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Batley Gilbert & Sullivan
Society

Princess Ida

Or 'Castle Adamant'

Batley Town Hall

Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th April
2016



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Stephanie Roe
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*With thanks to our wonderful Orchestra, front of house staff
and all who have helped with this production*

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Lyndsey Hall **Treasurer:** Robert Thurman
Executive Committee: Fiona Baker, Ali Burton, David Hall, Tracey Hook,
Carol Parkinson, Catherine Roberts, Debbie Moores, Rob Moores

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mrs M Harrap, Mr K Horner, Mrs S L Roe, Mrs S Stopford,
Mr C R Thurman, Mr G Weston

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

Mr K Horner, Mrs Debbie Moores, Mrs C Parkinson,
Mr M G Parkinson, Mrs S Stopford, Mrs S L Roe, Mr C J Sowerby,
Mr C R Thurman, Mrs K Thurman, Mr I Townend

Invited Guests

The Auditions Panel: Mrs Dorothy Jones, Mr Ian Townend and Mrs Gordon Fawcett
The Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees, Cllr Paul Kane and Mrs Susan Bedford
Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Harrogate, Wakefield, Meltham and Haworth
G & S Societies, Batley Amateur Thespian Society, Carlinghow Theatre Company,
Dewsbury Arts Group, Dewsbury Collegians and Heckmondwike Players
Mr Noel Rigg & Mrs Dorothy Rigg (NODA), Mr Malcolm Haigh, Mrs Helen Bell



A scene from our 1994 production of *Princess Ida* at the now demolished Dewsbury Arts Theatre in Batley Carr, which was our performing venue from 1988 until 2010.

A Welcome from the President

On behalf of the Society, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you once again to Batley Town Hall for the sixty-eighth production in our history. The Society was originally formed from the augmented choir of Hanover Street Congregational Church. Many will remember us as the Hanover Street Congregational Operatic Society, which was our name until 1976, when we became known as Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

Over the years the Society has performed all the published operas by the famous pair, and this will be the seventh time of presenting *Princess Ida*, or *Castle Adamant*. I am proud to be able to say that I have appeared in five of these.

This year we are delighted to welcome back Graham Weston as Producer. Graham is no stranger to the Society, having directed twelve previous shows for us. He is joined by Nicholas Whitaker as Musical Director in his third production with us. We know we are in excellent hands with these two gentlemen and it is a real pleasure to work with them both again.

It becomes more and more difficult each year to make ends meet and we consider ourselves very lucky to be able to continue where many fellow societies are falling by the wayside. This year has been our toughest yet! Having been a member of the Society since 1967 (though but a girl), I would love to see us reach our seventieth anniversary. This will only be possible, however, with your continued support, for which we all thank you most sincerely.

We hope you enjoy our performance and look forward to welcoming you back next year – funds permitting.

