

Muddy River Opera Company

PRESENTS

The Pirates of Penzance



Music by
Sir Arthur Sullivan

Libretto by
Sir William S. Gilbert

or The Slave of Duty

Quincy Community Theatre
300 Civic Center Plaza
Quincy, Illinois

Friday, January 14, 2011 at 7:30p.m.
Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 2:00p.m.



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Lela "Lee" Lindsay



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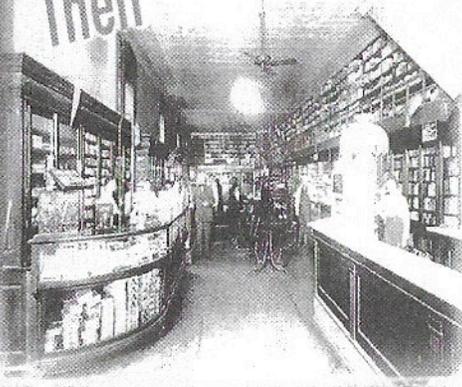
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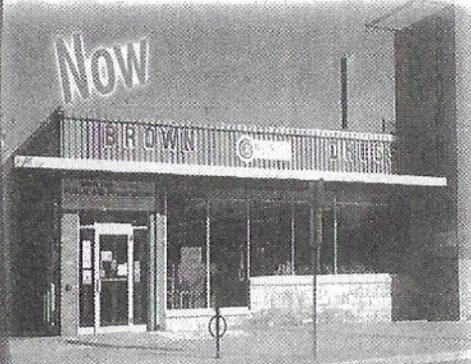
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Opera Terminology

Aria: [ah-ree-ah] A song sung by one person. In Italian, aria means "air", "style", "manner."

Baritone: The most common category of the male voice; lower than a tenor, but higher than a bass.

Bass: The lowest male voice. Many bass roles are associated with characters of authority or comedy.

Brava: "Well done" in Italian. Audiences say this to a female artist to express their appreciation.

Bravo: "Well done" in Italian. Audiences say this to a male artist to express their appreciation.

Bravi: "Well done" in Italian. Audiences say this a group of performers to express their appreciation.

Composer: The person who writes the vocal and/or orchestral music (score).

Conductor: The person who is in charge of all the musical aspects of an opera; both orchestrally and vocally.

Mezzo-Soprano: A medium or "middle" soprano female voice.

Libretto: [lih-breh-toh] The text of the opera. In Italian, it means "little book."

Soprano: The highest female voice.

Tenor: The highest natural male voice.



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presents

The Pirates of Penzance

Music by Sir William S. Gilbert

Libretto by Sir Arthur Sullivan

Friday, January 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Opera Insight at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Opera Insight at 1:40 p.m.

Quincy Community Theatre

300 Civic Center Plaza

Quincy, Illinois

This production is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, the Marion Gardner Jackson Trust Arts Fund and the business and individual members of the Quincy Society of Fine Arts.



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Act One

Scene: A rocky seashore on the coast of Cornwall.

Pour, Oh Pour the Pirate Sherry (Pirates and Samuel)

When Frederic Was a Little Lad (Ruth)

Oh Better Far to Live and Die (Pirate King and Pirates)

Oh, False One, You Have Deceived Me! (Frederic and Ruth)

Climbing Over Rocky Mountain (Girls, Edith and Kate)

Stop, Ladies, Pray (Frederic, Edith, Kate and Girls)

Oh, Is There Not One Maiden Breast (Frederic, Mabel and Girls)

Poor Wandering One! (Mabel and Girls)

What Ought We to Do (Edith, Kate and Girls)

How Beautifully Blue the Sky (Girls, Mabel and Frederic)

Stay, We Must Not Lose Our Senses (Frederic, Girls and Pirates)

Here's a First Rate Opportunity (Pirates and Girls)

Hold, Monsters! (Mabel, Samuel, Major-General, Girls and Pirates)

