



Burns Wharf Theatre

MANITOWANING, ONTARIO

2008 Season

- May 29, 30, 31 **H.M.S. Pinafore** - the 'Concert Version'
- June 15 **Down Yonder**, country band
- June 21 **Kampana Handbell Quartet** with
the Island Singers
- July 12 **Rick Fines** (blues)
- July 2, 9,
16 & 23 **Gore Bay Theatre** - "Tuesdays with Morrie"
by Mitch Albom and Jeffrey Hatcher
- July 25, 26 **Gore Bay Theatre** - "The Love List"
by Norm Foster
- July 27 **Down Yonder**
- August 1 **Sheesham and Lotus** (bluegrass)
Opening Act - **D'Arcy Closs**
- August 10 **Down Yonder**
- August 16 **Kevin Closs**
- September 7 **Down Yonder**

For Further Information Call 705-859-3808

Burns Wharf Theatre

presents

W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan's

HMS PINAFORE

or

THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR

*"A Narrated Concert Version
of Gilbert & Sullivan's
Popular Operetta"*

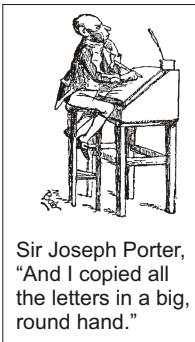
Directed by DAVID SMITH
Music directed by MARILYN WOHLBERG



The Story...

In *H.M.S. Pinafore* or *The Lass That Loved a Sailor*, W.S. Gilbert satirizes the snobbery and hypocrisy of the English social system of his day. He tells the story of a lowly able seaman named Ralph who has fallen in love with Josephine, his Captain's daughter. Josephine, however, has been pledged by

her father to Sir Joseph Porter, First Lord of the Admiralty. Although Josephine is in love with Ralph, she is determined to remain true to her breeding and marry the man her father has chosen. Sir Joseph, for his part, professes to be a man of new ideals, informing the Captain that "a British sailor is any man's equal, excepting mine," and requiring him to soften his commands to the crew by adding such civilities as "if you please." But when Little Buttercup, a local bumboat woman, lets slip that all is not what it seems, Sir Joseph's liberal notions are put to the test.



Sir Joseph Porter, "And I copied all the letters in a big, round hand."

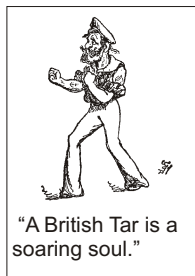
The Partnership...

Over the course of twenty-five years, W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan etched their names in the history books forever. Many of their efforts have remained at the heart of operetta repertoire for more than 100 years. *H.M.S. Pinafore* was their fourth collaboration, but their first overwhelming success. It was followed up with such popular musicals as *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Gondoliers*.

William Schwenck Gilbert was born in 1836 just as the reign of Queen Victoria was about to begin. Early in his career he was a frequent contributor to *Fun* magazine, publishing drawings, short stories, and dramatic criticism. Gilbert was a very difficult man. "I am an ill-tempered pig," he once wrote, "and I glory in it."

Arthur Sullivan, on the other hand, was a kind, likeable man with extreme tastes in travel, women, and food and drink. His instructors at the Royal Academy of Music believed he had a greater gift for music than Brahms. Most critics felt that his talents were going to waste in the creation of his operatic pursuits, however he had the uncanny ability to contrive music to fit any lyric, any scene, and any mood.

The magic of the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership lay in the cutting wit and perfectionism of Gilbert, who micro-managed details of rehearsals, and his ability to craft a plot of many convoluted layers, only to have it sort out neatly in the end. Sullivan was the one who made froth of this wit. He could craft melodies that instantly projected the dramatic intent of Gilbert's lines.



"A British Tar is a soaring soul."

The Glossary...

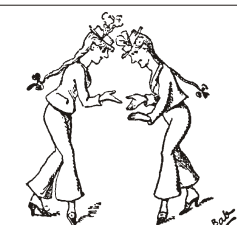
The *H.M.S. Pinafore* was written in a different era and used words and references that a modern audience may not understand. This glossary may help.

- **British tar** - slang for sailor
- **Buttercup's wares:**
 - **jacky** - twists of tobacco soaked in rum (for chewing)
 - **soft tommy** - a kind of bread
 - **chicken and conies** - wild rabbits
 - **pretty polonies** - smoked sausages
- **foremast hands** - sailors who serve "before the mast" (below the rank of officer)
- **quarter-deck** - the deck to the aft of the mainmast where only commissioned officers may promenade
- **ship a selvagee** - a hank of rope yarn made into a strap or sling
- **Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B.** - Knight Commander of the (Order of the) Bath
- **bang the loud nine-pounders go** - the smallest of the battery of the cannons carried on Royal Navy ships
- **pocket borough** - refers to a parliamentary seat controlled by a single individual (usually wealthy landowner)
- **grog** - rum diluted with water
- **Cimmerian darkness** - according to Homer's Odyssey, the Cimmerians lived in a land where the sun never shines
- **bumboat woman** - boat used to peddle provisions to ships in port
- "jackdaws strut in peacock feathers"; "storks turn out to be but logs"; "bulls are but inflated frogs" - three references to Aesop's fables
- **cat-o'-nine-tails** - (or simply "the cat") - a whip with nine knotted lashes used for punishment



