

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lamplighters Music Theatre presents**

**Gilbert & Sullivan's  
*THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE***

Tickets: \$14 - 50

Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (tickets: 415-978-2787 or [ybca.org](http://ybca.org))  
Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek (tickets: 925-943-7469 or [lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org))  
Bankhead Theater in Livermore (tickets: 925-373-6800 or [bankheadtheater.org](http://bankheadtheater.org))  
Lincoln Theater Napa Valley in Yountville (tickets: 707-944-9900 or [lincolntheater.org](http://lincolntheater.org))  
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts in Mountain View (tickets: 650-903-6000 or [mvcpa.com](http://mvcpa.com))

For more information call The Lamplighters at 415-227-4797 or go to [www.lamplighters.org](http://www.lamplighters.org)

Lamplighters Music Theatre opens its 58<sup>th</sup> season with Gilbert & Sullivan's swashbuckling musical comedy *The Pirates of Penzance*. 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.

Stage Director: Phil Lowery  
Conductor: Monroe Kanouse  
Costume Designer: Melissa Wortman  
Choreographer: Erica Smith

## **Synopsis**

When Frederic was a child, Ruth, his nurse, was instructed to apprentice him to be a pilot. Being hard of hearing she misunderstood and instead apprenticed him to be a pirate, taking a job as the pirates' maid-of-all-work in order to be by his side. Having finally reached the age of twenty-one, and having dutifully served his piratical apprenticeship, Frederic is preparing to leave. With just half an hour left to serve, Frederic warns the Pirate King that he plans to renounce piracy and, since it is a dishonest business, will devote himself to drive it out of existence. He urges the pirates to join him in embracing a lawful calling but they refuse.

Ruth pleads with Frederic to marry her and take her with him. Frederic has never seen another woman and has no way of knowing whether Ruth is as beautiful as she tells him. Nor is he sure how he feels about taking a forty-seven year old wife. Just then a group of young girls, wards of Major General Stanley, appear. At once Frederic sees that they are beautiful – in contrast with Ruth's plainness – and renounces her. Soon Frederic is attempting to attract the girls and Mabel takes an interest. As he woos her, the pirates return and seize the girls, determined to marry them on the spot. Opportunely, the Major General arrives and dissuades the pirates from their dastardly plan. He has heard that they show sympathy towards orphans and tells them that he is one. Sure enough they agree to free his wards.

The Major General has taken to spending sleepless nights brooding on account of his lie to the pirates. He is consoled only by his wards' sympathy and Frederic's plan of leading a band of police against the pirates. The police arrive and are enthusiastically sent off by the Major General and the girls, leaving Frederic alone.

The Pirate King and Ruth appear and confront Frederic with some news of their own. They have discovered an amusing paradox: his indenture was to run out on his twenty-first birthday, and since he was born on February 29, he is really only five! Obeying the dictates of his strong sense of duty, Frederic immediately rejoins the pirates. He tells them that the Major General is not really an orphan and they declare revenge. Awaiting the perfect opportunity, they sneak up on the Major General and capture him. Just in the nick of time, the police come to the rescue and charge the pirates to yield, which they do. Ruth explains that pirates are really "all noblemen who have gone wrong" and they are pardoned and allowed to marry the girls.

## **Performances**

### **Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek**

**Single tickets: \$17 - \$50 (includes \$3 facility fee)**

Thursday July 29, 8pm

Friday July 30, 8pm

Saturday July 31, 2pm & 8pm

### **Lincoln Theatre Napa Valley, 100 California Drive, Yountville**

**Single tickets: \$35 - \$45**

Saturday August 7, 8pm

Sunday August 8, 3pm

### **Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View**

**Single tickets: \$17 - 50 (includes \$3 facility fee)**

Saturday August 14, 8pm

Sunday August 15, 2pm

### **Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco**

**Single tickets: \$14 - 47**

Thursday August 19, 8pm

Friday August 20, 8pm

Saturday August 21, 2pm & 8pm

Sunday August 22, 2pm

### **Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore**

**Single tickets: \$19.50 - \$43 (includes \$2 facility fee)**

Friday August 27, 8pm

Saturday August 28, 2pm & 8pm

Sunday August 29, 2pm

### **Cast (in order of appearance and subject to change):**

FREDERIC	Michael Desnoyers*, Joshua La Force
MABEL	Moira McManus*, Brett Ruona
RUTH	Sara Couden*, Katy Daniel
MAJOR-GENERAL STANLEY	Jonathan Spencer
THE PIRATE KING	Charles Martin, Jason Sarten
SERGEANT OF POLICE	Chris Shuford
SAMUEL	William Weidner
EDITH	Kelly Powers, Alexandra Sessler*
KATE	Meghan Dibble*, Eliza Leoni
ISABEL	Brenna MacIlvaine

### **Chorus of Pirates, Police and General Stanley's Daughters**

Nikki Arias, Jeffrey Beaudoin, Clint Blakely\*†, Eric Borchers\*, Melissa Butcher\*,

Audrey Carstensen\*, Tony Cavalleri\*, Jordan Eldredge\*, Katherine Feller\*†, Terry Gordon, Andrew Gustafson\*, C.V. Herst\*, Mark Hodgson, Chris James\*, Alexis Lane Jensen\*, Brian Livingston\*, William Loney, Erin Lucas, Hestia Lucchese, Leontyne Mbele-Mbong, Kenya Moses\*, Kelcey Jay Poe, Amy Poon, Laura Sanders†, Danny Tomas Schultz, Tucker Thurman\*, Ted Zoldan\*.

\* Lamplighters debut

† Summer Music West Graduates

## **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.