I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General (Major-General, Girls and Pirates)

Oh, Men of Dark and Dismal Fate (Major-General, Samuel, Pirate King, Frederic, Mabel, Edith, Kate, Ruth, Girls and Pirates)

Act Two

Scene: A ruined chapel by moonlight

Oh, Dry the Glistening Tear (Girls and Mabel)

Then Frederic, Let Your Escort Lion-Hearted (Major-General and Frederic)

When the Foeman Bares His Steel (Sergeant, Mabel, Edith, Major-General, Police and Girls)

Now for the Pirate's Lair! (Frederic, Pirate King and Ruth)

When You Had Left Our Pirate Fold (Ruth, Frederic and Pirate King)

Away, Away! My Heart's on Fire! (Ruth, Pirate King and Frederic)

All Is Prepared (Mabel and Frederic)

Stay, Frederic, Stay! (Mabel and Frederic)

No, I Am Brave! (Mabel, Sergeant and Police)

Chant (Mabel, Sergeant and Police)

When a Felon's Not Engaged in His Employment (Sergeant and Police)

A Rollicking Band of Pirates We (Pirates, Sergeant and Police)

With Cat-like Tread (Pirates, Police, and Samuel)

Hush, Hush! Not a Word (Frederic, Pirates, Police and Major-General)

Sighing Softly to the River (Major-General and Ensemble)

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts

Synopsis

Frederic, apprentice pirate, is feted in drink and song by the pirate band. It is his twenty-first birthday and his indenture completed, he is now eligible to take his place among them as a full-fledged pirate. To their shock and dismay, Frederic announces that he loathes piracy. Although he felt himself to be a "slave of duty" while he completed his apprenticeship, now he is free to devote his life to the extermination of piracy. Ruth, once his nursery-maid, confesses that, when he was just a little lad, she was slightly hard of hearing, and misheard his parents' instruction to apprentice him to a seafaring pilot. Ashamed to return to them and reveal her monumental mistake, she remained as a piratical maid-of-all-work. Now she plans to leave the pirate band with Frederic, and hopefully to become his wife. The Pirate King warns Frederic that it is better to be a pirate.

After parting with the pirates, Frederic expresses some doubts about his true feelings for Ruth. After all, he has never seen another woman. How does he know if she is truly as lovely as she has told him? In a parody of many operatic love duets, he states his feeling of betrayal, while she protests. Ruth begs him not to leave her with the dowry of ardor that she has been accumulating for 47 years. Frederic angrily rejects her pent-up passion, casting her aside.

When he spots a merry band of young ladies on their way to the beach, he conceals himself in a cave, so as not to frighten them with his pirate attire. When they start to remove shoes and stockings to wade in the surf, he bursts out to stop them, as they would surely not want to make a scandalous display of bare ankles if they knew a man was watching. Of course, they are horrified, but he begs just one of them, any one of them, to rescue him from his past and reform him. All but one reject his blanket offer. Mabel chastises her sisters for their lack of pity. They wonder aloud if she would feel such a sense of duty to reform him if he weren't quite so attractive. Mabel finds the idea and the man very attractive indeed. Her sisters know propriety demands they chaperone this pair, already cooing a love duet. Knowing that one day any of them may be in a similar situation, the girls decide.

Frederic comes to his senses and urges the girls to vacate the beach at once, before the pirates see them. It is too late! The pirates swoop down on them before they can escape, each one seizing a girl and a chance for instant matrimony. The girls warn them that their father is a Major-General.

General Stanley immediately strides on the scene with a tongue-twisting soliloquy on the merits of being a modern Major-General. He then shamelessly lies and presents himself as a lonely orphan boy, and begs the pirates to release his girls, the only family that he has.

This appeals to their one weakness. As everyone knows, they are all orphan boys themselves. Bathed in emotion, all join in an operatic paen to Poetry. Frederic then spurns Ruth's last desperate plea for reconciliation, and the curtain falls on a choral excess of self-congratulation by all others present.