Captain Corcoran and Buttercup

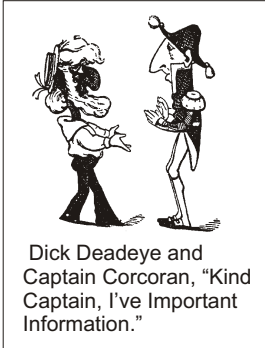
W.S. Gilbert's nickname as a child was "Bab", the family's shortened form for baby. He illustrated each of his librettos with drawings signed with "Bab". Some of these illustrations have been included with this program.



Sisters, Cousins, or Aunts, "Gaily tripping, lightly skipping."

The Thanks...

This production of H.M.S. Pinafore was the brainchild of Marilyn Wohlberg, who several years ago had the desire to put together a major event at Burns Wharf. She then asked Debbie Robinson if she would be interested in being involved. Slowly, more and more came 'on board'. Once the seed had been planted in potential cast members, Marilyn realized that this was a project needing the talents and skills of a dedicated director. She naturally turned to David Smith, who is well known for the many dinner theater productions that he put together as principal at Assiginack School.



Dick Deadeye and Captain Corcoran, "Kind Captain, I've Important Information."

The list of people who deserve thanks is quite extensive. This list, however must start with Marilyn Wohlberg, musical director and David Smith, director; both of whom were the driving force behind the production. The entire cast also gave generously of their time, attending numerous practices, and keeping their sense of humour through it all.

Special thanks also goes to...

Costumes - Christianna Jones for the sailor uniforms
- Marilyn Moggy for coordinating ladies' outfits
- Everyone who lent costumes

Set - Brian Sprack - ship design
- Doug Smith- stage and theatre improvements
- Susanne Smith - assistant

Sound System - Andrew Lowe
Program and Poster - Peter Baumgarten
Ticket Sales - Elwood Wohlberg
Videographer - Chris Mara
Marina Manager - Cheryl O'Brien
Township of Assiginack Employees
Assiginack Museum and Elwood & Marilyn Wohlberg for rehearsal space
Dorothy Anstice for sharing her musical expertise
John Marselle for coming on board as the Narrator

...And most importantly, to the families of the cast members who supported them and had to listen to the music countless times!!!

Hoorah, Hoorah, Hooray!

The Program...

Act I - Noon aboard the H.M.S. Pinafore

1. "We sail the ocean blue" (Sailors)
2. "Hail! men-o'-war's men" ... "I'm called Little Buttercup" (Buttercup)
3. "The nightingale" (Ralph and Chorus of Sailors)
- 3a. "A maiden fair to see" (Ralph and Chorus of Sailors)
4. "My gallant crew, good morning" (Captain Corcoran and Chorus of Sailors)
- 4a. "Sir, you are sad" (Buttercup and Captain Corcoran)
5. "Sorry her lot who loves too well" (Josephine)
6. "Over the bright blue sea" (Chorus of Female Relatives)
7. "Sir Joseph's barge is seen" (Chorus of Sailors and Female Relatives)
8. "Now give three cheers" (Captain Corcoran, Sir Joseph, Cousin Hebe)
9. "When I was a lad" (Sir Joseph and Chorus)
10. "A British tar" (Ralph, Boatswain, Carpenter's Mate, and Chorus of Sailors)
11. "Refrain, audacious tar" (Josephine and Ralph)
12. Finale, Act I: "Can I survive this overbearing?"

Intermission - Fifteen Minutes

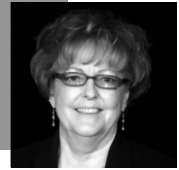
Act II - Night

13. "Fair moon, to thee I sing" (Captain Corcoran)
14. "Things are seldom what they seem" (Buttercup and Captain Corcoran)
15. "The hours creep on apace" (Josephine)
16. "Never mind the why and wherefore" (Josephine, Captain, and Sir Joseph)
17. "Kind Captain, I've important information" (Captain and Dick Deadeye)
18. "Carefully on tiptoe stealing" (Soli and Chorus)
- 18a. "Pretty daughter of mine" (Captain and Ensemble) and "He is an Englishman" (Boatswain and Ensemble)
19. "Farewell, my own" (Ralph, Josephine, Sir Joseph Porter, Buttercup)
20. "A many years ago" (Buttercup and Chorus)
- 20a. "Here, take her, sir" (Sir Joseph, Josephine, Ralph, Cousin Hebe, and Chorus)
21. Finale: "Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen" (Ensemble)

The Directors....