Stephanie Roe

Our production for 2017
will be



The Gondoliers



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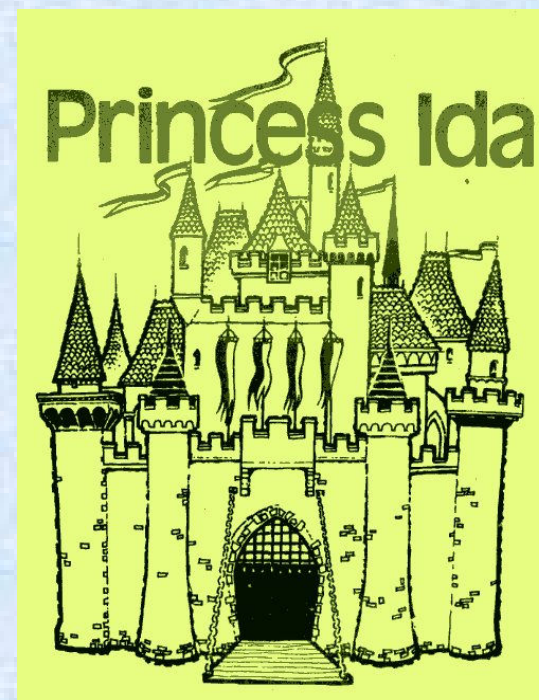
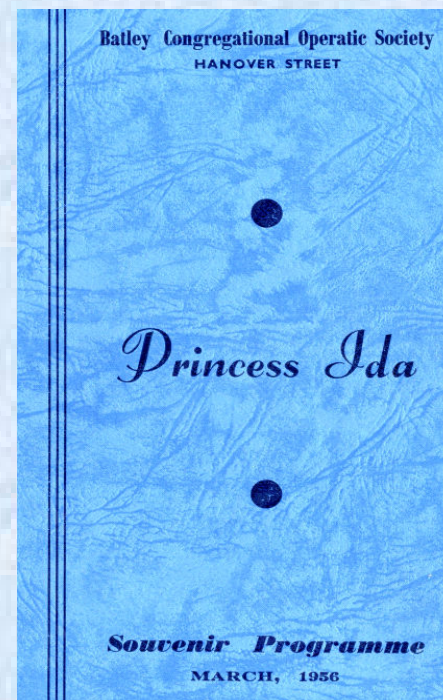
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Mrs Mary Newell

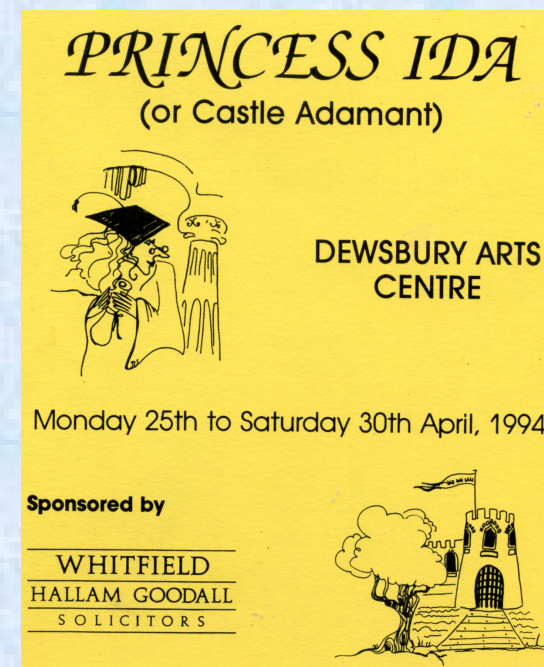
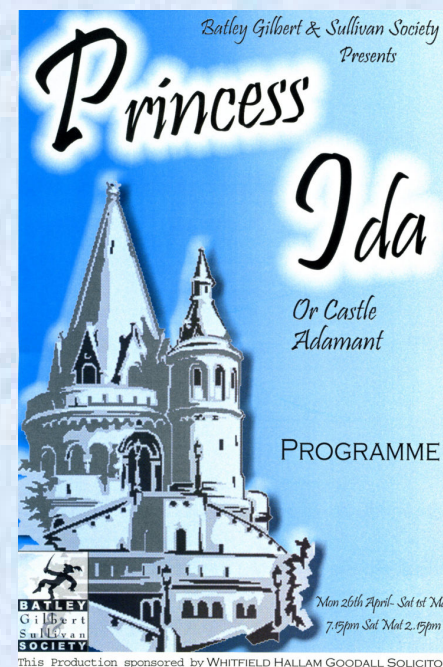
The Society was sad to hear of the recent death of Mary Newell. Although Mary did not perform with the Society, she was a member of the Church at Hanover Street and involved with their dramatic society. She provided invaluable assistance in catering for many years and only retired from that role in recent years when failing health prevented her from attending the theatre. She was awarded Life Membership in recognition of her contribution to the Society.

Patrons of the Society

Mr John Skirrow, Mrs M Rothery, Mrs M Brayshaw, Mrs E Parkin, Mr David Hunt,
 Mrs H Y Ackroyd, Mr & Mrs B King, Mrs J M Owen, Mr & Mrs G M Harrap



Here is a selection of programmes from previous productions of *Princess Ida*. Clockwise: 1956, 1982, 1994 and 2004. It was also performed in 1964 and 1976.



