# INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY

# PRESENTS



Spring 1999 Production Programme - £1.00



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# Inverness Opera Company presents



by Gilbert & Sullivan at Eden Court Theatre from Wed 17th March to Sat 20th March



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# For Inverness Opera Company

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Treasurer: Anne Watson

Secretary: Ann Duncan (01463 237086)

Committee: Marian Armstrong, Stewart Brown, Scott Don, Aileen Hendry,

Donald Matheson, Alison MacLeod

Social Committee: Kay Craib (Convenor), Marian Armstrong, Pam Carr,

George McGregor, Maureen Westley

#### **Production Team**

Producer: Alyn Ross
Assistant Producer: Jim Pringle

Musical Director: Paul Rosie

Choreographer: Susan Bethune
Rehearsal Accompanist: Mairi Mackenzie
Stage Director: Gordon Duncan

Stage Manager: Bill Harvey

Stage Crew: Andrew Mackay, Torquil MacLeod

Prompt: Pam Carr

Wardrobe: John Claudius, Marian Armstrong, Aileen Hendry, Jean Bone,

Claire Cameron, Joan Murray

Costume Hire: W. A. Homburg Ltd., Leeds

Props: Kay Craib Hairdressing: Ann Harvey

Set Hired From: Stagesets (London)

Orchestra Co-ordinators: Richard Miemczyk, Alison MacLeod

Publicity: Trevor Nicol, Donald Matheson, Stewart Brown

Poster/Programme Design: Trevor Nicol, Brian Howlett

Programme Compilation: Donald Matheson, Trevor Nicol, Stewart Brown, Caroline Nicol

Photographs: Northern Exposure

Librarian: Norma Irvine
Patrons: Scott Don
Commercial Patrons: Richard Miemczyk

Commercial Patrons: Richard Miemczyk
Company Bookings: Louise Munro
Party Bookings: Ann Duncan

Company Front of House: Bill Blackhall, David Caldwell, Sally Chambers, John Claudius,

Jim Hartley, Alasdair Moodie, Shauna Morgan, Isobel

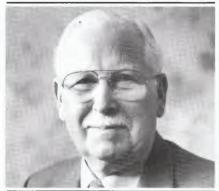
MacDougall, Caroline Nicol, Jean Sinclair, Jessie Smith, Matt

Smith, Douglas Yule, Michelle Froud

Acknowledgements: Drumness Construction Ltd., Nancy Rattray, Jeff Magee, The

Scout Association, Caley Marina, Bill & Ann Harvey

# From our Honorary President:



Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to our Gilbert & Sullivan double bill. Since our last production, the company has been very busy with the completion of our new costume store, which will prove to be a great asset in housing our large wardrobe. We are greatly indebted to the Common Good Fund, Inverness & Nairn Enterprise and the Provost Smith Memorial Trust for their financial assistance with this project.

We hope you will enjoy this evening's performance which includes some exciting new talent to the company, some of whom are playing prin-

cipal parts with us for the first time. We look forward to our next production which will be "Fiddler on the Roof" in Spring 2000. Now, I hope you will sit back, relax and enjoy tonight's show.

## **Trial By Jury**

The show was first produced as a "dramatic cantata" on 25th March 1875 at the Royalty Theatre, performed after "La Perichole" by Offenbach, but eventually became recognised in its own right. The first learned judge was Fred Sullivan, Arthur Sullivan's older brother, who was made-up to look like the Lord Chief Justice of the day, Sir Alexander Cockburn. When Fred died in 1877, Arthur wrote "The Lost Chord" in tribute. From March 1875 to May 1877 "Trial By Jury" ran for 300 performances at various theatres. It is the shortest of the 14 operas Gilbert & Sullivan wrote together. Inverness Opera Company has presented the show twice before, in 1975 and 1985. Many who took part in these productions are still in the company today.

#### **HMS Pinafore**

First presented on 25th May 1878 at the Opera Comique, "HMS Pinafore" ran until February 1880 for 571 performances. The character of Sir Joseph Porter, KCB was based on the First Lord of the Admiralty in Disraeli's government of the time, Mr W.H. Smith, the MP for Westminster (the bookseller) who had never been to sea. He became known as "Pinafore Smith" following his portrayal in this production. The name "Pinafore" has no special significance – it being chosen to rhyme with "one cheer more", in fact the initial choice of title had been "Semaphore". On 31st July 1879 a group of "heavies" hired by the directors of D'Oyly Carte's company appeared during a performance to forcibly remove the set and props to another theatre in order to mount a rival production of the show. They were concerned that Gilbert & Sullivan were receiving too much financial return for the piece! It was following this occurence that the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company was formed with Carte, Gilbert and Sullivan as directors – each contributing £1,000 to the company. This is the first time that Inverness Opera Company have tackled this particular show.