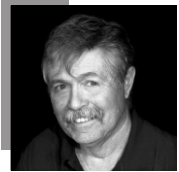


David Smith, Director - David has had a long association with amateur and school theatre productions in various capacities. In 1980 he started Burns Wharf Theatre with the help of the Sudbury Theatre Centre and continued to run the theatre for the next 20 years. He is excited that for the first time a locally produced musical is being staged here.

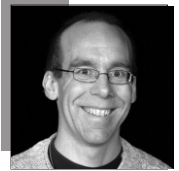


Marilyn Wohlberg, Music Director - Marilyn is very pleased to be making her debut as musical director for the newly formed Burns Wharf Theatre Players. Since her retirement from full-time teaching, Marilyn is enjoying many activities including acting ("Allie" in Marion Seabrook's "Once Upon an Island" and "Touched by an Island"), singing (with the Island Singers), Events Coordinator for Burns Wharf Theatre and most recently, music director for "H.M.S. Pinafore".

The Cast...



Henry Hoy, "Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B." - Henry has a natural love of singing. His last actual singing production was "The Lord of the Dance" at McMaster University in 1973. Henry spent most of his years teaching on the Island, first in M'Chigeeng and then in Wikwemikong. He organized the Wiky 10km Road Race for thirty years and has run several marathons, including the Boston Marathon. At present he is enjoying retirement, playing golf and helping his son build his house.



Ray Scott, "Captain Corcoran" - Ray has previously starred as the *Usher* and the *Judge* in "Trial by Jury", and the *Boatswain* in "HMS Pinafore". He is a teacher and music educator. This past year he directed "S'Cool: A Teenage Musical", Sains-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" and a production of "The Little Red Hen" for children. Ray enjoys triathlons, and provincial politics. He is married to co-star Ann-Marie Scott and is the proud father of William, James and Marjorie (& Maisy the dog).



Peter Baumgarten, "Ralph Rackstraw" - Although Peter has performed for audiences previously, as part of the Island Singers, and as a soloist, this is his first 'theatrical' performance and he is thrilled to work with such amazing 'messmates'. Music has been a big part of his life since early childhood. In his other life he loves being a father, husband, highschool teacher, and recently has more actively pursued his long-time hobby of photography and graphic design.



Esther Anstice, "Josephine" - Esther Anstice is well known on Manitoulin as a soloist with the Island Singers and at St. Francis Anglican Church in Mindemoya. She studied voice with Marion Harvey, was a member of the Ontario Youth Choir and the National Youth Choir, and has toured England with the Cathedral Singers of Ontario. For the past four years Esther has been Circulation manager at the Manitoulin Expositor, and will soon be pursuing her goal of becoming a paramedic.



Jason Moffatt, "Dick Deadeye" - After a twenty-odd year hiatus, Jason is back on the stage. He is thrilled to be performing at Burns Wharf and remembers well the transformation from dusty, attic storage to this beautiful theatre. To be a part of a local acting troop is an exciting experience and makes life in Assiginack even more rewarding.



Debbie Robinson, "Buttercup" - Singing has long been a part of Debbie's life - in church, the local community and as part of the country and western band, Down Yonder. This is her first musical and it has been an amazing experience! Thank-you Marilyn, David and fellow castmates. Debbie lives on beautiful New England Road in Manitowaning. She has her dream job as librarian and a wonderful family that keeps her busy.



Ron Nesbitt, "Boatswain" - Ron is pleased to be making his debut in this new venture on the HMS Pinafore. He has been a part of the Island Singers for several years and was pleased to join the Pinafore cast. He has found the experience to be very rewarding, and at times challenging, but excited to be working with the multi-talented cast and directors. Ron is retired from Falconbridge Nickel mines. He was a cottager for twenty-six years and has now lived on the Island for thirteen years.



Ann Marie Scott, "Cousin Hebe" - Ann-Marie is enjoying her first starring role as Cousin Hebe. She possesses an Honours Bachelor Degree in Music Education, and a Diploma in Music Education. She is a piano teacher and a frequent guest teacher at Assiginack Public School in Manitowaning. She leads the worship band and Awana program at Mindemoya's Missionary Church. Ann-Marie is also a proud member of the Island Singers.

The Sailors...

The Sisters, Cousins and Aunts...



Back Row - Gloria Taliotis, Mary Buie, Pat Novak, Susanne Smith
Middle Row - Louis Marselle, Sharon Ferguson, Rhonda Bondi, Kristen McKenzie, John Marselle (Narrator), Dorothy Anstice, Allison McNeil, Audrey Jones
Crouching - Colin Senior, Cole Bowerman, Jeremy Mailloux, Bill Sawyer, Roberta Ayles, Karen King, Nimkii Lavell, Al Tribinevicius, Lucie Medwig