The second act opens as the girls discover their father weeping in the family chapel, full of remorse for lying to the pirates. They attempt to comfort him, but it is Frederic who lifts his spirits with the news that he and the local police are off to battle the pirate band. Mabel and the girls try to send them off with a rousing appeal reminiscent of the opening of *Aida* to "go and die in combat gory." The police become less enthused about this venture by the moment, and have to be virtually heaved out the door by the Major-General.

Frederic briefly waxes eloquent on the joys of atoning for his acts of theft and pillage while a "slave of duty" to the pirates. Before he can lead his strike force, he is confronted by the Pirate King and Ruth, who beg him to hear their "delightful paradox." It seems that Frederic was born of February 29th, and so is only five years old! He will really be 21 in 1940. Regretfully, Frederic changes allegiance yet again, and dutifully reports the Major-General's lie. Vowing to take his vengeance "this very night, or early tomorrow", the Pirate King rushes off. Frederic breaks the bad news to Mabel, who initially begs him to stay with her, but then promises to wait until 1940, when he will be 84 and free. He leaves sorrowfully.

Without their leader, the police bemoan their lot, but Mabel urges them on. When they hear the pirates approaching, they wisely hide. While the pirates stealthily enter, they sing of this new escapade to the tune that later became known as "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here" (although those are not the original words). Hearing footsteps, they also hide. The Major-General, wracked by guilt and insomnia, comes to investigate a noise. Clad in nightgowns, the girls come to see why their father is up in the middle of the night.

The pirates burst out of hiding to capture the Major-General. Then the police burst out to arrest the pirates. A brief scuffle ensues, and the police are quickly subdued. With one last weapon in his arsenal, the Police Sergeant charges the pirates to "yield, in Queen Victoria's name!" Humbled, the pirates yield at once, "because for all our faults we love our Queen!" Ruth intercedes for them "as noble men who have gone wrong." The Major-General offers reconciliation, and the hands of his beautiful girls in marriage. The girls offer the pirates their hearts, as all join in the final rapturous chorus.



Cast

(in order of appearance)

Samuel (Pirate King's Lieutenant).....Greg Lewis
 Richard, The Pirate King.....Todd von Felker
 Frederic (A Pirate Apprentice).....Ric Furman
 Ruth (A Piratical Maid-of-all-work).....Denise Knowlton
 Edith (General Stanley's daughter).....Elise LaBarge
 Kate (General Stanley's daughter).....Sarah Breyne
 Isabel.....Alaina Donley
 Mabel (General Stanley's youngest daughter).....Lacey Phillips
 Major-General Stanley (of the British Army).....Kevin Jobe
 Edward, Sergeant of Police.....David Dillard

Major-General's Daughters

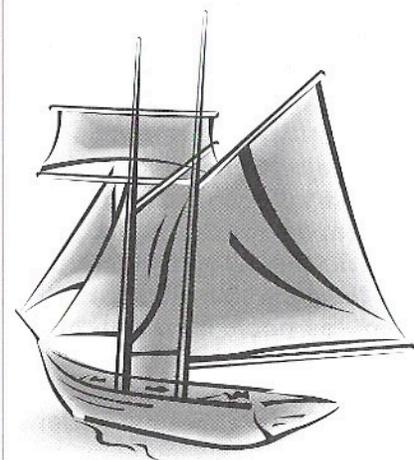
Mabel: Lacey Phillips
 Edith: Elise LaBarge
 Kate: Sarah Breyne
 Isabel: Alaina Donley
 Priscilla: Elizabeth Zaerr
 Olivia: Emily Goodwin
 Jenny: Krista White

