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The Lamplighters Announce Their 58th Season

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
JULY/AUGUST 2010

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

TRIAL BY JURY/ENGAGED
MARCH 2011

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (tickets: 415-978-2787 or YBCA.org)
Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek (tickets: 925-943-7469 or lesherartscenter.org)
Bankhead Theater, Livermore (tickets: 925-373-6800 or livermoreperformingarts.org)

For more information call The Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or visit www.lamplighters.org

Lamplighters Music Theatre is delighted to announce its 2010-11 season of Gilbert & Sullivan classics and a comic play – *Engaged* by W.S. Gilbert, sans Sullivan - in honor of the 100th anniversary of Gilbert's passing. This will be the first time in their long tenure that The Lamplighters have performed a play without music.

The season opens with Gilbert & Sullivan's swashbuckling classic comedy *The Pirates of Penzance*. One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas, *The Pirates Of Penzance* follows the story of Frederic, an orphan who was mistakenly apprenticed to a pirate instead of a pilot, due to a hard-of-hearing nurse. Upon reaching his 21st birthday, Frederic rejoices that he has fulfilled his indenture and is now free to return to respectable society, but in a cruel twist of fate, he must remain apprenticed to the Pirates of Penzance for another 63 years. Mayhem ensues in true Gilbert and Sullivan style, featuring a gaggle of soft-hearted pirates, a Major General who knows nothing of military strategy, his beautiful unwed daughters, and a chorus of bumbling constabulary, all contributing to one of the most uproarious operettas in the history of musical theatre. Phil Lowery will direct the production and Monroe Kanouse will conduct. Featuring some of Gilbert and Sullivan's most well known songs, including *Poor Wand'ring One* and *A*

Modern Major General, *The Pirates Of Penzance* is as wacky, irreverent, and entertaining today as it was when it first opened in 1879.

The Lamplighters' winter production will be Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Subtitled *The Merryman and his Maid*, the story is set during Shakespearean times, and is the most emotionally engaging of the Savoy Operas, ending with a broken-hearted main character and two very reluctant engagements. *Yeomen* follows a prisoner who escapes from the Tower of London and assumes the identity of a guardsman. The story is filled with wordplay and mistaken identities, including a most memorable scene where the prisoner in disguise confronts his own wife without revealing his true identity. Critics considered the score to be Sullivan's finest, including its overture, which is in sonata form. This was the first Savoy Opera to use Sullivan's larger orchestra, including a second bassoon and third trombone. Most of Sullivan's subsequent operas, including those not composed with Gilbert as librettist, use this larger orchestra. This dark comedy is the closest thing to grand opera in the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire. The Lamplighters' Artistic Director, Barbara Heroux, will direct the production and their resident Music Director, Baker Peeples, will conduct.

A third production will be offered in March – a double feature of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* coupled with Gilbert's comic farce *Engaged*. A one-act gem, *Trial* matches Gilbert's delicious satire on the legal system with some of Sullivan's most inventive and tuneful music and follows the court case of a jilted bride who is suing her would-be husband for breach of trust. She comes into the court in her full bridal gown, complete with bridesmaids, and proceeds to flirt shamelessly with the judge and the jury. The exquisite and rarely performed Gilbert & Sullivan masterpiece is unique in their canon: it's one act (about 35 minutes) long, and it's sung through with no dialog at all. In contrast *Engaged* is a play with no singing at all, and deals with a different kind of relationship problem – a man who is engaged to three women at once. A humorous farce that takes place in the Scottish borders, *Engaged* begins with a frenzied series of marriage proposals, but something just isn't quite right... This is the first time that The Lamplighters have produced a non-musical piece, a move that honors the 100th year of Gilbert's death.

In addition to these season offerings, The Lamplighters will perform their unique Gala & Auction show on November 7th at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco. An original, topical satire set to the music of Arthur Sullivan, a Lamplighters Gala is a unique event – more fun-raiser than fundraiser. Past titles such as *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern's Excellent Adventure*, *Apocalypse Later*, *Major General Hospital*, and *Operetta, Get Me the Police!* have won Best Original Show awards from the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle.

The season opens on Thursday, July 29th at Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Season tickets go on sale in May and will be offered at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore for the first time, in addition to their established venues – Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

PIRATES OF PENZANCE (performances at 2pm and 8pm)

July 29 - 31	Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek
August 7 & 8	Lincoln Theatre, Yountville
August 14 & 15	Mountain View Performing Arts Center, Mountain View
August 19 - 22	Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
August 27 – 29	Bankhead Theatre, Livermore

48TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

November 7, 4:00pm Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

YEOMEN OF THE GUARD (performances at 2pm and 8pm)

January 28 – 30	Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek
February 4 - 6	Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
February 19 - 20	Bankhead Theatre, Livermore

TRIAL BY JURY / ENGAGED

March 11, 8pm	Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek
March 12-13	Presentation Theatre, San Francisco (performances at 2pm and 8pm)

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.

Gilbert & Sullivan created a new kind of music theatre. Their music is largely classical in style, but lyrics and music are perfectly matched; librettos are complicated, but highly literate, thought-provoking and hugely entertaining. Between 1875 and 1896 they took the world of music by storm with their 13 comic operas, including *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*. Today, their topsy-turvy, melodic creations continue to inspire, intrigue and delight performers and audiences of all ages.

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.