Inverness Opera Company would like to thank their Patrons and Commercial Patrons for their continued support in mounting this production.

They would also like to thank the Management and Staff of Eden Court for their invaluable assistance.

## The Story of "TRIAL BY JURY"

Trial By Jury has all the distinctive features of the Savoy Operas which were to follow it. There is the gentle mockery of British Institutions – in this case, of course, the legal system – the central role for the chorus, and the juxtaposition of rollicking patter song and tender romantic aria. The plot is exceedingly straightforward: Edwin is being sued by Angelina for breach of promise of marriage. He appears to be a fairly nonchalant and casual individual but can hardly be said to have a fair trial as everyone falls for the beautiful plaintiff, including the judge who marries her himself and so ends the trial.

# The Story of "HMS PINAFORE"

This opera contains several of Gilbert's most interesting characters: Sir Joseph Porter, the First Lord of the Admiralty who had never been to sea; Little Buttercup, the bumboat woman with gypsy blood in her veins; Captain Corcoran, the Commander who never swears a big, big D; and Dick Deadeye, the villain of the piece with more common sense than the rest. The curtain rises on the lower deck of HMS Pinafore as the crew busy themselves at their early-morning tasks. Ralph enters, dejectedly singing of his love for Josephine and bemoaning their difference in rank. It is an important day, for Sir Joseph Porter is coming on board to claim Josephine's hand in marriage. Captain Corcoran is thus understandably horrified when she admits her secret love for one of his sailors. Ralph confronts Josephine and pours out his feelings for her. At first she rejects his advances, reminding him of their disparity in rank, but changes her mind as he prepares to kill himself. Ignoring Dick Deadeye's warnings, they plan to elope that very night.

In Act II, Captain Corcoran ponders on his misfortunes. Sir Joseph is displeased with Josephine's lack of interest in him and attempts to impress upon her the fact that love levels all ranks, thereby unknowingly pleading his rival's cause. Dick Deadeye warns the Captain of the forthcoming elopement. The Captain catches Ralph and Josephine redhanded but loses his temper and utters a "big, big D". Sir Joseph overhears this and sends him to his cabin. He is outraged when he hears Ralph's explanation for his conduct and orders him to the ship's dungeon. Little Buttercup then confesses that many years ago as a nursemaid, she mixed up Ralph and the Captain in babyhood. Ralph is thus the Captain and is free to marry Josephine. The Captain is thus low-born, and is free to marry Little Buttercup, as cousin Hebe persuades Sir Joseph to marry her – three loving pairs on the same day united.



If entertaining proves a *trial*, then hang up your *pinafore* and leave the rest to us!

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# **PRINCIPALS**



Alison MacLeod (PLAINTIFF)



Nicholas Nicol (DEFENDANT/RALPH RACKSTRAW)



Heather Nisbet (JOSEPHINE)



Cynthia Nicol (BUTTERCUP)



Andrew Green (CAPT. CORCORAN)



Aileen Hendry (HEBE)



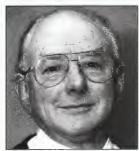
Richard Miemczyk (DICK DEADEYE)



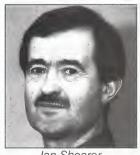
Gordon Fleming (SIR JOSEPH PORTER)



Ralph Duncan (THE LEARNED JUDGE)



Baxter Murray
(COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFF)



lan Shearer (USHER)



Eddie Docherty (BILL BOBSTAY)



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# **Trial By Jury**

The Learned Judge Ralph Duncan
The Plaintiff Alison MacLeod
The Defendant Nicholas Nicol
Counsel for the Plaintiff Baxter Murray
Usherlan Shearer
Foreman of the Jury Donald Matheson
1st Bridesmaid Evelyn Moffat

#### **Bridesmaids**

Marian Armstrong, Fiona Doughty, Lynda Livesley, Lorna Lumsden, Heather Nisbet, Elaine Peter, Iris Render, Susan Robertson, Janice Stewart, Pat Thornton, Anne Watson

#### Jury

Scott Don, Archie Drummond, Ann Duncan, Tom Fraser, Andrew Green, Calum MacDougall, Mina MacKay, Bob Morgan, Louise Munro, Leon Radin, Judith Rumbold

#### **Public**

Joan Don, Cath Fraser, Alison Fraser, Brenda Green, Rosalind Hill, Joan Ingram, Susan MacKenzie, Joan Murray, Maureen Pringle, Anne Taylorson, Maureen Westley, Bill Collins, Eddie Docherty, Norrie Donald, Gordon Fleming, John Green, Bob Lown, George McGregor, Charles Sinclair