This page has been kindly sponsored by The Three Tenors



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The ladies and gentlemen of the chorus



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Rita Jno-Baptiste, Jennifer Day

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Princess Ida—the story

Act I

The time is the Medieval period, the place is King Hildebrand's palace. A royal wedding is on the cards, as Hildebrand and his courtiers anxious await the arrival of King Gama and his daughter Ida who was betrothed to Hildebrand's son, Hilarion, in infancy. They are late, and Hildebrand is already threatening to imprison Gama and make war on his kingdom if the proposed marriage cannot take place.

Finally, Gama's three warlike but stupid sons arrive, heralding the appearance of Gama himself. Gama immediately lives up to his evil reputation by insulting his host, and announces that Ida is not with him. Ida, apparently, has no use for men, having dedicated her life to female education by establishing a women's university at Castle Adamant, one of her father's properties. Hilarion, who is besotted with the idea of marriage to Ida, declares that he will go to Castle Adamant with his two friends Cyril and Florian and use all the arts of the lover to gain Ida's hand. Hildebrand approves the plan, but decides to keep Gama and his three sons hostage in case Hilarion fails to return with his bride.



This page has been kindly sponsored by Katherine and Olivier Hensby

Stephanie Roe—Lady Blanche

Stephanie describes herself as a stick of rock. If you cut off a piece, you would see "Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society" running all the way through. Joining the Society in 1967, she took her first speaking role the following year. Numerous principal roles have followed and she has performed in all the G & S operettas. She has even played a female version of Pish-Tush (*Mikado*) in Rome. She has also played Old Heidi in Sondheim's *Follies*, and Miss Cratchitt in *Gypsy*. There are still roles that she would like to perform before she retires – Ruth (*Pirates*), the Fairy Queen (*Iolanthe*), The Baroness von Krakenfeldt (*The Grand Duke*) and Lady Sophie (*Utopia Limited*).



Carol Parkinson - Lady Psyche

As a child, Carol sang to her father's collection of *The World of Gilbert & Sullivan* records, probably with more enthusiasm than accuracy. After appearing in the chorus of college productions of *The Mikado* and *Pirates of Penzance*, she joined the Society in 1984 and has taken a variety of parts, large and small, as well as appearing as a chorus member in shows and concerts. She has also appeared as a guest soloist with various local choirs and sometimes takes roles in the musicals presented by Dewsbury Arts Group. The most challenging parts she has undertaken have been in Stephen Sondheim shows, particularly *Side by Side by Sondheim* and *A Little Night Music*. Carol is delighted to be playing the part of Lady Psyche in this her third visit to Castle Adamant.



Rebekah Barker - Melissa

Rebekah's G & S life began in Leeds when she appeared in the chorus of *Ruddigore* and *Princess Ida*. Rebekah was fascinated with music from a very young age - her parents realised that it was going to get interesting when she began playing TV theme tunes by ear on her sister's recorder as a toddler. She trained as a classical guitarist and pianist before beginning singing lessons at 16 while studying for her A-Levels in Music and Music Technology. Since then she has enjoyed performing as a soloist and with mixed choirs across Lancashire, North and West Yorkshire.



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Mr and Mrs Bob Baker

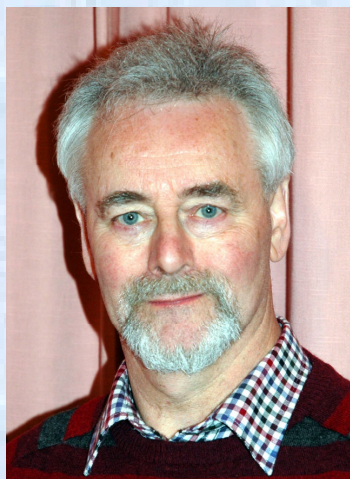


Guron - Jeremy Shoesmith

Jeremy seems to have been around forever - from choirboy to the lead singer of a pop band to the amateur stage. Jeremy made his debut as Fyedka in *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1986 for Spenborough Amateurs. He joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1993 playing the role of Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore* before going on to play Frederic in *Pirates*, Leonard Meryll in *Yeomen of the Guard*, both Hilarion and Guron in different productions of *Princess Ida* and Luiz in *The Gondoliers*. He has recently directed Heckmondwike Players' production *Pirates of Penzance*.