Pirates

LaRon Grant
 William J.B. Winn
 Allen Means
 Gerry Wagner

Policemen

Allen Means
 Gerry Wagner



Orchestra

Conductor: Scott Schoonover
 Violin I: Kris Lowe (Concertmistress)
 Jane Polett
 Abigail Walden
 Violin II: Vicki Daggett
 Pat Kuhn
 Megan Lareau
 Viola: Joan Mast
 Kae Blecha
 Cello: Charles Spurgeon
 Christina Cane
 Bass: Doug Reeve
 Flute: Renee Inghram Dunham
 Oboe: Marianne Peters
 Clarinet: Jean Murray
 Bassoon: Cathy Flick
 Horn: Sara North
 Trumpet: Keith Wiemelt
 Trombone: Chris Wilhite
 Percussion: Rebecca Gray

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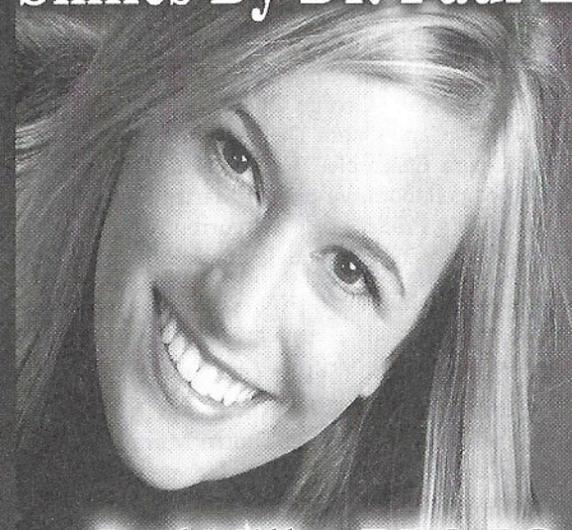
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Production Staff

Stage Director.....	Rebecca C. Parr
Artistic Director.....	Avril Marie Bernzen
Conductor/Music Director.....	Scott Schoonover
Lighting & Set Designer.....	Paul Denckla
Chorus Master.....	Allen Means
Accompanist.....	Robert March
Stage Manager.....	Drew Quintero
Opera Insight.....	Dr. Carol Mathieson
House Manager.....	Andrea McCready
Property Master.....	Amanda Veile
Costume Designer.....	Teresa Doggett
Program Design.....	Andrea McCready Avril Marie Bernzen
Program Proofreader.....	Gary L. Blickhan
Marketing.....	Avril Marie Bernzen
Orchestra Liaison.....	Vicki Daggett
Opening Night Party.....	Ann Pfaffe
Saturday Night Cast Party.....	Lee Lindsay Curtis
Photography.....	Paul Denckla William Winn
Set Construction.....	Paul Denckla
Light Board.....	Don Johnson
Painting.....	Barbara Stoll William J.B. Winn Kevin Jobe
Ads.....	Gary L. Blickhan Avril Marie Bernzen
Housing Coordinator.....	Avril Marie Bernzen
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Cast Biographies

David Dillard – Baritone (Sergeant of Police)

Mr. Dillard makes his debut with MROC in the role of Sergeant of Police. He has been featured with the Florida Grand Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Lake George Opera, Union Avenue Opera, New Opera St. Louis, DiCapo Opera Theater, Tanglewood Music Center, and San Diego Opera Ensemble. He has also partnered with internationally acclaimed collaborative pianist Martin Katz for several performances of Schubert's *Winterreise*. He currently a voice teacher at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in addition to his performing career.

Ric Furman – Tenor (Frederic)

Mr. Furman makes his debut with MROC in the role of Frederic. In New York he appeared as Tito in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* with Opera Company of Brooklyn. He appearances include the role of Dancaire with Cincinnati Opera, and as Rinuccio in Pittsburgh. His other credits include appearances with Dayton Opera, Dicapo Opera, Indianapolis Opera, and Opera Omaha. Recently he sang the role of Augustin Moser in *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg* with Cincinnati Opera. Mr. Furman has won two State and one regional National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competitions. He is an alumni of Western Illinois University and The University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music.

