

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images available at lamplighters.org/pr_images.html



SAN FRANCISCO, California (4 May, 2015) – Lamplighters Music Theatre has announced an all-Gilbert & Sullivan program for their 2015-16 Season. The Season comprises *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *Ruddygore* as well as a *The Pirates of Penzance* Singalong and a *Star Wars* themed Gala performance. Performances will run between July 31st 2015 through March 20, 2016.

This summer, in *H.M.S. PINAFORE*, Gilbert & Sullivan’s first blockbuster hit, audiences will board one of England’s great Navy ships where the beautiful Josephine must choose between marrying Sir Joseph Porter, the First Lord of the Admiralty - with all of the wealth, prestige and power his title affords - or the “simple sailor, lowly born” who has won her heart. When *Pinafore* crossed the Atlantic to open in the U.S. in 1878 it became an instant sensation. In those days, however, copyright laws in the U.S. were barely in place and a mania of copycat productions were launched hot on the tail of the original. Many years later it is still one of the most popular operettas ever produced.

Come November it’s time for Lamplighter’s *ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA & AUCTION*. An original satire set (mostly) to the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan; a Lamplighters Gala is a unique event – more fun-raiser than fundraiser. They will again be presenting the Gala in two venues: the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on the 8th, and the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco on the 15th. This year the Company will be focusing most of the parody on the eternally popular *STAR WARS*. Some of the more popular and award-winning Lamplighters Galas of the past include *Upside-Downton Abbey*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern’s Excellent Adventure*, *Apocalypse Later*, *Major General Hospital*, and *The Phantom of the Operetta*.

In February 2016 the Company will revisit Gilbert & Sullivan's comic masterpiece, *RUDDYGORE*, which melds the world of Jane Austen with a good old-fashioned English ghost story and a dash of Wuthering Heights romance. When inflicted with a family curse, Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd fakes his death and disguises himself as simple farmer Robin Oakapple, leaving his brother Sir Despard to carry the curse of being forced to commit one deadly crime a day or perish in indescribable agony. Before long, Robin falls in love with virtuous

maiden Rose Maybud, but he finds himself in a love-triangle with his foster brother, Dick Dauntless. Add to the mix Mad Margaret who has been driven to insanity by the curse on her beloved Despard, a bevy of professional bridesmaids, and a ghostly chorus of ancestors, and you have a topsy-turvy recipe for fear and fun.

And last, but not least, the ever-popular *THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE SINGALONG* will return in March 2016 to celebrate the leap year birthday of Frederic, the Pirate Apprentice. Wacky, irreverent, and as entertaining today as it was when it first opened in 1879, Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates Of Penzance* follows the story of an orphan boy who was mistakenly apprenticed to a pirate instead of a pilot. A hilarious farce featuring sentimental pirates, bumbling policemen, dewy-eyed daughters, and an eccentric Major General, and peppered with unforgettable melodies and tongue-twisting songs such as *I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General* and *Poor Wandering One*, *Pirates* is one of the most popular operettas ever written. The Lamplighters will perform the work in its entirety, bringing the orchestra on stage to join the fun. With everything included but the scenery, audience participation is encouraged as all are invited to become the chorus and feel free to sing any and all parts. Costumes are also encouraged and a brief contest with prizes takes place at intermission.

Season Tickets are on sale now, single tickets will be on sale in June. For any general enquiries, call the Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or info@lamplighters.org.

H.M.S. PINAFORE

[Leshar Center for the Arts](#), 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Friday, July 31 • 8PM, Saturday, August 1 • 2PM & 8PM, Sunday, August 2 • 2PM

925-943-7469 · lesherartscenter.org

[Mountain View Center for Performing Arts](#), 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

Saturday, August 8 • 2PM & 8PM, Sunday, August 9 • 2PM

650-903-6000 · mvpca.com

[Yerba Buena Center for the Arts](#), 700 Howard Street, San Francisco

Friday, August 14 • 8PM, Saturday, August 15 • 2PM & 8PM, Sunday, August 16 • 2PM

415-978-2787 · ybca.org

[Bankhead Theater](#), 2400 First Street, Livermore

Saturday, August 22 • 2PM & 8PM, Sunday, August 23 • 2PM

925-373-6800 · bankheadtheater.org

ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE GALA AND AUCTION

[Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts](#), 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

Sunday, November 8 • Silent auction at 3PM, Performance at 4pm

650-903-6000 · mvcpa.com

[Herbst Theatre](#), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Sunday, November 15 • Silent auction at 3PM, Performance at 4pm

415-392-4400 · cityboxoffice.com

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S *RUDDYGORE*

[Leshher Center for the Arts](#), 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Friday, February 12, 2016 • 8PM, Saturday, February 13 2PM & 8PM,

Sunday, February 14 • 2PM

925-943-7469 · lesherartscenter.org

[Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater](#), San Francisco

Friday, February 19, 2016 • 8PM, Saturday, February 20 • 2PM & 8PM, Sunday, February 21 • 2PM

415-978-2787 · ybca.org

[Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts](#), 500 Castro Street, Mountain View Saturday, February 27,

2016 • 8PM, Sunday, February 28 • 2PM

650-903-6000 · Single tickets available in June

***THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE* SINGALONG**

[First Unitarian Universalist Church](#), San Francisco

Sunday, March 13, 2016 • 4PM

415-978-2787 · brownpapertickets.com

[Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts](#), 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

Saturday, March 19, 2016 • 8pm

650-903-6000 · [mvcpa.com](#)

[Leshher Center for the Arts](#), 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Sunday, March 20, 2016 • 2PM

925-943-7469 · [lesherartscenter.org](#)

A Brief History and Bio of Lamplighters Music Theatre

Lamplighters Music Theatre was founded in 1952 to produce the comic operas of librettist W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, and is now recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent Gilbert & Sullivan companies. The Lamplighters' repertoire includes all the surviving works of these creative geniuses, as well as a select group of comic operas and classic musicals by other composers that exemplify their artistic vision.

Critically acclaimed artistic successes for the Lamplighters include honors for Best Production and Best Director at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England and local awards in nearly every performance, direction, and design category. The hallmarks of a Lamplighters production are lavish costumes and sets, live orchestra, excellent comic acting, and gorgeous unamplified singing that showcases the beauty and purity of the human voice.

In addition to an active performance schedule, the Lamplighters provide performance and training opportunities in this unique style of classic music theatre to local theatre artists, and seek to promote appreciation for the works of Gilbert & Sullivan through youth programs, school performances and other types of community outreach.