Scynthus - Brook Carbutt

Brook was first introduced to performing G & S at school when the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools came together to do *The Pirates of Penzance*, appearing as the Major General and, incidentally, meeting his future wife. Before then, he remembers being taken to the Society's *Princess Ida* dress rehearsal in 1956 where his father was Musical Director. Things came full circle when he took the part of Arac for the Society in 1982. Between serving various churches as organist and choirmaster, he appeared with the Society as Sir Joseph Porter in *HMS Pinafore*, the Notary in *The Sorcerer*, Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers* and Sir Richard Cholmondeley in *The Yeomen of the Guard*.



Anna Trent - Princess Ida

Anna graduated from the University of Huddersfield in 2006 after completing a BMus (Hons) and an MA in performance. Since then she has received frequent invitations to sing in concerts and recitals up and down the country, performing works as varied as Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*, Philip Wilby's *Unholy Sonnet* and Edward German's *Merrie England*. Anna's love of Gilbert and Sullivan began at the age of 16 after watching a production of *The Mikado*. Since then she has performed the majority of the lead soprano roles from the duo's 12 operettas for various societies in West Yorkshire. Anna is very pleased to be back at Batley for a seventh year.



Wishing Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society a very successful week.

Act II

In Act II we are transported to Castle Adamant where the girl graduates receive instruction from Lady Psyche and punishments from Ida's second-in-command, the formidable Lady Blanche. The Princess herself arrives to give her usual address (which focuses on the superiority of women over men) before leading the girls away. Left alone, Blanche expresses her confidence that one day she will replace Ida as head of the university.

Once the coast is clear, Hilarion and his two friends enter by scaling the wall. Finding a pile of academic robes, the three disguise themselves as young ladies and manage to fool the Princess into accepting them as students. Lady Psyche, however, is less likely to be deceived, as Florian is her brother, so the imposters take her into their confidence. Lady Psyche warns that it means death if their identities are discovered, and is horrified to realise that Melissa (Blanche's daughter) has overheard their conversation. Fortunately, Melissa instantly falls in love with Florian and is happy to become part of the conspiracy. She also persuades Lady Blanche to keep their secret on the grounds that if Ida can be persuaded to marry Hilarion, a new principal will be required for the university.

Despite the dangers, Hilarion and his friends stay for lunch, during which Cyril gets tipsy and sings a bawdy kissing song, thus blowing their cover. In the ensuing chaos, Ida falls into an inconveniently located stream and is rescued by Hilarion. Even this act of gallantry does not soften Ida's heart; she arrests the three men and sentences them to death. Hildebrand now arrives with Ida's three brothers in chains and issues an ultimatum: by tomorrow afternoon she must release Hilarion and agree to marry him, or her brothers will be executed and the university destroyed.

Act III

Ida is determined to make a fight of it and reviews her troops in preparation for battle. She discovers that although her women understand the arts of warfare in principle, in practice they are terrified of the idea. Her father, King Gama, arrives with a message from Hildebrand. Hildebrand suggests that the issue should be decided by hand-to-hand combat between Hilarion, Cyril and Florian, and Gama's three sons. This agreed, the contest takes place and is won by Hilarion and his friends, possibly assisted by the unusual strategy of Gama's sons of taking off their armour before commencing the fight.

