



**YEovil AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY**  
Presents  
**1st - 6th October 2007**  
at the Octagon Theatre

# Pirates of Penzance

BROADWAY VERSION



**MAJOR GENERAL'S DAUGHTERS:** The Major General played by Ernie Thomas with stage daughters Marie Brolly, Angie Best, Amy Barlow and Sally Dixon.



**PIRATE KING:** The Pirate King, played by Paul Brolly, turns noble in the end.



**PIRATE'S LIFE:** Samuel (Fred McLoughlin), Pirate King (Paul Brolly) and Frederic (Rob Reid).

## A pirate's life for operatic society

THE pirates of Penzance, a tender hearted band, made up exclusively of orphans and unable to harm anyone of similar background, are celebrating Frederic's coming of age and subsequent release from his apprenticeship to them.

Frederic joined the pirate group as a child, on the premise of a miscommunication between his nursemaid Ruth and his father - who instructed that he should be apprenticed to a ship's pilot.

Ruth remains loyal, and sticks with Frederic, and as time goes on she harbours a desire to marry him.

Frederic has other plans however, as he has met and fallen in love with

Mabel, whose sisters have been claimed by the other pirates as their future brides.

The girls father, the Major General, is horrified at this prospect and declares himself to be an orphan, knowing that this will effect their immediate release.

As an ex-pirate, Frederic now feels that his duty is to society and he wastes no time in assembling a police force to capture the pirates. He is dismayed when he learns from Ruth and the Pirate King that he is bound to the pirates until his 21st birthday as his birthday falls on the leap year, in effect, making him five years old.

Consequently, feeling that his loyalty is now to the pirates again, he reveals

that the Major General is not really an orphan. The Pirate King is furious that he has been tricked and he plots to capture the General, his daughters and the policemen and take his revenge. This task proves no problem to his band of men until the Sergeant demands that they surrender in the name of Queen Victoria.

This is too much for them and they yield to the request. However, as they are about to be taken into custody, Ruth reveals that they are not really pirates at all, but noblemen who have gone astray. On hearing this, the General orders their release, restores them to their rightful ranks and offers them his daughters in marriage.



**POLICE POWER:** Police Sergeant (Duncan Wright) and Major General escape the Pirate King's revenge.



**LOYAL NURSEMAID:** Ruth (Ros Broad) stays by Frederic's side as he joins the pirates.

### Broadway pirates with added comedy

THE only Gilbert and Sullivan opera to have its official opening in New York, opened at a 5th Avenue theatre on 31 December 1879.

At the time there was no international copyright law, and the show, which continued to be a great hit, was opened in New York to prevent unauthorised versions.

The Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society have chosen the Broadway version to perform, as it is slightly updated, and have added more dancing and comedy.

For Gilbert and Sullivan traditionalism it varies very little



**FAMILIAR FACES:** This production sees the return of Director Alan Spencer and Musical Director Pete Harrison.

in both music and script from the original.

The musical director, Pete Harrison, returns to work with the group after its success with Hello Dolly. Alan Spencer also

rejoins the group after doing directing work with companies as far away as New Zealand. Alan Spencer last worked with the group in HMS Pinafore in 2004.

### A great support team

A GREAT show needs a great support team and YAOS's is second to none.

Led by Stage Manager Geoff Thresh, the team give up their time, not just during the run of the show but during rehearsals.

Before a show some are involved in making scenery, collecting props and organising

costumes; others are involved in selling tickets, programme preparation, publicity, and seeking sponsors.

During the show the support team are found helping the public at the front-of-house and backstage they make the show run smoothly acting as stage crew, dressers, make-up, and offering refreshments.

## Pirates of Penzance

(Broadway Version)

1st - 6th October at the Octagon Theatre

Performances 7.30pm Nightly

Matinee Saturday 6th October 2.30pm

Tickets Available at the Octagon Box Office (Tel 01935 422884)

Prices: £14 and £12 Tues 2nd to Sat 6th evenings

£10 Mon 1st & Sat 6th matinees

A new version of Gilbert and Sullivan's THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE. Book by Sir William Schwenck Gilbert. Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan. Musical adaptation by William Elliot. As presented on Broadway by The New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp (1968-69). Directed by William Etick. Choreography by Graciela Dancie. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD, on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK.



**GREAT SUPPORT:** The support team for YAOS give up time before, during and after the show.



**STAGE MANAGER:** Geoff Thresh leads the support team.