

The Victorian Lyric Opera Company
Presents

Stanley German's

A Gilbert & Sullivan Drawing Room

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater
Rockville Civic Center

8:00 pm September 6, 7, & 8, 2001
2:00 pm September 8 & 9, 2001

Dear Friends of VLOC,

Welcome to the premier of *A Gilbert & Sullivan Drawing Room* and our new, 3-show season format. Lovers of operetta will now have three opportunities a year to see VLOC's quality performances. The season opener runs for one weekend in the fall and is designed to foster growth of performance skills specifically for company members. For this year, we have chosen the original revue by Stanley German that you are about to see. Our 2nd show, Jacques Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne*, runs for three weekends in February and continues our tradition of presenting Victorian operettas other than those by Gilbert & Sullivan. Running for two weekends in June is our 3rd show, Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. We hope that you can join us for all of this exciting season!

With this evening's performance, we will delve far into the world of one of the most famous pairings in musical history, Sir William S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, affectionately referred to as G&S. You, as audience members, are to become guests at a dinner party of the fictitious Rockville Victorian Society. The members of the Society, our players, are experts on all things Victorian and G&S aficionados. They have gathered for an evening of food, conversation, and dancing which was popular during the reign of England's Queen Victoria. The women have attended this evening's event attired in costumes reflecting the many styles prevalent during this era from the 1870s through the 1890s. As the Society assembles in the drawing room for the evening's festivities, they quickly realize that their "guests" are not completely familiar with all things Gilbert & Sullivan. Our players then start you on a journey through the engaging lives of the famous pair, using G&S's own words and music to tell the tale. From opening night to opening night, be prepared to hear the behind-the-scenes stories and events that led to the making of some of the most famous music of all time!

Thank you for joining us for this special evening and supporting the arts in Montgomery County!

Todd Allen Long
Stage Director, *A Gilbert & Sullivan Drawing Room*
Vice President, Victorian Lyric Opera Company

The Cast

Jenny Bland, John Barclay Burns, Blair Eig, Lisa Freese
Gaye Freese, Richard Gorbutt, Ira Haber, Leta Hall, Barry Hilton
Deborah Jacobson, Julio Martinez, Debbie Peetz, Andrea Schewe
Joseph Sorge, Kent Woods, Denise Young

Production Staff

Producers
Lisa Freese, Denise Young

Stage Director Todd Allen Long
Music Director..... Joseph Sorge
Assistant to the Stage Director Julie Stevens
Accompanists..... Jenny Craley Bland, Elizabeth Benefiel
Gay Hill, Deborah Jacobson
Set Designer.....David Smith
Lighting Designer/Light Board OperatorKerry Freese
Spot Operator..... Julia L. Utley
Stage Manager..... Kerry Freese, Julie Stevens
Props Committee The Cast
Technical CrewEd Byrdy, Tony Dwyer, Les Elkins
William Kolodrubetz, Lawrence Lee
Caetano Ordonez, Steve Mager, Julie Stevens
Set builders and paintersVLOC and friends
Costumers..... Gaye Freese, Lisa Freese
Andrea Schewe, Denise Young
Make-up.....Renee Silverstone
Program Leta Hall
House Managers..... Barry Grinnell (Sept 9)
Caroline & Jim Hummel (Sept 8 - evening)
Gina Nowacki (Sept 7)
Rusty Suter (Sept 6 & Sept 8 - matinee)

NANCY RUST SUTER

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Musical Numbers

Act I

Hail, Poetry (*The Pirates of Penzance*)..... Ensemble
First you're born (*Utopia, Limited*) John, Barry, Julio
Little maid of Arcadée (*Thespis*) Denise
Climbing over rocky mountain (*Thespis*) Women
Barry, Deborah, Richard, Debbie
When I, good friends, was called to the bar (*Trial By Jury*) Ira
& Ensemble
My name is John Wellington Wells (*The Sorcerer*)..... John
Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen (*HMS Pinafore*) Ensemble
Never mind the why and wherefore (*Pinafore*) Kent, Ira, Lisa
HMS Pinafore & The Pirates of Penzance Montage Ensemble
The magnet & the churn (*Patience*) Kent & Women
When all night long (*Iolanthe*) Julio
Fold your flapping wings (*Iolanthe*) Barry
Soon as we may (*Iolanthe*) Ensemble
Mighty maiden with a mission (*Princess Ida*)..... Women
Oh, goddess wise (*Ida*)..... Denise