Ida yields herself to Hilarion, forced to accept the logic of Hildebrand's argument that without the assistance of man, the posterity she is so concerned about cannot come about. Lady Psyche pairs off with Cyril and Melissa with Florian, while Lady Blanche achieves her ambition to rule over the university. Finally, Ida admits her error and expresses her love for Hilarion in a flowery quotation from *The Princess*, the Tennyson poem on which the opera is based.

Carol Parkinson

Our Production Team



Producer - Graham Weston

Graham's involvement in the theatre began at an early age and his love of musicals has led him to play many principal roles, specializing mainly in comic leads. He won 'Best Supporting Actor' at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival for his portrayal of Ko-Ko and was then invited to play Robin Oakapple in a special production of *Ruddigore* at The Buxton Opera House: a role he later repeated at the Harrogate Royal Hall.

Graham has performed with or directed many societies in the Yorkshire area. He has directed all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas except *Thespis* and *The Grand Duke*, worked as Assistant Director to Alistair Donkin, formerly of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, and performed in professional pantomimes, working in York for Mark Mark Productions. More recently, Graham has directed musicals including *The Merry Widow*, *Calamity Jane*, *Brigadoon* and a specially commissioned

production at the Spa Theatre, Bridlington, for the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This autumn he will once again be touring with the West Yorkshire Savoyards whilst future directing work includes *The Gondoliers*, *The Sorcerer* and *The Mikado*. After directing thirteen operas for Batley Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Graham is delighted to be returning to this friendly society, and would like to thank everyone for the work they have put into the show.

Nicholas Whitaker - Musical Director

Hailing originally from the North Riding, Nicholas began his musical education as a chorister at Wakefield Cathedral under Jonathan Bielby. While reading for an Honours degree in Music at Edinburgh, he studied the organ with John Kitchen and conducting with David Lawrence. He also held a choral scholarship at St. Mary's Cathedral - the only cathedral in Scotland maintaining a daily, 'English' choral tradition. After postgraduate study down south (the Scottish weather was becoming a nuisance) he returned to his native Yorkshire in 2010. As well as directing at Batley, Nicholas holds a Lay-Clerkship at Wakefield Cathedral and directs his own choir, the Assumption Consort. In his free time, of which there is precious little, Nicholas enjoys real ale, cricket, driving his convertible MG and trying to shock societies with the violence of the socks he wears while conducting.



Florian - Tom Daley

Princess Ida is Tom's first performance with Batley G & S, and his first Gilbert & Sullivan show. He feels it has been a real challenge doing a show outside his normal comfort zone, but hopes he has done the role justice. He's certainly enjoyed the experience. He can normally be found performing with Morley Amateur Operatic Society, who will be staging a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in October...hint, hint! He has found the folk at Batley very welcoming and has been made to feel very much at home.



King Gama - Malcolm Parkinson

Brought up on songs learnt at his mother's knee and other low joints, Malcolm is to music what Fiery Jack is to piles. He has played the fool in all but one of the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and has absolutely no wish ever be in *Grand Duke*. Dewsbury Arts Group has enabled him to spread his talent, albeit thinly, over straight plays, music hall and Sondheim. Television includes meeting the vicar off Goggle-box. Radio includes four rechargeable batteries.



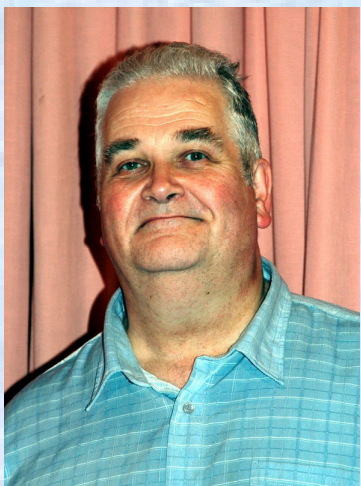
David Parker - Arac

This is David's sixth show at Batley, having made his first appearance as Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers* at the Little Theatre in 2008. He is well versed in the lore of Gilbert & Sullivan, and has performed with many local societies, including Leeds and Wakefield, where he recently reprised the title role in *The Mikado*. He is delighted to be back in Batley in the familiar role of Arac, having played the role last year for Harrogate Gilbert & Sullivan Society.