Kevin Jobe – Baritone (Major-General Stanley)

Mr. Jobe is a Quincy native and he is pleased to make his professional debut with MROC. He has appeared in previous MROC productions in minor roles and as a member of the chorus. *La Bohème*, *The Gift of the Magi*, *L'elisir d'amore*, and *Madama Butterfly*, to name a few. He has also been in numerous Quincy Community Theatre productions. Mr. Jobe studied voice locally with Naomi Watts before attending Faith Baptist College in Ankeny, Iowa with a double major in Theology and Music. Mr. Jobe states he is thankful to God for this opportunity and to his family and friends for their support and encouragement.

Denise Knowlton - Mezzo-Soprano/Contralto (Ruth)

Dr. Knowlton makes her debut with MROC in the role of Ruth. She began her career as a Young Artist with Glimmerglass Opera. She toured for two seasons, reprising the roles of Adelaide, in Torke's *Strawberry Fields* and Mrs. Pompton in Sousa's *The Glass Blowers*. She made her Cleveland Orchestra debut as Gertrude (the mother) in *Hansel und Gretel* in 2004 after appearing in the role of Katisha in *The Mikado*. As *Falstaff's* Dame Quickly, Dr. Knowlton has spent two summers singing that role, first with Kansas City's Civic Opera and also with Union Avenue Opera.

Elise LaBarge - Soprano (Edith)

Ms. LaBarge returns to the Muddy River Opera Company stage in the role of Edith. Previous MROC roles include Ann Rutledge in *Abe, the Musical* and Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. She also appeared in *The Mikado*. A St. Louis native, she received her Masters in Music from Washington University and sang multiple roles in opera scenes and main stage productions while there. She made professional theatre appearances with McLeod Summer Playhouse in *Almost, Maine* and the St. Louis Symphony's *Peter and the Wolf*. She currently leads opera education programs for Union Avenue Opera in conjunction with Young Audiences St. Louis, and plays the role of *Little Red Riding Hood* in the company's ongoing educational outreach performances of the children's opera.

Greg Lewis - Baritone (Samuel)

Mr. Lewis returns to the Muddy River Opera stage in the role of Samuel. His previous appearances with MROC include the role of Mentor Graham in *Abe, the Musical* as well as Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*. Mr. Lewis began his opera studies in the Pacific Northwest and has performed with the Tacoma Opera many times. In 2008, he accepted a position teaching voice at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois where he now makes his home with his wife, Sarah. He returns to sing in the Northwest periodically, but states that he loves to sing with Muddy River Opera Company.

Lacey Phillips - Soprano (Mabel)

Mrs. Phillips makes her professional debut with MROC in the role of Mabel. She appeared as the cousin in MROC's *Madama Butterfly*. She recieved an MM degree in vocal performance from Western Illinois University. Her WIU operatic roles included The Dew Fairy in *Hansel und Gretel*, The Grouch in *Green Eggs and Ham*, and Lola in *Gallantry*. While at Lincoln Christian College, she sang leading roles in several productions. She studies voice with Charolette Megginson and is the worship minister at Madison Park Christian Church. She is a member of the adjunct voice faculty at Culver-Stockton College and she is also on the MROC Board of Directors. She lives in Quincy with her husband, Dan.

Todd von Felker - Baritone (Pirate King)

Mr. von Felker makes his debut with Muddy River Opera following performances with Union Avenue Opera, where he was also in the role of the Pirate King. He has appeared with New Orleans Opera, Pensacola Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera and Florentine Opera of Milwaukee in main stage roles. He portrayed Sharpless, in what was a critically acclaimed *Madama Butterfly* for Music by the Lake and sang Pierrot in *I'le de Merli* for New Orleans Opera. His other recent credits include the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* and Schaunard in *La Bohème* for Pensacola Opera, and Dancaïro in *Carmen* for Des Moines Metro Opera.

