cast**



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(Miss L. E. Palmer)

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production of  
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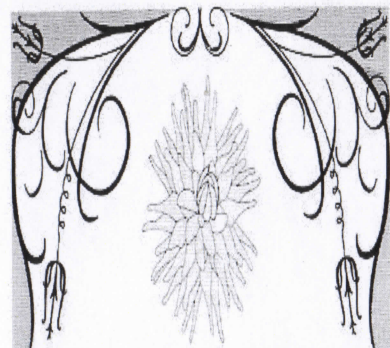
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## PAST PRODUCTIONS

- |      |   |      |   |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1961 | The Mikado                                    | 1990 | Oh, What a Lovely War<br>Half a Sixpence                                      |
| 1962 | The Gondoliers                                | 1991 | The Gondoliers<br>Brigadoon   |
| 1963 | The Pirates of Penzance                       | 1992 | HMS Pinafore<br>Oklahoma  |
| 1964 | Iolanthe                                      | 1993 | The Pirates of Penzance<br>A Century of Song                                  |
| 1965 | HMS Pinafore/Trial by Jury                    | 1994 | Showboat<br>The Mikado  |
| 1966 | Ruddigore                                     | 1995 | Kiss Me Kate<br>The Merry Widow   |
| 1967 | Yeoman of the Guard                           | 1996 | Ruddigore<br>My Fair Lady   |
| 1968 | Princess Ida                                  | 1997 | White Horse Inn<br>Anything Goes  |
| 1969 | Merrie England                                | 1998 | Iolanthe<br>The Gypsy Baron   |
| 1970 | The Mikado                                    | 1999 | Annie Get Your Gun<br>HMS Pinafore/Trial by Jury                              |
| 1972 | The Gondoliers                                | 2000 | Blitz<br>The Gondoliers   |
| 1973 | La Vie Parisienne                             | 2001 | Orpheus in the Underworld<br>The Yeoman of the Guard                          |
| 1974 | The Merry Widow<br>Patience                   | 2002 | Fiddler on the Roof<br>Die Fledermaus   |
| 1975 | The Desert Song<br>The Pirates of Penzance    | 2003 | Me & My Girl<br>The Mikado  |
| 1976 | My Fair Lady<br>Yeoman of the Guard           | 2004 | The Beggar's Opera<br>The Pirates of Penzance                                 |
| 1977 | Song of Norway<br>HMS Pinafore                | 2005 | The Merry Widow<br>Carousel   |
| 1978 | Bless the Bride<br>The Sorcerer/Trial by Jury | 2006 | Guys and Dolls<br>Iolanthe  |
| 1979 | Orpheus in the Underworld<br>The Mikado       | 2007 | HMS Pinafore  |
| 1980 | No, No Nanette<br>The Gondoliers              | 2008 | Anything Goes<br>Carmen the Musical   |
| 1981 | White Horse Inn<br>Cowardy Custard            | 2009 | The Sorcerer/Trial by Jury<br>Calamity Jane                                   |
| 1982 | The Mountebanks<br>Ruddigore                  | 2010 | The Pirates of Penzance<br>(In the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century)<br>South Pacific |
| 1983 | Oklahoma<br>The Pirates of Penzance           |      |   |
| 1984 | Guys and Dolls<br>Sound of His Music          |      |   |
| 1985 | Fiddler on the Roof<br>Vienna, City of Song   |      |   |
| 1986 | Carousel<br>Yeoman of the Guard               |      |   |
| 1987 | Calamity Jane<br>HMS Pinafore                 |      |   |
| 1988 | Chu Chin Chow<br>The Mikado                   |      |   |
| 1989 | The Pajama Game<br>The Sorcerer/Trial by Jury |      |   |



## **Officers and Committee**

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Chairman	David Mossman
Secretary	Tony Matthews
Treasurer	Brian Booker
Members	Patti Bowling, Nathan Drake, Noel Ensoll, Sam Grant Betty Reid, Andi Vigo, Mark Stinton (co-opted)

## **Social Committee**

Pam Hayfield (Chair) Jill Baxter, Eve Frampton,  
Aldwyth Humphries, Sarah Miles, Pauline Booker (co-opted)

## **Honorary Members**

Sylvia Blogg, Marjorie Butler, Eve Frampton, George Martin,  
Mary Patten, Jean Tilley, Margaret Woods

## **Life Members**

Mrs S Leask, Mrs M Woods, Mrs S Williams

## **Life Vice -Presidents**

Miss R Armistead, Mrs S Blogg, Mr & Mrs M Butler,  
Mr & Mrs J Connell, Mr & Mrs J Dixon, Mr B Fagg,  
Mr J Frampton, Mr G Gransbury, Mrs L Groombridge,  
Mr & Mrs G Hemmings, Mr S Humphries, Mrs H Johnstone,  
Mrs F Lockwood, Mr G Martin, Mrs M Patten, Mr & Mrs D Wells

## **Patrons and Friends**

Mrs J Kilvington, Mr I Baxter, Mr D Beal.

## **OUR NEXT PRODUCTION**

# HALF A SIXPENCE



**8<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011**

**THE GRANVILLE THEATRE, RAMSGATE**