This page has been kindly sponsored by David, Lyndsey and Edward Hall

This page has been kindly sponsored by Mr and Mrs B H Carbutt



Robert Thurman - King Hildebrand

Robert joined the Society in 1976 and has performed principal roles in all of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas. Introduced to G & S by his parents, who performed in local church societies, his grandfather was Musical Director for the Springfield Amateur Dramatic Society's productions of *Yeomen of The Guard* and *Pirates of Penzance*. He won a NODA award for playing Pooh-Bah in Halifax in 2005. He has performed with Heckmondwike Players in the lead role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and as Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady*.

Paul Richmond - Hilarion

Paul started performing in Gilbert & Sullivan shows as a schoolboy and has now played nearly all the G & S tenor roles many times with societies throughout the North of England and, recently, in London. He is looking forward to his first show with Batley and playing Hilarion again. With his wife Elaine, Paul enjoys branching out into the wider repertoire of opera and musical theatre. In the real world Paul is a judge sitting in Manchester so perhaps it is not surprising that his hobby is the Topsy Turvy world of Comic Opera.



Leon Waksberg - Cyril

Leon began singing in 2000 when he joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Society at Bradford University, playing Pish-Tush in *The Mikado*. Since then he has stayed in the area, and has played all the leading tenor and 'juvenile baritone' roles for many local G & S societies, and at the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. Leon has also performed major tenor roles in operas by Mozart, Verdi, Weber, Massenet, Prokofiev, Smetana and others, as well as a small number of musicals. He writes music too, and has recently completed an operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*.



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1949 *The Mikado*
 1950 *Iolanthe*
 1951 *The Pirates of Penzance*
 1952 *The Gondoliers*
 1953 *Ruddigore*
 1954 *HMS Pinafore*
 1955 *The Yeomen of the Guard*
 1956 *Princess Ida*
 1957 *Utopia Limited*
 1958 *Patience*
 1959 *The Mikado*
 1960 *Iolanthe*
 1961 *The Gondoliers*
 1962 *The Pirates of Penzance*
 1963 *Ruddigore*
 1964 *Princess Ida*
 1965 *The Yeomen of the Guard*
 1966 *HMS Pinafore & Trial By Jury*
 1967 *The Sorcerer*
 1968 *The Mikado*
 1969 *The Grand Duke*
 1970 *The Gondoliers*
 1971 *Patience*
 1972 *Iolanthe*
 1973 *The Pirates of Penzance*
 1974 *HMS Pinafore & Trial By Jury*
 1975 *Ruddigore*
 1976 *Princess Ida*
 1977 *The Mikado*
 1978 *The Yeomen of the Guard*
 1979 *The Pirates of Penzance*
 1980 *The Sorcerer*
 1981 *The Gondoliers*
 1982 *Princess Ida*
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 1989 *The Pirates of Penzance*
 1990 *The Yeomen of the Guard*

1991 *The Gondoliers*
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 1993 *HMS Pinafore & Trial By Jury*
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 2007 *The Gondoliers*
 2008 *The Sorcerer*
 2009 *The Pirates of Penzance*
 2010 *Utopia Ltd*
 2011 *Iolanthe*
 2012 *The Yeomen of the Guard*
 2013 *Ruddigore*
 2014 *The Mikado*
 2015 *HMS Pinafore & Trial By Jury*

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Iolanthe - 7 Productions
HMS Pinafore - 7 Productions
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The Yeomen of the Guard - 6 Productions
Patience - 5 Productions
Ruddigore - 6 Productions
The Sorcerer - 5 Productions
Trial By Jury - 6 Productions
Utopia Limited—2 Productions
The Grand Duke—1 Production