Act II

A more humane Mikado (*The Mikado*) Blair
Three little maids from school (*Mikado*)..... Denise, Debbie
Lisa, & Women
I've got a little list (*Mikado*) John & Men
The sun whose rays (*Mikado*)..... Lisa
My eyes are fully open (*Ruddigore*)..... Barry, Andrea, Blair
I once was a very abandoned person (*Ruddigore*) .. Blair & Andrea
Oh, a private buffoon (*Yeomen of the Guard*) John
When maiden loves (*Yeomen*)..... Andrea
For the merriest fellows (*The Gondoliers*)..... Julio & Ensemble
Then one of us will be a queen (*Gondoliers*)..... Lisa, Deborah
Barry, & Ira
Once more gondolieri (*Gondoliers*) Ensemble
Society has quite forsaken (*Utopia, Limited*) Blair & Men
Had I a son (*Grand Duke*) Kent & Ensemble
I hear the soft note (*Patience*)..... Ensemble
The threatened cloud has passed away (*Mikado*)..... Ensemble

Under the Lights

Jenny Craley Bland has been VLOC's rehearsal pianist for the past 10 years and is happy to be playing for this production, as well as being part of the cast. She accompanies several groups and soloists around the area, sings in an *a cappella* group, and recently accompanied a youth production of *Ida* at the Buxton, England G&S Festival.

John Barclay Burns is making his 3rd appearance with VLOC in this decorous, at least on stage, Victorian celebration of G&S "topsy-turveydom." He is thoroughly enjoying working with old and new VLOC friends. This makes a change of pace from the role of the ruthlessly ambitious Thomas Cromwell in *Anne of the Thousand Days* with the British Embassy Players last fall.

Blair Eig has appeared in numerous G&S productions with VLOC and the Washington Savoyards, most recently performing the title role in VLOC's *Mikado*. In his other life, Blair is the Chief Medical Officer at Holy Cross Hospital. He thanks his wonderful wife Kaethe and the kids – Sarah, Joshua, and Steven – for their patience and support.

Gaye Freese has appeared in several VLOC shows, including as Isabel in *Pirates*. She also recently performed the role of Queen Isabella in the Georgetown G&S Society's production of *Chamber Music*. Although she has costumed many shows – and despite gossip to the contrary – Gaye does *not* sleep with pattern books of Victorian clothes under her pillow.

Lisa Freese is thrilled to be working with so many friends in her 15th VLOC show. Most recently she was seen as Saphir in *Patience* and Peep-Bo in *Mikado*. She finds performing so enjoyable that she has decided to introduce her child to the stage at a *very* early age. Hubby is concerned that the child's first words will be "what never?"

Richard Gorbutt is pleased to be performing in his second show with VLOC after *Mikado*. He has appeared in many shows from G&S to drama in London during the last few years since he became a born again actor. Richard would like to be remembered in 100 years time as the man who successfully introduced mushy peas to the United States.

Ira Haber is amazed to find himself in his 12th show with VLOC, having appeared most recently as Maj. Murgatroyd in *Patience*. He was also seen on stage in *Die Fledermaus*, *Ida*, and *Orpheus in the Underworld*, under the headset as Stage Manager for *Mikado*, and is scheduled to be the Assistant Director for the February 2002 production of *Gondoliers*.

Leta Hall returns to VLOC after an absence during which she directed a one-act, *The Right Words*; assistant directed *Noises Off*; and played Clare in *Rumors*, Gertrude in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, Gert in *California Suite*, Vincentio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (her first cross-dressing role), and Violet Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*. When not rehearsing or performing, Leta auditions.

Barry Hilton was on stage most recently as Pish-Tush in the Little Theatre of Alexandria's 2001 production of *Mikado*. In 20 peripatetic years he has portrayed G&S characters and spear-carriers before friendly audiences in Tokyo and Manhattan as well as with VLOC (where this is his 5th appearance) and other Washington area community venues.

Deborah Jacobson is positively ecstatic to be in her 4th VLOC production. After her wildly successful run as "the fainting girl" in VLOC's *Patience*, she and some fellow cast members have been trying to find a way for her to stage faint in this production as well. If she does, you'll know they were successful.

Julio Martinez continues performing with various opera and theatre organizations in the area and has attended a few parties like the one seen on stage today. He wishes to thank his thousands of well-meaning fans for their letters but no, it's not time for retirement yet. As for the International Association for the Implementation of a Proper British Accent, Julio can't see what all the commotion is about!

Debbie Peetz is celebrating her 7th year with VLOC by trying to memorize lines. Somehow it's easier to remember words with music and other people singing. That aside, this opportunity to try something new is appreciated and working with this ensemble has been very rewarding. Debbie's other outlets include NOVA Chorus, The Metropolitan Chorus, Washington Savoyards, Opera Theater of Northern Virginia and Opera International.