Production Staff Biographies

Rebecca L. Parr- Stage Director

Ms. Parr is making her stage director debut with Muddy River Opera. She had assisted at a production of *The Pirates of Penzance* in the recent past and that readied her for coming to Quincy to serve as a Director for Muddy River Opera. When the stage director for *The Pirates of Penzance* bowed out of his commitment in mid-December, Ms. Parr was able to step into the directorship immediately. We are very happy to have her with us as she has over 20 years of experience in opera at all levels of production. She has worked with many of the top directors, conductors and artists in the Opera World. Ms. Parr was last in Phoenix, AZ where she assisted Director Carroll Freeman in the production of *The Magic Flute* for the Phoenix Metropolitan Opera. Ms. Parr has a vast list of opera companies and operas with which she has been associated with over the years on her resume. Ms. Parr resides in Knoxville, TN. Her mother is coming from Tennessee to see the MROC production of "Pirates". We welcome her to Quincy.

Scott Schoonover- Conductor

Mr. Schoonover has conducted several MROC operas. Among them are *The Mikado*, *L'elisir d'amore*, and the world premiere of *Abe the Musical*. He is an active conductor, pianist and coach in the St. Louis area. Mr. Schoonover is the founder and Artistic Director of Union Avenue Opera and continues to direct UAO with his unique musical insight and dedication to providing performances that are true to the intentions of the composer. Mr. Schoonover has led the UAO to critical acclaim for the past sixteen seasons, conducting over 40 productions and 125 performances. He has served as Music Director of the St. Louis Women's Chorale and has appeared with the Bel Canto Chorus, Gateway Men's Chorus, and serves as the Director of Music at Union Avenue Christian Church.

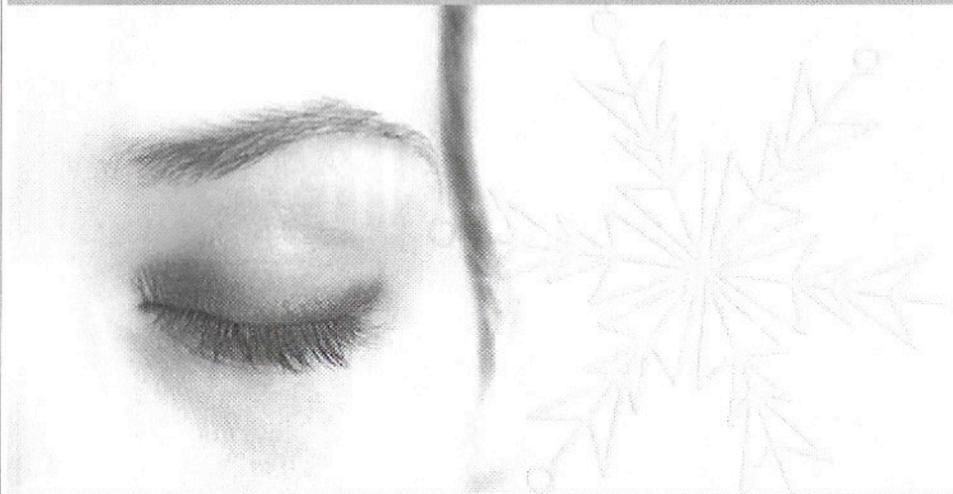
Abril Marie Bernzen – Artistic Director

Mrs. Bernzen's love of opera and classical music has led her to focus a great deal of her time toward making professional opera a reality in the Quincy area. She tirelessly serves as president of the Muddy River Opera Company and as its Artistic Director. She has sung with various opera companies, dinner theatres and other venues across the country. She has also performed with the USO in Cuba. She was director and leading actress in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Theatre for two years. She is a graduate of Quincy College, Notre

Dame Conservatory of Music in piano and the Quincy Conservatory of Music in voice. She has done graduate work in Microbiology at Central Michigan University and St. Louis University. Mrs. Bernzen operates a voice and piano studio out of her home in Quincy.



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