Dramatis Personae

King Hildebrand	Robert Thurman
Hilarion <i>(his Son)</i>	Paul Richmond
Cyril ~	Leon Waksberg
Florian ~ <i>(Hilarion's Friends)</i>	Tom Daley
King Gama	Malcolm Parkinson
Arac ~	David Parker
Guron ~ <i>(his Sons)</i>	Jeremy Shoesmith
Scynthius ~	Brook Carbutt
Princess Ida <i>(Gama's Daughter)</i>	Anna Trent
Lady Blanche <i>(Professor of Abstract Science)</i>	Stephanie Roe
Lady Psyche <i>(Professor of Humanities)</i>	Carol Parkinson
Melissa <i>(Lady Blanche's Daughter)</i>	Rebekah Barker
Sacharissa ~	Deirdre O'Shea
Chloe ~ <i>(Girl Graduates)</i>	Catherine Roberts
Ada ~	Debbie Moores

Soldiers, Courtiers, "Girl Graduates", "Daughters of the Plough"

Liz Blount, Helen Carbutt, Marilyn Cooper, Clive Daniel,
Jennifer Day, David Hall, Lyndsey Hall, Tracey Hook,
Tony Johnson, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Roger Middleton,
Tanya Parsons, Steve Roe, Kathryn Thurman

Act I Pavilion in King Hildebrand's Palace

Act II Gardens of Castle Adamant

Act III Courtyard of Castle Adamant

Costume Sponsorships :

Lady Blanche - In loving memory of Rene Kitson

King Gama - Mrs Carol Parkinson, Lady Psyche - Mr Stanley Accrington

Chorus member - Mr J M & Mrs B Longbottom, Chorus member - Mr Tony Johnson

Chorus member - Mrs Rita Jno-Baptiste

Arac, Guron and Scynthius - Mr Jack Haley

Melissa - Mrs Rebekah Barker, Ada - Mr Rob Moores

Musical Numbers

Act I

1. "Search throughout the panorama" *(Florian and Chorus)*
2. "Now hearken to my strict command" *(Hildebrand and Chorus)*
3. "Today we meet" *(Hilarion)*
4. "From the distant panorama" *(Chorus)*
5. "We are warriors three" *(Arac, Guron, Scynthius and Chorus)*
6. "If you give me your attention" *(Gama)*
7. Finale Act I *(Gama, Hildebrand, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian and Chorus)*

Act II

8. "Towards the empyrean heights" *(Lady Psyche, Melissa, Sacharissa and Girls)*
9. "Mighty maiden with a mission" *(Chorus of Girls)*
10. "Minerva! oh, hear me!" ... "Oh, goddess wise" *(Princess)*
- 10a. "And thus to Empyrean Heights" *(Princess and Chorus)*
11. "Come, mighty Must" *(Lady Blanche)*
12. "Gently, gently" *(Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*
13. "I am a maiden, cold and stately" *(Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*
14. "The world is but a broken toy" *(Princess, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*
15. "A lady fair, of lineage high" *(Psyche with Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*
16. "The woman of the wisest wit" *(Psyche, Melissa, Cyril, Hilarion and Florian)*
17. "Now wouldn't you like to rule the roast" *(Melissa and Blanche)*
18. "Merrily ring the luncheon bell" *(Blanche, Cyril and Chorus of Girls)*
19. "Would you know the kind of maid?" *(Cyril)*
20. Finale Act I *(Princess, Hildebrand, Melissa, Psyche, Blanche, Cyril, Hilarion, Florian, Arac, Guron, Scynthius and Chorus)*

Act III

21. "Death to the invader" *(Melissa and Chorus of Girls)*
22. "I built upon a rock" *(Princess)*
23. "Whene'er I spoke" *(King Gama with Chorus of Girls)*
24. "When anger spreads his wing" *(Chorus of Girls and Soldiers)*
25. "This helmet, I suppose" *Arac with Guron, Scynthius and Chorus)*
26. Chorus during the fight, "This is our duty plain" *(Chorus)*
27. "With joy abiding" [Reprise of "Expressive glances"] *(Ensemble)*

Replica Weapons

Replica weapons are used throughout this performance but they are made of wood and pose no threat to either cast or members of the public.