Andrea Schewe is happy to be back again in a VLOC show. She was last seen as Ruth in *Pirates* and Lady Sangazure in *Sorcerer*. Highlights of performances elsewhere include Isabella in Rossini's *Italian Girl in Algiers* and the Brahm's Liebeslieder Waltzes at the Phillip's Collection. She was a first place winner in the 2001 MD/DC National Association of Teacher's of Singing Competitions.

Joseph Sorge was last seen on the VLOC stage in *Patience*. Prior to that he appeared as Dr. Blind in *Die Fledermaus*, Cyril in *Ida*, Leonard Merrill in *Yeomen*, and in the chorus of *Orpheus*, *Pirates*, and *The Merry Widow*. He has 25 years of local community theater experience with leading roles in *Oklahoma*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *West Side Story*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *1776*, *The Fantasticks*, *Company*, and *Brigadoon*. He directs the choir of Holy Redeemer Catholic

Church in College Park. He was also the music director for VLOC's productions of *Mikado* in 1996 and 2001 and *Sorcerer* in 1997.

Kent Woods has performed in many operetta productions over the last dozen years, chiefly with VLOC (of which he is past president). He has appeared as the Judge in *Trial*, Samuel in *Pirates*, and many chorus parts. Weekdays he works as an attorney/adjudicator for the Federal Government.

Denise Young is delighted to appear on stage with VLOC again. Last seen as Yum-Yum in *Mikado*, other VLOC appearances include Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, and Lady Psyche in *Princess Ida*. She also performs with Washington Savoyards, most recently as Zorah in *Ruddigore* and Princess "Gilberta" in *Utopia, Ltd*. When not singing she can generally be found madly sewing costumes.

Behind the Scenes

Kerry Freese (Lighting Designer) has been involved with VLOC for many a season. For this show he has taken on the task of designing as well as executing the stage lighting. He looks forward to being a new daddy, and has hopes that his child will not grow up to perform on stage.....well, hardly ever.

Stanley German (Playwright) is pleased to have the first full performance of *The Gilbert and Sullivan Drawing Room* performed by VLOC. The work was originally performed in New York at the Light Opera of Manhattan, where he served as conductor, repetiteur and assistant to company founder William Mount-Burke. Stanley achieved a lifetime dream when he conducted *The Yeomen of The Guard* at the International G&S Festival in Buxton, England last summer.

Todd Allen Long (Stage Director) is proud to be making his directorial debut with VLOC. He was an active member of VLOC before moving to Boston 3 years ago. While in Boston, he portrayed Giuseppe in *Gondoliers*, Robin in *Ruddigore* and Strephon in *Iolanthe* with the Sudbury Savoyards. Todd also appeared with the Fiddlehead Theatre Company as Governor Bellingham in *The Scarlet Letter*, Billy in *Anything Goes* and Charlie in *Brigadoon*. He also directed *Pirates* and *Pinafore* for Fiddlehead. Todd wishes to thank the women behind the man: Aroostine and Katie, wife and daughter!

David M. Smith (Set Designer) is happy to be a part of a great team. This is his 2nd design for VLOC, and he is looking forward to the next show and design.

Julie Stevens (Assistant to the Director) is pleased to be working on her 6th + show with VLOC and blames it all on Leta (Thanks Leta!). Thanks also to her wonderful family for putting up with her curious, no, odd, no, *peculiar* (yes, that's it!) hobby.

Get Involved

The VICTORIAN LYRIC OPERA COMPANY, based in Rockville, is primarily devoted to authentic productions of the comic operas of Gilbert & Sullivan and other operettas of that era, and encourages the promotion of these evergreen works of the Musical Theater. The company is a community-based group and derives its operating finances from ticket sales, member dues, and individual donations. VLOC is always pleased to welcome new members to the organization. If you would like to become a member of VLOC as a performer, technical staff, or donor, or if you would just like to be kept informed of our activities, please sign up for our mailing list during Intermission or after the show, or call us at 301-879-0220.

Coming up next!

VLOC is pleased to present

Jacques Offenbach's

La Vie Parisienne

Performances February 2002

Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Gondoliers

Performances June 2002

For audition information or to reserve tickets,
please call 301-879-0220

VLOC Appreciates ...

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Montgomery Playhouse
Ceil Rodgers, Frank DeSando, St. John's (Norwood) Episcopal
Church, Silver Spring Stage, Quade Winter, and everyone else
who helped make this production possible.