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Updated: 11/21/09



**Lamplighters Music Theatre presents
Gilbert & Sullivan's
*PATIENCE***

Tickets: \$13-48

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 lesherarts.org)

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

Lamplighters Music Theatre presents Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience*, a comic opera that pokes fun at the Aesthetic movement that minced over England in the late 19th century - an artistic movement that became so popular that it was easy to ridicule as a meaningless craze. Since gullible people have continued to fall for posturing pseudo-poets to this day, *Patience* remains as relevant as ever.

All of the neighborhood maidens are dramatically in love with the aesthetic poet Bunthorne except for Patience, the unpretentious milkmaid. When Bunthorne attempts to woo Patience, she rejects him and asks Lady Angela to explain what love is. On discovering that love is truly unselfish – and therefore a duty – Patience rejects the advances of the poet Grosvenor, her handsome childhood love. Finding Bunthorne in the act of raffling himself off to his lady followers she dutifully submits herself to unselfishly sacrificing herself by loving him. A delighted Bunthorne accepts and the disappointed ladies momentarily return their affections to their former boyfriends, the 35th Dragoon Guards who have just returned after a year's absence. All seems resolved until the broken hearted Grosvenor appears and the maidens, finding him even more aesthetic than Bunthorne, decide to fall passionately in love with him instead – to the

horror of all, including Grosvenor. Bunthorne is furiously jealous of the adulation Grosvenor receives and, with the aid of the faithful Lady Jane, decides to outwit his opponent. Meanwhile, in an attempt to rekindle the former affection of the ladies, three of the Dragoon guards adopt “aesthetic” costume and succeed in winning the hearts of at least 2 of the maidens. Grosvenor, upon being threatened by the jealous Bunthorne, drops his fanciful behavior and, quite happily, becomes an ordinary young man. Patience finds that, since Grosvenor is no longer perfect, she may now love him without guilt and the maidens, no longer rapturous, also return to being ordinary and finally return to their old loves, the guards. Bunthorne is left with the one person he truly adores - himself.

It was the fashion in London life, as it is in the libretto of *Patience*, for those of the Aesthetic set to be wafted above reality so that one might be seen carrying a drooping lily, affecting gloom, or dressing in faded drapery. The movement was so popular and so easy and fun to ridicule, that *Patience* was a great hit, receiving eight encores when it opened at the Opera Comique in London, on 23rd April 1881. Such popularity meant that *Patience* soon outgrew the Comique, and D'Oyly Carte - the theatre impresario who had brought Gilbert & Sullivan together - fulfilled his dream of opening a theatre especially for the works of the two geniuses. This theatre, the famous Savoy, was the first to be completely lit by electricity and this, plus the much larger stage, meant that Gilbert had to completely restage *Patience* before it reopened in its new home on October 10th, 1881.

Directed by Jane Erwin Hammett and conducted by Baker Peeples, with original costume designs by Melissa Wortman, *Patience* will be performed at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts from Friday, January 15 through Sunday, January 17; and at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek from Friday, January 29 through Sunday January 31. Tickets cost \$13-48.

Cast (subject to change):

Colonel Calverly – Charles Martin

Major Murgatroyd – Nathan Kondrat*

Lieut. The Duke of Dunstable – Jonathan Smucker

Reginald Bunthorne – F. Lawrence Ewing

Archibald Grosvenor – Chris Uzelac

The Lady Angela – Cary Ann Rosko

The Lady Saphir – Eliza Leoni

The Lady Ella – Rebecca Krouner*

The Lady Jane – Katy Daniel

Patience – Jennifer Ashworth

Chorus of Rapturous Maidens and Officers of Dragoon Guards:

Nikki Arias, Joshua Beld, Marisa Binder, Dennis Chase, Sabrina De Mio, Peter de Vries, Robert Dorsett, Christopher Focht, Rose Frazier†, Rob Gorlin*, Harlan Hayes*†, Mark Hodgson, Colin Ketcham*†, Elizabeth Levinson*†, William Loney, Michelle Lowry*, James MacIlvaine, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong, Carly Ozard, Liz Pasha*, Corinne Proctor*, Richard Pryor, Laura Pyper*, Sarah-Nicole Ruddy*, Mimu Tsujimura.

* Lamplighters debut

† Summer Music West Graduates