### **Recording Secretary**

Norma Irvine

There will be a 20-minute interval following this piece

# **Orchestra**

Conductor: Paul Rosie

Leader	Peter Zanre	Clarinet 2	Fiona Fraser
Violin 1	Robert Curtis	Oboe	Margot Cruft
Violin 1	Leslie Currie	Flute 1	Caroline Cuthbertson
Violin 1	Grace Jack	Flute 2	Anna Alders
Violin 2	Robin Calvert	French Horn	Stewart Benzie
Violin 2	Anissa Tomberg	Bassoon	Heather Hook
Violin 2	Anne Massie	Trumpet 1	Robert Baxter
Viola	Colin Warrender	Trumpet 2	Alastair Grant
Cello	Ricky Lusher	Trombone 1	Gregor Stewart
Bass	Sue Drever	Trombone 2	Andrew Fraser
Clarinet 1	Beth Cranidge	Percussion	Graeme Barclay

# **HMS Pinafore**

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B (First Lord of the Admiralty)	Gordon Fleming
Captain Corcoran(Commanding HMS Pinafore)	Andrew Green
Ralph Rackstraw(Able Seaman)	Nicholas Nicol
Dick Deadeye	chard Miemczyk
Bill Bobstay(Boatswain's Mate)	Eddie Docherty
Bob Becket(Carpenter's Mate)	Scott Don
Josephine(the Captain's Daughter)	. Heather Nisbet
Hebe(Sir Joseph's First Cousin)	Aileen Hendry
Mrs Cripps (Little Buttercup)	Cynthia Nicol

### First Lord's Sisters, Cousins and Aunts

Norma Brown, Joan Don, Ann Duncan, Cath Fraser, Alison Fraser, Brenda Green, Rosalind Hill, Joan Ingram, Clare Levings, Lynda Livesley, Gillian Longton, Lorna Lumsden, Mina MacKay, Susan MacKenzie, Evelyn Moffat, Alison Munro, Louise Munro, Joan Murray, Sophie McCook, Elaine Peter, Iris Render, Anne Taylorson, Pat Thornton, Anne Watson, Maureen Westley

## Sailors, Marines, etc.

Stewart Brown, Bill Collins, Hugh Crout, Norrie Donald, Archie Drummond, Tom Fraser, John Green, Bob Lown, George McGregor, Donald Matheson, Ian Morrison, Baxter Murray, Trevor Nicol, Leon Radin, Ian Shearer, Charles Sinclair

There will be a 10-minute break between Acts I and II



Susan Bethune, Choreographer; Jim Pringle, Assistant Producer; Alyn Ross, Producer; Paul Rosie, Musical Director; Mairi Mackenzie, Rehearsal Accompanist











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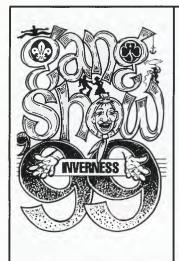
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1925 - The Mikado	1931 - The Mikado
1926 - The Gondoliers	1932 - The Quaker Girl
1927 - The Grand Duchess	1933 - The Belle of Brittany
1928 - Yeomen of the Guard	1934 - The Gondoliers
1929 - The Pirates of Penzance	1935 - A Country Girl
1930 - Iolanthe	1936 - Grand Operatic Concer

#### INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY

(Affiliated to National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

#### PRODUCTIONS SINCE THE WAR

1947 1948	The Mikado Iolanthe	1969 1970	Guys and Dolls Summer Song	1984 1985	The Merry Widow Trial By Jury and
1949	The Gondoliers	1971	Brigadoon		Pirates of Penzance
1950	The Pirates of Penzance	1971	South Pacific	1986	Die Fledermaus
1951	The Quaker Girl	1972	Carousel	1987	The New Moon
1952	Yeomen of the Guard	1972	The Pajama Game	1988	Carousel
1953	Merrie England	1973	Fiddler on the Roof	1989	Merrie England
1954	Concerts, Etc.	1974	Oklahoma	1990	Brigadoon
1955	The Mikado	1975	The Boyfriend	1991	The Gondoliers
1958	Maid of the Mountains	1975	Trial By Jury	1992	Showboat
1959	The Gipsy Baron	1976	Cabaret	1993	Oklahoma
1960	The Merry Widow	1977	The Mikado	1994	The Gipsy Baron
1961	Oklahoma	1977	No No Nanette	1995	The Desert Song
1962	Die Fledermaus	1978	Showboat	1996	Call Me Madam
1963	White Horse Inn	1978	My Fair Lady	1997	The Mikado
1964	Showboat	1979	Oh, Susanna	1997	Guys and Dolls
1965	Call Me Madam	1980	Yeomen of the Guard	1998	Me and My Girl
1966	The New Moon	1980	Hello Dolly	1998	The Pajama Game
1967	Rose Marie	1981	The Pajama Game	1999	Trial By Jury and
1968	The Desert Song	1982	White Horse Inn		HMS Pinafore
1969	Finians Rainbow	1983	Fiddler on the Roof		

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